



CODE OF CONDUCT FOR CONTRACTORS

ETHICAL PRINCIPLES AND STANDARDS

By this Code of Conduct, the Contracting Authority outlines the ethical principles and standards which contractors are required to follow and uphold. The Contracting Authority is a rights-based organisation that works for people's rights to a dignified life and equality and we expect our contractors to act in a socially responsible manner, with respect for human and Labour rights and the environment.

This Code of Conduct are aligned with recommendations from the Danish Ethical Trading Initiative (DIEH)¹, the UN Global Compact principles² and ECHO's Humanitarian Aid Guidelines for Procurement 2011³.

General Conditions

The Code of Conduct is applicable for all contractors who supply goods, services and works to our operations and projects. It defines the expectations to contractors to act in accordance with applicable law and to conduct themselves responsibly, ethically and with integrity. This includes taking appropriate due diligence measures towards minimising adverse impacts on human- and labour rights, environment and anti-corruption principles. By signing the Code of Conduct contractors agree to ensure due diligence and placing ethics central to their business.

The provision of the ethical standards constitutes minimum rather than maximum standards. International and national laws shall be complied with, and where the provisions of law and the Contracting Authority's standards address the same subject, the highest standard shall apply.

It is the responsibility of the contractor to assure that their contractors and subcontractors comply with the ethical requirements and standards set forth in this Code of Conduct.

The Contracting Authority acknowledge that implementing ethical standards and ensuring ethical behaviour in our supply chain is a continuous process and a long-term commitment for which we also have a responsibility. To achieve high ethical standards, we are willing to engage in dialogue and collaboration with our contractors. In addition, we expect our contractors to be open and willing to engage in dialogue.

Unwillingness to co-operate or serious violations of the Code of Conduct will lead to rejection of bids or termination of contracts.

Human Rights and Labour Rights

Contractors must protect and promote human- and labour rights and work actively to address issues of concern as they arise. As a minimum they are required to comply with national laws and actively work to secure alignment to international Human and Labour Rights standards and frameworks:

Respect for Human- and Labour Rights (The International Bill of Human Rights, ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights): The basic principles of the International Bill of Human Rights are that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and in rights within all spheres of life. Everyone has the right to life, liberty, dignity, freedom and

security of the person. Contractors must not flaunt their responsibility to uphold and promote such rights toward employees, contractors, sub-contractors and the community in which they operate.

Non-exploitation of Child Labour (UN Child Convention on the Rights of the Child, and ILO C138 & C182):

Contractors must not engage in the exploitation of child labour⁴ and contractors must take the necessary steps to prevent the employment of child labour. A child is defined as a person under the age of 18 and children shall not be engaged in labour that compromise their health, safety, mental and social development, and schooling. Children under the age of 15 (in developing countries 14) may not be engaged in regular work, but children above the age of 13 (in developing countries 12) can be engaged in light work if it does not interfere with compulsory schooling and is not harmful to their health and development.

Employment is freely chosen (ILO C29 & C105):

Contractors must not make use of forced or bonded labour and must respect workers freedom to leave their employer.

Freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining (ILO C87, C98 & C154):

Contractors must recognise workers right to join or form trade unions and bargain collectively and should adopt an open attitude towards the activities of trade unions (even if this is restricted under national law).

Living wages are paid (ILO C131):

As a minimum, national minimum wage standards or ILO wage standards must be met by contractors. Additionally, a living wage must be provided. A living wage is contextual, but must always meet basic needs such as food, shelter, clothing, health care and schooling, and provide a discretionary income⁵.

Non-discrimination in employment (ILO C100 & C111 and the UN Convention on Discrimination against Women):

Contractors must not practice discrimination in hiring, salaries, job termination, retiring, and access to training or promotion - based on race, national origin, caste, gender, sexual orientation, political affiliation, disability, marital status, or HIV/AIDS status.

No harsh or inhumane treatment of employees (ILO C105):

The use of physical abuse, disciplinary punishment, sexual abuse, the threat of sexual and physical abuse, and other forms of intimidation and abuse may never be practiced by contractors.

Working conditions are safe and hygienic (ILO C155 & C168):

Contractors shall provide safe and hygienic working conditions for its employees and put in place adequate measure to prevent accidents and injury to health associated with or occurring in the course of work.

Working hours are not excessive (ILO C1, C14, C30 & C106):

Contractors must ensure that working hours comply with national law and international standards. A working week of 7 days should not exceed 48

¹ <https://www.dieh.dk/om-dieh/etisk-handel/hvordan-etisk-handel/dieh-guidelines/>

² <https://www.unglobalcompact.org/what-is-gc/mission/principles>

³ http://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/partners/humanitarian_aid/Procurement_Guidelines_en.pdf

⁴ The definition of Child Labour can be found at: <https://www.unglobalcompact.org/what-is-gc/mission/principles/principle-5> and

https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P12100_ILO_CODE:C138

⁵ Discretionary income is the amount of an individual's income that is left for spending, investing, or saving after taxes and personal necessities (such as food, shelter, and clothing) have been paid.

hours and employees must have one day off per week. Overtime shall be compensated, limited and voluntary.

Regular and contractual employment (ILO C143, C183 & C132):

All work performed must be on the basis of a recognised employment relationship via written contracts, established through international conventions and national laws. Contractors shall provide leave, benefit and employment protection, and protect vulnerable group's regular employment under these laws and conventions.

International Humanitarian Law

Contractors linked to armed conflicts or operating in armed conflict settings shall respect civilian's rights under International Humanitarian Law and not be engaged in activities which directly or indirectly initiate, sustain, and/or exacerbate armed conflicts and violations of International Humanitarian Law⁶ as defined in the Geneva Conventions I-IV and Additional Protocols. Contractors are expected to take a 'do no harm' approach to people affected by armed conflict.

Non-Involvement in Weapon- and Criminal Activities

The Contracting Authority advocates for the Ottawa Convention against landmines and the Convention on Cluster Munitions. Contractors shall not engage in any development, sale, manufacturing or transport of anti-personnel mines, cluster bombs or components, or any other weapon which feed into violations of International Humanitarian Law covered by the Geneva Conventions and Protocols.

Contractors shall not be engaged in any illegal or criminal activity and must never be associated with, provide support to or be involved in any terrorist activities.

Protection of the Environment

The Contracting Authority wishes to minimise the environmental damages applied to nature via our procurement activities and we expect our suppliers and contractors to act in an environmentally responsible manner. This involves respecting applicable national and international environmental legislation and acting in accordance with the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development. As a minimum, contractors must never support or be involved in illegal foresting and shall actively address issues related to proper waste management, ensuring recycling, conservation of scarce resources and efficient energy use.

Anti-Corruption

Corruption is by the Contracting Authority defined as the misuse of entrusted power for private gain and it includes bribery, fraud, embezzlement and extortion. The Contracting Authority holds a great responsibility to avoid corruption and ensure high standards of integrity, accountability, fairness and professional conduct in our business relations. Contractors are expected to have the same approach by undertaking good and fair business ethics and practices, take action to prevent and fight corruption, and abide by international conventions as well as international and national laws.

Complaints

Contractors and contractor's employees who are confronted with corrupt practices, violations of human- or labour rights, or any of the standards laid down in this Code of Conduct, are encouraged to file a complaint with the Contracting Authority⁷.

⁶ This includes pillage/looting which is the unlawful taking of private property for personal or private gain based on force, threats, intimidation, pressure and through a position of power accomplished due to the surrounding conflict.

⁷ DCA's Complaint Handling System is accessed on our website.