

P R E S S R E L E A S E

New factory takes Blåkläder to 98 percent own production

In 2026, almost all garments sold by Blåkläder will be manufactured in the workwear company's own factories. The share is the highest the company has ever achieved, and the increase is made possible by a new factory in Bangladesh.

“The industry norm of not owning your own production hampers sustainability efforts across the clothing industry. With our own factories, it is easier for us to improve working conditions and genuinely reduce our climate impact, which is why we are very proud to go against the grain,” says Anders Carlsson, MD of Blåkläder.

Blåkläder's new factory, Gava, opened in Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh, in 2025, giving the company the capacity to manufacture knitted products such as t-shirts, polo shirts and base layers in-house. Going forward, at least 98 percent of all products the company sells will be manufactured in its own factories. Only accessories such as gloves, caps, knee pads, belts and beanies will continue to be sourced from other suppliers.

When it reaches full capacity, the new factory will employ 2,400 people, meaning that Blåkläder, through its sister company Guston, will have approximately 8,000 employees in South and Southeast Asia. All employees are guaranteed generous living wages and access to healthcare through regular medical visits as well as an on-site nurse. Blåkläder also has a fund that employees can apply to for financial support if needed.

“Our employees are the heart of the company. Everyone who works with us should be able to develop their skills, build a career within the company, and above all feel secure in keeping their job. Good pay and fair working conditions are still astonishingly rare in the textile industry,” says Anders Carlsson.

The factory in Bangladesh is equipped with solar panels that produce 40–50 percent of the facility's energy needs. The factory is built using materials with strong sustainability performance and is located close to key sub-suppliers to reduce the need for transportation. Like several of Blåkläder's other factories, it is certified to LEED Platinum and also meets two social sustainability standards, Oeko-Tex STeP and SA8000.

“The textile industry needs to accelerate its climate transition, and that means both making changes to production and investing in high quality. The fewer garments produced, the better it is for the environment and climate. We would very much like to see durability become a much more important sustainability requirement from workwear buyers,” says Anders Carlsson.

Blåkläder already owns seven factories in Sri Lanka and Myanmar, five of which have qualified for LEED certification at Gold or Platinum level. Sustainability investments in the factories include solar panels, water-cooled air conditioning and technical solutions to minimise heat gain from outside. Together, they result in at least 55 percent lower climate-impacting emissions in the best-performing factories.

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About LEED

LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) is an international environmental certification for buildings. It means that an independent auditor has verified that the facility meets high standards for energy efficiency, water use, work environment and carbon dioxide



emissions during construction and operation. The certification is administered by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC). [Learn more about LEED here.](#)

About Oeko-Tex STeP

Oeko-Tex STeP is a standard that evaluates entire operations for environmental and social sustainability. The STeP certification means that the production of the garment has taken place with consideration for the climate, ensures high quality, and takes place in workplaces with safe and fair working conditions. [Learn more about Oeko-Tex STeP here.](#)

About SA8000

SA8000 is an international standard for social responsibility based on the UN Declaration of Human Rights and the ILO core conventions. The certification ensures that operations meet high standards including working conditions, freedom of association, health and safety, and non-discrimination. The standard is administered by Social Accountability International (SAI). [Learn more about SA8000 here.](#)

About Blåkläder

Blåkläder was established in Svenljunga, Sweden, in 1959. The company develops, manufactures, and distributes workwear, safety shoes and gloves for professionals within craftsmanship industries, transportation, industrial manufacturing and service. Key to Blåkläder is quality, durability, and functionality – components of the business that Blåkläder constantly works to improve. Blåkläder is represented in 20 countries, and the company's headquarter is in Svenljunga, Sweden. With fully owned factories in Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Bangladesh, more than 8,000 employees and a yearly turnover of 2,7 billion SEK, Blåkläder is one of the world's leading manufacturers of quality workwear. Read more on www.blaklader.com