

Statement on conflict minerals (Dodd-Frank Act)

Sustainable and ecological action, social responsibility with regards to safety, security and health and respect for human rights lie at the core of all of IPAS' corporate activities. IPAS understands that its behaviour in its business dealings has an impact on both society and the environment and promotes the peaceful, fair and sustainable use of our global resources.

In July 2010 President Obama signed the **Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act** to reform US financial market law. The Dodd-Frank Act and similar regulations of the US Securities and Exchange Commission (the American stock-market watchdog) require that certain companies publicly disclose the extent to which the products they manufacture or have manufactured by others contain so-called "conflict minerals" which come from mines in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and neighbouring countries. The term "conflict minerals" refers to the financing of armed conflict through the revenues earned from selling raw materials in these countries. The Dodd-Frank Act defines "conflict minerals" as tantalum, tin, tungsten and gold (3TG minerals), all of which are used in electronic components and products.

Whilst disclosure of the use of 3TG minerals is only mandatory for companies that are listed on the US stock exchange, IPAS, as a globally operating company, endorses the traceability of these minerals and supports all attempts to ensure a transparent supply chain.

Of the four 3TG minerals, IPAS currently uses tantalum, tin and gold in its products. None of these minerals is used as a raw material. They are only used as part of electronic components (e.g. capacitors) and as a means of production (e.g. tin-solder).

IPAS is aware of the difficulties in fully retracing 3TG minerals in electronic components. To guarantee the best possible product quality and safety with regards to the origin of the raw materials used, IPAS only works with European quality distributors and production means suppliers, with whom we have long-standing business relations. We oppose the procurement of materials from other sources (e.g. component brokers or intermediaries).

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We have either already received or are currently enquiring for information regarding the origin of 3TG from all our suppliers. Based on the information provided by our suppliers, no IPAS product currently contains minerals from the conflict region.

Future suppliers of components that will be used in IPAS products, shall be required to prove that they understand and support our efforts to ensure transparency in the supply chain and do not knowingly procure conflict minerals.

IPAS is engaged in responsible purchase practices and has no intention – neither direct nor indirect - to contribute to the human rights violations in the Democratic Republic of Congo and neighbouring countries. Accordingly IPAS will take any measures necessary to ensure compliance with the regulations set out in the **Dodd-Frank Act**.

This declaration is issued by:

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