



To whom it may concern

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## Conflict Minerals Reporting Requirements

On August 22, 2012, the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) adopted final rules to implement reporting and disclosure requirements concerning Conflict Minerals, as directed by Section 1502 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010. Accordingly, manufacturers that file certain reports with the SEC are required to disclose whether the products they manufacture or contract to manufacture contain Conflict Minerals that are "necessary to the functionality or production" of their goods. Goods that incorporate Conflict Minerals already in the supply chain prior to January 31, 2013, are excluded from disclosure, however.

"Conflict Minerals" include cassiterite (tin), wolframite (tungsten), coltan (tantalum), and gold ore and are extracted from the eastern provinces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) where various armies, rebel and militia groups, and outside war profiteers have and continue to benefit while contributing to sustained violence, systematic exploitation and trade in the region. The conflict minerals reporting requirements were enacted to further the humanitarian goal of ending violent conflict and human rights abuses.

The named minerals are essential in the manufacture of a variety of devices, including consumer electronics such as mobile phones, laptops, GPS devices, MP3 players, digital cameras, video game consoles, light bulbs, electronic circuits and automobiles. Tin is also a component in biocides, fungicides and inorganic tin compounds for a wide variety of chemistry applications. Tungsten and tantalum, in their carbide form possess significant hardness and wear resistance properties. As a result, they are used to make wear parts, drill bits and other tools. Gold is commonly used for jewelry, electronics and dental products.

ASK Chemicals is a supplier to many SEC listed companies and their subsidiaries, and understands the requirement each manufacturer in the supply chain of these companies must fulfill by providing the information regarding the use of Conflict Minerals in our products, and the mandate to solicit that information from our direct suppliers, next tier of suppliers, and so on, regardless of where the products and materials anywhere in those chains were purchased.

### Declaration

ASK Chemicals' Products are not subject to the requirements of the Conflict Minerals statutory provision. Our Products either do not intentionally contain tin, tungsten, tantalum or gold, or if they do, the Products are not necessary to the functionality or production of our customers' goods. For this reason ASK Chemicals does not have a policy in place that includes DRC conflict free sourcing.

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