

DRC-conflict mineral free declaration

HEMPEL (USA) is committed to the principles of sustainable development and enjoys a reputation for conducting its business with integrity and respect for applicable law.

The observance of societal and ethical standards, respect for laws and responsibility for the environment are part of Hempel's Code of Conduct.

HEMPEL (USA) shares your concern regarding the purchase of raw materials containing "conflict minerals" as defined in section 1502(e)(4) of H.R. 4173, of the Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (Dodd –Frank Act).

Hempel (USA) as a part of supply chain due diligence has reviewed raw materials used in product that it formulates / blends into paint products. These paint products are supplied to customers subject to the SEC "conflict materials" reporting rules. Raw materials used by Hempel (USA) contain only one substance that is a "conflict mineral" derivative. Tin is derived from cassiterite. Therefore Hempel (USA) has conducted a Reasonable Country of Origin Investigation [RCOI] of its suppliers of raw materials containing tin.

Hempel has specifically asked our suppliers of tin containing materials to confirm that neither they nor their pre-suppliers source these minerals from mines in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Angola, Burundi, Central Africa, Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.

Based on the responses Hempel has received to date Hempel does not have any hints or suspicions that the tin containing compounds supplied to Hempel (USA) were produced with tin that originated in or was sourced from smelters / refiners receiving / processing tin from mines located in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Angola, Burundi, Central Africa, Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.

HEMPEL (USA) has obtained from the suppliers a list of smelters that produced the tin used in manufacturing the tin containing chemical raw materials. Once class of raw materials contain tin as an impurity and that tin originates from the re-smelting and recovery of non-ferrous scrap metal.

At the time this Declaration is issued, these "conflict minerals" comprise columbite-tantalite, also known as coltan (metal ore from which tantalum is extracted), cassiterite (the metal ore from which tin is extracted), gold, wolframite (metal ore from which tungsten is extracted), or their derivatives.

Tin is present intentionally present in only one category of raw materials that are based on tin compounds at very low levels. These compounds act as a catalyst in some paint products to aid chemical crosslinking or curing. Tin is present as an impurity in one other raw material type that is produced from recovered scrap.

Tin is present on tinsplate cans / pails (used as small shipping units) purchased from metal fabricators. Tinsplate is a thin steel sheet coated by tin (electrolytic tinning process). Manufacturer of tinsplate has provided declarations that the tin used for that process is not mined in the DRC or on the African continent. Cold rolled steel used in the production of shipping unit containers described as steel pails and steel drums does not contain tin.

Issued by:

Al Pliodzinskas, Environmental Specialist, Q&HSE – Products 29 December 2015 through year 2016