



The Copper Mark Policy on Human Rights and the Environment

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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 issues in the industry related to human rights, 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 Policy on Human Rights and the Environment (herein “the Policy”), its standards, policies, processes and procedures are based on the following main normative references:

- The United Nations Guiding Principles for Business and Human Rights (UNGPs)
- 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 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- The United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity

The Policy also takes into account the following frameworks:

- 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
- The Convention on the Rights of the Child

- The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) World Heritage Convention, and (Natural) World Heritage List
- The United Nations Convention on the Law of Non-navigational Uses of International Watercourses, the United Nations Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention)
- The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
- The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal
- The (Ramsar) Convention on Wetlands
- The UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves
- The Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (Stockholm Convention)

Commitment

The Copper Mark commits to respecting the environment and 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 or environmental impacts through our own activities and address impacts that occur.
- Seek to prevent, and when necessary, to mitigate adverse human rights or environmental impacts associated with our Participants and other business partners that are directly linked to our operations and services.
- Provide for access to or cooperate in remedy as appropriate.
- Promote the respect of human rights and the environment on the part of our Participants and other stakeholders.

We recognize our responsibility to respect human rights and the environment, 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 Policy where:

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

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

- The requirements for Copper Mark participants to respect human rights and the environment 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 or environmental 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:

- Due Diligence Procedure
- Business Integrity Policy
- Assurance Process
- Grievance Mechanism
- The Copper Mark Standards
- Assessor Management Procedure