



National Contact Point

OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises

Do you operate internationally? Remember the OECD Guidelines

Argentina Australia Austria Belgium Brazil Canada Chile Colombia Czech Republic Denmark Egypt Estonia Finland France Germany Greece Hungary Iceland Ireland Israel

The OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises set out the principles and standards for responsible business conduct that the governments of the Netherlands and 45 other countries expect multinationals to observe. The Guidelines help companies deal with matters such as responsible supply chain management, human rights, child labour, the environment and corruption.

If you apply the OECD guidelines, you will increase your transparency and reduce risk. As a result, your customers, financiers, shareholders, and society in general will have greater confidence in your enterprise. Companies that say no to child labour, corruption and pollution in their supply chains find it easier to obtain financing, are eligible for government contracts and are less susceptible to pressure from society at large.

In the Netherlands, compliance with the OECD Guidelines is a condition for acquiring government funding for international trade and investment activities. Drafted in 1976 and endorsed by 46 countries, the OECD Guidelines are based on international instruments such as the conventions of the International Labor Organization (ILO) and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In 2000 and 2011, they were adapted to comply with the latest developments in international corporate social responsibility (CSR) and responsible supply chain management, such as the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. They provide the only guidance on responsible business conduct for international enterprise endorsed by governments and the only framework that includes a dispute resolution system.

National Contact Point

Every adhering country has a National Contact Point (NCP) charged with helping companies put the OECD Guidelines into practice. Any differences of opinion about the application of the Guidelines that arise between your company and stakeholders can be raised with the NCP, which will mediate as an independent party in order to resolve the problem. This process prevents escalation and damage to your reputation.

Civil society organisations and other stakeholders can also contact the NCP to report suspected infringements of the OECD Guidelines by a company. The NCP will then initiate a mediation process aimed at achieving a common solution.

The Guidelines & tools online

The site www.oecdguidelines.nl presents practical examples and tools.

You can follow the NCP on Twitter (https://twitter.com/NL_OECD_GLs) and LinkedIn (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/nl-oecd-guidelines>)

More information

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The OECD Guidelines for your company

The OECD Guidelines cover the following areas of interest to your company:

Policies and supply chain management: Your company should contribute to the economic, environmental and social progress of the host country; comply with local laws and regulations; identify the risks to responsible business conduct within the supply chain; encourage local capacity building; apply rules of conduct to promote responsible business conduct; abstain from any improper involvement in local political activities.

Disclosure: Your company should ensure that reliable and relevant information is disclosed regularly on your activities, including information about your social and environmental performance, codes of conduct and relationships with stakeholders.

Human rights: Your company should respect the human rights of those affected by your company's activities, identify the risks and take appropriate measures to avoid and rectify human rights infringements.

Employment and industrial relations: Your company should respect the right of employees to representation; refrain from discriminatory treatment of employees; pay a living wage and contribute to the effective abolition of child labour and every form of forced or compulsory labour.

Environment: Your company should take due account of the need to protect the environment and public health and safety; establish and maintain an appropriate environmental management system and provide adequate education and training to workers in environmental health and safety matters.

Combating corruption: Your company should not – directly or indirectly – offer, promise, give or demand a bribe or other undue advantage in order to obtain or retain business or other improper advantage.

Consumer interests: Your company should ensure that the goods and services it provides meet all agreed or legally required standards for consumer health and safety.

Science and technology: Your company should adopt, where practicable in the course of its business activities, practices that permit the transfer and rapid diffusion of technologies and know-how, with due regard to the protection of intellectual property rights.

Competition: Your company should refrain from entering into or carrying out anti-competitive agreements.

Taxation: Your company should contribute to the public finances of the host country.

Read the full text of the OECD Guidelines at <https://www.oecdguidelines.nl/oecd-guidelines>

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