In response, a Procurement Task Force has been established in order to have a group-wide governance for supplier management and assessment of chemical regulations and obsolescence impact.

IV. Initiatives: Airbus Supplier Vigilance Plan

The Company requires commitment to responsible business practices and sustainable development from all suppliers of its entities and strives to make environmental and social responsibility a core element of our sourcing and supplier management process. This joint commitment is a key element in securing success, conformance to applicable laws and a sustainable future of the aviation industry.

Supply Base Risk Mapping

Social Compliance Risks
Since 2018, the Procurement R&S department has performed a proactive social risk mapping in line with international guidance, internal commodity expertise and externally available country indices. The risk mapping resulted from both a country risk and a purchasing category perspective considering indices such as child labour, modern slavery/forced labour, recruitment practices, working time, wages, people safety at work and freedom of association. In 2019, the methodology has been formalised and published in an internal commodity guide and applied to the entire Company.

Environmental Compliance Risks
In addition, an environmental risk mapping has been performed, taking into consideration categories such as the existence of hazardous substances, energy consumption, CO₂ emissions, water usage, waste management, air pollution and specific local Chinese environmental regulations. In 2020, environmental risk mapping will be included in the above methodology.

Number of business-relevant external risk suppliers identified in 2019 (thereof lower tiers)

- Environmental
  212 (26)
- Social
  200

Source: Procurement Responsibility & Sustainability Risk mapping methodology and Airbus Sourcing Report 2018

Supplier Factory Visits
Related to the commercial aircraft activities of Airbus, the Gemba Walk pocketbook is a practical and visual guideline for Airbus employees visiting a supplier’s shopfloor, which supports the identification and reporting of risks or improvement opportunities observed during factory visits.

A dedicated pocketbook on environment, health & safety and human rights risks has been developed in 2019 and published on the Airbus intranet.

Supplier Assessment / Audit and Development
In 2019, the Company has worked with external expert companies for the performance of R&S related desktop assessments and specific on-site audits. The assessments cover social compliance criteria such as human rights, labour practices, health and safety and anti-corruption as well as environmental regulations and sustainability criteria based on the environmental questionnaire developed by the IAEG.

All business relevant external risk suppliers are eligible to an R&S assessment by an external expert company. By end of January 2020, the Company had launched approximately 55% of such assessments with a target to reach 100% by end of 2020.

Specifically on environmental matters, the Company further fostered REACH awareness in the supply chain and engaged with suppliers to accelerate the substitution and manage the use of the most hazardous substances. In particular, regarding the REACH EHS readiness of suppliers, the Company focused on:
- engagement with 223 in situ suppliers through webinars and supplier conferences to develop their readiness to comply with enhanced REACH EHS conditions when working on Airbus sites. Further direct exchanges with AIRBUS EHS experts has been organised with 25% of them;
- evaluation of the maturity of external suppliers in Airbus qualified processes in regards to the future enhanced protection requirements that are being defined by the European Commission. Out of 357 suppliers of Airbus qualified processes using chromates in industrial processes, the 80 most impacting suppliers have been assessed on-site in 2019 by a third party on behalf of Airbus.

Supplier Engagement

Contractual Requirements
The Company's standard procurement contract templates have evolved over the last few years to reinforce R&S related clauses that require suppliers to:
- comply with all applicable laws and regulations relating to production, products and services;
- provide information on substances used in manufacturing processes and contained in the product itself;
- provide information on environmental, health and safety matters such as safe usage and management of products across its lifecycle (including waste management);
- implement an Environmental Management System based on ISO 14001 or equivalent;
- comply with the Company's anti-corruption and bribery requirements; and;
- comply with the Airbus Supplier Code of Conduct, including with regard to environment, human rights, labour practices, responsible sourcing of minerals and anti-corruption.

In 2019, the full scope of clauses were included in new contracts by default and the implementation in existing contracts has started according to the contractual roadmap of each purchasing commodity.

During the 2019 Annual Supplier Conference for the commercial aircraft business of Airbus, for the first time an award was presented to two suppliers with regard to responsibility & sustainability. This award recognised these suppliers for their efforts to drive sustainability within the Airbus supply chain.