



Jack Wolfskin is now a member of Fair Wear Foundation

Idstein, 5 July 2010 – **Since 1 July 2010, the outdoor supplier Jack Wolfskin is a member of Fair Wear Foundation (FWF), an independent non-profit organisation which aims to improve working conditions in the clothing industry. The foundation is a multi-stakeholder initiative supported by business associations in the textile industry, trade unions and non-governmental organisations.**

“FWF is a respected initiative that makes high demands on itself and its members. Not only that, but there are significant parallels between the approach of FWF and the system which Jack Wolfskin already operates. This makes it much easier to implement the FWF guidelines”, as CEO Manfred Hell explains the outdoor manufacturer’s decision to join the foundation. “Jack Wolfskin has always taken its responsibility to the environment and to the people who manufacture our products very seriously, and considers it a fundamental prerequisite for successful company development”.

As the logical next step following on from measures already undertaken within the company, Jack Wolfskin decided in 2010 to join FWF. The verification of Jack Wolfskin’s business practices – in both the mostly Asian production facilities and at the company headquarters in Idstein – means that efforts towards sustainable trade can be transparently reviewed and assessed by an independent entity.

“Fair Wear Foundation is very pleased to welcome Jack Wolfskin as a member of the organisation. We look forward to working together and to strengthening Jack Wolfskin’s continuing efforts to improve workplace conditions”, said Erica van Doorn, Director of Fair Wear Foundation.

As a new member, Jack Wolfskin has accepted the FWF Code of Labour Practices, which – just like the existing Jack Wolfskin Code of Conduct – covers the following major points:

- Employment is freely chosen
- Freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining
- No discrimination in employment
- No exploitation of child labour
- Payment of a living wage
- Reasonable hours of work
- Safe and healthy working conditions
- A legally binding employment relationship



Jack Wolfskin will continue to work actively on measures to improve the working conditions at suppliers in order to achieve the highest possible level of compliance with the basic requirements of the Code of Labour Practices. Adherence to these standards is regularly checked in audits performed by an independent auditing and qualification company (SUMATIONS LTD). All costs are borne by Jack Wolfskin. Jack Wolfskin also offers the suppliers free support in implementing corrective actions and any required training in the production countries.

In production countries, these measures are verified by FWF through factory inspections, document checks, and offsite interviews with the employees. Local organisations such as trade unions, business associations and human rights groups are also consulted.

FWF will perform annual reviews of Jack Wolfskin's management system to independently verify that it supports good labour practices. This includes areas such as supplier selection, purchasing policies, and remediation of any issues identified by audits.

In addition, the established FWF complaint mechanism for factory workers is enhanced by the system used by Jack Wolfskin, meaning that maximum benefit can be achieved in implementing employee rights.

**About Jack Wolfskin:**

Jack Wolfskin is a leading supplier of functional outdoor clothing, shoes and equipment in Europe as well as being the largest franchiser in German sports retailing. Jack Wolfskin products are currently available in 338 franchise stores and at 2,400 points of sale across Europe and Asia. Jack Wolfskin products feature a high degree of functionality, user-friendliness and innovation. In recent years, Jack Wolfskin has successfully introduced numerous material and product innovations and holds several patents for technologies in the areas of clothing, rucksacks and tents. Jack Wolfskin GmbH & Co. KGaA is headquartered in Idstein im Taunus and employs approximately 400 staff.

For further information:
nachhaltigkeit@jack-wolfskin.com
www.jack-wolfskin.com

about FWF:

Fair Wear Foundation (FWF) is an independent, non-profit organisation that works with companies and factories to improve labour conditions for garment and textile workers. The more than 60 member companies represent around 100 brands, and are based in six European nations. Production is monitored in 15 countries in Asia, Europe and Africa.

For further information:
koers@fairwear.nl (Main office)
ernstberger@fairwear.ch (Switzerland office & German-language inquiries)
www.fairwear.org

Press contact:

JACK WOLFSKIN Ausrüstung für Draussen GmbH & Co. KGaA
Jack Wolfskin Kreisel 1, 65510 Idstein, Germany

Ingola Metz
Phone: +49.6126.954-143
Fax: +49.6126.954-169
Email: ingola_metz@jack-wolfskin.com