

EE STATEMENT ON EXTRACTIVE MINERALS

As the UK's biggest communications company with more than 27 million customers and 600 retail stores across the country, EE takes its responsibilities very seriously.

EE's Code of Conduct Policy and Suppliers Ethical Charter set out the company's overall standards, principles and commitments towards ethical conduct, anti-corruption, environmental protection and legal compliance. These standards extend to EE's partners, subcontractors and suppliers who we support to go beyond legal compliance. This statement provides further clarification to these standards regarding the illegal trade of natural resources especially minerals, commonly called 'conflict minerals'.

As a responsible corporate citizen and a responsible member of the ICT industry, EE declares its commitment to actively work to reduce the negative social and environmental impacts caused by mining activities and help to create a responsible mineral trade.

We believe the most effective way to achieve this commitment is to:

1. Raise awareness and work with our suppliers to promote improvements in tracking mineral sourcing and transparency among their own suppliers, and so on up the supply chain.
2. Encourage our customers to save natural resources through the recycling and reuse of redundant equipment, and promote the longer use of cell phones through attractive conditions for customers.
3. Work with the ICT industry through the Global e-Sustainability Initiative (GeSI) to support the development of conflict free supply chains.

Background

Electronic products like mobile phones, laptop computers and cameras contain substantial amounts of numerous metals, the most important metals for the ICT industry being cobalt, tantalum, tin, tungsten, gold and platinum.

Minerals are extracted all over the world, but mostly in developing and high-risk countries. Mining of these minerals bring jobs, income, and fosters development in these countries, but also create issues like environmental degradation, the use of child labour, unacceptable working conditions and human rights violations. In some countries, these activities also finance military bodies and contribute to on-going tensions and conflicts.

Currently these issues are acute in the Eastern Provinces of Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in the extraction and trade of ores of tantalum, tin, tungsten and gold, which flow to world markets through DRC and adjoining countries.

EE does not manufacture products or directly purchase these minerals from any source.