

# Responsible Supply Chain : Responsible Minerals Procurement

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## Panasonic's Basic Stance on Responsible Minerals Procurement

Panasonic had taken a basic stance on conflict minerals in 2012, and reviewed it in April 2018 based on recent social trends in regard to responsible minerals procurement.

Panasonic recognizes that the procurement of certain minerals (notably tin, tantalum, tungsten, gold and cobalt) from states in conflict areas and other high-risk areas carries with it a risk of funding organizations that are involved in all kinds of illegal or unethical activities including human rights abuses such as child labor, harsh working conditions, environmental destruction and corruption. This is a matter of grave social concern.

In order to fulfill our corporate social responsibility, Panasonic promotes responsible procurement of minerals in the global supply chain.

However, at the same time, there are companies and individuals in such areas who are conducting business activities with no connection to any illegal activities.

Panasonic is therefore mindful of our obligation to avoid using minerals that are associated with illegal or unethical behavior, while striving to ensure that legitimate companies' and individuals' business activities and livelihoods are not harmed by such efforts.

To this end, Panasonic needs to work in cooperation with a wide range of stakeholders, including countries, companies, and non-profit organizations (NPOs) that are taking measures to build fair supply chains of minerals in such affected locations.

As a foundation to this position, Panasonic is conducting its activities continuously based on the "Due Diligence Guidance" of the OECD (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development), and is building management processes which conform to global standards, with the aim of contributing to the international efforts being made to address these issues.

To effectively promote the responsible procurement of such minerals, a number of due diligence efforts throughout the supply chain are required. The promotion of responsible minerals procurement requires due diligence throughout the entire supply chain, including certifying that upstream mining companies, smelters, and refineries are clean, and conveying information on smelters and refineries among downstream enterprises.

Panasonic requires all related suppliers to provide information on smelters/refineries through the supply chain, and it promotes procurement from suppliers who are working to the same ends.

Panasonic is also continuing to support the international contribution towards responsible minerals procurement while actively considering our future role in such global efforts.

## Panasonic's Systems for Responsible Minerals Procurement

Panasonic is making efforts toward responsible minerals procurement by building company-wide systems, with ultimate responsibility residing with the Chief Procurement Officer (CPO). In partnership with each of its Companies, Panasonic strives to build systems and carry out investigations based on the characteristics of their respective businesses.

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## Due Diligence Efforts

Panasonic communicates its policies to its suppliers and receives their support in following these policies. At the same time, the Company, to meet its social responsibilities, promotes responsible minerals procurement throughout the entire supply chain. Responsible investigations of conflict minerals require the cooperation of all suppliers and the refineries/smelters with which they work. To reduce the burden on suppliers and to enhance the efficiency of such investigations, we have found it effective to use common investigating tools and explanatory materials. Based on this realization, Panasonic uses, as an investigative tool, the Conflict Minerals Reporting Template (CMRT) and the Cobalt Reporting Template (CRT) issued by the Responsible Minerals Initiative (RMI). We also participate as a presenter at investigative briefings held by the Japan Electronics and Information Technology Industries Association's (JEITA) Responsible Minerals Trade Working Group, and we actively use the same investigative manuals and procedures as Japanese automobile manufacturers and the Japan Auto Parts Industries Association (JAPIA).

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## Investigations Conflict Minerals

In fiscal 2019, the Panasonic Group as a whole surveyed around 2,300 suppliers on conflict materials and collected responses from 97% of them (as of the end of February 2019). Based on the data from the surveys (CMRTs) we have collected, we have already conducted a risk analysis and assessment, and we have requested, according to the risks we have uncovered, further investigations from suppliers.

The Panasonic Group has identified a total of 322 smelters and refineries for all conflict minerals. Of these, 80% have received the "Conformant Smelter" certification (for smelters/refineries that pass RMI's audit).

At present, we have not confirmed that any of the minerals that survey respondents have identified as being sourced from suspect countries have financed, either directly or indirectly, any armed forces, but we will continue our work of carefully examining and identifying smelter/refinery information.

Furthermore, through our industry activities, we have urged smelters and refineries to participate in the Responsible Minerals Assurance Process (RMAP). Our suppliers continue to perform due diligence, but in the rare event that minerals are discovered to have funded conflicts, we are asking that these suppliers change their suppliers or take other steps to eliminate the use of these minerals.

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## Cobalt Investigations

As part of its efforts to promote responsible minerals procurement, Panasonic pursues initiatives that follow the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD) "Due Diligence Guidance" and creates management processes that conform with global standards. Specifically, the Company continually conducts cobalt supply chain investigations, identifies and investigates refineries and smelters, and carries out other related initiatives.

Panasonic will continue conducting appropriate cobalt surveys and procurement while watching industry trends.

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## Participation in Forums on Implementing Due Diligence for Responsible Mineral Supply Chains

Beginning in 2011, Panasonic has been participating in OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas projects (currently, the Forum on Responsible Mineral Supply Chains). At the forum in November 2013, we learned about ongoing efforts toward conflict-free minerals procurement, including mines, exchanges, and traceability systems for responsible minerals procurement, in Rwanda, and ways to identify mines through analysis of mineral composition and generation. We attended the forums held in Paris in 2016 and 2017, and continued discussions with our stakeholders in regard to effective approaches to addressing issues of conflict minerals.

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## Industry Cooperation Initiatives

Investigations of responsible minerals require the cooperation of all suppliers in the supply chain. Accordingly, Panasonic has been working with JEITA (Japan Electronics and Information Technology Industries Association) as co-chair and co-leader of the Responsible Minerals Trade Working Group, engaging in educational activities and efforts to make the investigative process more efficient through industry cooperation.

More specifically, we have been working with industry groups both inside and outside Japan and holding seminars and briefings about investigations to promote correct efforts regarding responsible minerals. We have checked information on smelters / refiners, and helped plan the IPC-1755 standards for the sharing of U.S. data on conflict minerals. In November 2013, JEITA's Responsible Minerals Trade Working Group teamed up with Japanese automakers to create the Conflict-Free Sourcing Working Group, in order to engage in dialog with the smelting industry and to accelerate efforts to verify information about smelters / refiners. Panasonic was also a participant in this activity.

Since January 2016, along with other corporate members of JEITA's Responsible Minerals Trade Working Group, we have begun working to have smelters and refineries that have not yet participated in RMAP audited and certified. We continued these efforts in 2018.

Furthermore, Panasonic joined the Responsible Minerals Initiative (RMI) in July 2017, with the aims of learning the latest industry trends and promoting appropriate procurement procedures. In 2018, we attended the RMI Annual Conference held in the US. Panasonic will continue to ensure the responsible scrutiny of minerals while staying on top of industry trends.

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| History             | Corporate History        | The Founder, Konosuke Matsushita |                         |                                  |                       |                     |         |
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