



## **POSITION STATEMENT REGARDING ETHICAL SOURCING OF NATURAL DOWN INSULATION**

At Columbia, we value ethical, sustainable manufacturing practices and are committed to assuring that the partners with whom we do business share these values.

The majority of Columbia brand insulated products rely on synthetic fill instead of natural down. As an innovator within the outdoor apparel industry, we are involved in on-going research, development and testing of synthetic alternatives in partnership with several vendors and materials labs.

As a direct result of those efforts, synthetic fill has grown to represent more than 75 percent (in kg) of the combined total of fill materials used in Columbia products. Natural down represents the balance, with duck down accounting for more than 95 percent of that share.

We continually seek market opportunities for which synthetics are a viable substitute. However, we also realize that natural down remains a superior, preferred choice of consumers who participate in more extreme outdoor activities and those who live in northern latitudes where winter temperatures are coldest. Therefore, natural down insulation will continue to be featured in a select assortment of Columbia products.

To the extent that we continue to rely on natural down, we have implemented strict compliance processes designed to provide assurance that our suppliers employ humane harvesting methods and do not engage in inhumane "live-pluck" or foie gras practices.

Independent factories that manufacturer Columbia products purchase a portion of their natural down supply from one primary vendor, pre-qualified and designated by Columbia. This vendor consolidates down supplies from a broad network of independently operated poultry farms, primarily in Eastern Europe and China. In addition, our independent manufacturers obtain down from a network of contractors who consolidate supplies from other independent poultry farms.

We have requested and received written declarations from our primary vendor and from contractors stating that the natural down they sell to our manufacturing partners is harvested by poultry farms using humane methods on fowls that have been slaughtered to supply the poultry meat industry.

We realize that there may be additional processes that we can implement in the future to provide greater assurances about the sources of our natural down supply. We are committed to learning more about those practices, to continuing to innovate around synthetic alternatives, and to working with our vendors and independent manufacturers to promote and reward adherence to industry protocols and ethical standards across Columbia's supply chain.