



## Verka Food International Limited

13025 80 Ave., Surrey, BC V3W 3B1, Canada

Tel: 604-507-3300 Fax: 604-507-3323

Email: [gagan@verkafood.com](mailto:gagan@verkafood.com)

Website: [www.verkafood.com](http://www.verkafood.com)

**Verka Food International Ltd.**

**Statement Pursuant to Bill S-211**

*Fighting Against Forced Labour and Child Labour in Supply Chains Act*

**For the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2024**

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This statement is made pursuant to Bill S-211, *An Act to enact the Fighting Against Forced Labour and Child Labour in Supply Chains Act and to amend the Customs Tariff*. It outlines the actions taken by **Verka Food International Ltd.** to identify, prevent, and mitigate the risks of forced labour and child labour within our business operations and global supply chains for the fiscal year from **January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024.**

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### **1. Organizational Structure**

Verka Food International Ltd. has been in operation for over 20 years. We specialize in the importation and national distribution of ethnic food products, with a primary focus on South Asian cuisine. Our products are supplied to a wide network of restaurants, independent grocers, supermarkets, and major retail chains across Canada, including Walmart, Costco, Sobeys and Loblaws.

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### **2. Our Supply Chain**

We import over **150 different products** from **15 countries** and distribute them to **over 1,200 customer locations** across Canada. These imported goods span a range of categories including:

- **Dairy:** Ghee
  - **Commodities:** Rice, flour, spices
  - **Seasonal items:** Condiments, biscuits
  - **Other:** Sweets, drinks, sauces
  - **Utensils:** Cookware such as pots and pans
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### **3. Risk of Forced and Child Labour in the Supply Chain**

Verka Food International Ltd. acknowledges that the global nature of our supply chain presents inherent risks related to forced and child labour. We are committed to upholding human rights, ensuring ethical sourcing, and operating with integrity. We are actively taking steps to evaluate and address potential areas of concern within our supply chains.

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### **4. Actions Taken in 2024**

#### **a. Policy and Commitments**

- We maintain a strong, values-based approach to human rights and labour standards, emphasizing fairness, dignity, and the right to safe working conditions.
- We are in the process of formalizing these values into an updated Human Resources and Ethical Sourcing Policy, which will be published in 2025.

#### **b. Supplier Assessments**

- As we expand our distribution to large-scale retailers, we have increased our oversight of supplier practices.



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- Costco conducts CoC (Code of Conduct) Audits on a few suppliers every year to ensure compliance. In 2024, they conducted assessments of select suppliers.
- We have required the affected suppliers to implement corrective action plans and provided a defined period for remediation.

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### 5. Employee Training

- Internal training programs were initiated in 2024 to educate staff on the importance of respecting human rights and maintaining ethical standards in all aspects of our operations.
- These training efforts are fully endorsed and supported by company leadership.

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### 6. Approval

This statement is made in accordance with the requirements of **Bill S-211** for the financial year ending **December 31, 2024**. It has been reviewed and approved by senior leadership.

**Approved by:**

*Gagan Matta*

President, Verka Food International Ltd.

**Signed:**

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Date: April 25, 2025