

4flow supplier sustainability policy

shaping the future of supply chain



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The 4flow supplier sustainability policy summarizes 4flow's core principles and standards for its suppliers in accordance with globally accepted guidelines and principles. The policy includes a commitment to environmental and social responsibility and to the Ten Principles of the United Nations Global Compact, as well as compliance with internationally recognized human rights and labor and social standards.

The 4flow vision and values shape the way we treat our customers, partners, service providers, and coworkers.

1. Resource management and environmental protection

4flow expects all suppliers to implement effective environmental protection measures, to comply with environmental standards, and to continuously minimize their resource consumption and environmental impact. This applies especially to energy consumption and greenhouse emissions, waste reduction, water quality and consumption as well as air quality.

Suppliers are expected to make use of renewable energies.

Suppliers shall protect natural ecosystems and halt conversion, deforestation and forest degradation based on identification and management of natural forests and other natural ecosystems. Appropriate soil quality shall be protected, and suppliers shall be in compliance with and respect existing land/water rights.

2. Responsible chemical management

Although 4flow is not trading, handling or producing dangerous chemicals, it is committed to a responsible chemical management and expects all suppliers to comply with all applicable standards, effective environmental protection measures as well as the responsible management of such chemicals. This includes but is not limited to the compliance with the Zero Discharge of Hazardous Chemicals Manufacturing Restricted Substances List (ZDHC MRSL) as well as the Product Restricted Substances List (PRSL) to protect consumers, workers, communities and the environment from negative impact.

3. Social responsibility

It is crucially important to 4flow that all business activities take into account our social responsibility towards team members and society as a whole. This applies both to 4flow itself and our suppliers. All suppliers are called upon to observe the principles and rights set forth in the guidelines of the UN Initiative Global Compact (Davos, 01/99) and the "Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work" (Geneva, 06/98) adopted by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and to align their due diligence process with the requirements of the "UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights." Of particular importance are respect for human dignity and internationally recognized human rights, especially the prohibition of child and forced labor and human trafficking, the prohibition of discrimination, prohibiting unlawful hours of work and inadequate periods of rest, freedom of association, the right to collective bargaining and compliance with work and safety regulations, including lawful hours of work and minimum wages and social benefits.

The rights of indigenous peoples and local communities shall be respected, promoted and protected throughout the supply chain in accordance with the 'UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples'. Suppliers are required not to engage in land grabbing, to obtain Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), as defined by the UN-REDD Programme from existing land users and to promote adequate compensation where land use has been granted to the supplier.

The supplier shall comply with the ban on hiring or using private or public security forces to protect a business project if, due to a lack of instruction or control on the part of the company, the prohibition of torture and cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment is disregarded during the deployment of security forces, or if life and limb are injured in any other way.

4. Lawful and Responsible Conduct

Responsible and lawful conduct is an integral part of our organization. We expect lawful conduct (legal compliance) not only from our suppliers but from all business partners, particularly with regard to corruption and fraud prevention as well as anti-trust matters, taxation regulations, data protection and export control. We expect our suppliers to have appropriate whistleblowing systems and protection against retaliation in place.

5. Preventing the flow of funds to armed groups and conflicts

4flow requires its suppliers to prevent the direct or indirect funding of conflicts and human rights abuses.

6. Animal welfare in the supply chain

For 4flow it is crucial that corporate activities take animal welfare into consideration. Therefore, we require relevant suppliers to implement standards and best-practice methods to comply with animal welfare along the entire supply chain. In general, animal testing must be avoided and alternative methods free of animal testing must be favored, unless such testing is strictly required by law. In any case, national and international rules regarding animal protection and animal testing, such as the German Animal Protection Law (TierSchG) or the EU Directive 2010/63 shall be followed.

7. Implementation of these standards in the supply chain

All suppliers are called upon to make contractual arrangements to ensure all their subcontractors comply with the standards and rules set out in this policy. These arrangements should be documented and communicated in a supplier policy for sustainable procurement. 4flow also expects its suppliers to identify risks within their supply chains and take appropriate measures to address them. In case of a suspected violation and to provide security for supply chains with increased risk, 4flow requires the disclosure of supply chains that may be affected.

Raw materials should be obtained from audited sources as a matter of principle whenever possible. 4flow participates in initiatives aimed at establishing the standards and rules set out in this policy in raw material supply chains.

Upon request suppliers and its sub-suppliers shall provide information on compliance with the guideline on hand with the target to obtain maximum transparency in relevant high-risk supply chains, to the source of origin if needed.

In case of (possible) violations against the above-mentioned requirements please contact (anonymously) compliance@4flow.com via e-mail.

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