

The factory is a Nokia factory, making mobile phone chargers. It makes 3 million Power cables each year. The factory has been built in China because land is much cheaper and there are less strict planning controls. Over 90% of the workers in the factory are unmarried, Chinese women. Many of these women are from very poor rural areas of China who have moved to the city to earn money. Working in the Nokia factory, means that these women earn more than they would usually be able to. Each woman earns £14 a month, which is only half of the minimum wage in China, although a lot less than would need to be paid to workers in other countries.

The women live in dormitories close to the factory. They work for between 8 and 10 hours a day and working conditions are often very hot and below the standard which would be expected in other countries. They are given food but many complain that it is not very good.

If they break company rules, lose their name badge for example, the women are fined. They can also never be late for work, been even 5 minutes late can mean that 30 minutes of pay is lost.

However, the machinery used is safe and is checked regularly. However, although the women are given masks to wear when handling dangerous chemicals, these chemicals are often stored close to drinking water. Many of the women say that they plan to move away from the factory once they get married.