

## GOOD PRACTICES FOR CORPORATE STANDARDS TO SUPPORT THE EFFORTS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IN THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION

The following practices are authored by the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland with the help and support of the Governments of Australia, Canada, Finland, Germany, Japan and the United States of America. These practices recognise that proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction has the potential to seriously threaten international peace and security and undermine economic, commercial and social development; and recognise the important role that the diverse commercial sector (exporters, shippers, freight-forwarders, brokers and indeed all those involved in commercial or financial transactions) can play in assisting multilateral efforts in non-proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction. These practices are not legally binding - they are intended to provide a platform from which individual companies may adopt internal practices and are not exhaustive. These practices complement existing legal obligations to comply with national law.

### PRACTICES

It is suggested that companies should seek to:

- 1.0 implement internal systems to ensure due-diligence checks are carried out on potential customers and business partners and the goods, software and technology that they wish to acquire, utilising public information such as early warning lists, red-flag checklists and questionnaires provided by the United Nations, States and other parties with an interest in supporting the multilateral non-proliferation effort, and to consult with the relevant government authorities as necessary;
- 2.0 monitor, collate and vet enquiries within the scope of due diligence, relating to the acquisition of proliferation sensitive goods, software and technology;
- 3.0 consult government export control authorities before having any dealings with entities identified as being of proliferation concern either from public sources, from corporate monitoring systems or from contact with relevant competent authorities in states themselves;
- 4.0 implement best efforts to share information about illicit attempts to procure items for Weapons of Mass Destruction programmes with security and other relevant agencies in the State where they are established and with business partners and others in instances where the State judges that broader publicity would be appropriate;

5.0 promote the adoption of due diligence and information sharing within the supply chain and with other business partners within the boundaries of legitimate protection of business and company information;

6.0 incorporate non-proliferation measures and export control compliance into existing Corporate Social responsibility statements;

7.0 encourage relevant industry-wide trade and professional bodies to recognise the importance of supporting and encouraging the non-proliferation effort and the measures set out herein; and

8.0 foster an open and transparent relationship with appropriate government and regulatory authorities.

Adoption and promotion of these practices will enhance active commercial sector support for non-proliferation by reducing the risk of inadvertent supply of items to illicit programmes.