



## What we do to ensure we work ethically



Arco is now a member of the Ethical Trading Initiative (ETI), an alliance of companies, Trade Unions and Non-Governmental Organisations that aims to promote respect for the rights of workers in global supply chains.

As members of the Ethical Trading Initiative we've made serious commitments to improving the lives of the workers who make our products.

Over the next three months we will be developing our current Ethical Auditing Programme in line with the new requirements and re-writing our Ethical Guide to include the nine principles of the ETI Base Code.



## What we do to support our communities

In addition to our commitment to trading ethically, we also strongly believe that business can be a force for the good. This belief underpins our approach to our community - be it local to our home town of Hull, or our ever-expanding branch network across the UK or internationally. Over the past twelve months we have supported over **200** charity and community projects, provided **320** hours of English language training to those who do not speak English as a first language at our National Distribution Centre, carried out over **30** ethical audits, raised over **£10,000** for MacMillan Cancer Support and every member of Arco staff is entitled to take **2** days' paid leave to take part in volunteering or community support projects.

Our commitment to the Chinese community is equally important to us. We have invested via Project Hope in libraries and computer equipment in three schools in Xinjiang, the home province of the manager of our China office.

**"We are grateful for Arco to a donate library and video room to our school, which means the children here can access the outside world via these facilities provided."** Mr. Cheng, Director Chartleke town school, China



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## Doing business with Arco is both easy and ethical

We've **improved** our **website** to make **everything easier for you to use**

- ✓ **Fact Sheets**
- ✓ **Product Know How**
- ✓ **Catalogue Viewer**
- ✓ **Quick Order**
- ✓ **Purchasing Lists**
- ✓ **Arco Requisition Manager**
- ✓ **Easy Ordering 24/7**



[www.arco.co.uk](http://www.arco.co.uk)

We now have **35 Arco branches nationwide** with **more coming soon**

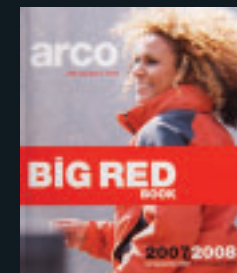
- ✓ **Expert advice** from **friendly staff**
- ✓ **Large stockholding**

## 944 pages of the best in safety clothing and equipment

- ✓ **Tried and tested products** from **leading brands**
- ✓ **Comprehensive services** to support workforce safety in your organisation

Can your other suppliers offer you access to **16,000 products** across **200 brands**?

**we can** ✓



The Big Red Book

**arco**<sup>®</sup>



# arco<sup>®</sup> spotlight

## on Ethical Trading

February 2008



**Can your suppliers tick all the ethical trading boxes?**

**we can** ✓

Arco products are not only designed to keep your workforce safe but also produced by a manufacturer that strives to protect and promote the Health, Safety and Welfare of all the people involved in the workplace. Find out more inside.



# Providing all-round **quality** and **peace of mind**

Our rigorous quality and ethical procedures ensure that all the care that goes into the development, specification and manufacture of products for our range is matched by our commitment to sourcing from manufacturers who share in our value of respect for people.

## Arco's seven step quality check list:

- 1 Factory and Ethical Audits** - ALL new factories contracted to produce Arco branded products are subject to initial audits, with established suppliers regularly re-audited.
- 2 3 Step Sampling Procedure** - approval, pre-production and product sampling help us monitor the development of new or resourced products.
- 3 Early Production Inspections** - carried out at vendors in the Far East by our Chinese office quality control staff against strict Company specifications and AQL (Acceptable Quality Level) requirements.
- 4 Pre-shipment Inspections** - these ensure that any required improvements have been made prior to shipment.
- 5 Goods Inwards Inspections at Arco's National Distribution Centre** - ensure incoming consignments conform to Company specification. These also act as a double check against early production and pre-shipment inspections carried out at source.
- 6 Due Diligence Conformity Testing** - an intensive regime of laboratory testing throughout the year ensures that EN/ISO Conformity remains consistent throughout the product lifespan.
- 7 Faulty Returns Monitoring** - provides us with an accurate monitor for vendor performance and the speedy rectification of problems.



QC inspected at source and on arrival at our National Distribution Centre

Sourced from a supplier who is regularly audited as part of our ethical and quality procedures



Conforms to Arco's ethical trading policy

### Arco 2 Band & Brace Hi-Vis Class 2 Waistcoat

- 100% polyester high conspicuity fabric
- Velcro front fastening
- Tape - Reflective material

Conforms to EN471 Class 2  
Sizes M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL  
Code: 1880500

Only  
**£9.99**  
EACH (Ex VAT)

See page 170  
of The Big Red Book

Carefully specified to ensure excellent product performance

Made with the highest quality materials

# Trading **ethically** to deliver **quality** and **value** across our **product range**

**Working within our ethical sourcing policy and quality guidelines, we can offer you the best possible choice of safety clothing and equipment, gloves, footwear, and workplace safety products.**

Arco branded products account for over a third of our product range. They offer excellent value for money as well as our guarantee that the goods were manufactured in accordance with our ethical trading principles.

You also have our assurance that they have passed our rigorous quality checks and so will keep your workforce safe and looking good.

Working closely with many of the best and biggest name manufacturers of safety products, they are actively targeted on working in accordance with our ethical trading principles.

We run a performance-based measurement programme on a quarterly basis with our partner suppliers, covering a range of purchasing disciplines.

All Arco supply partners have Product Liability Insurance so that all of the products you buy from Arco will comply with the relevant specifications and standards.

**“ The University of Birmingham has Fairtrade status and took ethical trading into consideration as part of its overall evaluation of Best Value for Money in selecting Arco as one of its suppliers for Workwear and Safety Wear. ”**

Jane Colbourne MCIPS  
Procurement - Hospitality and Accommodation Services

UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM

**arco**<sup>®</sup>

experts in personal protection • clothing • footwear • gloves • workplace safety