



Notice of Conflict Minerals Compliance Requirements:

To our Valued Suppliers:

In July 2010, President Obama signed into law the Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, also known as the Dodd-Frank Act. Although the focus of the Act is financial market regulatory reforms, it also imposes requirements relating to "Conflict Minerals". Specifically, section 1502 of the Act imposes Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) reporting requirements upon publicly-traded companies whose products contain metals derived from minerals defined as "Conflict Minerals", which include tantalum, tin, tungsten, and gold.

The new reporting requirements reflect Congressional concern that revenues obtained from mining and transport of "Conflict Minerals" finance the ongoing conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and surrounding countries and the resulting humanitarian crisis.

On August 22, 2012, the SEC adopted a final rule relating to Conflict Minerals as mandated by the Dodd-Frank Act. SEC registered companies are required to comply with this final rule for the calendar year beginning January 1, 2013. The rule requires companies to conduct a "reasonable country of origin" inquiry to determine whether Conflict Minerals used in products they manufacture or contract to manufacture originated in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) or an adjoining country or came from scrap or recycled sources. If any Conflict Minerals (1) originated or may have originated in the DRC or an adjoining country and (2) did not come, or may not have come, from scrap or recycled sources, companies will have to conduct additional supply chain due diligence and determine whether those Conflict Minerals are "DRC conflict free" (that is, they did not directly or indirectly finance or benefit armed groups in those countries). More information about this rule can be found at <http://www.sec.gov/news/press/2012/2012-163.htm>.

As a result, Suppliers may be asked to assist in obtaining source information from smelters and refiners of minerals in your supply chain to determine whether the materials or products contain "Conflict Minerals" that originate in the DRC or adjacent countries. Annual submissions to the SEC may require an independent, third-party audit, and therefore, proper documentation of information related to your supply chain is critical.

Consequently all suppliers should carefully consider the following:

1. Suppliers may be asked to trace products that contain tantalum, tin, tungsten and/or gold through their supply chain to some extent.
2. Even Non-SEC registered companies who supply directly or indirectly to AIA Member companies may be asked to comply with regulations.
3. Independent, 3rd party audits may be required.
4. Records of any due diligence relating to the origin and identification of Conflict Minerals within the supply chain need to be retained and made available upon request.

The new regulations are expected to come out sometime in 2012 we want to ensure that our valued suppliers are aware of this situation in advance of the effective requirements and reporting dates. If you have any further questions please contact Richard Nichols at 610-344-0710 or rnichols@deco-sales.com.