



NEWS

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Tungsten Industry Develops Conflict Minerals Legislation Compliance Framework

Supported by two leading tungsten industry trade associations, the International Tungsten Industry Association (ITIA), London, England, and the Refractory Metals Association (RMA), Princeton, New Jersey, a working group of tungsten refiners has established an Initiative that provides a mechanism for industry members to demonstrate their compliance with Security and Exchange Commission regulations under Section 1502 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act. The Initiative will be administered by the Tungsten Industry Conflict Materials Council (the “Council” or “TI-CMC”).

Under the Initiative, as monitored by the Council, assurances will be provided to the tungsten supply chain that conflict minerals, as defined in the regulations, processed at the smelter/refinery level are in compliance with those regulations. This Initiative offers a straightforward approach for firms that must make declarations on their supply chains.

The Initiative is based on the recognition that refiners, pivotally positioned as they are in the tungsten supply chain, can best determine the source of tungsten materials made available to the global marketplace.

Tungsten raw materials such as wolframite must undergo a complex refining process before they can be used in downstream products for industries such as automotive, aerospace, machinery and electronics. Tungsten refining is an involved chemical or pyrometallurgical process far beyond the means of artisanal operations in regions covered by the new legislation, a fact specific to tungsten on which the approach of the Initiative is based.

Firms participating in the Initiative must adhere to a supplier code of conduct, and if inquiry reveals that materials originated in concerned regions, the framework under the Initiative is consistent with the due diligence guidelines of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

The RMA will manage the infrastructure of the Initiative. It will be open to all interested tungsten firms, whether or not they are members of ITIA or RMA.

The TI-CMC program (www.ti-cmc.org) focuses on refiner behavior and policies and is the most reasonable approach to addressing the legislation's objectives. Development of the Initiative's infrastructure is underway and is expected to be complete by mid-summer 2013. Questions and comments may be directed to James R. Dale, TI-CMC acting administrator (jdale@mpif.org).

About ITIA:

The International Tungsten Industry Association is a not-for-profit association with scientific purposes. The principal aim of ITIA is to promote the use of tungsten and tungsten products on a global scale. ITIA provides a comprehensive education on all aspects of tungsten, collates statistics covering tungsten production, processing and consumption, and conducts an extensive health, safety and environment program to develop scientific data on the impact of tungsten on human health and the environment. ITIA member companies represent all aspects of the worldwide tungsten industry, as they are involved in mining, processing and downstream production. More information may be found on www.itia.info.

About RMA:

The RMA is an affiliate trade association of the Metal Powder Industries Federation, a trade association representing the metal powder producing and consuming industries. RMA serves as the voice of the North American refractory metals industry, encompassing producers of tungsten, molybdenum, tantalum, columbium, and rhenium powders and products through promotion of the industry's technology and research. For more information visit: www.mpif.org.

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Editor's note: a review copy is available. For further information contact James R. Dale at jdale@mpif.org.

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