



Statement concerning the use of „conflict minerals“

Dear Sir or Madam,

Our company adheres to a code of conduct, which commits our staff to ethical behaviour both internally and externally. We also motivate our suppliers to comply with these guidelines.

In addition, we strive with respect to the Dodd-Frank Act, to meet the needs of our clients in matters of conflict minerals in the supply chain.

In Germany there is § 7 of the Foreign Trade Ordinance (AWV), which legally prohibits us in terms of the procurement or delivery of goods, to declare a boycott against countries or to demand such, and therefore also with regard to the sourcing of goods from the Democratic Republic of Congo and its neighbouring countries. The USA also prohibits boycott declarations in accordance with the Export Administration Rules (US-EAR). As a result we can give no boycott declaration regarding questions of origin, since this would equate to a prohibited boycott declaration.

We have however established a process in our supply chain in order to determine whether conflict minerals are possibly supplied to us. We have received a response on this matter from the great majority of our suppliers. According to this feedback there are no indications that the products of our suppliers contain conflict resources from the Democratic Republic of Congo and its neighbouring countries. We request your understanding that we can make no further declarations which infringe German and American laws.

Susann Müller
general manager