

# HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY

## 1 INTRODUCTION

Borregaard shall always respect individuals and operate with due diligence to avoid becoming involved in violations of human rights, including breaches on decent working conditions, hereby referred to as “human rights”. These overall ambitions are also stated in our culture and value document “The Borregaard Way” and our Code of Conduct. We have a particular responsibility for our own operations, but the duty to respect human rights also applies to our relations with business partners, suppliers, sub-contractors, and others who are influenced by our company activities. Borregaard defines human rights as the human rights enshrined in the Norwegian Transparency Act<sup>1</sup>, The Universal Declaration of Human Rights<sup>2</sup>, the workers’ rights set out in The International Labour Organization’s Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work<sup>3</sup>, The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights<sup>4</sup>. In addition, Borregaard will secure alignment with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises<sup>5</sup>.

The topics of materiality for Borregaard related to human rights and decent working conditions are covered in this policy and complies with Sustainability Standard Board Materiality Map<sup>6</sup> and UN global compact<sup>7</sup>. This includes the following:

- Employee health and safety
- Working conditions
- Social dialogue
- Career management and training
- Child labour, forced labour and human trafficking
- Diversity, inclusion, discrimination and harassment
- External stakeholder human rights

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<sup>1</sup> Norwegian Transparency Act (Åpenhetsloven), [Lov om virksomheters åpenhet og arbeid med grunnleggende menneskerettigheter og anstendige arbeidsforhold \(åpenhetsloven\) - Lovdata](#)

<sup>2</sup> International Declaration of Human Rights, <http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/>

<sup>3</sup> International Labour Organisation (ILO), Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, <http://www.ilo.org/declaration/lang-en/index.htm>

<sup>4</sup> [International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights | OHCHR](#)

<sup>5</sup> OECD (2023), *OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises on Responsible Business Conduct*, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/81f92357-en>

<sup>6</sup> [Exploring Materiality - SASB](#)

<sup>7</sup> [Guide on How to Develop a Human Rights Policy | UN Global Compact](#)

The details should be part of Borregaard's materiality analysis, and a risk- based due diligence assessment shall map potential negative risks related to the Norwegian Transparency Act, described in the annual report for Human Rights & Decent working conditions.

This policy applies to all wholly owned companies and to joint ventures where adherence to Borregaard's group directives is agreed as part of the ownership contract. The policy will be reviewed on a yearly basis.

### 1.1 TARGETS FOR 2025

The target for 2025 is to have zero violations on human rights and decent working conditions.

## 2 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The responsibility for implementing the human rights policy lies with the Managing Director of each company.

The Corporate Responsibility function at Borregaard by the SVP Organisation and Public Affairs, is responsible for updating the policy and for developing relevant support material. This function may also assist the companies in awareness training.

Borregaard's Human Rights Policy does not give customers, suppliers, competitors, shareholders or other persons or entities any legal rights beyond those that follow from applicable legal rules.

## 3 PRINCIPLES FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN BORREGAARD

The principles described below should be regarded as a minimum standard.

### 3.1 HUMAN DIGNITY AND FREEDOM OF OPINION AND EXPRESSION

All Borregaard companies shall foster a culture of respect and consideration for other people. We value open, fact-based, honest and respectful communication, and will strive to achieve a working

environment where employees feel comfortable in expressing their opinion without fear of retaliation. Moreover, we want our employees to feel that their efforts are valued and used in a meaningful way.

### 3.2 THE RIGHT OF LIFE, LIBERTY AND SECURITY

Employment in a Borregaard company shall always be based on a voluntary agreement, and the work shall always be carried out without any form threats or harassment, either physical or psychological. Employees shall not pay any form of deposit to secure their employment. No recruitment fees or related costs shall be paid by workers.

All employees shall have the freedom of movement, the right to resign at any time and to leave after meeting the conditions of their contract and notice period.

All Borregaard companies shall protect the health and safety of employees, customers and others who are connected to our business by purposefully striving to achieve the vision of zero harm and complying with the requirements described in Borregaard's EHS policy. Borregaard also acknowledge the human right to water and sanitation.

### 3.3 COMPETENCE DEVELOPMENT

Borregaard companies should allow all employees the opportunity to contribute to the Company's value creation and to develop their personal competences over time. All employees should receive regular feedback on the quality and performance of their work.

### 3.4 PRIVACY

Borregaard companies shall show due respect for the privacy of employees and adapt a restrictive practice towards any kind of monitoring of or intrusion on employees' privacy. If the Company sees the need to monitor certain operations for security reasons, employees shall always be properly informed in advance. Personal employee or customer information shall be treated with confidentiality and records shall be stored in a way which does not allow unauthorised access.

### 3.5 DIVERSITY, INCLUSION AND NO DISCRIMINATION

Borregaard believes that diversity of experience and perspectives among management and employees increases the quality of company decisions. All Borregaard companies shall work systematically to promote diversity and inclusion in the workplace and prevent discrimination based on gender, religion, race, national or ethnic origin, cultural background, social group, disability, sexual orientation, marital status, age or political opinion. The companies should foster a culture where personal differences are respected and appreciated, and promote equal opportunity, particularly in relation to recruitment, compensation and benefits, promotions and training.

### 3.6 CONSULTATION AND EMPLOYEE INVOLVEMENT

Good internal communication and cooperation between management and employees is crucial for the Company's ability to succeed and for the well-being of employees. All Borregaard companies should establish channels which allow employees to influence decisions that have relevance for themselves and the workplace, for example related to occupational health and safety and workforce reductions. All employees should have the opportunity to become informed about the strategy and progress of the Company. The companies shall respect employees' freedom of association and right to collective bargaining.

### 3.7 WORKING TERMS AND LIVING WAGE

All Borregaard companies should have working terms which allow employees to combine working and family life. Where possible Borregaard will facilitate for a flexible working environment. All employees, including part time employees and temporary workers, shall have a written working contract. Working hours shall comply with national laws and benchmark industry standards, whichever affords greater protection. Overtime shall not be used without a negotiated agreement or the prior consent of employees. Employees shall be provided with at least one day off for every 7-day period. All full-time employees shall, as a minimum, receive wages and benefits which are sufficient to afford a decent standard of living for the worker and its family.

### 3.8 CHILD LABOUR

No Borregaard company shall employ individuals who are below the normal age for completing compulsory school, or below 15 years of age, whichever is the highest. Young workers, defined as employees who are above the school-leaving age, but below the age of 18, shall not perform hazardous

work. Individuals below the school-leaving age may be allowed to work temporarily as part of their education but should only be allowed to carry out light work.

### 3.9 MARGINALISED POPULATIONS

All Borregaard companies shall make sure that their operations do not interfere with the right of self-determination of indigenous people, for example related to land areas or other natural resources upon which they are dependent. Borregaard's use of certified wood ensures that we do not purchase wood harvested in violation of traditional and human rights<sup>8</sup>. If a Borregaard company has business plans which may have an impact on a marginalised population, the company shall establish a dialogue with representatives for the population group in order to find a solution which is satisfactory to both parties.

### PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS

Borregaard companies should contribute to increasing the general awareness of human rights in society by communicating their engagement to suppliers, customers and others. More detailed guidelines on how to address human rights in the supply chain are described in *Borregaard's Responsible Sourcing Policy*.

## 4 IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

All Borregaard companies shall take all necessary steps to comply with the principles described above. In particular, Borregaard expects the companies to:

- Communicate the human rights policy to all managers and trade union representatives
- Include human rights as a topic in the company's annual risk assessment and identify relevant improvement activities.
- Strengthen the companies' sourcing and investment procedures in order to better assess and prevent the risk of becoming involved in human rights violations. For more guidance, please see Borregaard's Responsible Sourcing Policy.

Borregaard will monitor compliance with the requirements through internal sustainability reporting. The status of the companies' human rights activities will be reviewed annually as part of the business areas' board meetings.

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<sup>8</sup> [NORSK PEFC SKOGSTANDARD](#)

**REFERENCE:**

Borregaard Materiality Assessment  
The Borregaard Way (culture and value)  
Borregaard Responsible Sourcing Policy  
Borregaard Code of Conduct