

Strict requirements: not just for ourselves

Relations with our suppliers are regulated in minute detail. Besides the essential purchase agreements with their respective general terms and conditions, a series of additional provisions apply, depending on the product and supplier in question. These include not only high quality standards, but also good working conditions and responsible environmental protection.

We apply strict selection criteria when sourcing our raw materials. We require precise information on all critical aspects, for example on the use of preserving agents, pesticides, heavy metals, and other potential sources of contamination. Binding processes regulate, for instance, the delivery and disposal of hazardous goods, or the precise procedures for our service providers in the area of facilities management.

For our suppliers, we have developed a Code of Conduct which sets out harmonized and binding criteria for responsible action. This is designed to ensure that our suppliers meet the same standards in the area of sustainability that are binding for us. The Code covers issues such as corruption and human rights as well as environmental protection. We have developed an appropriate system with which we can monitor our suppliers' compliance with the Code and regulate how we deal with deviations.

Please find the complete Code of Conduct for Suppliers as well as the introductory brochure for our suppliers [here](#).

Engagement for sustainable procurement standards

“Achieving more together” is the motto of the AIM PROGRESS committee, in which Beiersdorf has been an active member since October 2010. With an international membership, the committee operating under the aegis of the European Brands Association (AIM), and in North America in cooperation with the US Food, Beverage and Consumer Products Association (GMA), focuses on a more sustainable and responsible procurement. Its goal is to further improve sustainability over the entire supply chain, including conscientious purchasing principles. The initiative focuses on four areas: human rights and labor protection standards, health and safety, environmental management, and integrity in business practices.



Better performance through cooperation

“All major manufacturers of brand-name products are pursuing sustainable purchasing standards with criteria for social and environmental compatibility. Their collaborative efforts lead to performance improvements that benefit everyone concerned –

manufacturers and suppliers as well as the environment and consumers,” commented Dirk Strametz, Head of Procurement Europe & North America, as the reason for Beiersdorf’s active participation in the initiative.

A living improvement process

The main objectives of the AIM PROGRESS committee include sharing experience as well as fostering common methods for supplier assessment and development in the area of sustainability. Three member meetings each year, theme-related working groups and periodic workshops and online seminars for suppliers drive the continuous improvement process.

Reducing complexity

In the medium term, collecting, evaluating and sharing non-competitive information is expected to result in better standards for systematic supplier selection. The key benefits are increased effectiveness of audit processes and reduced complexity. An example of this is utilizing a web-based database from Supplier Ethical Data Exchange (Sedex), in which suppliers can enter general information such as assessment reports or certificates and make them available to customers. The advantages are obvious: similar questions be answered only once by suppliers, and all participants benefit equally from audit results

More information on the activities of AIM PROGRESS and Sedex can be found on the web: www.aim-progress.com and www.sedex.org.uk.