

INDEPENDENT MONITORING OF THE ORIGIN ASSURED PROGRAMME

The OA™ programme will only be credible in the eyes of the consumer if it is independently monitored. The fur industry recognises that self-monitoring will not meet the consumer's expectations and Cotecna, one of the world's leading trade inspection, security and certification companies, has been appointed as a partner in the OA™ programme.

Cotecna have their headquarters in Geneva and with 4000 employees located in 100 offices across the globe, they provide professional, secure and independent monitoring services to governments, NGO's and private organisations. Cotecna's Business Ethics and Compliance programme is itself independently assessed by their external auditors, KPMG.

The monitoring process begins with the retailer. During a typical monitoring visit, a Cotecna inspector will randomly select a number of OA™ labelled garments and examine the details of the purchase invoices that record the sale of the products to the retailer. These should clearly show that they are OA™ and from whom they were purchased. The greater the number of OA™ garments in store, the more are inspected.

During the subsequent tracking stages, Cotecna will contact the supplier of the garments to confirm that they have a corresponding sales invoice and to collect information from where they sourced the garment, or fur products. All invoices should clearly show the fur is OA™.

The tracking continues through the supply chain until the final invoice is checked. This should show that the fur was sourced through one of the participating auction houses.

What happens if the OA™ trail breaks down?

On occasions, the tracking process cannot determine a continuous invoice trail from an OA™ labelled garment to one of the participating auction houses.

In this event, the Administrators of the Origin Assured programme will initiate an investigation to determine the nature and cause of the non-compliance and will take appropriate remedial action.