

# Sustainable minerals procurement charter

By signing the United Nations Global Compact in 2003, the Socomec Group has committed itself to respecting and promoting the pact's ten principles of sustainable development in its business activities and in its sphere of influence.

For this purpose, and following the adoption of its "Sustainable Purchasing Policy" in 2011, the Socomec Group asks that its suppliers be transparent about their social and environmental policies and to ensure a continuous improvement process.

## Everybody's responsibility

Along with governments, NGOs and many reputable companies, Socomec condemns without reservation the violations of human rights that persist in the Democratic Republic of Congo and neighbouring countries.

The region is well known for the extraction of mineral ores used to produce metals such as tin, tantalum, tungsten and gold that are often used in electrical and electronic components. In this part of Africa, such minerals are all too often mined under conditions of extreme violence, and not without environmental consequences. They can also be used to directly or indirectly finance armed groups engaged in civil war. For this reason, they are internationally known as "conflict minerals".

In force since 2010, the American Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (or "Act of Conflict Minerals") requires companies registered with the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to report annually whether or not they have used minerals from this region of Africa.

As for the EU regulation on mineral supplies, this offers a self-assessment programme on a voluntary basis, structured on a verification process to be carried out by importers of these minerals in the European Union.

Socomec does not purchase minerals directly from mines or smelters.

Even though not directly subject to the regulations outlined above, our company nevertheless wishes to contribute to the respect of the laws in accordance with the expectations of our customers.



## Everybody's commitment

Socomec's policy for sustainable minerals procurement is to avoid the use of minerals from conflict zones.

Hence, in line with US and European regulations, Socomec asks the following of its direct suppliers:

- To comply with existing regulations and provide all the necessary declarations. The Socomec Group's purchasing staff are responsible for terminating partnerships with suppliers who do not comply with these requirements.
- To buy only from responsible suppliers who also have a conflict-free minerals policy.

It is clear that the traceability of conflict minerals is a complex issue and it will take time and effort to gather the information about their origins as far back as the mines and smelters.

Socomec is part of this virtuous approach, and asks its main suppliers to sign its policy that aims at a supply chain without conflict minerals.

