# CASABLANCA

#### **GROUP LIMITED**

(INCORPORATED IN THE CAYMAN ISLANDS WITH LIMITED LIABILITY) STOCK CODE: 2223



















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#### **About Casablanca**

Since its establishment in Hong Kong in 1993, Casablanca Group Limited (the "Company") and its subsidiaries (the "Group") have been principally engaged in designing, manufacturing, distribution and retailing of bedding products under its proprietary "Casablanca", "Casa Calvin" and "CASA-V" brands, striving to provide consumers in the People's Republic of China (for the purpose of this report, excluding Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan) ("Mainland China" or the "PRC"), Hong Kong and Macau (collectively the "Greater China Region") with quality bed linens, duvets and pillows, and home accessories. The Group's business and products are closely related to consumers' daily lives. Therefore, the board of directors (the "Directors") of the Company (the "Board") places great importance on environmental, social and governance (collectively "ESG") matters.

#### **Board Statement**

The Board believes that sustainability is vital to the development of the Group's businesses and operations.

Through engaging with external professional organizations and collecting opinions through various communications, the Group has identified certain key ESG issues for monitoring and management. Furthermore, the Group has established goals and targets to improve its ESG performance by reducing energy consumption, protecting the environment and natural resources, providing employees with a safe working environment and adequate trainings, and promoting social integration with the community.

The Board has overall responsibilities for monitoring the Company's ESG strategies, risks and opportunities to its businesses and reporting. An annual review will be carried out by the Board on the Group's measures and performance on sustainability as well as ESG issues in order to make necessary enhancements. In addition, the Board also commits to creating long-term values for all stakeholders and the communities where the businesses are located.

#### **Reporting Standard and Scope**

The Company has prepared the Environmental, Social and Governance Report (the "Report") to help the shareholders, investors, consumers and the general public familiarize with the Group's environmental and social policies and practices.

The Report has been prepared in compliance with relevant provisions of the Environmental, Social and Governance Reporting Guide (the "ESG Guide") as set out in Appendix 27 of the Rules Governing the Listing of Securities (the "Listing Rules") on The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited (the "Stock Exchange"), which covered the period from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021 (the "Year" or "Review Period"). The Report is mainly divided into two parts: A. "Environmental" and B. "Social". Data and contents in this report have been prepared, verified and endorsed by Tomi Fuji EMC Limited, the external environmental consultant of the Company. As the following subsidiaries are the Group's major operating companies, their data are included in the Report:

Name of subsidiary	Principal business	Region	Scope of data included in the Report
Casablanca Hong Kong Limited ("Casablanca Hong Kong")	Trading of bedding products and home accessories	Hong Kong	Office and self-operated retail stores in Hong Kong
Casablanca Home (Shenzhen) Limited ("Casablanca Shenzhen")	Trading of bedding products and home accessories	Mainland China	Office and self-operated retail stores in Mainland China
Casablanca Home (Huizhou) Company Limited ("Casablanca Huizhou")	Manufacturing and sales of bedding products and home accessories	Mainland China	Production plant in Huizhou, the PRC
Colorway Furniture Company Limited ("Colorway")	Trading of furniture products	Mainland China	Office and showroom in Huizhou, the PRC

The Report has been approved by the management of the Company and the Board. We would like to extend our gratitude to all parties who have participated in the preparation of the Report.

#### **Basis of Preparation**

The preparation, presentation and contents of this Report follow the principles of "Materiality", "Quantitative", "Consistency" and "Balance" set out in the ESG Guide. Unless otherwise specified, the statistical methods or KPIs disclosed in the Report are consistent with those in the 2020 ESG Report of the Company.

**Materiality:** The Report has identified and disclosed the process of significant environmental, social and governance factors and the criteria for selection, as well as described significant stakeholders and the process and results of stakeholder engagement.

**Quantitative:** The statistical methods, assumptions and calculations used for emissions and energy consumption and the sources of conversion factors are defined in the Report.

**Consistency:** Data presented in the Report are prepared by using consistent methodologies. Any change is clearly stated in the Report.

**Balance:** The Group appoints Tomi Fuji EMC Limited as the external environmental consultant to prepare, verify and endorse the Report such that it is in an objective and unbiased manner to ensure presenting the overall performance of the Group in ESG aspects.





#### **Stakeholders Communications**

The Company attaches importance to communicating with stakeholders and believes that the participation of stakeholders will help the Company review potential risks and seize business opportunities. Communications with stakeholders will allow the Company to understand their views and properly manage the opinions and expectations of different stakeholders. The Company continues to communicate with internal and external key stakeholders through different channels to enable stakeholders to understand the development and operational principles of the Group. It also provides opportunities for the Group to listen to their opinions and help the Company improve its business and development planning. During the Review Period, the Company connected with its stakeholders through various communication channels set out as below.

#### **Communication Channels**

- Internal communications
- Group trainings
- Video conferences and meetings
- Emails and correspondence
- General meeting

- Annual report and interim report
- Customers services hotline
- Website and social media platforms
- Statutory documents and reports
- Charity and volunteer activities

#### **Internal Stakeholders**

- Board members
- Management
- General staff



#### **External Stakeholders**

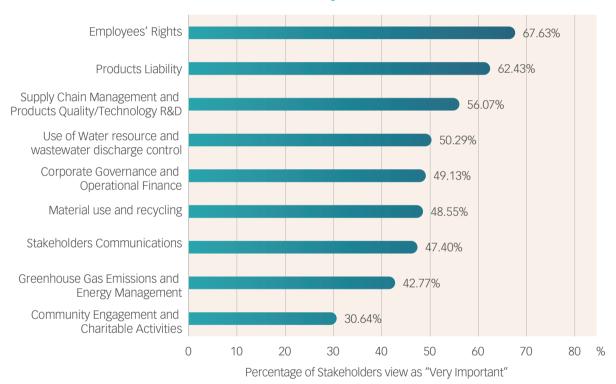
- Investors and shareholders
- Consumers and customers
- Suppliers and partners
- Government and regulatory authorities
- Community

#### **Stakeholders Engagement and Materiality Assessment**

Input from key stakeholders helps us set ESG strategies. Ongoing analysis helps us align our business to the changing social and environmental landscape. The materiality assessment helps us understand ESG issues that are most important to our stakeholders and continuously assess our strategy and commitments.

In 2021, we completed a full ESG materiality assessment. This assessment had been carried out by inviting both internal and external stakeholders to fill in an online questionnaire. Stakeholders included shareholders, employees, customers and suppliers. 9 ESG issues had been identified and that most of the stakeholders found employees' rights as very important issue while least of the stakeholders found engagement and charitable activities as very important issue.

#### **2021 ESG Materiality Assessment**



#### A: Environmental

The Group's environmental responsibility and philosophy are implemented in daily operations. We strive in striking a balance between company growth and environmental protection. Meanwhile, we encourage every employee to save energy, paper and water in day-to-day work. We also place surplus cash with a bank for sustainable deposits of which all assets referenced against them align to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals addressing, but not limited to, climate change, poverty, health, financial inclusion and education. Various measures have been conducted according to the environmental policies and environmental management systems.

The Group's basic environmental principles are to:

- · Strengthen environmental management and improve the environmental awareness of all employees; and
- Develop and procure products which utilise properly managed resources in consideration of sustainability.

We strive to reduce consumption of natural resources and energy, consider the environmental impact of products, dispose of waste in a safe and responsible manner, and raise the staff's awareness of environmental protection through education and training.

By established a management system in accordance with the national laws and regulations, the Group constantly monitors and reviews its performance in emissions during production, such as air pollution, water pollution and solid waste pollution, in order to minimise the amount of pollutants produced and hence its impact of the ecosystem through strict controls of the emissions.

Products of Casablanca are mainly produced by its production plant (the "Casablanca Industrial Park") in Huizhou, Guangdong Province, the PRC, which strictly complies with national laws and regulations relevant to pollutions prevention and control in Mainland China, including but not limit to:

- Environment Protection Law of the People's Republic of China 《中華人民共和國環境保護法》
- Law of the People's Republic of China on the Prevention and Control of the Atmospheric Pollution 《中華人民共和國大氣污染防治法》
- Law of the People's Republic of China on Prevention and Control of Water Pollution 《中華人民共和國水污染防治法》
- Law of the People's Republic of China on the Prevention and Control of Environmental Pollution by Solid Waste 《中華人民共和國固體廢物污染防治法》
- Law of the People's Republic of China on the Prevention and Control of Pollution from Environmental Noise 《中華人民共和國噪聲污染防治法》
- Regulations on the Safety Administration of Dangerous Chemicals
   《危險化學品安全管理條例》
- · Regulations on the Administration of Construction Project Environmental Protection《建設項目環境保護管理條例》
- Energy Conservation Law of the People's Republic of China 《中華人民共和國節約能源法》

#### A1: Emissions

#### **Pollutant Emissions**

The following table illustrates the main pollutant emission during the Review Period:

Category	Pollutant	2021 Emission (Note a)	2020 Emission (Note b)	Requirements as in relevant laws or Regulations (Max Allowable Value)
Wastewater	Total Wastewater Discharge Chemical Oxygen Demand (CODcr)	43,908m³ 215mg/Litre	20,126 m <sup>3</sup> 37 mg/Litre	- 500 mg/Litre
	Five-day Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD5)	93.7mg/Litre	20.8 mg/Litre	300 mg/Litre
	Ammonia Nitrogen	4.37 mg/Litre	0.49 mg/Litre	-
	Suspended Substance (SS) (Note c)	37mg/Litre	4L mg/Litre	400 mg/Litre
Exhaust Air	Oily fume	0.81mg/m <sup>3</sup>	0.43 mg/m <sup>3</sup>	2 mg/m <sup>3</sup>
Noise	Noise level	49dB(A)	49 dB(A)	55 dB(A)

#### Notes:

- (a) The test was carried out on 26 August 2021.
- (b) Due to the persisting impact of the COVID-19 in 2020, the test, which was scheduled to be carried out during December 2020, had been postponed to 4 January 2021.
- (c) "L" represents that the test result of the item is lower than the detection limit of the test method, and it is reported in the form of "L" to the detection value of the method.

Table 1 – Main pollutant emissions during the years ended 31 December 2021 and 31 December 2020 as tested by Guangdong Zhun Xing Testing Limited

Since the production of products of the Company emitted neither wastewater nor exhausted air, the emission amount set out as above were mainly from the staff dormitory and the canteen at Casablanca Huizhou. As noticed by the Company, the significant increases in emission of pollutants in wastewater and exhausted air during the Review Period were due to the increased usage of water in staff dormitory and more oil fume emitted at the canteen when some of the construction workers, who were working on the construction of production building B in phase II of the Casablanca Industrial Park (the "Construction"), lived at our staff dormitory during the Review Period.

#### **Greenhouse Gases Emission**

As greenhouse gases ("GHG") emissions are highly relevant to climate change and global warming, many enterprises around the world have introduced carbon reduction measures and goals. We promote the Group's green operation in an environmentally responsible manner, and reduce the impacts of business activities on climate change through fine management over our business. The Group's GHG emissions are mainly from indirect emissions of electricity used during production at the production plant in Huizhou, Guangdong, the PRC. The total carbon dioxide ("CO<sub>2</sub>") emissions for the Group were approximately 1,115.39 tonnes for the Review Period, and the indirect emissions of electricity used were about 88.88% of our total carbon emissions. Due to the GHG emissions being closely related to energy and electricity consumption, we take measures to reduce these two consumptions in daily operations.

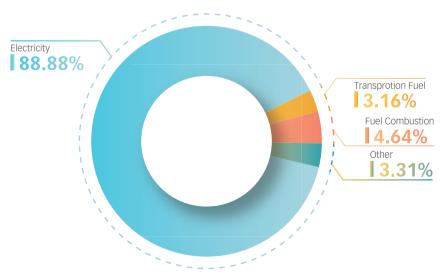
**CASABLANCA** 

#### Scopes of GHG emissions identified for the Review Period:

Description	2021 GHG Emission/ Removals (in tonnes of CO <sub>2</sub> equivalent)	2020 GHG Emission/ Removals (in tonnes of CO <sub>2</sub> equivalent)
Scope 1 – Direct Emissions		
Stationary sources combustion	51.84	31.75
Mobile sources combustion	35.33	31.44
Releases from equipment and systems	0	3.45
Assimilation of CO <sub>2</sub> into biomass (Note)	(0.92)	(0.92)
Scope 1 Total:	86.25	65.72
Scope 2 – Energy Indirect Emissions		
Purchased electricity	992.18	939.39
Purchased towngas	0.00	0.00
Scope 2 Total:	992.18	939.39
Scope 3 – Other Indirect Emissions		
Paper waste disposal	9.87	20.05
Use of fresh water	18.31	8.09
Sewage discharge	8.78	3.82
Scope 3 Total:	36.96	31.97
Total GHG Emissions	1,115.39	1,037.08

Note: Planting activities constituted GHG reduction in 2021.

Table 2 – GHG emissions during the years ended 31 December 2021 and 31 December 2020



Graph 1 – Distribution for CO<sub>2</sub> emissions during the year ended 31 December 2021

The Group is committed to reducing energy consumption. Since power consumption is the Group's main  $CO_2$  emission, we have implemented energy-saving sewing machines to reduce energy consumption during production. In the future, major machinery and equipment will be continuously adjusted or introduced to ensure energy efficiency. It is expected that this will reduce the  $CO_2$  emissions of the production plant.

During the Review Period, the Group continued to implement the long-term "Electricity Improvement Service Contract" with an electricity service company, to improve energy efficiency and reduce related  ${\rm CO_2}$  emissions. The Group intends to improve the energy saving operations through various actions, and ultimately achieve the purposes of energy conservation, consumption reduction and pollution reduction. In 2022, we will keep devoting efforts for energy-saving and promoting our green production concept to our employees.

#### Solid-waste Disposal

The Group purchases finished fabrics from its suppliers and thus no dye or bleaching agent is involved in our production. During the Review Period, approximately 0.25 tonnes (2020: nil) in total of hazardous waste was produced by the Group due to the waste light tubes contained chemical element mercury and waste packaging buckets be contaminated by chemicals attributable to the change of light tubes in the Casablanca Industrial Park, and approximately 62 tonnes (2020: 10 tonnes) in total of non-hazardous solid waste was produced by the production plant in Huizhou. The hazardous waste produced during the Review Period was handled by a local company with the Permit for Operation of Dangerous Wastes issued by the PRC government. The surge of non-hazardous solid waste during the Review Period was due to waste generated from the process of Construction.

Excluding the factor of the Construction in 2021, most of the non-hazardous solid waste being discharged from the Group are waste materials and packaging of products during production. We hope that by reducing unnecessary packaging of products and considering the use of recyclable materials as packaging materials, we can ultimately minimise the amount of waste in the production process. The Group also collects recyclable waste during production and recycles it, while non-recyclable wastes are processed by local destructor plant. In addition, the domestic waste from employees are categorized at the rubbish bins on site, and handled by certified local sanitation departments.

#### Noise

Noise emissions generated by the Group mainly come from the operation of machineries during production processes. We remove or attenuate hazardous noise at source by the wise selection of production machinery and effective implementation of good maintenance schedules. At the same time, barriers and sound-absorbing materials, such as engine enclosures, sealing gaps and windshields, are implemented to interrupt transmission of noise.

#### Wastewater

The Group's water consumption mainly includes tap water consumed for daily use by the office employees and groundwater consumed by the production processes. There was no issue in sourcing water that was fit for the above-mentioned purposes. To reduce the consumption of water resources, the Group selects carefully and gives priority to water-saving equipment. Moreover, water-saving slogan had been put up in the toilet, reminding employees to avoid water wastage by closing the faucet timely.

#### A2: Use of Resources

The main resources consumed in the Group include not only the necessary finished fabrics for producing bedding products, but also electricity, water, petroleum, natural gas and paper, etc. We strive to encourage our production line to monitor the usage of resources during operations. The Group will set a quantitative target for the future use of resources based on the recorded data, thereby improving the efficiency of operation. It will also take more initiative in encouraging each department to learn from each other and refine their own resource management system. We continuously improve operational efficiency to achieve sustainable energy use. In order to achieve the goal of reducing waste of resources, the Group is promoting the concept of "Reduce, Reuse and Recycle", expecting to make effective use of resources and reduce waste.

**CASABLANCA**H O M E

The following shows the resources consumption during the Review Period:

	2021			2020		
Resources	Consumption	Carbon intensity (in tonnes of CO <sub>2</sub> – equivalent)	Consumption Intensity (consumption/ HK\$ million revenue)	Consumption	Carbon intensity (in tonnes of CO <sub>2</sub> – equivalent)	Consumption Intensity (consumption/ HK\$ million revenue)
Electricity	1,637,951 kWh	992.18	5,112.21 kWh	1,484,842 kWh	939.39	4,800.98 kWh
Water	43,908 m³	18.31	137.04 m³	20,126 m <sup>3</sup>	8.09	65.07 m <sup>3</sup>
Natural Gas	27,435 m³	51.84	85.63 m <sup>3</sup>	16,805 m <sup>3</sup>	31.75	54.33 m <sup>3</sup>
Petroleum	11,455 Litre	27.04	35.75 Litre	9,931 Litre	26.89	32.11 Litre
Diesel	1,633 Litre	4.27	5.10 Litre	1,724 Litre	4.55	5.57 Litre

Table 3 – Resources consumption during the year ended 31 December 2021 and 2020

The increases in consumptions of electricity, water and natural gas during the Review Period were mainly attributable to usage of such resources in the Construction.

#### **Packaging Materials Consumption**

The following table illustrates packaging materials consumption during the Review Period:

	20	21	2020		
Category	Consumption Consumption (In tonnes) (production units, in kg)		Consumption (In tonnes)	Consumption Intensity (consumption/ production units, in kg)	
Paper card for product description	12.63	0.03	14.85	0.03	
Paper card for packaging support	35.60	0.05	41.83	0.05	
PE packaging material for duvets & pillows	5.85	0.02	6.85	0.02	
PVC packaging material for bedding sets	14.35	0.03	16.46	0.03	
Non-Woven fabric	34.50	0.11	40.36	0.11	
Paper gift box	12.20	0.13	13.91	0.13	
Plastic bag with logo	2.15	0.04	2.43	0.04	

 $Table\ 4-Packaging\ materials\ consumption\ during\ the\ years\ ended\ 31\ December\ 2021\ and\ 31\ December\ 2020$ 

#### A3: Environment and Natural Resources

The Group's routine operation process exerts no detrimental influence on the environment of its surrounding. The emissions of exhaust air, wastewater, solid waste and other environment impacts from the operation process of the Group are in conformity with the environment laws and regulations of where the businesses are located.

The Group will continue to promote green and low-carbon operating concepts. We encourage employees to adopt electronic communications, use recycled paper for printing and copying and separate wastes for recycling in order to improve resource efficiency and reduce waste. For annual report of the Group, we print only the necessarily required quantities every year and use the paper with the Forest Stewardship Council certification, which has been sourced and produced in an environmental-friendly, socially responsible and economically viable manner. The Group has adopted the paper with the Forest Stewardship Council certification for the 2021 Annual Report which was printed and published in April 2022. In addition, the Group has disposed domestic waste by external service provider with monthly charges after waste sorting in the Casablanca Industrial Park.

#### A4: Climate Change

The impacts of climate change are increasingly experienced and acknowledged by people and businesses around the world. Adapting to such change is necessary to help a company protect its operations and the safety of its people from climate-related risks. Despite having no significant impact on the Group's businesses, the Group has adopted appropriate measures to prepare its operations for and people to react to extreme weather events. Our Employee Handbook sets out comprehensive guidelines to all employees on responding to typhoon and rainstorm warnings in accordance with the Code of Practice in Times of Typhoons and Rainstorms published by the Labour Department of the Hong Kong Government. With a higher temperature in the future, the Group may need to allocate more spending on cooling. To reduce the heat load of workers at the production line and prevent disruption to its operations, the Group provides ventilation facilities and cooling in our production line.

Since the major business nature of the Group is manufacturing and trading of home textile and accessories, climate change does not have significant impacts on the business directly but may have indirect impacts to the Group. Global warming may affect the production of cotton which may increase the cost of fabric of which the Group purchases for manufacturing.

In an effort to reduce carbon footprint and emissions, the Group internally adopted relevant environmental policy and measures as mentioned in the Report. Meanwhile, the Group promotes a green lifestyle to consumers by providing the market with products made of biodegradable materials, such as soybean fiber, milk fiber and aloe fiber.

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#### **2021 Summary, Targets and Planned Actions**

Main Category	Subcategory	КРІ	2021 Results	Targets & Planned Actions
	CO <sub>2</sub> Emissions in Operations and Logistics	Total CO <sub>2</sub> Emissions Factor (CO <sub>2</sub> Emissions/ Total Floor Area) CO <sub>2</sub> Emissions due to transportation	0.025 t/m² (2020: 0.023 t/m²) 35.33 tonnes (2020: 31.44 tonnes)	The Group targets to maintain or reduce CO <sub>2</sub> emissions in transportation in the next 3 years compared to the Year by changing vehicles which consume fossil fuel into electric vehicles. We will also encourage staff to utilise electronic meeting equipment instead of traveling to attend physical meetings.
Emissions	Waste Emissions in Operations	Total amount of solid waste generated	62 tonnes (2020: 10 tonnes)	For the past 3 years, the total amount of solid waste generated ranged from 10 to 15 tonnes per year for the Group. The Group targets to maintain such level in the next 3 years by raising staff awareness on protecting the environment and promoting the concept of "Reduce, Reuse and Recycle". In addition, we encourage staff to reduce the use of paper with the adoption of the Enterprise Resource Planning system for the order flow process and online internal forms on internal communications platform.
	Energy Efficiency	Total Energy Use Factor (Amount of Heat/Total Floor Area)	0.167 GJ/m <sup>2</sup> (2020: 0.145 GJ/ m <sup>2</sup> )	The Group targets to maintain or reduce the total energy consumption in the next 3 years compared to the Year. We will remind our staff to turn off all lights, air-conditioners, and electrical equipment before leaving the office.
Use of Resources	Water Efficiency	Use of fresh water (GHG Emission/ Removals) (in tonnes of CO <sub>2</sub> equivalent)	18.31 (2020: 8.09)	The Group targets to maintain or reduce the water consumption in the next 3 years compared to the Year. We promote watersaving to our staff by putting up slogan in the toilet, reminding employees to avoid water wastage by closing the faucet timely.

Note 1 on GHG Emission: The GHG Emission Calculation is based on the methodology of "Guidelines to Account for and Report on Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Removals for Buildings (Commercial, Residential or Institutional Purposes) in Hong Kong" 2010 Edition of Environmental Protection Department ("EPD").

Note 2 on Emission Factors: The Emission Factors are based on Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and Greenhouse Gas Protocol. EPD's Guidelines specified value has been taken as the standard for any unspecified factor.

#### **B: SOCIAL**

#### **Employment and Labour Practices**

The Company considers human resources as one of the valuable assets of the Group. The realization and enhancement of employee value will contribute to the overall development and performance growth of the Group in the long term. Therefore, the Company targets to grow with employees by providing them with a highly transparent recruitment standard, safe working environment, competitive remuneration packages, fair promotion opportunities and appropriate training and development opportunities. The Group's human resources policies strictly comply with the Labour Contract Law of the People's Republic of China 《中華人民共和國勞動合同法》) and the Employment Ordinance of Hong Kong.

#### **B1: Employment**

The staff manual formulated internally by each of the subsidiaries of the Group has been uploaded to the respective intranet server to let employees understand the regulations of the Company's human resources management, including but not limited to the recruitment process, working hours, compensation and benefits, leave arrangements and appeal procedures.

#### Staff Structure and Turnover

The Company understands and recognizes the benefits of diversified staff structure and regards it as one of the important elements in sustaining a long-term competitive advantage of the Company. A multicultural company should be comprised of employees with different gender, age, religion, skills, educational background, industry experience and other qualities so as to achieve the most appropriate structure and balance. As at 31 December 2021, the total number of employees of the Group was 516 (2020: 549) while male to female ratio was about 1:3. In 2021, the higher turnover rate in Mainland China was due to the decrease in staff in administration function, which was attributable to the shared resources between Casablanca Shenzhen and Casablanca Huizhou, and the decrease in staff in production function. The number of logistics staff is relatively susceptible to changes in points-of-sale ("POS") and sometimes short-term helpers may be hired for particular sales events, resulting in a higher staff turnover rate. As at 31 December 2021, the distribution of gender, region, function and age of employees of the Group and respective staff turnover rates are as follows:

#### Distribution of employees by gender

	2021			2020		
	As at 31 [	December		As at 31 December		
	No. of employees	% of total	Average turnover rate	No. of employees	% of total	Average turnover rate
Female	388	75.2%	14.0%	405	73.8%	34.4%
Male	128	24.8%	40.4%	144	26.2%	22.5%
Total	516	100.0%	20.8%	549	100.0%	31.4%



#### Distribution of employees by region

	2021			2020		
	As at 31 [	1 December		As at 31 [		
	No. of employees	% of total	Average turnover rate	No. of employees	% of total	Average turnover rate
Mainland China	357	69.2%	22.2%	382	69.6%	39.0%
Hong Kong	159	30.8%	17.6%	167	30.4%	12.0%
Total	516	100.0%	20.8%	549	100.0%	31.4%



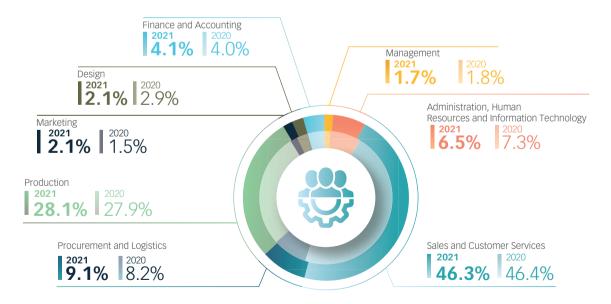
#### Distribution of employees by age

	2021			2020		
	As at 31 December			As at 31 December		
	No. of employees	% of total	Average turnover rate	No. of employees	% of total	Average turnover rate
Aged 29 or below	46	8.9%	69.2%	47	8.5%	32.7%
Aged 30 – 39	136	26.4%	19.2%	152	27.7%	40.6%
Aged 40 – 49	194	37.6%	11.9%	198	36.1%	33.3%
Aged 50 or above	140	27.1%	16.9%	152	27.7%	18.5%
Total	516	100.0%	20.8%	549	100.0%	31.4%



#### Distribution of employees by function

	2021			2020		
	As at 31 [	December		As at 31 [		
	No. of employees	% of total	Average turnover rate	No. of employees	% of total	Average turnover rate
Management	9	1.7%	10.5%		1.8%	
Administration, Human Resources and Information Technology	33	6.5%	21.6%	40	7.3%	12.1%
Sales and Customer Services	239	46.3%	14.0%	255	46.4%	37.2%
Procurement and Logistics	47	9.1%	59.3%	45	8.2%	13.5%
Production	145	28.1%	22.6%	153	27.9%	33.0%
Marketing	11	2.1%	18.2%	8	1.5%	60.0%
Design	11	2.1%	27.3%	16	2.9%	24.2%
Finance and Accounting	21	4.1%	4.7%	22	4.0%	13.3%
Total	516	100.0%	20.8%	549	100.0%	31.4%



#### **Compensation and Dismissal**

The Group determines staff remuneration with reference to the market rates and the qualifications and experience of employees. The Group also offers discretionary rewards, including bonus and share options, based on the performance of individual employee during the Year as an incentive to encourage employees to contribute to the development of the Group. The Group makes contributions for pension insurance, basic medical insurance, occupational injury insurance, unemployment insurance, maternity insurance and housing fund for its employees in Mainland China according to the provisions of the Social Insurance Law of the People's Republic of China (《中華人民共和國社會保險法》) and the Regulation on the Administration of Housing Fund (《住房公積金管理條例》). The Group also makes contributions to the Mandatory Provident Fund for its employees in Hong Kong pursuant to the Mandatary Provident Fund Schemes Ordinance of Hong Kong. The Group regularly reviews the compensation policy and system to ensure that employees' remuneration are in line with the commensurate market levels and are fairly and equally paid. During the Review Period, the Group complied with Provisions on Minimum Wages (《最低工資規定》) of Mainland China and the Minimum Wage Ordinance of Hong Kong.

The Group has also formulated strict and prudent procedures for dismissal in accordance with the relevant articles in the Labour Contract Law of the People's Republic of China (《中華人民共和國勞動合同法》) and the Employment Ordinance of Hong Kong. For any employee of the Group who is guilty of serious misconduct or material violation of the relevant laws and regulations or material breach of the Group's related rules and regulations, the Group may terminate his/her employment contract.

#### Recruitment, Promotion and Anti-discrimination

The Group has defined the job qualification and job description for each position as the criteria for employing new staff. Recruitment channels of the Group include campus recruitment, public recruitment and internal referral. Each applicant's academic qualifications and related work experience are subject to verification, and each applicant shall pass at least two rounds of interviews.

The Group monitors the performance of employees to see if they can meet the requirements of their positions. Meanwhile, the Group also cares about employees' expectations on their personal career development. As such, the Group has formulated evaluation appraisals and promotion mechanism, which serve as a sound platform for employee's career development and provide a solid foundation and strong momentum for the sustainable development of the Group.

Each of the subsidiaries of the Group located in Hong Kong is in compliance with the Sex Discrimination Ordinance, Family Status Discrimination Ordinance, Race Discrimination Ordinance and Disability Discrimination Ordinance of Hong Kong. The Group adheres to the principle of fairness in the provision of employment opportunities, compensation, education, performance evaluation, promotion and other issues without any discrimination on gender, age, ethnicity, religion, culture and educational background. The Group is committed to providing all staffs with a fair platform for development, protecting their legal rights and interests, and creating a fair and harmonious working environment.

#### **Working Hours and Leave Arrangement**

The working hours of the Group's staffs are in compliance with the relevant requirements of the Labour Contract Law of the People's Republic of China (《中華人民共和國勞動合同法》) and the Employment Ordinance of Hong Kong. Most of the staffs of the Group work 5 days per week while the sales personnel at retail shops in Hong Kong work 6 days per week. In the event of overtime work, staffs will be rewarded with corresponding compensation from the Group in accordance with the regulations.

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The rest days and statutory holidays of employees are in compliance with the relevant laws and regulations. In addition, the Group also provides paid annual leave. Employees are entitled to paid annual leave every year according to their period of services and ranking (if applicable).

#### Employees' Rights and Benefits

The Group actively protects and maintains employees' rights and interests and puts strong emphasis on enhancing their sense of affiliation and strives to improve their benefits on an ongoing basis.

The Group provides its employees with effective communication channels. Management attends regular cross-department operation meetings to understand the opinions from different parties. The latest information of the Group is also announced timely and internally through the intranet platform, POS system and bulletin board. The Group adopts an open attitude and encourages its employees to voice out their advice and suggestions with a view to offering a better working environment for the employees.

The leave arrangement, bonuses, allowances, subsidies and benefits of the employees are offered according to the regulations and the relevant rules of the Group.

The Group is committed to fostering the work-life balance of its employees and enhancing their sense of affiliation to the Group. It provides sport venues and entertainment facilities, such as basketball courts, table tennis tables and multipurpose rooms, in its Huizhou production plant. Meanwhile, each of the subsidiaries of the Group organizes various activities from time to time, including tours, exchange meetings and a variety of interest classes, to help employees develop their personal interests and enhance their interactions.

As the influence by COVID-19 pandemic continued during the Review Period, we followed the instructions of the governments in Mainland China and Hong Kong and medical experts to suspend all staff activities to avoid group gathering, including annual dinners and festival parties. Instead, we organized several incentive activities in the form of gift distributions and video award presentation ceremonies to show its care and reward to outstanding staffs.

#### **B2: Health and Safety**

Every employee is of vital importance to the Group's operation. Therefore, we pay extra attention to the health and safety of employees, striving to provide them with a safe, healthy and protected working environment.

Subsidiaries of the Group in Mainland China comply with regulations regarding health and safety as stated in the Labour Law of the People's Republic of China (《中華人民共和國勞動法》), the Production Safety Law of the People's Republic of China (《中華人民共和國安全生產法》) and the Law of the People's Republic of China on Prevention and Control of Occupational Diseases (《中華人民共和國職業病防治法》). The Group offers safety education and trainings to all production staffs to enhance their awareness on safety and self-protection. In addition, the production workshops in the factory are equipped with masks and cooling equipment to provide employees with a healthy and comfortable work space. Besides, the Group regularly monitors and evaluates occupational hazards at production sites. During the Year, the air quality in workplace and other occupational hazards were inspected by a third-party agency in order to prevent, control and eliminate occupational hazards and improve the working environment of the employees. Furthermore, during the Year, the Group also commissioned a third-party agency to provide staffs from our production lines with occupational health checks to minimize the threat of occupational diseases. Meanwhile, the Group regularly inspects the fire protection facilities of the workplaces to ensure the compliance with fire protection regulations. The Group is committed to providing all employees with a warm and comfortable working and living environment. The Group has set up a self-managed staff dormitory and canteen in the Huizhou production plant with a view to providing sound rest space and healthy catering to its employees.

We have distributed the Internal Guidelines for Occupational Safety and Health to our frontline sales and logistic staffs to educate them on safety at workplace and ways to avoid accidents, as well as the handling procedures in case of occupational injury. During the Review Period, there were 84 working man-days lost due to work injury, which was related to lifting heavy objects by our logistics staff. We have provided equipment in helping staff to lift heavy objects, including trolleys, and encouraged staff to pay attention to related occupation safety information and to talk to Human Resources Manager if they have any doubt about performing their work safely. There were no work-related fatalities in the years ended on 31 December 2021, 31 December 2020 and 31 December 2019.

During the Review Period, in light of the development of COVID-19 pandemic and in response to the call of the Mainland China and Hong Kong governments, we have carried out arrangements such as flexible working-hours, shift and work-from-home roster for office staffs in Hong Kong to minimise the risk of infection in gathering of crowds. At the same time, to provide a safe working environment for employees, we have placed equipment such as infrared thermometers, air purifiers, disinfectant mats and alcohol-based handrubs in the office. In addition, apart from providing face masks for our frontline sales staff every month, we also placed equipment such as infrared thermometers and alcohol-based handrubs in self-operated retail stores. Opening hours of self-operated retail stores were also shortened on a flexible basis during the peak periods of the COVID-19 pandemic so as to ensure employee's safety.

#### **B3: Development and Training**

The Group cares about the development of its employees and expects to promote its business growth by unleashing the development potential of their talents. The internal training policies of the Group have been formulated with the aim of improving the staff's personal skills and bringing out their best value for the development of the Company.

The human resources department of the Group provides the new recruits with a unified induction training covering our corporate culture and development direction, while the relevant departments provide them with trainings required for their respective positions. The Group also organizes various types of trainings for all staffs every year to enhance the interaction among employees from different departments. The Group has strengthened the trainings in sales skills, market information and product technology for frontline sales personnel so as to assist them to deliver quality services to customers. The Group also provides training allowance for non-frontline staff to encourage them to participate in job-related external training programs so as to enhance their own value and working skills. During the Review Period, in order to reduce the gathering of crowds under the COVID-19 pandemic, Casablanca Hong Kong changed to online trainings and the distribution of training materials to employees to study on their own unless face-to-face training is necessary for the corresponding training contents. Owing to the more stable COVID-19 pandemic condition in Mainland China during 2021, our business units in Mainland China resumed face-to-face training sessions.

#### Percentage of staff trained by gender

	20	21	2020		
	Percentage of Average staff trained training hours		Percentage of staff trained	Average training hours	
Female	97.6%	10.8	91.7%	8.7	
Male	93.9%	7.3	86.8%	11.8	
Total	96.7%	8.2	90.5%	9.4	

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#### Percentage of staff trained by grade

	2021		2020	
	Percentage of staff trained	Average training hours	Percentage of staff trained	Average training hours
Directors and Management	94.7%	4.1	95.2%	3.6
Supervisors to Managers	41.5%	7.3	72.3%	7.8
General Staff (Note)	108.2%	8.3	92.9%	9.7

Note: The percentage of training is calculated based on the average number of people in each rank. Since the "general staff" includes front-line sales staff and back-office staff below the supervisor level and the number of front-line sales staff is mainly affected by changes in short-term sales outlets, resulting in the number of trained staff more than the average number of staff for the Year and a training ratio of more than 100% in such rank.

Every newly appointed Director of the Company will be given a set of induction materials to ensure that he/she will have an appropriate understanding of the Group's business and the directors' duties (in accordance with the Listing Rules and the relevant statutory and regulatory requirements). The Company regularly updates the Directors with the Group's business performance and development. The Group also organizes an annual training provided by its legal adviser for all Directors and provides information about the latest requirements under the Listing Rules to the Directors by email from time to time so that the Directors continuously receive the latest information of the development of the Listing Rules and related regulations to ensure the compliance with the listing requirements and enhance their sense of good corporate governance practices. In addition, the Group encourages all Directors to participate in other continuous professional development courses and seminars to develop and update their knowledge and skills.

#### **B4: Labour Standards**

The operation units of the Group are located in Mainland China and Hong Kong, thus the Group's staff recruitment and employment standards are implemented in strict compliance with the Prohibition of Using Child Labour (《禁止使用童工規定》) of the PRC and the Employment of Children Regulations of Hong Kong. The Group maintains a stringent recruitment system and process to avoid the employment of child and forced labour. Casablanca Huizhou and Casablanca Shenzhen will not recruit job applicants under the age of 18; the internal policies of Casablanca Hong Kong expressly state that children under the age of 15 will not be employed. During the Review Period, the Group did not violate any of the regulations as mentioned above.

#### **Operating Practices**

#### **B5: Supply Chain Management**

As a leading brand for bedding products in the Greater China Region for more than twenty five years, the design and quality of the Group's products have been well-received by consumers. The Group attaches great importance to risk management of product quality and the compliance of products.

The Group has developed long-term and good relationships with a number of suppliers to maintain stable supply of raw materials and outsourced products with good qualities. We carefully select our suppliers for all kinds of finished products, raw materials, auxiliary ingredients and packaging materials, and require them to satisfy certain criteria including track record, experience, reputation, ability to produce high-quality products and effectiveness of quality control in order to ensure that our suppliers possess our commitments to quality and ethics. In addition, we also require

suppliers to confirm that their environmental and social policies comply with the relevant local regulations and there is no damage to the environment or employment of illegal labour. The Group has formulated the Control Procedures of Supplier Management for internal use. On top of ensuring adequate qualifications of the suppliers, the supplies of suppliers will also be subject to sampling inspection and evaluation for quality carried out by the production materials control department. In case of a significant change in supplier qualification or serious quality issue, the Group may suspend supplies of the supplier in question immediately to ensure the quality of the products of the Group.

During 2021, the Company purchased finished products, raw materials, auxiliary ingredients and packaging materials from 131 suppliers in total. The geographical distribution of suppliers of finished products, raw materials, auxiliary ingredients and packaging materials is as follows:

	2021	2020
Hong Kong	4	2
Southern China <sup>(1)</sup>	65	58
Eastern China <sup>(2)</sup>	53	48
Other regions in Mainland China	3	2
Overseas	6	4
Total	131	114

#### Notes:

- (1) "Southern China" includes Guangxi, Guangdong and Hainan.
- (2) "Eastern China" includes Shanghai, Hangzhou, Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Anhui, Shandong, Jiangxi and Fujian.

#### **B6: Product Responsibility**

The Group is committed to offering a broad and diverse range of innovative, value-for-money and good-quality bedding products with our various brands to our customers. As we understand that the users spend approximately one-third of a day on our bedding products every day, the Group has been ensuring the excellent quality and safety of our products in its best endeavours. With the Company's consistent strict product quality control during the production process, our products enjoy a high reputation in the market. The product quality control of the Group is conducted mainly based on the relevant requirements of the ISO9001 quality management system. From the purchasing of raw materials to the inspection and shipping of the finished products, Casablanca Huizhou comprehensively controls and strictly inspects the product quality by following the relevant internal processes and guidelines, including:

- · Operation Instruction for Fabrics Inspection 《布料檢驗作業指導書》
- Operation Instruction for Auxiliary Ingredients Inspection 《輔料檢驗作業指導書》

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- Handling Process for Exceptional Quality of Purchased Materials 《進料品質異常處理流程》
- Handling Instruction for Unqualified Auxiliary Ingredients 《不合格輔料處理指導書》
- Operation Instruction for Inspection during the Production Process 《制程檢驗作業指導書》
- Handling Process for Exceptional Quality during the Production Process 《制程品質異常處理流程》
- Operation Instruction for Inspection of Finished Products 《成品檢驗作業指導書》
- Instruction for Delivery Inspection of Finished Products 《成品出貨檢驗指導書》
- · Instruction for Reworking and Repairing of Unqualified Products 《不合格品返工/返修指導書》

During the Review Period, Casablanca Huizhou abided by the Product Quality Law of the People's Republic of China 《中華人民共和國產品質量法》) and there was no material recall of products arising from product quality, safety or health issues.

The Group complies with the Law of the People's Republic of China on the Protection of Consumer Rights and Interests (《中華人民共和國消費者權益保護法》), the Sales of Goods Ordinance and the Trade Descriptions Ordinance of Hong Kong during sales of products in Mainland China and Hong Kong respectively. The Group understands that consumers' purchase decisions greatly depend on advertisements and product labels. Therefore, we strictly complies with the guidelines of relevant provisions when creating advertising contents, wordings for promotions and product labels.

In order to improve service quality, the Group has formulated the Customer Complaint Handling Process for internal reference and established the customer service department to handle general inquiries and complaints, and to provide customers with explanations and answers patiently. In case of product complaints, investigations will be carried out immediately and handled properly. The Group keeps records of the reasons for customer calls in detail, which will be used for future review to improve product quality, label or description in leaflets. During the Review Period, the statistics of product quality complaints received by the customer service hotline are as follows:

	2021	2020
No. of products sold during the year	About 1,172,000 pieces	About 1,161,000 pieces
No. of complaints about product quality	866 pieces	854 pieces
% of products with quality complaints over no. of products sold during the year	0.074%	0.074%

	2021		2020	
	No. of complaints about product quality	% of total no. of complaints about product quality	No. of complaints about product quality	% of total no. of complaints about product quality
Duvets, blankets and pillows	296 pieces	34.2%	244 pieces	28.6%
Linens	486 pieces	56.1%	554 pieces	64.9%
Others	84 pieces	9.7%	56 pieces	6.5%
Total	866 pieces	100.0%	854 pieces	100.0%

Casablanca Hong Kong stays connected with our retail customers by maintaining a database of VIP members to have ongoing communications with them and offers special benefits such as favourable prices and priority sales to them. Casablanca Hong Kong works diligently to protect the personal data of customers by keeping and using the personal information provided by consumers when joining the membership programme "Casa Club" (formerly "Prestige Club") in accordance with the laws and the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance of Hong Kong.

In addition to the self-operated POS, the Group also sells its products to end customers through distributors in Mainland China and Macau. We regard our distributors as business partners and share views for upholding the brand value and customer services, especially in focusing on attracting and retaining customers in order to drive sales growth. We require our distributors to comply with our retail policies, including but not limited to unified product retail selling price, standard store images and promotional activities.

In order to protect the rights and interests of the Group, we have applied for trademark registrations and product patents in Hong Kong and Mainland China to safeguard the Group's intellectual properties. The Guidelines for Monitoring and Protection of Intellectual Property has been formulated by Casablanca Hong Kong internally to list out the details of the measures and requirements of Casablanca Hong Kong in monitoring and protecting the intellectual properties of the Group. In addition, the Group will require suppliers, customers and collaborating parties to sign confidentiality agreements to protect the Group's business secrets.

The products of the Group during the Review Period have been widely recognised by the community. The awards obtained by the Group in 2021 included:

Organiser	Awards/Recognitions	
U Magazine	U Green Awards 2020-2021 – Excellence of Environmental Contribution Award (Bedding Products)	
Cotton Incorporated	"Seal of Cotton" trademark and "Cotton LEADSSM" label	





#### **B7: Anti-corruption**

The Group strictly complies with the Prevention of Bribery Ordinance of Hong Kong and the articles regarding bribery as published in Law Against Unfair Competition of the People's Republic of China (《中華人民共和國反不正當競爭法》). Pursuant to the requirements of the relevant rules of the Group, employees shall not obtain or accept any benefits under all circumstances and shall avoid malpractices for private gain or not provide benefits to anyone so as to be self-benefited or privileged in the course of business. If a suspected crime is committed by a staff member, the Group will timely report to the relevant authorities and take internal disciplinary actions. During the Review Period, there was no legal case regarding corrupt practices brought against the Group or its employees.

During the Review Period, a training session on professional ethics and corruption prevention, which had been conducted by the Independent Commission Against Corruption, was provided to the Directors and managers from various departments.

Under the Regulated Code of Conducts of the Group, a whistleblowing system is in place. The Group encourages employees to report or complain any misconducts, of which they notice or suspect, to the manager in-charge or the management of the business unit or fill in related details via a specific form directly to the headquarters of the Group. Confidentiality of whistleblower is assured and any employee reporting any misconduct with the truth will not be discriminated or punished.

The Group engages SHINEWING Risk Services Limited for providing internal audit and risk assessment services to monitor the internal operations of the Group, including monitoring and controlling finance, sales, procurement and production, and provide advice on other operating activities to reduce the overall risk of the Group. The Group has formulated internal policies to strictly restrict employees from accepting and providing gifts, benefits and hospitality. During the Review Period, no violation in this aspect was found.

#### Community

#### **B8: Community Investment**

Since the commencement of its operation, the Group has been well aware of the importance of making contribution to the community and sharing the returns with the community where it rooted for success of a corporation. The Group has formulated the Rules for Charitable Donation and Events of the Group internally to set out the manners and processes of supporting community activities or charitable organizations. The Group supports various charitable activities mainly in forms of donation of money or products with focuses on the children, the elderly and sick people.

The Group's efforts in corporate social responsibility during the Review Period have been recognised by various organisations, including:

Organization	Recognition	
GS1	Hong Kong Consumer Caring Company	
The Hong Kong Council of Social Service	Caring Company	

During the Review Period, the Group has participated in the following charitable activities:

Beneficiary	Form/Name of activity	Month	Details
Green Baby (綠色小腳板)	Donation of bedding products for baby	2/2021	The Group donated materials to support Green Baby's work in helping single-parent families and young moms in light of their "5R concept", which were Rebuild confidence and Reignite hope of life in single moms through Recycle, Refurbishment and Reuse of baby products.
Hong Kong Breast Cancer Foundation	Donate as a "Pink Ribbon Partner"	10/2021	The Group donated certain revenue from its designated pink bedding products "Take Care with PEANUTS" after costs to Hong Kong Breast Cancer Foundation for breast health education, patient support, policy study and advocacy work.
Peiho (北河同行)	Donation of 100 pieces of winter quilts and blankets	12/2021	The Group donated materials to support Peiho's endeavor in distributing materials to homeless and less privileged people in the community.
Yan Chai Hospital	Donation	Throughout the year	The Chairman of the Group, Mr. Cheng Sze Kin, also served as the Director of Yan Chai Hospital. The Group donated to Yan Chai Hospital to support its charitable activities in relation to the medical, social service and educational areas.
Various charitable organizations in Mainland China	Material donation	Throughout the year	The Group donated materials to the anti-epidemic medical system and civil affairs institutions in Mainland China to support anti-epidemic work.



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### GROUP LIMITED

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