

**Statement from the VSB on recent coverage of live plucking by Stiftung Warentest
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The Swiss Bedding Manufacturer's Association (VSB) is categorically against any form of live plucking and back in 2001 was the first organization in the world to declare the complete abandonment of live plucking in its statutes as well as in contracts between VSB member companies and their suppliers.

To further increase transparency and to enable traceability of the products, we as a Swiss association have gradually tightened the requirements for our suppliers. In real terms, that means that all suppliers to VSB member companies must be able to explain the specific origin of the raw materials for all deliveries of feather and down.

This ensures that our member companies and/or externally commissioned custodians / auditors can conduct the relevant controls or investigate well-founded suspicion. These guidelines are an integral element of contracts, and contraventions are punished with contractual penalties or with exclusion from the group of our suppliers. With these strict contractual regulations VSB is a global trailblazer in the industry.

In the contractual requirements we have defined clear possibilities of sanctions and monitoring for our Swiss members. At the same time, with the VSB quality seal we are also creating more transparency towards end consumers: only products whose manufacture conforms to the rigorous VSB standards may be labelled with them.

At the international level as well, the VSB is active in the battle against live plucking. One decisive step and an important result of the close cooperation with the other European associations is the adoption of European "Traceability Standards".

With this transnational system, an important instrument has been made available across Europe for tracing and monitoring the raw materials, as well as to continue the fight against illegal live plucking.

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