

OCED GUIDELINES FOR MULTINATIONAL ENTERPRISES

REPORT OF THE NEW ZEALAND NATIONAL CONTACT POINT TO THE COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT AND MULTINATIONAL ENTERPRISES

MAY 2005

A. Institutional Arrangements

No update is required for Annex 1.

For Annex 2, the contact details of the NCP have been changed to:

International Technical and Regulatory Co-ordination Team
Regulatory and Competition Policy Branch
Ministry of Economic Development
PO Box 1473
Wellington
New Zealand

Phone: +64 4 462 4287

Fax: +64 4 499 8508

Email: oeed-ncp@med.govt.nz

Web-address: <http://oeed-multinat.med.govt.nz>

What is the composition of the NCP?

The New Zealand National Contact Point is comprised of officials from the Ministry of Economic Development.

The NCP is assisted by a Liaison Group comprising representatives from the:

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade;
- Department of Labour;
- Ministry for the Environment;
- Treasury;
- New Zealand Council of Trade Unions;
- Engineering, Printing, and Manufacturing Union;
- Business New Zealand;
- New Zealand Business Council for Sustainable Development; and
- New Zealand Sustainable Business Network.

The members of the Liaison Group represent the views of their stakeholders to the NCP and promote and supply information about the Guidelines to their stakeholders and other members of their organisation.

The NCP has adopted a co-ordinated and cooperative approach to involve all relevant stakeholders in discussions on the promotion of the Guidelines in New Zealand through the Liaison Group.

The Liaison Group meets two or three times a year or as required.

How does the NCP relate to other government agencies?

The NCP draws on the expertise and resources of other relevant government agencies as needed – often through the contacts in the Liaison Group.

The NCP recognises that meeting the responsibilities for the Guidelines requires a co-operative and co-ordinated approach. It has sought the active involvement of other government departments in the following ways:

- by supplying information about the Guidelines to all government departments and asking each to ensure its officials are aware of the Guidelines and to incorporate them appropriately in departmental policies, processes, and promotional activities.
- by asking government departments to help promote the Guidelines through their websites.

How does the NCP relate to social partners (business community and employee organisations) involved in the functioning of the NCP?

The NCP consults with business, labour groups and other social partners as required (either directly or through their representatives on the Liaison Group) and asks these organisations to help promote the Guidelines through their websites.

How does the NCP relate to other interested parties, including NGOs, involved in the functioning of the NCP?

The NCP welcomes the input of NGOs and wider civil society. It consults with interested parties including NGOs as required and through the Liaison Group.

B. Information and Promotion

How have the Guidelines been made available in your country?

The Guidelines are available in both written and electronic forms from the NCP. The New Zealand NCP's updated website now includes:

- a link to the Guidelines;
- an introductory guide to the Guidelines and its processes;
- a description of the role of the NCP;
- contact details for the NCP;
- documents relevant to the Guidelines (including NCP meetings and Guidelines-related OECD reports); and
- links to OECD websites and those of other relevant organisations.

Hard copies of the Guidelines are available on request and are sent to anyone who requests a copy of them.

Information on the Guidelines and the role of the NCP in New Zealand have been included in information packs at business and other relevant fora. The NCP also distributes an informational pamphlet on the Guidelines to other people inquiring about the Guidelines.

How is co-operation with the business community, trade unions, NGOs and the interested public carried out, with respect to information on, and promotion of, the Guidelines?

The Liaison Group acts as the major channel for co-operation in respect of promotion of the Guidelines in New Zealand. Members promote the Guidelines to their stakeholders and work in a co-operative way to promote the Guidelines. The New Zealand Overseas Investment Commission is also involved in promoting the Guidelines to foreign multinational enterprises looking to operate in New Zealand.

Have other information and promotion activities been held or planned?

The NCP has:

- distributed information about the Guidelines to all government departments and advised them about their obligations under the Guidelines;
- discussed the Guidelines with relevant government organisations in an effort to encourage them to promote the Guidelines in their future activities;
- distributed information packs about the Guidelines to businesses and other interested parties at industry seminars;
- updated and extended its website and promotional material. A pamphlet on the Guidelines has been prepared is distributed at conferences and as the occasion arises.

Planned activities include:

- a media campaign to promote the Guidelines;
- investigating the feasibility of producing an information booklet which highlights the commonality of the Guidelines with other programs and activities related to corporate social responsibility. The booklet would focus on highlighting responsibilities as a part of usual best practice rather than additional compliance costs.

No update to Annex 3 is required.

Have enquiries been received from:

(a) other NCPs;

No enquiries have been received from other NCPs.

(b) the business community, employee organisations, other non-governmental organisations, or the public;

No enquiries have been received from the business community, employee organisations, other non-governmental organisations, or the public.

(c) governments of non-adhering countries;

No enquiries have been received from the governments of non-adhering countries.

C. Implementation in specific instances

Have specific instance been brought to the attention of your National Contact Point?

No specific instances have been brought to the attention of the NCP. The Liaison Group has discussed instances raised with other NCPs and the implications of them for New Zealand and to New Zealand multinational enterprises operating overseas.

D. Other

How have the core criteria for the operation of NCPs been applied in your country to further the effectiveness of guidelines implementation?

Visibility: The Guidelines are readily available, through the NCP website and in other ways. Members of the Liaison Group also promote the Guidelines and the NCP. As described above, steps have been taken to increase the visibility of the Guidelines and the NCP.

Accessibility: The NCP has responded to all enquiries and requests for information received. The NCP can be contacted by telephone, e-mail, fax or post.

Transparency: All activities of the NCP have been open and transparent. There have been no specific instances raised to date, and no issues of confidentiality/transparency have arisen.

Accountability: The NCP is accountable to the government through the Minister of Commerce.

Other information on the nature and results of NCP activities;

To date, the main focus of the NCP, working with the Liaison Group, has been promoting the Guidelines, distributing information about them and raising the awareness of them in New Zealand. While there has been some progress, the NCP is conscious that more can be done, and will continue its promotional activities.

Meetings of the Liaison Group provide a forum to discuss other issues (besides Guidelines promotion), such as the overlap of the Guidelines with other codes and standards for corporate social responsibility (including the development of ISO 26000 and other New Zealand government-sponsored initiatives).

Although no specific instances have been raised with the NCP, members of the Liaison Group have indicated that the potential to do so under the Guidelines has provided some leverage to successfully address issues of concern with multinational enterprises operating within New Zealand.