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# 2022 SUSTAINABILITY REPORT AND CODE OF CONDUCT

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CARL J. NIELSEN A/S 

UN Global Compact

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## 1. Our responsibility: An introduction

Carl J. Nielsen is proud to be part of the UN Global community and has been that since 2012, where we made our first report to UN Global.

We see a constant interest from our customers and business partners around our company who encourage us and others to do what we can to develop a better world to be part of.

Our commitment to follow UN Global Compact has been very well received by the company's customers, and we have been encouraged to enter into dialogue with customers and suppliers to share our actions towards a more sustainable business.

In late summer 2011 Carl J. Nielsen A/S signed up for the Global Compact, the UN initiative to promote ethical business practices. As a member, we are committed to observe and integrate the Global Compact's 10 fundamental principles in our strategy and culture, and to share this commitment with our employees, suppliers, partners and customers. Further to that we are now looking at the Sustainable Development Goals, and we continue to focus on number 2: zero hunger and no 8: decent work and economic growth.

It is of great importance for us, to make our customers and business partners confident about the work that we are doing to secure good healthy food ingredients, developed and produced on a proper manner for the nature and the humans who is employed in this business.

Our mission is to offer our customers high-quality products through solid partnerships and strong relations; our consumers delicious and safe ingredients in the food they consume; and our employees a healthy and inspiring working environment.

As we source a part of our spices from developing countries in Asia and Africa as well as Europe, we have a responsibility for the quality of the products we purchase, as well as for the people, societies and environments involved in our supply chain. We can see from our visits and audits held by the suppliers that the impact about environment is getting a bigger and bigger focus in the producing countries, and they like to tell about the things they do to increase the conditions for their employees.

Responding to these responsibilities we have developed this sustainability document, which include a Code of Conduct, stating what we as a company expect of ourselves, and of our suppliers.



Our ambition is to move Carl J. Nielsen A/S's sustainability efforts from a focus on handling GMO/chemical additives in our production and compliance with national legislation and standards, towards an increased focus on efficient energy-consumption, pesticides control and waste handling in our own production and throughout the supply chain. Furthermore, we work with suppliers who are active in developing internal processes for their employees and improve the on-going dialogue with our stakeholders in connection with these efforts.

## 2. Our company.

### **From nature, through technology, to you.**

Carl J. Nielsen A/S is a Danish family owned company operating in the food sector, where we supply spice, ingredients and spice blends for the European food industry. Primarily, we supply the industries involved in the production of meat, fish, cheese, salad bread, and veggie but a considerable part of our revenue also come from catering and wholesale. The organic products is becoming an important part of our business, and we have to do our utmost in order to get proper goods which can be approved in accordance with the eu law concerning pesticides and ETO.

Our line of customers include, among others, leading companies in the food industry: Arla Foods, Orkla and Danish Crown.

The company was founded in 1923 by Carl J. Nielsen and operates out of the city of Randers, which is centrally located in Denmark. Carl J. Nielsen A/S is a family-owned company and is run by the third generation of the Nielsen family, Michael K. Nielsen.

At Carl J. Nielsen A/S we have a constant focus on production processes, and through the most recent technological advances we have continuously transformed and equipped our production center and factory to meet the demands of the future. Both when it comes to delivery, reliability, quality and environment. Based on that, an even larger capacity is set into the work of securing the quality of the products, and on the cleanness of the products both physically and chemical on micro, pesticides and ETO.

Our mission is to be the preferred supplier of both our national and international customers. We want to be the company solving our clients' tasks when it comes to taste and consistency. Our goal is to make it convenient for our customers to work with and purchase from Carl J. Nielsen A/S, and on a



continuous basis we want to be the supplier of spices and blends for the industry - with Scandinavia, Finland, Poland, Baltics and Germany being our primary markets.

## 2.1 Facts and figures

In 2021 the company had a gross profit of 75 million DKK, and a positive result. We employ 28 people, who work at our two facilities at Nyholmvej and Eskærvej in Randers, Denmark.

## 2.2 Our suppliers

At Carl J. Nielsen A/S we work with a large number of different suppliers to ensure that we always have the right supply of the required products in the right quality available. It is important for us to be working close with our suppliers, to ensure that they know what is important for us concerning quality, delivery, UN Global demands and our code of conduct.

We work only with authorized suppliers, who through many years of cooperation have proved that they can meet today's requirements of quality, documentation and delivery.

We source raw material and ingredients from every corner of the world. India, Indonesia, Vietnam and South America are the principal suppliers of spices such as pepper, cinnamon, cardamom and cloves. Here it is important for us that we know that these suppliers are close to the farmers, where they help them by education and development programs to deliver and develop their production, so that they can make a better earning and a better life in the farms where the products are grown. Some of our suppliers have education programs where they teach farmers to develop their plants, water at a more efficient way, use less pesticides and fertilizers. All these developments are done to develop the farmers business, health and living conditions.

India and the USA supply the greater part of the oleoresins used for blends. When it comes to onions, Egypt, India, Spain and the USA are the main suppliers.

The Balkan and Mediterranean countries supply vegetables, herbs, mushroom and seeds.



### 3. Identifying our challenges

Some of the very important challenges in our industry at the moment, is to identify and control our raw materials for illegal foreign objects like chemical substance and pollution.

Carl J. Nielsen A/S operates in an industry focusing on sustainability when it comes to: The products themselves (gen manipulation and chemical processes), violation of international standards in the value chain, as well as environmental sustainability (CO2 emissions, use of water resources and waste).

It has thus been crucial for us to identify risk exposures in connection with the enforcement of the Global Compact principles.

#### 3.1 Our supply chain

In our supply chain we have identified various risks when it comes to:

##### 3.1.1. Packaging

The environmental effect related to waste, and to use as little and as efficient packaging material as possible. Earlier we had packaging in 50 – 80 kg bags. This has now been reduced to 20 – 25 kg bags in order to make better working conditions for the employees.

##### 3.1.2. CO2 emissions

As we import most of our ingredients from abroad, we also need to be continuously aware of the impact of transportation related to CO2 emissions.

##### 3.1.3. Corruption

As we source from countries, where corruption and bribery are still used to a greater or lesser extent, we need to formulate clear politics and guidelines for how to prevent corruption and bribery in our supply chain.

#### 3.2 Our Danish facilities

At our production facilities in Denmark we have furthermore identified the risk of:

##### 3.2.1 Working accidents

We have formulated several safety guidelines and engage in the training of our employees when it comes to safety at work. This has had a very good effect, and the number of accidents is at a minimum level.



The members of the safety committee include people from both the management and from the production staff, who continuously work to secure a good health environment in the company.

### 3.2.2. Waste handling and CO2 emissions

We strive to minimize our global footprint on the environment. Thus, in phase two of our sustainability work a considerable amount of efforts and resources will be devoted to solving environmental issues. Our use of energy is moved towards green energy, and we change our packaging material towards recyclable packaging.

### 3.3 Actions

In a risk analysis conducted in 2011 ten countries was categorized into low, middle and high-risk countries. Three of the countries, from which Carl J. Nielsen A/S sources directly, were identified as high-risk countries. Of these direct suppliers, two expose Carl J. Nielsen A/S of risk. The actions taken and planned to be taken, will be described further below.

#### 3.3.1 Audits

In 2018/2021 we have focused our efforts on these two countries, Egypt and India respectively. We are in very close contact with the supplier in Egypt in order to keep us updated on the developments by our supplier. In India, we made an audit at eight different factories in 2018 to secure that they make proper conditions for their employees and for the environment in general, and we found that our suppliers has done a notable job in securing proper working condition. Furthermore, one of the suppliers shows a positive social engagement and has, among other initiatives, established a fund supporting local schools, hospitals housing for pure families.

Audits of suppliers categorized as middle-risk companies will be conducted in the coming years. We audit two supplier companies every year. Risk exposure will be the determining factor for the selection.

We have implemented and conducted supplier sustainability audits. For these audits we have developed a toolbox - a guide - in order to secure that all crucial supplier conditions are covered. In the formulation of such a questionnaire guide, Carl J. Nielsen A/S has consulted the Global Compact Self Assessment Tool. Furthermore, we have joined the European Spice Association, ESA, to be on track with new trends and information about markets.





When it comes to the risks identified in our own production, we have for a start, focus our efforts on work accidents; food safety (when it comes to approved materials), as well as anti-corruption. We have also expanded our efforts by working to improve our environmental effects of packaging, waste as well as CO2 emissions in production and transportation.



## 4. What we have already accomplished

Food quality and food safety are fundamental values for our company. Working with food products requires the highest degree of control and hygiene. From the very instant, when the sample of the products arrive until the final food control just before they leave our facilities, we monitor and control them. All along the way we test the products. In September 2016 we thus became FSSC22000 Certified.

As a Danish food company, the Danish regulations regarding food companies must be met in order to be in business. This involves meeting the requirement stated by the Danish ministry of Environment and Food with regards to traceability, food safety, hygiene, control and a HACCP plan. We have due to our high focus on food quality and control achieved the highest level of approval from the Danish ministry of Environment and Food, Elite level. The report from the ministry can be found on our site and online at our homepage.

### 4.1 FSSC 22000 Certified

Carl J. Nielsen A/S is certified FSSC 22000 according to the Food Safety Standard by Force Institute - Food Safety System Certificate.

FSSC 22000 specifies requirements for a food safety management system where an organization in the food chain needs to demonstrate its ability to control food safety hazards in order to ensure that food is safe at the time of human consumption.

FSSC 22000 specifies requirements to enable an organization to:

- 1 Plan, implement, operate, maintain and update a food safety management system aimed at providing products that, according to their intended use, are safe for the consumer.
- 2 Demonstrate compliance with applicable statutory and regulatory food safety requirements.
- 3 Evaluate and assess customer requirements and demonstrate conformity with those mutually agreed customer requirements that relate to food safety, in order to enhance customer satisfaction.
- 4 Effectively communicate food safety issues to their suppliers, customers and relevant interested parties in the food chain.
- 5 Ensure that the organization conforms to its stated food safety policy.
- 6 Demonstrate such conformity to relevant interested parties.



- 7 Seek certification or registration of its food safety management system by an external organization, or make a self-assessment or self-declaration of conformity to FSSC 22000.

Source: Force Institute - Food Safety System Certificate.

## 4.2 Supplier audits

We conduct audits among our suppliers based on the specifications of the products purchased, and we include procurement specifications as appendices to all our contracts.

Future audits will be designed to incorporate questions concerning the sustainability of our suppliers. To this job and in general for our purchase, we have engaged a purchase manager and a purchaser who will take care of this in collaboration with our quality management team, QM team.

We are developing our Customer Relationship Management, CRM, system further, where we will be able to gather data regarding all our suppliers. Our suppliers' effort regarding sustainability, should be included in this database.

## 5. Carl J. Nielsen A/S Code of Conduct

The purpose of our Code of Conduct is to acknowledge our company's position in a global world, where we are responsible not only for our own business, but also for the way in which our suppliers and subcontractors operate.

Our Code of Conduct is a non-negotiable requirement and will be communicated to all suppliers. They and their subcontractors must follow this code.

We furthermore urge all our suppliers and business partner to support the Global Compact, or a similar organization.

In the following, we will make our business principles clear to our suppliers, our customers and ourselves.

### 5.1 Compliance with the UN Global Compact

In 2011 Carl J. Nielsen A/S joined the Global Compact, the UN initiative to promote ethical business practices.



The UN Global Compact principles fall under four categories, and asks companies to embrace, support and enact, within their sphere of influence, a set of core values regarding: Human rights, labour, environment, anti-corruption.

## 5.2 Carl J. Nielsen A/S Politics

### 5.2.1. Legal requirements

Our general rule is that all suppliers must, in all their activities, follow the national laws, regulation and industry standards in the countries, where they are operating.

It is important to understand that Carl J. Nielsen A/S's requirements may not be limited to the requirement of the national law. We encourage our suppliers to comply with ILO and UN Conventions.

### 5.2.2 Child labour

Carl J. Nielsen A/S does not accept child labour. We base our policy on child labour on the *UN Convention on The Rights of the Child*. Work must not interfere with education. Throughout 2020/2021 we have kept a strong focus on fighting child labour, and these efforts will continue in 2022/2023 and onwards.

The minimum age for full-time employment shall not be less than 15 years- or 14 years where established by local laws in accordance with the ILO developing-country exception.

Employees under 18 years of age are not to be involved in hazardous work or to work at night regardless of the numbers of hours working.

### 5.2.3. Forced labour and freedom of movement

All employees must have the freedom of movement during the course of their employment. Guards must only be posted for normal security reasons to protect employees and the property of the company.

### 5.2.4. Discrimination

Discrimination, directly or indirectly, in hiring and employment practices on grounds of race, color, sex, languages, religion, political or other opinion, age, national, social or ethnic origin, property, sexual orientation, birth or other status must not be engaged in or supported. It must not be required that female employees are subjected to mandatory pregnancy tests. It must not be required that employees are subjected to mandatory HIV/AIDS tests.

### 5.2.5. Wages, benefits and working hours

Employees shall be paid a decent wage, and at least the minimum wage required under local laws and regulations. Additionally, all benefits required by local laws and regulations must be provided. Wages



must be paid in legal tender and not less frequently than on a monthly basis. Employees are entitled to sick and maternity leave as provided by local laws and regulations.

All employees with the same experience and qualification should receive equal pay for equal work.

Weekly working must not exceed the legal limit, and overtime work should always be voluntary and properly compensated.

#### 5.2.6. Employment terms

Employees must be provided with written confirmation or employment terms, if and as required by local laws and regulations.

#### 5.2.7. Freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining

All workers should be free to join associations of their own choosing, and they should have the right to bargain collectively. We do not accept any disciplinary actions from the factory against workers who choose peacefully and lawfully organize or join association.

#### 5.2.8. Health and safety

A safe and healthy working environment must be provided, in compliance with all local laws and regulations. One or more management representatives are responsible for establishing written policies and procedures regarding health, safety, welfare and general facilities and that these policy topics are adhered to. We will continuously strive towards our goal of having no work-related accidents.

#### 5.2.9. Environment

The environment is of an increasing concern globally, and Carl J. Nielsen A/S expects our suppliers to act responsibly in this respect. Our suppliers must comply with all applicable environmental laws and regulations in the country of operation and do all that they can to reduce the use of plastic in their production.

Suppliers must have a management system in place to reduce waste, energy and emissions to air, ground and water; handle chemicals in an environmentally safe way; handle, store and dispose of hazardous waste in an environmentally safe manner; contribute to the recycling and reuse of materials and products; implement environmental friendly technologies.

#### 5.2.10. Corruption and bribery

Bribes must not be offered, promised, given, accepted, knowingly benefited from, or demanded.

#### 5.2.11. Monitoring

Suppliers shall maintain, on site, any documentation that may be necessary to demonstrate compliance with this Code of Conduct. All suppliers are required to provide full access to on-site inspection by Carl J. Nielsen A/S or its designated representatives and access to all records that might determine compliance with the Code of Conduct.



## 5.3 Compliance with DI's 10 Principles for good food practice

Carl J. Nielsen A/S has signed up for the 10 principles for good food practice. Supporting the initiative, we commit ourselves to a strong focus on production, food safety and ethics. The commitment entails that:

1. We are open and accessible, communicate, and dialogue with our customers, consumer and other stakeholders.
2. We put the needs and demands of our customers first in product development.
2. We constantly work to improve our joint efforts regarding quality.
3. We only produce, deliver and market safe products.
4. We constantly improve on hygiene and food safety
5. We communicate and dialogue with our employees and make sure that they work in a healthy and safe environment.
6. We strive to develop a wide assortment of nutritious products
7. We meet our customers and consumers needs for clear and relevant information
8. We are environmentally responsible and work to reduce our global footprint.
9. We support national and international conventions and standards with focus on human rights, labour rights, environment and corruption.

## 5.4 Code of Conduct for suppliers

Carl J. Nielsen A/S is primarily exposed to violation of the Global Compact principles through suppliers located in countries, where national legislation and control cannot secure proper working conditions and care for the environment.

In order to be a responsible and sustainable company and in order to live up to the Global Compact principles on human rights, labour rights, environment and anti-corruption we are dependent not only on our own actions, but also the actions taken by our suppliers and their subcontractors.

Therefore, we urge our suppliers also to take responsibility for their business, the environment, societies and the people it affects. This responsibility also incorporates the subcontractors working with Carl J. Nielsen A/S suppliers.



We have therefore embarked on the development of a supplier Code of Conduct, where we express our expectations on their behalf when it comes to sustainability. We constantly take further steps in creating a detailed Code of Conduct towards existing and new suppliers.

1. Carl J. Nielsen A/S expects that suppliers respect and follow national laws and industry standards.
2. We expect that our suppliers comply with the Global Compact principles when it comes to human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption.
3. This responsibility also incorporates the subcontractors working with the suppliers.
4. Carl J. Nielsen A/S expects that conditions, which are not in accordance with the Global Compact principles are either solved or terminated.
5. We are more than willing to enter dialogue with all suppliers, as well as assist them in incorporating and following the principles.
5. We require that existing as well as future suppliers follow our Code of Conduct and we urge all our business partners to support the UN Global Compact.
6. If a supplier within an agreed timeframe has not solved or terminated activities and actions in violation with the Global Compact the relationship will be put to an end.

## 6. Next step: Goals and actions

In our work with the Global Compact we have set three main goals for the future, which will be used to improve further. The goals are:

### 1. Work related accidents

Our goal is to have no working accidents - we assess risks, evaluate and validate every new machine, work task or other assignment entering our production system. We host security meetings, where our safety procedures are evaluated and approved. We have not seen any working accidents in the past year.

### 2. Employees involved in training when it comes to work place health and security.

All employees will be trained, so that they are able to take on the various routines and tasks appointed to them.



### 3. Number of audits among suppliers

As stated in part 2.3.1 we will carry out two annual audits, starting with the suppliers identified as operating in high-risk countries. In 2018/2019 audits were to be carried out in India, Spain and Germany. Audits in India were carried out, and our supplier there has taken important steps in improving working conditions. Furthermore, a fund supporting local schools has been established. We had an audit in Germany in 2020, but due to the Covid pandemic we did not do any audits in 2021.

Our Global Compact and sustainability efforts will become an integrated part of our quality control, and the discussions regarding these subjects will be part of our two annual board and management meetings, where we already discuss ISO standards etc.

Responsible for our work with the Global Compact are managing director, and quality manager.

Every year Carl J. Nielsen A/S will assess and evaluate the risks to which the company is exposed and the dialogue with all stakeholders. Based hereon necessary actions and initiatives will be formulated and executed.

We will provide all our suppliers with our Code of Conduct and require a signed copy back. We will furthermore provide information about our commitments and actions to the Global Compact as well as other relevant organizations. Control, follow-ups and audits will be integrated into our quality procedures and system, in order to ensure that risk assessments, evaluation and validation of suppliers become an integrated part of additional management evaluations in Carl J. Nielsen.

Randers 20 February 2022.

