To promote further globalisation of its sourcing footprint, Airbus has established regional sourcing offices in North America, China & East Asia and India.

For the sourcing of indirect Goods and Services, the Airbus General Procurement function is represented in the three core regional sourcing offices. Throughout China, India and North America, Airbus General Procurement has over 50 employees managing “Local for Local” activities across 18 sites. Airbus General Procurement will continue to grow the global footprint by implementing new developments within Asia Pacific (Singapore and Malaysia) and the Middle East throughout 2020.

Airbus and its Divisions being certified ISO 14001, the Procurement function is acting in adherence with ISO 14001 requirements.

II. Governance

Responsible sourcing and supplier management

The Company strives to make environmental and societal responsibility a core element of its procurement process, managing the relationships with suppliers through sourcing strategy, supplier selection, contract management, supplier monitoring and development.

The Company’s suppliers must comply with all applicable laws and regulations of the countries in which operations are managed or services provided. In addition, wherever suppliers are located, all business should be conducted in compliance with the Airbus Supplier Code of Conduct.


This Supplier Code represents the group-wide values and principles in line with internationally recognised standards and conventions (such as OECD and ILO). It has been developed with the International Forum on Business Ethical Conduct (IFBEC).

Responsibility and sustainability activities in the supply chain are managed by the Procurement R&S department together with divisional representatives and a network of focal points from the different purchasing commodities. The Head of Procurement R&S department is part of the Procurement Leadership Team (PLT).

The central Procurement R&S department manages integrity topics and awareness within the Procurement function and deploys the corporate Supplier R&S programme with related supplier due diligence actions. The Supplier R&S Programme Manager is also part of the corporate cross-functional group, the R&S Network.

In response to legislative developments and new regulatory requirements, Airbus launched in 2017 the Supplier R&S programme, a transverse governance structure for environmental, human rights, health and safety issues. It is based on the following key elements and principles of due diligence following the OECD framework on responsible business conduct:

- Supply base risk mapping
- Supplier assessment/audits and development plans
- Supplier engagement and contractual requirements
- Policies, tools and reporting

For anti-corruption topics in the supply chain, the Procurement department cooperates closely with the Legal & Compliance department.

III. Risk Management

The Company’s direct procurement-related risks are embedded into the Company’s ERM system. A specific risk category regarding R&S-related risks in the supply chain has been integrated into the risk management plan.

a) Regulatory Non-Compliance

The Company may not obtain sufficient visibility and information from its supply chain in regards to compliance with environmental, human rights, health and safety laws and regulations and a supplier’s adaptation of international sustainable development goals.

In the event of an industrial accident or other serious incident in the supply chain, or any problems of the supplier to fulfill its operational or product compliance, this may also have a significant adverse effect on the reputation of the Company and its products and services. The Company’s reputation may also be affected by the public perception of social and/or environmental impacts of its supply chain’s industrial operations on local environments, communities, biodiversity and the general public’s health.

b) Supplier’s Impact on Local Environment

From the extraction of raw materials to the manufacturing of parts delivered to the Company, a supplier’s industrial operations may have significant environmental impacts on the local environment where the activity is performed, with possible impacts on air, water, soil, biodiversity, workers’ occupational health and safety and on the general public’s health.

c) Disruption Risk

In the event that a supplier fails to comply with environmental, human rights, health and safety laws and regulations, even if caused by factors beyond its control, that failure may result in the levying of civil or criminal penalties and fines against the supplier. Regulatory authorities may require them to conduct investigations and undertake remedial activities, curtail operations or close installations or facilities temporarily to prevent imminent risks.

In response to above a) to c), the Company deploys responsible sourcing activities and specific supplier due diligence actions in frame of the corporate Supplier R&S programme.

d) Risk of Product Non-Compliance

The various products manufactured and sold by suppliers must comply with relevant environmental, human rights, health and safety laws and regulations, for example those designed to protect customers and downstream workers, and those covering substances and its contents, in the jurisdictions in which they operate. Even if a supplier seeks to ensure that its products meet the highest quality standards, increasingly stringent and complex laws and regulations, new scientific discoveries, delivery of defective products or the obligation to notify or provide regulatory authorities or others with required information (such as under the REACH regulation) may force it to adapt, redesign, redevelop, recertify and/or remove its products from the market. Seizures of defective products may be pronounced that could prevent delivery to Airbus.
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.