



SEAL
INTERNATIONAL

WORLD - RENOWNED
SPECIALITY FIBRES

www.sealinternational.com

The SIL Group.

The SIL Group takes immense pride in its roots as a family-owned business, tracing back from its modest start in 1970 with only 7 staff members, the company expanded to a team of 20 in 1980. Fast forward to 2023, and we are delighted to boast a thriving workforce of 280 dedicated individuals. This growth reflects our journey from humble beginnings to becoming a world-class vertically integrated group of specialised textiles businesses.

Our diverse portfolio of brands stands tall on the global stage, renowned for the rich heritage, unmatched quality, innovative designs, and technical expertise. We are not just a group of experts; we are a collective force propelled by genuine passion for textiles.

At the heart of our operations lies a commitment to sustainability. We meticulously source natural fibres from markets worldwide, supplying a broad spectrum of clients engaged in processing, manufacturing, and tailoring the finest fabrics and garments. Moreover, our dedication to reducing our carbon footprint is reflected in the strategic decision to keep production within 15 miles of the head office at Ladywell Mills, minimising transportation emissions whenever possible.

But our mission goes beyond business. For more than a decade, we have actively nurtured talent through our apprenticeship programs, ensuring the continuity of traditional craftsmanship skills within the textile industry. By employing a local workforce, we not only foster a deep sense of community pride and loyalty among our employees but also contribute significantly to the local economy, fostering growth and development in the community.

Looking forward, The SIL Group continues to shape a vibrant future for textiles. We invest in cutting-edge technology, refine contemporary and bespoke designs, and remain responsive to the evolving needs of our customers and supply chain partners. Our journey is not just about the finished product; it's about creating a sustainable textile chain of companies that innovate & preserve the UK textile industry for the future from fibre through to fabric.



The SIL Group
From fibre to fabric

The Businesses.

Seal International is proudly a division of one of the most significant groupings in UK textiles, The SIL Group.

The SIL Group businesses are incredibly proud to supply our high-quality UK manufactured products into many of the most prestigious luxury brands across the world, with relationships being built over decades.



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Our Story.

Sourcing, Processing and Supplying the World's Finest Fibres

Our team travel the world to procure the finest fibres at source and nurture strong and lasting relationships with trusted local partners and organisations whose values are aligned to our own. We achieve sustainability and ensure traceability throughout the entire supply chain where possible.

Reliability |

Our word and reputation underpin our business and mean so much to us. For decades we have strived to exceed expectations and deliver nothing less than an excellent service with customers recognising the values of Seal International as a solid, dependable and reliable supplier.

Quality |

We have earned a newfound reputation for the quality and unique specification of the products we supply. Having our own in-house testing laboratory allows us to check and sample quicker than ever before maintaining only the highest quality fibres for our customers.

Availability |

Our stocks of the speciality fibre that we hold is unsurpassable by any in the world. We have stocks available for immediate dispatch in cashmere, mohair, alpaca, angora, camel, silk, yak and a number of other smaller more specialist fibres. We have the capacity to produce 60 tons of fibre a month and the ability to export 100 tons a month.



Our Fibres.

Being a stockholder and having an extensive range of qualities for all the main speciality fibres has always been our goal, holding these levels of stock provides customers with the knowledge that if it's needed quickly then we oblige. What's more, as one of the world's largest buyers and traders in these fibres we're experienced in buying effectively and in using our long-established supplier relationships to acquire the best products for the best price for our customers.

Mohair.

Mohair fibre is derived from the fleece of the Angora goat, a luxurious natural material known for its softness and versatility.

Core Fibre | Mohair.

Mohair fibre is notable for its high lustre and sheen and is often blended with other fibres to add to these characteristics.

Mohair takes dye exceptionally well, is also warm and durable as well as being stretch, flame and crease-resistant.

The long mohair fibre is particularly suitable for the production of worsted yarns for lightweight apparel fabrics.

The shorter fibres from shearing are used to spin woollen yarns for the production of brushed and smooth fabrics.

Accreditation.

Seal International is certified to the Responsible Mohair Standard (RMS), which certifies mohair from the source, to the final product.



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Core Fibre | Alpaca.

The most common strain of alpaca is the Huacaya (pronounced wuh-kai-ya). The hardier of the two strains their hair is heavier and tends to be shorter.

The Incas selected from the huacaya herds, animals which were a rare phenotype with a dominant gene that gave rise to the Suri strain. This animal, which although it has a similar physiology to the huacaya, possesses a totally different hair. It is clearly distinguishable even though the natural colours are the same.

Suri alpaca is a silky, lustrous, wavy fibre with at least 1 micron of fineness more than huacaya, very similar to mohair. It is used for plaids which are appreciated for their low-weight, warm water-proof soft fabric with excellent wearability. It is also popular for blankets manufactured using the large selection of natural colours. Suri alpaca represents about 10% of overall alpaca fibre production.

Alpaca.

The Alpaca is a South American camelid, vital to the continued survival of populations in the Andes. They are remarkable for their resistance to adverse environments, with pastures at 3500-4800 mts and to temperature ranges of +/- 20c between day and night. They are also relatively easy to breed.

Accreditation.

Seal International is certified to the Responsible Alpaca Standard (RAS), which certifies alpaca fibre from the source, to the final product.



Cashmere.

The long-haired Cashmere goat is common among nomadic people that live in deserts as well as arid mountains and plains, because it can handle harsh environmental conditions where cattle and sheep struggle to thrive.

Core Fibre | Cashmere.

The long-haired Cashmere goat is common among nomadic people that live in deserts as well as arid mountains and plains, because it can handle harsh environmental conditions where cattle and sheep struggle to thrive.

Cashmere fibre is fine in texture and is also strong, light and soft. The goats produce a double fleece consisting of a fine, soft undercoat of hair mingled with a straighter much coarser outer hair called guard hair.

In order for the fine fibre to be sold and processed further, it must be de-haired. This is a process that separates the coarse fibres from the fine.

The protective outer coat, consisting of 60-120mm long hair, with a very coarse 30-90 mic, is used to make brushes, paintbrushes, ropes, upholstery, carpets, felts etc.

The fine undercoat, a heat insulator of 12-19 mic is exceptionally soft. The fibres are highly adaptable and are easily constructed into fine yarns suitable for sweaters, fashion garments and accessories.

Accreditation.

Seal International are member of the Sustainable Fibres Alliance (SFA), a global multi-stakeholder initiative to encourage the adoption of responsible production practices that minimise environmental impact, safeguard herder livelihood, and meet high animal welfare standards.



Speciality Fibre.

Angora.

Angora refers to the downy coat produced by the Angora rabbit, known for its exceptional softness and silky texture. Highly versatile, angora fibre is used in a wide range of applications. It is typically used in garments; hats, sweaters and suiting, and in knitting yarns and felting.

Bamboo.

Bamboo fibre is derived from bamboo plants. It is known for its breathability and moisture-wicking properties, making it a common choice for garments that make direct contact with the skin, such as socks, underwear, and t-shirts.

Camelhair.

Camelhair, sourced from the fine undercoat of Bactrian camels, is highly valued for its innate warmth, smooth texture, and luxurious appearance. It is a preferred choice for crafting premium-quality knitwear. Coarser camel hair, typically found on the humps, mane, and chest - measuring 30-40 microns, is commonly used for padding in winter quilts, while the longer coarse hair is often utilised in making ropes and mattresses.

Silk.

Silk fibre, produced by silkworms, is celebrated for its unparalleled smoothness, sheen, strength and softness, making it an excellent choice for luxurious textiles and clothing. Its attractive lustre and drape also make it a preferred option for a wide range of furnishings and upholstery applications, and weaving worsted cloth with wool and linen blends.

Vicuña.

Not only are vicuñas some of South America's most elegant and noble creatures, but they are also among the rarest. Their fibre is the finest of all natural fibres, typically measuring between 11 and 12 microns. Vicuña fibre is highly acclaimed for its exceptional warmth and softness, making it a coveted choice for crafting fine garments and accessories.

Yak.

The domestic yak possesses a double-layer coat consisting of an outer protective layer of long, coarse hairs - typically 80-90 microns, and an inner layer of short, fine, thermo-insulating fibre. Yak fibre is renowned for its outstanding warmth, softness, and moisture-wicking abilities.

Our Production.

Dyed Cashmere Blending.

This is the process where the fibre is opened, and different colours or fibre types are blended together. It is at this point that the desired colour, or composition is created using a unique mixture to achieve the desired blends.

Capabilities: 3 tons per week | 600kg per day

Our Production.

Carding/Combing.

Raw fibres are fed through carding machines with wire-covered rollers or carding drums. These machines separate and align the fibres, removing any impurities, short fibres, or knots. Carding helps create a uniform fibre web or sliver.

Carding is an important step in the process, this is where the fibres are aligned and loose untwisted strands, known as slivers, are produced.

Carding - Cashmere: 3 tons per week | 600kg per day

Combing - Cashmere/Camel/Yak: 2.5 tons per week | 500kg per day

Combing - Mohair/Alpaca/Wool: 15 tons per week | 3000kg per day

Our Production.

Gilling.

After carding, the fibre sliver goes through the gilling process.

Gilling machines have a series of rollers and combs that further align and parallelise the fibres. This process improves the sliver's uniformity, ensuring that the fibres are evenly distributed in terms of length and orientation.

Gilling also helps remove remaining impurities and straightens the sliver for smoother, more consistent spinning.

Capabilities: 15 tons per week | 3000kg per day

Our Production.

Cashmere Carding.

Carding machines are used to open, separate, and align the cashmere fibres.

These machines have wire-covered rollers or carding drums that comb and straighten the fibres, creating a loose web or sliver of cashmere. The carding process also helps remove any remaining impurities and ensures that the fibres are evenly distributed.

Cashmere carding is crucial for producing high-quality cashmere products, such as sweaters, scarves, blankets, and more. The carding process not only ensures that the fibres are clean and free from impurities but also helps align them for efficient and consistent yarn production.

Capabilities: 3 tons per week | 600kg per day

Our Mission.

We have been guided by the values and responsibilities passed down the generations. This means dealing honestly not just with customers, suppliers, partners but our own people and community too, generating trust and peace of mind throughout our worldwide network.

It's important we continue along this journey operating within a strict framework of quality and regulatory compliance, one that respects our supply chain, respects people, animals and the environment recognising that they are all crucial to our continued success.

Sustainability

The fundamentals.

We ensure that our fibres are sustainable by having full traceability where possible.

We are fully certified to the *Responsible Mohair Standard (RMS)*, and *Responsible Alpaca Standard (RAS)* - an international voluntary standard to provide the industry with a global benchmark.

We are also members of the *Sustainable Fibres Alliance (SFA)* a global multi-stakeholder initiative to encourage the adoption of responsible production practices that minimize environmental impact, safeguard herder livelihood and meet high animal welfare standards. The Sustainable fibres Alliance standard offers a globally recognised credible sustainable standard that allows companies to demonstrate their commitment to transforming the cashmere sector and make credible claims about the sustainability of their cashmere products.

Corporate & Social Responsibility

Providing a lasting legacy.

We take responsibility for creating wider benefits both within and around our business and endeavor to make our impact a positive one, which improves the lives of others and reduces the risk of harm to people and their environment. We are fully committed to adding value to the communities within which we work, fostering relationships through sourcing local labour, equipment and materials where possible.

Environment

Minimising our impact.

We wholly support and comply with or exceed the requirements of the current environmental legislation and codes of practice including ISO14001 Waste management and Energy management.

Operating with the utmost integrity...

Our Accreditations.

At Seal International, we proudly hold a range of prestigious accreditations, and here's why it matters to you. Our commitment to achieving and maintaining these accreditations is a testament to our unwavering dedication to excellence.

When you choose us, you're choosing a company that operates with the highest standards of integrity and professionalism. Our accreditations signify our compliance with industry regulations and demonstrate our relentless pursuit of quality and safety. We believe in continuously improving our processes and services to deliver nothing but the best to our valued customers.

With our accreditations, you can trust that you're partnering with a business that not only meets but exceeds industry benchmarks, providing you with top-tier products and services you can rely on



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Oeko-Tex.



OEKO-TEX® STANDARD 100 is one of the world's best-known labels for textiles tested for harmful substances. It stands for customer confidence and high product safety.

If a textile article carries the STANDARD 100 label, you can be certain that every component of this article, i.e. every thread, button and other accessories, has been tested for harmful substances and that the article therefore is harmless for human health.

The test is conducted by our independent OEKO-TEX® partner institutes on the basis of our extensive OEKO-TEX® criteria catalog. In the test they take into account numerous regulated and non-regulated substances, which may be harmful to human health. In many cases the limit values for the STANDARD 100 go beyond national and international requirements.

The criteria catalogue is updated at least once a year and expanded with new scientific knowledge or statutory requirements. It is not easy for manufacturers and customers to keep an overview of the legal situation concerning harmful substances every day.

Our experts from the OEKO-TEX® institutes do this for you.





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