

Five Things to Ask Suppliers about Employer-provided Accommodation



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There is an increased risk of modern slavery where an employer provides worker accommodation. Workers may be more reliant on the employer and may have unreasonable restrictions placed on them.

What should you be aware of when assessing employer-provided accommodation?

While employer-provided accommodation can benefit workers, it can also lead to an increased risk of exploitation. Accommodation may be provided by the employer where other options are not available in the area.

Worker accommodation should be provided for free or at a reasonable market price. Pay deductions to cover accommodation costs or incidentals must be understood and approved by workers.

Dormitory accommodation should be clean, safe and not overcrowded. Workers should be able to come and go freely, and have access to their belongings and personal documents at any time.



Consider the five questions below and always verify responses.

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1

Are dormitories located in the same building as the production workshop /factory or warehouse?

2

Is there sufficient space and ventilation in each room for the number of boarders?

3

Are dormitories and restrooms segregated by gender?

4

If there are restrictions or curfews in place, do workers feel they are reasonable?

5

Are dormitories secure and do workers have access to lockers for their personal belongings?

Modern Slavery is about risk to *people*

We've been working with businesses for over two decades to identify both environmental and social sustainability risks. While businesses are skilled at identifying and managing risk to their business, they are less experienced in assessing risk to people, particularly those working in their complex supply chains.



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