

BLS code of conduct for suppliers

In this BLS code of conduct for suppliers, BLS has set out its requirements and principles for collaboration with its business partners, in particular regarding compliance with environmental and social standards, applicable law, and integrity. It represents a minimum standard. Additional requirements may be contractually defined for certain situations. BLS only enters into contractual relationships with suppliers that undertake to comply with the code of conduct for suppliers.

Obligations in order to be a supplier to BLS

1. Compliance

The supplier shall ensure that all laws and standards as well as minimum social provisions are complied with in the countries and regions in which it is active or from which it provides BLS with deliveries and services.

2. General human rights

The supplier shall ensure that international human rights are complied with as per the UN's Universal Declaration of Human Rights and it shall play no part in nor tolerate, either directly or indirectly, any violations of human rights.

3. Employee rights and protection

The supplier shall allow freedom of association and effectively recognise the right to enter into collective bargaining. It shall commit to doing away with all forms of forced labour and the elimination of child labour. The supplier shall treat all employees with dignity and respect. BLS shall accept no forms of abuse, harassment, coercion, or physical punishment. The supplier shall commit to doing away with discrimination in relation to appointments and employment and shall promote equality of opportunity and treatment for all employees, both female and male. Wage levels must at least match statutory minimum wage levels and cover basic needs (living wage), as well as offering some disposable income. The supplier undertakes in principle to base maximum working hours, rest periods, and breaks for employees on applicable national legislation in each case.

4. Occupational health and safety

The supplier shall take measures to guarantee the health and safety of its employees and third parties involved. This includes the reduction of risks as well as raising awareness and providing training to prevent accidents and occupational diseases. The supplier shall comply with the applicable statutory specifications and the specifications of BLS.

5. Environmental protection

The supplier should adopt the precautionary principle, when dealing with environmental problems, and actively reduce its consumption of energy and resources (water, materials, waste, emissions). Within its business and with its business partners, it shall adopt initiatives to promote greater awareness of environmental issues.

6. Combating corruption

The supplier undertakes to combat all types of corruption including blackmail and bribery and implement corresponding measures within its sphere of influence.

7. Subcontractors, subsuppliers, and suppliers

The supplier undertakes to demand that its business partners also comply with the content of this code of conduct and to persuade these to transfer the relevant obligations accordingly.

Compliance with the BLS code of conduct for suppliers

BLS emphasises the importance of partnership-like collaboration with its suppliers. In the case of minor breaches of this code of conduct, the supplier shall generally therefore be given the opportunity to implement suitable remedial measures within a reasonable period – if it is essentially prepared to deliver some improvement. In the case of severe breaches (in particular the commitment of criminal offences), BLS reserves all rights, however, vis-à-vis the respective supplier.

Supplier confirmation

The undersigned hereby confirm they have received and taken note of the BLS code of conduct for suppliers and comply in full with both it and all its principles and requirements. The undersigned hereby authorise BLS or organisations acting on behalf of BLS to conduct audits at any time, with or without advance notice, in order to check compliance with the code of conduct for suppliers.

Place and date _____

Company

Name and title of signatories _____

Legally valid signatures _____

⇒ This document must be signed by the supplier's authorised representatives and returned to the relevant purchaser at BLS or submitted along with a quotation.