

ph-instruments Conflict Minerals Policy

In 2012, the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”) issued its final rule under Section 1502 of the 2010 Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (the “Conflict Minerals Rule”) imposing new disclosure and related supply chain due diligence requirements for public companies regarding their use of “Conflict Minerals” in products they manufacture or contract to manufacture. The goal of this new rule is to curb the violent conflict and human rights abuses in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (“DRC”)¹ and adjoining countries that are being financed in part by the exploitation and trade of Conflict Minerals from that region.

The Conflict Minerals Rule defines “Conflict Minerals” as cassiterite (tin), columbite-tantalite (tantalum), wolframite (tungsten), their respective derivatives and gold (commonly referred to as the “3Ts&G”). ph-instruments, being a provider of vacuum measurement instruments, intends to avoid these Conflict Minerals in the manufacturing of its products. ph-instruments is committed to identifying any of its suppliers who source Conflict Minerals from the DRC region from conflict sources. We expect our suppliers to partner with us in this endeavor regardless of whether they are subject to the new Conflict Minerals Rule by providing us with all necessary declarations. We also expect our suppliers to pass this requirement on to their supply chain if they do not source directly from smelters and determine the source of the Conflict Minerals. The process of mapping our end-to-end supply chain is onerous because ph-instruments deals with multiple tiers and many suppliers. However, ph-instruments is committed to this effort and should ph-instruments discover at any time that any of its suppliers are sourcing materials from the DRC region from conflict sources, ph-instruments will work with the supplier to end this practice and if the supplier refuses, ph-instruments will work diligently to identify and partner with an alternative supplier.

If you have any questions regarding ph-instruments Policy on Conflict Minerals, please contact us at info@ph-instruments.eu

¹ Conflict minerals procured from the following "covered countries" are the focus of the Rule: the DRC, Angola, Burundi, the Central African Republic, the Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia.