



At a glance: Establishing a code of conduct

Internally, a code of conduct provides a company with a corporate philosophy; externally, it shows customers what the company stands for. Firmly established basic principles in areas such as occupational safety and environmental sustainability strengthen the integrity and credibility of brands and secure huge competitive advantages.

INDIVIDUAL REQUIREMENTS FOR BETTER WORK CONDITIONS

A code of conduct includes the conditions that a company requires for its cooperation with suppliers: integrity, risk awareness, participation, effectiveness, social added value, communication, transparency and monitoring. With the help of audits, we investigate whether the suppliers of our customers comply with the code of conduct. We can

also work with companies to develop their own codes of conduct on the basis of the essential guidelines of global standards.

SETTING THE RIGHT FOCUS

Companies' own codes of conduct are customized alternatives to membership in one of the existing initiatives such as the amfori Business Social Compliance Initiative (BSCI) or SEDEX (Supplier Ethical Data Exchange). If a company wishes to concentrate on fair and safe work, it should orient itself according to existing ethical and social codes of conduct such as the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights or the Conventions of the International Labour Organization (ILO). The ISO 14001 standard is one of the recommended codes for environmental issues.

HOW TO MAKE SURE THAT SUPPLIERS COMPLY WITH THE CODE OF CONDUCT

After the company's own code of conduct has been formulated, the corresponding auditing processes must be defined. We work with the customer to define the auditing process and how often the audits must be carried out.

What criteria should the audits apply? Which points should be reported immediately? How should the report be structured? What solutions should the audit lead to? After these areas have been defined, the suppliers must sign the code of conduct and submit to our audits — because a responsible customer should not rely on the signature alone.

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