

IPC-WP-1081

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**White Paper on Conflict Minerals
Due Diligence Guidance**

A White Paper Report Developed by IPC

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Association Connecting Electronics Industries



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Standards Should:

- Show relationship to Design for Manufacturability (DFM) and Design for the Environment (DFE)
- Minimize time to market
- Contain simple (simplified) language
- Just include spec information
- Focus on end product performance
- Include a feedback system on use and problems for future improvement

Standards Should Not:

- Inhibit innovation
- Increase time-to-market
- Keep people out
- Increase cycle time
- Tell you how to make something
- Contain anything that cannot be defended with data

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White Paper on Conflict Minerals Due Diligence Guidance

Developed by the Conflict Minerals Due Diligence Committee (E-30) of IPC

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Acknowledgment

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White Paper on Conflict Minerals Due Diligence Guidance

1 Introduction

The electronics industry uses tin, tantalum, tungsten and gold in the manufacture of electronic products. These metals are derivatives of the specific conflict minerals that are covered by Section 1502 of the Dodd-Frank Act as shown in Table 1-1. These minerals are considered “conflict minerals” under Section 1502 of the Dodd-Frank Act regardless of whether they are associated with an actual conflict activity in the DRC or adjacent country. Examples of where these metals are used in electronics can be found in Appendix A.

Table 1-1 Conflict Minerals and Metal Derivative

Conflict Mineral	Metal Derivative
Cassiterite	Tin
Columbite-tantalite	Tantalum
Gold	Gold
Wolframite	Tungsten

2 SCOPE

This document is intended to provide downstream companies with practical examples for establishing a conflict minerals program based upon the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Due Diligence Guidance. This includes guidance on obtaining and evaluating supply chain information and data in order to respond to external inquiries regarding the source of conflict minerals contained in their manufactured products. This document is not, and should not be used as, a guide to legal compliance.

3 USE OF DOCUMENT

This document is designed to provide a flexible framework that companies may use to establish a Conflict Minerals due diligence program for responding to information and data requests. It builds on existing conflict minerals reporting guidance, supply chain disclosure practices, and management systems. This document is not intended to establish mandatory practices or requirements nor replace any governmental or non-governmental regulations or standards.

4 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

4.1 Section 1502 of the Dodd Frank Financial Reform Act

Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (“Dodd-Frank Act”) (Pub. L. 111-203)

4.2 U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)

U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission’s Final Regulation to Implement Section 1502 of the Dodd-Frank Act, 77 FR 56273 September 12, 2012¹

U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission’s Statement on the Effect of the Recent Court of Appeals Decision on the Conflict Minerals Rule, April 22, 2014

4.3 Conflict Free Smelter Initiative (CFSI)

Conflict Free Smelter Program²

4.4 Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)³

OECD (2013), OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas, Second Edition OECD Publishing.

1. <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2012-09-12/pdf/2012-21153.pdf>

2. <http://www.conflictreesmelter.org/>

3. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264185050-en>