

Sustainable Sourcing Code Policy

Doing Business in a Sustainable Way

The Eakin Group is embedding sustainable and responsible sourcing principles throughout its operations. Its Sourcing Code outlines the principles it focuses on.

Background

As a manufacturer of medical device products the company's preeminent concern is the well-being of mankind. This is addressed by providing its customers with high quality, clean and safe products. Additionally, it recognises that protecting the environment through 'responsible' and 'sustainable' sourcing also addresses this concern.

Scope

This sourcing code outlines our core principles in relation to:

- Responsible Sourcing
- Sustainable Sourcing

The code is used as a reference for related policies. It is not an ethical or trading policy, being focused on sourcing only. It is also subject to any amendments and developments that we make at anytime.

We aim to fully implement the code by embedding it throughout its operations.

From time to time we recognises that there may be conflicts of interest with the commercial imperative of its business. In these cases, it shall address cases individually and deal with issues to find a balance between social, environmental and commercial factors.

Key Concepts for the Sourcing Code

'Responsible Sourcing' is the procurement of products and services with environmental, social, and ethical issues in mind.

'Sustainable Sourcing' recognises that our planet has finite resources which must be nurtured, emphasising that raw materials should, where possible, be procured from sources that can be maintained in the long term or regenerated.

The Code

When sourcing goods, materials and services the following principles will be applied:

- Labour practices throughout the supply chain – we will ensure that fair and ethical employment conditions are maintained throughout its supply chain. We investigate suppliers to ensure that child labour is not used
- Health and safety – as a minimum, all suppliers must comply with health and safety legislation, industry standards and our policies to encourage a positive health and safety culture. Where materials or products are procured from countries without a health and safety policy equal to that in the UK, We work closely with suppliers to encourage equivalent standards
- Global sourcing values – will ensure that its approach to trade promotes the welfare of the people who work in the supply chain and is conducted with the same integrity, fairness and support that it shows to its customers
- Publications and other printed materials – we aim to minimise the use of printed materials and favours the use of electronic publications. Where this is not possible, recycled paper should be used or if virgin fibre is used it should be from FSC-certified sources
- Reducing waste - suppliers should support us in its commitment to reduce waste by employing lean manufacturing methods
- Recycling - We encourage suppliers to recycle where possible and also encourages end users to recycle packaging as well as metal product through the use of Sharp-smart bins
- Recycled content - suppliers should use recycled content wherever possible. However recycled material cannot be used in plastic medical products because of cleanliness and biocompatibility standards
- Packaging - We work with suppliers to ensure use of secondary and tertiary packaging is minimised, consistent with adequate protection of the sterile barrier, and made from materials that are recycled or that can be reused. For example, the use of polystyrene should be avoided as it cannot be easily recycled. Recycled paper and board should be used or if virgin fibre is necessary it should be from FSC certified sources. All paper, board and packaging used should also be elementally or totally chlorine free. Primary packaging is made from virgin materials to ensure cleanliness
- Waste electrical and electronic equipment - suppliers that manufacture, rebrand, sell or import electrical or electronic equipment should honour their obligations under the 'Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations 2006'. In addition, where required they will take back such items when they are no longer required by us
- Energy consumption - We will continue to work closely with suppliers to increase their efficiency in operations to reduce energy consumption
- Transport - We encourages suppliers to use zero or low emission transport modes, such as car share and bicycles. In addition, suppliers should aim to optimise transport efficiency and/or minimise transport distances
- British sourcing - where quality, quantity and value are there we will always source British first. Essentially, we believe in working with British suppliers wherever possible to maintain control of the quality and hygiene standards that are fundamental to our business
- Industry specific standards – We advise suppliers of any industry specific standards that they are required to comply with which are specific to the product or service to be supplied. We monitor quality approvals of suppliers quarterly
- Healthy materials -We requires that suppliers use substances and materials that are low risk to human health and the environment. All materials and substances must comply with relevant legislation

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