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Section 1502 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act enacted in July 2010 imposes new supply chain reporting requirements on publicly traded companies to promote transparency and consumer awareness regarding the use of “conflict minerals” columbitetantalite (coltan), cassiterite, gold, wolframite, or their derivatives (tantalum, tin, gold and tungsten).

As consequence of the Dodd-Frank Act, the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has adopted rules requiring publicly traded companies to disclose whether they use tantalum, tin, gold or tungsten that originated in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) or an adjoining country and if so, to issue a report identifying their products that are not conflict free and their due diligence efforts to determine the source and chain of custody of the metals.

“Conflict free” in this context means the product does not contain tantalum, tin, gold or tungsten that directly or indirectly finances or benefits armed groups in the DRC or an adjoining country.

EnOcean supports these efforts to eliminate the use of tantalum, tin, gold and tungsten from improper sources that could promote such serious problems in the DRC and adjoining countries.

EnOcean, like many companies in the electronics industry, uses components and materials that can include tantalum, tin, gold and tungsten to manufacture electronic products. For instance, tantalum might be used in certain electronic components such as capacitors while tin is used in tin-solder.

EnOcean does not purchase these metals directly from smelters or mines, so we must rely on the source information provided by our suppliers. We work with our direct suppliers to ensure responsible sourcing. EnOcean requires that suppliers whose products contain tantalum, tin, gold and tungsten submit this information to EnOcean using the standardized EICC/GeSI Conflict Minerals Reporting Template that traces the metals back through the supply chain.

If EnOcean becomes aware of a supplier whose supply chain includes metals from a conflict source, EnOcean will take the appropriate actions to remedy the situation in a timely manner, including reassessment of supplier relationships. EnOcean expects our suppliers to take similar measures with their suppliers to ensure alignment throughout the supply chain.