



1.0 PURPOSE

This policy is in place to ensure F5 remains in compliance with conflict minerals reporting requirements in the United States and European Union, and that F5 meets customer requirements for both transparency and performance.

2.0 SCOPE

This policy covers suppliers and operations within F5's hardware groups.

3.0 POLICY STATEMENT

As a global company, we know the business of F5 has impacts throughout our world-wide value chain. The Dodd-Frank Consumer Protection and Wall Street Reform Act (the "Dodd-Frank Act"¹) found that the exploitation and trade of Tin, Tantalum, Tungsten, and Gold ("conflict minerals") were helping to finance extreme levels of violence in the DRC. The Dodd-Frank Act requires public companies to conduct due diligence and make certain disclosures regarding the use of conflict minerals.

Prompted by growing concerns about additional human rights violations beyond the scope of Dodd Frank, F5 has evolved its responsible minerals program and related due diligence practices to address minerals originating from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas (CAHRAs)². F5's program framework is in alignment with the OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas (OECD Guidance)³.

F5 requires suppliers using any of the four conflict minerals sourced from the DRC or an adjoining country to use only materials which are certified Conflict Free through the Conflict Free Smelter Initiative or a comparable process.

We are committed to eliminating conflict minerals from our manufacturing supply chain through use of widely adopted best practices, including:

- Establishing a conflict minerals compliance program consistent with the OECD Due Diligence guidance for downstream companies.
- Determining which F5 suppliers use the above-mentioned conflict minerals and targeting our efforts accordingly.
- Requiring all affected suppliers to provide a Conflict Minerals Reporting Template to the manufacturing supply chain team for review.



- Educate the supply chain of current risks and concerns and encourage suppliers to perform similar due diligence activities on their end.
- Collaborate with customers, suppliers, and industry associations such as the Responsible Minerals Initiative (RMI) on long-term solutions to enable responsible sourcing.
- Encourage smelters in our supply chain to undergo third-party assessment, such as Responsible Minerals Assurance Process (RAMP)⁴.
- Commit to transparency in the implementation of this policy by making available reports on our progress to relevant stakeholders and the public.

4.0 DEFINITIONS

Conflict Minerals

Conflict minerals are the metals Tin, Tantalum, Tungsten, and Gold, as well as the ores from which they are mined Cassiterite, Coltan, Wolframite and Gold.

Covered Countries

The covered countries are the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and any country with which the DRC shares a border.

5.0 RESPONSIBILITIES

Management for the conflict minerals program at F5 is the responsibility of the supply chain group within manufacturing, which is a part of the manufacturing department. This team works closely with peers in manufacturing, manufacturing supply chain, and product design.

The supply chain team oversees gathering CMRTs (Conflict Minerals Reporting Template), performing assessments of the CMRTs, following up with suppliers, filing the conflict minerals report, working with F5's contract manufacturer to determine purchase history and supplier use, and maintaining up-to-date information on conflict minerals regulations.



Policy Owner – Suzanne Schumacher, VP, Manufacturing

Policy Approver – Tom Fountain, EVP Global Services and Chief Strategy Officer

6.0 ENFORCEMENT

Suppliers and other parties may contact us with conflict minerals questions or concerns.

- Via email: rohscpliance@f5.com

Reports also may be made anonymously to the F5 Ethics Point portal.

- Online at f5.ethicspoint.com
- By telephone at +1 (855) 409-0947

If a supplier submits a CMRT with issues and those issues persist over an 18-month period without being addressed, F5 will take corrective actions with that supplier up to and including removing them as an approved vendor from F5's Approved Vendor List.

7.0 EXCEPTIONS

Exceptions to this policy are not permitted.

8.0 DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT

This policy must be reviewed annually or when needed by the Policy Owner as part of the conflict minerals filings due to the United States Securities and Exchange Commission



Revision History and Approval

Rev #	Revision Date	Description	Policy Owner	EVP Approver
1.1	March 15, 2023	Re-publish existing policy in new format	Suzanne Schumacher	Tom Fountain
2.0	March 19, 2024	Reviewed-no updates (possible updates during the report in May)	Suzanne Schumacher	Tom Fountain
3.0	April 19,2024	Changed the verbiage of the policy statement, added CMRT link and defined terminology	Suzanne Schumacher	Tom Fountain

9.0 RELATED POLICIES & PROCESSES

[Partner Code of Conduct](#)

F5’s latest conflict Minerals reporting template is always available at the link below.

<https://my.f5.com/manage/s/article/K51230228>

¹**Dodd-Frank Section 1502:** In 2012, the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) adopted rules mandated by the conflict minerals disclosure provisions of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act. These rules require publicly traded companies to report annually on the source and chain of custody of conflict minerals in products manufactured by the company.

²**OECD definition of Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas (CAHRAs):** Conflict-affected and high-risk areas are identified by the presence of armed conflict, widespread violence or other risks of harm to people. Armed conflict may take a variety of forms, such as a conflict of international or non-international character, which may involve two or more states, or may consist of wars of liberation, or insurgencies, civil wars, etc. High-risk areas may include areas of political instability or repression, institutional weakness, insecurity, collapse of civil infrastructure and widespread violence. Such areas are often characterized by widespread human rights abuses and violations of national or international law.

³**OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas (OECD Guidance):** Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict Affected and High-Risk Areas, Third Edition, and related Supplements on Tin, Tantalum and Tungsten and on Gold.

⁴**Responsible Minerals Assurance Process (RMAP):** The flagship program of the RMI, the Responsible Minerals Assurance Process (RMAP) uses an independent third-party audit of smelter/refiner management systems and sourcing practices to validate conformance with RMAP protocols and current global standards. The audit employs a risk-based approach to validate smelters' company-level management processes for responsible mineral procurement. Companies can then use this information to inform their sourcing choices.