

Cisco Responsible Minerals Policy

Background

Electronic products contain various minerals necessary for functionality including tantalum, tin, tungsten, and gold (referred to as “3TG”). 3TG are sometimes known as “conflict minerals”¹ because of concerns about their mining and sale contributing to armed conflict and human rights abuses in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). In the U.S., the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (“Dodd-Frank Act”) requires publicly traded companies to report annually on the presence of conflict minerals originating in the DRC or adjoining countries in the products they manufacture or contract to manufacture.

Concerns about human rights abuses and other risks related to the extraction of minerals beyond 3TG, such as cobalt, and in geographies beyond the DRC are driving an increased demand for greater accountability and transparency in global mineral supply chains.

Cisco’s Commitment

Cisco’s Responsible Mineral Policy aligns with our long-standing commitment to uphold and respect human rights² for all people, including those who work in our supply chain. Cisco does not directly procure minerals from mines, or the smelters or refiners that process them, but we influence upstream supply chain actors through our policies and practices. Our goal is to work collaboratively through the supply chain to source minerals consistent with our values around human rights, business ethics, labor, health and safety practices, and environmental responsibility. We believe this can be done while continuing to source responsibly from the DRC and other high-risk countries.

To reach our goal, Cisco commits to:

- Promote mineral procurement practices that support peaceful economic and community development in conflict-affected and high-risk regions;
- Require our supply chain to source 3TG from smelters and refiners that are conformant to the [Responsible Minerals Assurance Process](#);
- Conduct due diligence to identify and mitigate risks in our supply chain for 3TG, following the [OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas](#);
- Forge partnerships with industry coalitions including the [Responsible Minerals Initiative](#), governments, and civil society stakeholders to address these concerns and develop new solutions for responsible sourcing.

¹ Conflict minerals are defined by the United States Securities and Exchange Commission in Section 1502 of the Dodd-Frank Act as cassiterite, columbite-tantalite, gold, wolframite, or their derivatives, or any other minerals or their derivatives determined by the Secretary of State to be financing conflict in the Covered Countries, which include the DRC or an adjoining country.

² [Cisco Global Human Rights Policy](#), updated 2018.

Cisco's Expectations of Suppliers

To support our ethical procurement practices, we have developed a set of due diligence and stakeholder engagement activities based on the guidelines prepared by the OECD. We require suppliers to:

- Source only from smelters and refiners validated as conformant to the [Responsible Minerals Assurance Process](#) third-party assessment program;
- Maintain a policy to assure that the 3TG in the products they manufacture does not directly or indirectly finance armed conflict in the DRC, as stipulated in our [Supplier Code of Conduct](#);
- Establish their own due diligence program to achieve responsible mineral supply chains;
- Respond to Cisco inquiries for due diligence information, and promptly implement corrective actions identified and requested by Cisco.

If these requirements are not met, Cisco will proactively work with the supplier to further develop their capabilities in responsible mineral due diligence to ensure alignment to Cisco's supplier requirements. Cisco will terminate relationships with suppliers that do not make substantive and prompt efforts to comply with our policy.

Please use the [Cisco EthicsLine](#) to share concerns about the content or execution of the policy:
<https://www.cisco.com/c/en/us/about/corporate-social-responsibility/ethics-office/ethicsline.html>

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