



SUPPLIER COMMITMENTS: GUIDANCE AND FURTHER INFORMATION

Conflict Minerals

‘As a supplier, you commit to find new sources for any minerals contained in your products, where these are identified as coming from recognised areas of conflict.’

Conflict minerals are minerals mined in conditions of armed conflict and human rights abuses, and which are sold or traded by armed groups. For some years, this has been a particular problem in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)¹.

- It's estimated that the DRC contains between 65-80% of the world's columbite-tantalite (coltan) reserves, 49% of its cobalt reserves, and 3% of its copper reserves¹.
- In 2013, rebel groups generated \$1bn from the sale of minerals extracted in conflict zones.
- New regulation comes into force from 1 January 2021 to:
 - Ensure that EU importers of 3TG (tin, tungsten, tantalum and gold) meet international responsible sourcing standards, set by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).
 - Ensure that global and EU smelters and refiners of 3TG source responsibly.
 - Help break the link between conflict and the illegal exploitation of minerals.
 - Help put an end to the exploitation and abuse of local communities, including mine workers, and support local development.

The regulation covers tin, tungsten, tantalum and gold (sometime referred to as 3TG).

- These 4 minerals are primarily found in electronics and products such as mobile phones and laptops, solder wire and bar, lighting and bronze fittings, but can also be used elsewhere.
- As part of our commitment to responsible sourcing and the respect of human rights, it's the aim of the Travis Perkins Group to not support the use of minerals that have fuelled conflict in the DRC or other recognised areas of conflict.
- We expect our suppliers to support our efforts to identify the origin of any 3TG minerals in our products. You're therefore expected to source these minerals in a responsible and informed manner, and where your sources are found to be in conflict zones, to find acceptable new sources for your products.
- It's therefore important that you undertake due diligence to identify use of any of these minerals in your products, to source them responsibly, and to not knowingly supply us with products containing minerals that fuel conflict and human rights abuses.

¹ Source: UK Government Guidance on Conflict Minerals.

→ Useful Links

- [Global Witness guidance on Conflict Minerals](#)
- [UK Government guidance note of conflict minerals](#)
- [OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas](#)