

Möbelfakta - Final production outside Europe¹

Verification of compliance in manufacturing outside Europe

To ensure compliance with Möbelfakta's requirements, an on-site visit is always carried out during final manufacturing. However, manufacturing outside Europe comes with a number of challenges, including higher risks, climate impact, language and cultural barriers, and significant costs.

For the above reasons, a structured verification process has been developed to ensure that Möbelfakta's social and environmental requirements are met without physical visits by Möbelfakta's auditors. The process includes requirements for third-party audits on site and what applies to audits outside Europe.

Audits of final manufacturing facility(s) outside Europe must always have been carried out. In addition to these, on-site visits are made to final manufacturing facility(s) within Europe during random checks. All audits are paid for by the declaring company.

Why on-site visits?

Möbelfakta requires all companies that want to be certified to undergo an on-site visit to the final manufacturing facility for the furniture in question. The purpose is to ensure that the business and its products meet Möbelfakta's requirements.

Why does Möbelfakta not carry out on-site visits outside Europe?

For final production outside Europe, the requirement for physical visits has been replaced by an alternative third-party audit process, based on the following reasons:

- **More high-risk countries** – Increased risk of environmental and social deficiencies.
- **Climate impact** – International travel entails high carbon dioxide emissions and goes against Möbelfakta's values.

¹ Europe refers to EU, EEA countries as well as the UK, Switzerland and selected European countries where Möbelfakta has established auditing facilities (e.g. Bosnia and Herzegovina).

- **Local context and language** – Cultural and language barriers can reduce the effectiveness of site visits.
- **High costs** – Traveling to factories outside of Europe involves significant financial costs, making alternative verification methods more economically viable.

Through this process, Möbelfakta strengthens its credibility as a certification system and contributes to a more sustainable and responsible furniture industry.

The following requirements apply to all manufacturing sites outside Europe for approval:

1. Requirement for on-site third-party audit (Conducted by an external third party)
For manufacturing outside Europe, a third-party audit is required to ensure compliance with environmental and social requirements.

Scope of third-party audit

The third-party audit must cover the requirements corresponding to Möbelfakta 3.1 – Requirements related to human rights, labor rights, environment, and anti-corruption. Approval is accepted for audits conducted according to one of the following standards:

- SA8000
- Sedex/SMETA
- Amfori BSCI

Requirements for audit report and closed non-conformities

An audit report in accordance with one of the above-mentioned standards must be attached and must not be older than two years.

The audit is only accepted if the requirements of the standard are met and there are no open non-conformities that conflict with Möbelfakta's requirements.

Execution of third-party audit

The audit must be conducted by an independent and accredited entity with documented experience in auditing operations in high-risk countries. This ensures that the audit is credible and impartial.

2. Document review if necessary (Conducted by a Möbelfakta auditor)

The company responsible for final manufacturing must be prepared to participate in a digital review and follow-up if deemed necessary by Möbelfakta's auditor.

FAQ

1. If a company currently has final manufacturing outside Europe, is there a transition period to implement the third-party audit process?

Yes, companies that have declared products with final manufacturing outside Europe have until December 31, 2026, to adapt to Möbelfakta's new verification process for final manufacturing. New products declared after July 1, 2025, must be approved according to the new verification process.

2. Why doesn't Möbelfakta make its own on-site visits when manufacturing outside Europe?

Physical visits are being replaced by third-party audits due to increased risks in high-risk countries, high climate emissions from travel, language and cultural barriers, and high costs. This makes verification more sustainable and credible.

3. What are the requirements for the third-party audit used for verification?

The audit must include Möbelfakta's social and environmental requirements (human rights, labour law, environment and anti-corruption) and be carried out by an independent, accredited actor with experience of high-risk countries. The report must not be older than two years, and there must be no open deviations.

4. Which countries are subject to the requirements for final manufacturing outside Europe?

Europe refers to EU, EEA countries as well as the UK, Switzerland and selected European countries where Möbelfakta has established auditing facilities (e.g. Bosnia and Herzegovina). Final production that takes place outside these areas is subject to special verification processes.