



The Copper Mark Human Rights Policy

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Vision

The Copper Mark’s vision is for the sites participating in its programme (Participants) to be recognized as having adopted internationally-accepted responsible production practices so as to:

- Prevent, mitigate and remediate salient human rights issues in the industry related to environment, governance, workers and local communities, and
- Significantly contribute to the sustainable development that benefits people, ecosystems and local economies.

Scope

This policy applies to the Copper Mark as an organization and its activities undertaken as part of its Assurance Framework.

Normative references

The Copper Mark Human Rights Policy, its standards, policies, processes and procedures are based on the United Nations Guiding Principles for Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) together with the International Bill of Human Rights (consisting of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights), the International Labour Organization’s (ILO) Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work. The Policy also takes into account the Voluntary Principles for Security and Human Rights, the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, the UN Women’s Empowerment Principles and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Commitment

The Copper Mark commits to respecting all internationally recognized human rights as relevant to our operations and our activities carried out as part of the Copper Mark Assurance Framework. This means we will:

- Avoid causing or contributing to adverse human rights impacts through our own activities and address impacts that occur;

- Seek to prevent, and when necessary, to mitigate adverse human rights impacts associated with our Participants and other business partners that are directly linked to our operations and services; and
- Provide for access to or cooperate in remedy as appropriate.
- Promotes the respect of human rights on the part of our Participants and other stakeholders.

We recognize our responsibility to respect human rights and to comply with international and local laws applicable to our operations. Where national law or wider industry practice differ from international standards, the Copper Mark will seek to adhere to the standard that offers the highest protection for the environment and affected stakeholders, particularly workers, local communities and assessors.

Implementation

The Copper Mark Executive Director is responsible for the implementation of this Policy with oversight by the Board of Directors. The Copper Mark Board of Directors, with the advice of legal counsel, manages the implementation of the Human Rights Policy where:

- The Copper Mark directly causes or contributes to adverse human rights impacts;
- There is a legal compliance risk;
- There is a reputational risk.

Where the Copper Mark is directly linked to adverse human rights impact through the actions of its Participants, the implementation of the Human Rights Policy is ensured through the Copper Mark's standards, processes and procedures:

- The requirements for Copper Mark participants to respect human rights are set out in the Copper Mark Criteria for Responsible Production.
- Adherence to with the Copper Mark Criteria for each Participant is ensured through the Copper Mark Assurance Process, including the verification by independent third-party assessors approved by the Copper Mark.
- The Copper Mark also monitors ongoing adherence to the Copper Mark Criteria of Participants using publicly available information as well as information received from external stakeholders and through its grievance mechanism.
- Where the Copper Mark received information indicating that it may be directly linked to adverse human rights impacts, the Copper Mark seeks to obtain further information on the issue including, for example, fact finding by staff, engagement with Participants or other affected parties, fact finding using external resources and / or further third-party assessment(s) of Participants.
- The Copper Mark then engages with the Participant to prompt the Participant to take appropriate action to respond to the situation.
- If a Participant does not meet the Copper Mark Criteria, the Copper Mark will be suspended or removed from the participant.

Related Documents

The implementation this Policy is supported by the following, related, documents:

- Human Rights Due Diligence Procedure
- Business integrity policy
- Assurance Process
- Grievance mechanism
- The Copper Mark Standards
- Assessor management procedure