

Supplier Code of Conduct Questions and Answers

These questions and answers are intended to assist with understanding the Supplier Code of Conduct and how it can be implemented.

ETHICAL BEHAVIOUR

What are ethical standards?

In order to do business with Government we expect suppliers to conduct their business and affairs in accordance with the highest ethical standards, including meeting industry standards and codes, not misleading or deceiving, acting fairly and honestly and treating people with respect.

What do you mean by being transparent about their practices?

There are a range of ways suppliers can be transparent about their ethical policies and practices. These could include publishing their workplace policies online, promoting them or providing them when requested.

LABOUR AND HUMAN RIGHTS

What international standards does this Code refer to?

This Code refers to international standards that are protected under international treaties or conventions recognised by New Zealand, such as the [United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#), [Convention on the Rights of the Child](#) and [International Labour Organization \(ILO\) conventions](#).

Why are suppliers only asked to ‘monitor and address’ human rights within their supply chain? Should they not be actively promoting human rights?

We expect suppliers to adhere to human rights standards within their domestic supply chain, such as eliminating modern slavery. However we realise that some international supply chains can be complex and difficult to monitor especially for small businesses. This Code sets an expectation that suppliers monitor human rights and take reasonable steps to address any breaches that come to their attention in their international supply chain.

We want to strike a balance between setting expectations on suppliers and not creating a Code that is overly burdensome for businesses in New Zealand.

HEALTH, SAFETY AND SECURITY

Shouldn't security and safety of information be contained in the contract rather than in the Code of Conduct?

This is a set of expectations that suppliers should meet at a minimum. Each individual agency should detail their specific security and safety of information requirements as part of their contract with the supplier. We expect security obligations will be managed by the party best positioned to manage it.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

What does environmental sustainability mean in this context?

Environmental sustainability refers to business operations and practices that respect the protection and preservation of the environment, reducing waste, carbon emissions and pollution.

What documentation will be needed to demonstrate compliance?

Government's expectation is that suppliers will establish environmentally responsible business practices and commit to helping New Zealand's transition to a net zero emissions economy.

There are a range of ways suppliers could demonstrate their environmentally responsible business practices, including publishing them on their website, promoting them or providing them when requested in tender documentation.