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Your Trusted Sourcing Partner In China

Turkey Sourcing & Factory Vetting Checklist

A fill-in template for Turkey apparel sourcing: the EU A.T.R vs UK origin routes, the textile cluster board, a Turkey-vs-China routing matrix, the sampling-to-bulk calendar, two-day vetting checks, QC gates, EN workwear standards, a blank MOQ worksheet and a red-flag screen.

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DISCLAIMER

This checklist is general guidance on sourcing apparel and workwear from Turkey and on moving it into the EU or the UK. It is not legal, tax or customs advice on your product, your entity or your shipment. The EU-Turkey customs union, the A.T.R movement certificate, the UK-Turkey continuity agreement, the origin declaration and EUR.1, and the EN workwear standards change, and the treatment of a specific order turns on its own facts; confirm the current position with EU customs, UK HMRC and a qualified customs broker before you rely on it. The factory and site-visit work is carried out by vetted local partners. The origin file is built by LeelineGroup and owned by the buyer, who remains the importer of record. Figures and examples shown here are illustrative and are not a quotation.

1. EU A.T.R vs UK Origin Declaration

The EU and the UK both trade with Turkey on preferential terms, yet they ask for different papers. The document is decided by the destination, not the factory. A consignment to the EU travels on an A.T.R; a consignment to the UK needs an origin declaration or EUR.1.

Aspect	EU route	UK route
Document	A.T.R movement certificate	Origin declaration / EUR.1
What it proves	Free circulation under the customs union	Preferential origin under the continuity FTA
What it is not	Not a statement of preferential origin	Not a movement certificate
Validity	4 months from issue	12 months from issue
Cumulation	EU and Turkish inputs	EU and Turkish materials
In force	Since the 1995 customs union	Since 1 January 2021

2. The Textile Cluster Board

Hire Turkey textile and denim work starts with the cluster, because what a region was built for decides whether your product fits its line. Capacity and fabric origin still have to be verified plant by plant.

Cluster	Categories	Makes	Watch
Istanbul	Apparel & denim	Fashion and knit garment lines	Sample-room capacity fills before peak
Denizli	Home textiles	Towels, bedding and bath linen	Loom utilisation runs below 65%
Bursa	Apparel, technical	Woven garments and technical fabric	Confirm the dye house, not only the floor
Izmir	Apparel & denim	Knit tops and jersey	Port and customs slots tighten in season
Kahramanmaras	Apparel, yarn	Denim and looped knitwear	Rebuild after the earthquake; verify capacity
Gaziantep	Carpets, home textiles	Machine-made carpets and rugs	Confirm the yarn origin for the duty file
Usak	Home textiles, yarn	Blankets and woven home textiles	Smaller mills; book ahead for large runs
Adana	Yarn, apparel	Cotton yarn and woven fabric	Fabric width and finish vary by mill
Tekirdag / Corlu	Apparel & denim	Knit and woven garment lines	Close to EU borders; check transit lead time
Tuzla, Istanbul	Leather & bags	Leather bags and small goods	Match the tannery to the item before quoting
Menemen, Izmir	Leather & bags	Leather apparel and accessories	Confirm the leather finish before sampling

3. Turkey vs China Routing

A nearshoring decision is not which country is cheaper. It is which lane suits the product, the reorder cycle and the destination duty. Route the order before you quote the price; most brands run both lanes and move SKUs between them.

Situation	Turkey	China	Lane
Fast replenishment, thin stock cover	Short road, sea or rail cycle from the mill	Ocean lead time ties up cash	Turkey
Premium or technical construction	Mills and garment makers sit together	Wide range, longer cycle	Turkey
Low unit price at high volume	A premium per unit	Lowest unit cost at scale	China
Widest range in a single order	The core lines	The long tail of SKUs	China
Certified EN workwear	EN standards documented to spec	Verify the same documents	Turkey
Small first run to test a market	Low minimums on private label	Higher tooling and MOQ	Turkey

4. Sampling-to-Bulk Calendar

Lead times are decided by sampling and fabric, not by the sewing line. MOQ 100-500 pcs per style and colour for most apparel. A custom dye, a new wash or an imported specialty fabric adds a week or more.

Phase	Window	Detail
Denim / woven sample	W0 - W1	Fit samples from the mill
Knit sample	W0 - W2	Counter-sample against the tech pack
Bulk, stock fabric	W2 - W5	Mill fabric booked and cut
Bulk, custom fabric	W3 - W9	Dye, finish and lab-dip approval
Full programme	W3 - W11	Sample to bulk for a repeating line

5. The Two-Day Vetting Trip

A vetted partner runs the visit on the ground; our China team plans the checks, holds the criteria and reviews the report. Capacity and identity claims are checked against the registry and the floor.

Slot	Activity
Day 1, 08:30	Entity and tax records pulled and matched before the visit
Day 1, 14:00	Floor walk: looms, sewing lines and machine counts against the quote
Day 2, 09:00	Sub-contracting and fabric origin traced to the tier below
Day 2, 15:00	Counter-sample checked and sealed against the written spec

The report you receive

- [ ] **1. Signed floor-walk sheet** — With photographs and machine counts.
- [ ] **2. Sub-tier list** — Naming any work that leaves the plant.
- [ ] **3. Fabric and trim origin notes** — For the cumulative origin file.
- [ ] **4. Capacity statement** — Tied to shift patterns and headcount.
- [ ] **5. Vetting verdict** — Dated and signed by the partner who ran it.

6. QC Checkpoints (38 Checks)

Inspection is carried out on the ground by the partner, against criteria you sign. Sampling follows ANSI/ASQ Z1.4, and the report, not a photo of a loaded container, releases the balance.

#	Gate	Stage	Checks	Report
01	Fabric and trim intake	Before the line	6	Intake report with photographs
02	First-article approval	Start of run	8	First-article sign-off
03	In-line inspection, early	10-25% complete	9	Early-run report with defect log
04	In-line reinspection, late	60-75% complete	7	Late-run report with CAPA status
05	Pre-shipment and loading	Before the container	8	Pre-shipment and loading report

7. EN Workwear Standards

These are the four most-asked standards on a workwear order. Each one travels with the garment as a file, not a claim, and the file is checked before the first bulk run rather than after.

Code	Name	Covers	Document
EN ISO 20471	High-visibility clothing	Hi-vis vests, jackets and trousers	Test report, module certificates, CE label
EN 343	Protective clothing against rain	Waterproof and breathable rainwear	Water-penetration and breathability report
EN ISO 11612	Clothing against heat and flame	Flame-resistant workwear	Flame-spread and heat-transfer reports
EN ISO 13034	Clothing against liquid chemicals	Light splash protection	Splash-resistance report and care label

8. MOQ Worksheet (Blank)

Fill this in with the mill before you quote your margin. Ask for the mill minimum per style and colour, the sample and bulk lead times, and the origin document the destination needs.

Line	Amount	Notes
Style / SKU		The reference you quote against
Fabric and composition		Weight, stretch and finish
Colourways		Number of colours in the run
MOQ per style / colour		The mill minimum before negotiation
Sample lead time		Weeks from tech pack to counter-sample
Bulk lead time		Weeks from fabric approval to loading
Unit price (EUR)		Factory price per unit
Landed cost (EUR)		Include freight, duty and QC fees
Origin document		A.T.R for the EU, declaration for the UK
Notes		Wash, finish, packaging and labelling

9. Red Flags That Stop an Order

Any one of these pauses the order until it is resolved. Each is cheap to find before the goods ship and expensive to find once they are at the port.

Red flag	What it looks like
A.T.R offered for a UK shipment	The wrong document for the destination.
Origin declaration, no cumulation trace	The preferential claim cannot be defended.
Invoice entity differs from the mill	The maker is not the entity that invoices you.
Loom utilisation quoted, never seen	Capacity claimed but not observed.
No counter-sample before bulk	Sampling skipped to save a week.
Fabric origin unknown	Cumulation assumed rather than proved.
QC report after packing only	Defects found too late to fix.
Workwear standard claimed, no report	The file is missing at the gate.

10. Sources

The rules in this checklist rest on the public sources below. Rates, validity and thresholds change; confirm the current position before you rely on them.

European Commission - Taxation and Customs Union	https://taxation-customs.ec.europa.eu/
UK Government - UK-Turkey trade agreement	https://www.gov.uk/guidance/summary-of-the-uk-turkey-trade-agreement
IHKIB - Istanbul Apparel Exporters Association	https://www.ihkib.org.tr/
Turkish Exporters Assembly (TIM)	https://www.tim.org.tr/
CEN-CENELEC - European standards	https://www.cencenelec.eu/
EU Access2Markets	https://trade.ec.europa.eu/access-to-markets/en/home

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Send Us Your Product Brief

We shortlist the cluster, run the vetting checks with a named partner, prepare the A.T.R or UK origin file and plan the QC gates. Tell us the product, the reorder cycle you need and the destination, and we will come back with one landed figure.

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