

# The first Modern Slavery Statements have been published but the bosses aren't pleased.

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Late in 2020 Australian Border Force published the first tranche of Modern Slavery Statements pursuant to Australia's new modern slavery laws. They also released a naughty and nice list, reporting on the issues the statements addressed well, and the areas in which they were lacking. The things they were not happy about included:

1. **Approval.** Your statement must demonstrate approval by your board of directors (or other governing body) and be signed by an authorised person.
2. **Copy and pasting.** You can't just submit the statement you had lodged in another country (generally the UK). The Australian legislation has a list of mandatory criteria we spoke about [here](#) which must all be addressed.
3. **Identifying the reporting entities.** If your statement covers several entities you must list all of them, and clearly set out your corporate structure.
4. **State your actual risks of modern slavery.** This is the whole point. You need to be reasonably specific as to what the risks of modern slavery are in your supply chain, and identify them.
5. **Describe consultation.** If your statement includes more than one entity, or your supply chain includes owned or controlled entities, you must describe how all entities were consulted in the preparation of the statement.

If you are bound to lodge a modern slavery statement, the deadlines are [here](#) (for most entities that will be **31 March 2021**). If you haven't even started yet, you most definitely need to get a wriggle on. Public shaming of non-compliant businesses is just around the corner.

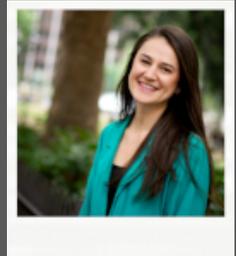
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