



**Pax Australia Pty. Ltd**  
Quality aerosol and liquid manufacturers  
A.B.N. 42 000 447 414  
9 Williamson Rd, Ingleburn NSW 2565  
Phone: (02) 9829 2322



# Business Ethics Policy & Procedures

## Introduction

This document consolidates all policies with respect to Business Ethics and Conflict of Interest for Pax Australia (Pax).

- Pax refers to affiliated companies and joint venture arrangements in which we have a majority interest or for which we have operating responsibility.

Interpretation and amendment of our procedure is our responsibility.

Individual organizations, subsidiary or affiliated companies and joint venture arrangements may supplement these procedures as appropriate.

All such supplements shall be in keeping with the spirit of the Pax Business Ethics Policy.

It always has been and continues to be the intent of the Pax that its employees maintain the highest ethical standards in their conduct of our affairs. The following sets forth in summary form for the benefit of all Pax employees, wherever located, our policy with respect to:

1. gifts, favours, entertainment and payments given or received by employees;
2. potential conflicts of interest; and
3. certain other matters.

The essence of this policy is that each employee will conduct Pax's business with integrity, in compliance with applicable laws, and in a manner that excludes consideration of personal advantage.

Strict adherence to this policy will protect the Pax and its employees from criticism, litigation or embarrassment that might result from alleged or real conflicts of interest or unethical practices.

Any employee who is aware of or suspects illegal activity, fraud or any other violation of the Pax Australia ethical standards must report his or her concerns.

Avenues of reporting include HR, Line Management or Senior Management.

Employees may also report suspected violations of the Business Conduct Guide or Ethics Policy by submitting their concerns using the Internet. This can be done from the Pax web page, under Business Ethics section ([www.paxaus.com/business-ethics](http://www.paxaus.com/business-ethics))

Every effort will be made to protect the identity of the employee, or an employee may elect to report anonymously.

All reports will be assessed both fairly and reasonably.

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## A. Payments by Pax Australia

### Gifts

Gifts, favours and entertainment may be given to others at Pax expense only if they meet all the following criteria:

- a. They are consistent with customary business practices;
- b. They are not excessive in value and cannot be construed as bribes or pay-offs;
- c. They are not in contravention of applicable law or ethical standards; and
- d. Public disclosure of the facts will embarrass neither the company nor the employee.

Accounting records and supporting documentation reflecting gifts, favours and entertainment to others must be accurately stated, including clear, descriptive text

Any gift provided by Pax would have approval in advance for gifts, favours or entertainment of unusual monetary value limited to AUD\$50 per recipient per year.

In case of doubt as to the legality of any gift, favour or entertainment proposed to be given by or on behalf of the company the CEO or HR should be consulted in advance of any such commitment.

Payments to government personnel to expedite rendition of routine governmental actions are not authorised. However, Pax does not prohibit expediting payments, properly recorded in the company books, which are not excessive in amount, when:

- e. The making of such payments is an established and well-recognized practice in the respective country/area;
- f. The action to be expedited by the payment is a routine administrative action to which the company is clearly entitled (for example, processing governmental papers such as visas and work permits, loading and unloading cargo, and providing services such as police protection, mail delivery and inspections); and
- g. The payment does not violate applicable laws of any country.

Procedures for authorization of, and record keeping for, any such payment - regardless of form or manner - lies with HR department. Payments may not be made:

- h. to expedite any decision by government personnel whether, or on what terms, to award new business to or to continue business with any particular party, or
- i. to encourage a decision to award new business to or to continue business with a particular party.

### Commissions, Rebates, Credits, Discounts & Allowances

In connection with sales by Pax, commissions, rebates, discounts, credits, and allowances should be paid or granted only by the CEO, and such payments should:

- a. Bear a reasonable relationship to the value of goods delivered or services rendered
- b. Be by cheque or bank transfer to the specific business entity with whom the agreement is made or to whom the original related sales invoice was issued - not to individual officers, employees or agents of such entity or to a related business entity;
- c. Be made only in the country of the entity's place of business; and
- d. Be supported by documentation that is complete and that clearly defines the nature and purpose of the transaction.

Agreements for Pax to pay commissions, rebates, credits, discounts or allowances should be in writing. When this is not feasible, the payment arrangement should be supported by an explanatory

memorandum for file prepared by the approving business and/or function and reviewed by CEO or HR.

The intent of the policy applicable to the payment or granting of commissions, rebates, discounts, credits and allowances in connection with sales by Pax is to avoid illegal or unethical payments, or establishing an environment where these may inadvertently be made.

An unusual situation may occur, however, where an exception to the policy is nonetheless ethical and hence warranted. It is the responsibility of Senior Management to review in advance all such situations, which arise.

Any such exceptions must be approved by CEO or HR. In all cases, however, there must be no falsification, misrepresentation or deliberate overbilling reflected in any document (including invoices, consular documents, letters of credit, etc.). This includes suppression or omission of documents or of information in documents, or deliberate misdirection of documents.

When Pax is required to pay a commission, credit, rebate or other obligation to a third party, or to the payee or its bank in a country other than such entity's place of business, or in an unusual currency, the payment may be made only if, in addition to satisfying requirements stated above, the following criteria are met:

- e. The payee must submit a written request from a properly authorized officer of the business entity specifying the manner and place of payment.
- f. Nothing in our dealings with the payee indicates that any tax or exchange control law violations or other illegal purposes involved
- g. Nor is it otherwise illegal for Pax as supplier or payer to make such payments.

***Such exceptions should be rare, if at all.***

Commissions, rebates, credits, discounts or allowances that are paid or granted by Pax in conformity with standard trade terms for the industry, catalogue prices, or other normal, standard procedures are deemed to have been established in writing and need not be documented in a written agreement or memorandum for file.

### **Purchases of Goods & Services**

In connection with Pax's purchases of goods and services, including commissions related thereto, payments should be made only in the country of the seller's or provider's place of business or in the country in which the product was delivered or service rendered. All such payments shall be consistent with corporate and trade practice.

Payments for goods and services purchased by Pax are subject to the same considerations noted above with respect to payment of commissions, etc. The only exception is that payments made in the country in which the product was delivered or in which the service was rendered by the vendor are not, per se, considered subject to special review or to a requirement for a written request for payment from an officer of the payee, unless circumstances suggest that the manner of payment might be illegal or unethical.

## **B. Gifts Received**

Employees shall neither seek nor accept for themselves or others any gifts, favours or entertainment without a legitimate business purpose, nor shall they seek or accept loans (other than conventional

loans at market rates from lending institutions) from any person or business organization that does or seeks to do business with, or is a competitor of Pax. In the application of this policy:

- a. Employees may accept for themselves and members of their families common courtesies usually associated with customary business practices;
- b. An especially strict standard is expected with respect to gifts, services, discounts, entertainment or considerations of any kind from suppliers; and
- c. It is never permissible to accept a gift in cash or cash equivalents (e.g., stocks or other forms of marketable securities) of any amount.

In certain situations, refusal of gifts with a value substantially in excess of customary business practices can result in awkward business situations.

The propriety of employees keeping such valuable gifts for personal use versus turning them over to Pax, donating them to a charity or other disposition should be discussed in each case with the employee's Senior Manager. In the event employees are permitted to retain such gifts, the Senior Manager shall record its approval, which shall be kept on file (see paragraph G-2-b below) for potential audit review.

Disposition of gifts received by Board members, CEO and Senior Managers should be discussed in each case with the Pax Board of Management.

### **C. Conflicts of Interest**

Employees should avoid any situation which involves or may involve a conflict between their personal interests and the interests of Pax. As in all other facets of their duties, employees dealing with customers, suppliers, contractors, competitors or any person doing or seeking to do business with the company are to act in the best interests of the company to the exclusion of considerations of personal preference or advantage.

Each employee shall make prompt and full disclosure in writing to the employee's business or function management of a prospective situation which may involve a conflict of interest. This includes:

- a. Ownership by an employee or, to the employee's knowledge, by a member of the employee's family of a significant financial interest\* in any outside enterprise which does or seeks to do business with, or is a competitor of, the company;  
\*As a minimum standard, a "significant" financial interest is a direct or indirect aggregate interest of an employee and family members of more than:
  - (i) 1% of any class of the outstanding securities of a firm or a corporation,
  - (ii) 10% interest in a partnership or association, or
  - (iii) 5% of the total assets or gross income of such employee.
- b. Serving as a director, officer, partner, consultant of, or in a managerial position with, or employment in a technical capacity by, an outside enterprise, which does or is seeking to do business with, or is a competitor of Pax;
- c. Acting as a broker, finder, go-between or otherwise for the benefit of a third party in transactions involving or potentially involving Pax or its interests; and
- d. Any other arrangement or circumstance, including family or other personal relationships, which might dissuade the employee from acting in the best interest of the company.

All information disclosed to management as required by this policy shall be treated confidentially, except to the extent necessary to protect the company interests.

When, as required by the policy, an employee discloses prospective situations, which may involve a conflict of interest, management shall review the potential conflict.

In some circumstances, it may be appropriate for management to review the matter in conjunction with Legal consult. Approval or disapproval of a situation under review should be documented in writing. The situation should be considered when assigning the employee new duties. Each actual or potential conflict of interest must be reported promptly, i.e., as soon as the conflict arises, and must be noted by the employee on each annual business ethics survey so long as the conflict or potential conflict of interest continues.

If a conflict of interest is considered to be unacceptable, management should promptly resolve the matter.

If the situation is deemed not to be a present or potential conflict of interest, management should notify the employee of the decision in writing.

The employee need not report the situation on future annual surveys of outside interests and conflicts of interest as long as there is no change in the circumstances involved. In questions of conflict of interest, the term "family" should be interpreted broadly.

The key to resolving potential conflicts is whether the employee's duties for the company, or those of their subordinates, require making decisions that could be influenced by the interest reported. Other considerations include, but are not limited to, whether or not:

- e. The outside interest does business or competes with the employee's business, function or site
- f. The employee has an active, managerial or decision-making role in the outside interest.
- g. The employee has access to company information potentially useful to the outside interest.
- h. Public disclosure of the facts will embarrass the company.

## **D. Inside Information**

Employees shall not:

- a. Give or release, without proper authority, to anyone not employed by the company, or to another employee who has no need for information, data or information of a confidential nature obtained while in employment of Pax.
- b. Use non-public information obtained while in employment of Pax (including information about customers, suppliers or competitors) for the personal profit of the employee or anyone else.

Improper use of inside information can be inhibited by careful control and restriction of access to such information.

Employees who handle inside information, and who may not have the background to understand the legal and corporate implications of the misuse of such information, should be periodically advised of corporate policy and of the severe legal penalties that can be associated with misuse of inside information.

## **E. Political Contributions**

Employees shall not make any contribution of company funds, property or services to any political party or committee, or to any candidate for or holder of any office of any government – national, state, or local.

This policy does not preclude:

- a. the operation of a political action committee under applicable laws;
- b. company contributions, where lawful, to support or oppose public referenda or similar ballot issues; or
- c. political contributions, where lawful and reviewed in advance by the Board of Management.

No direct or indirect pressure in any form is to be directed toward employees to make any political contribution or participate in the support of a political party or the political candidacy of any individual.

This policy shall not affect the right of directors, officers, employees, and agents of the company to make personal political contributions to the party, committee, or candidate of their choice as long as the donation is derived exclusively from that individual's personal funds or time and in no way was compensated directly or indirectly by the company.

## **F. Accounting Standards and Documentation**

- a. All accounts and records shall be documented in a manner that:
  - (i) Clearly describe and identify the true nature of business transactions, assets, liability or equity, and
  - (ii) Properly and timely classifies and records entries on the books of account in conformity with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.
- b. No record, entry or document shall be false, distorted, misleading, misdirected, deliberately incomplete or suppressed.

The company has established internal control standards and procedures to ensure that assets are protected and properly used and that financial records and reports are accurate and reliable.

Employees share the responsibility for maintaining and complying with required internal controls.

Improper accounting and documentation and fraudulent financial reporting are not only contrary to Pax policy but also may be in violation of the accounting provisions of Federal or State Acts, Regulations, Planning Instruments and other Statutory Instruments within Australia, including the Independent Commission Against Corruption Act or other laws or regulations.

Such violations potentially involve personal liability, both civil and criminal, as well as sanctions against the company. Examples include intentionally misclassifying amounts between cost or capital, intentionally accelerating or deferring costs or revenue more properly reflected in a current period, intentionally misclassifying unsaleable inventory as acceptable finished product and intentionally falsifying travel and expense reports.

## **G. Annual Reporting**

- a. Each Board Member and Senior Manager shall file each October with the CEO:
  - (i) an affirmation of personal compliance with the Business Ethics Policy in the preceding year; and
  - (ii) a statement listing all their potential conflicts of interest as defined in paragraph C-1 of the Business Ethics Policy; or
  - (iii) if there are none, a statement to that effect.
- b. Each Board Member and Senior Manager shall file each October with the CEO a brief description of each known violation of this policy in the preceding calendar year and steps

taken to prevent recurrence, or if there was none, a statement to that effect. Violations include:

- (i) unethical conduct that results in employee terminations and resignations; and
  - (ii) deviations from the policy in the areas of: payments by the company, gifts received, conflicts of interest, inside information, political contributions, and accounting standards and documentation.
- c. Each Senior Manager shall respond for their entire department as well as for any subsidiary or affiliated companies, including joint ventures, for which they have administrative responsibility. The response should state the following
- (i) That the organization has complied with all parts of the policy (any exceptions / waivers should be described); and
  - (ii) That the Business Ethics Policy and Procedures have been circulated to each employee and that signed affirmation of compliance, with a notification regarding the continuing duty to disclose conflicts of interest, has been requested and received from, at a minimum, the following categories of personnel:
    - i. Management personnel.
    - ii. Purchasing agents and other persons who are authorized to approve purchase orders or requisitions or approve payments related to the purchase of goods and services
    - iii. Persons who are in a position to influence in a significant manner:
      1. the decision to purchase goods or services;
      2. the terms of purchase; or
      3. the choice of vendor, including those who may direct a purchase toward a particular vendor.
    - iv. Persons who determine or significantly influence the setting of prices (including determination of discounts, allowances, credits, etc.)
    - v. Persons who select or significantly influence the choice of distributors, dealers, licensees, brokers or agents of the company.
    - vi. Persons (including secretaries and other support personnel) who have access to significant undisclosed corporate information, such as:
      1. materials financial information
      2. potential acquisitions, mergers and divestitures
- d. Annually, Internal Auditing shall review all statements filed with the CEO, supporting files and work of the individual, any similar findings of the internal auditors or independent accountants, and other sources of information that may be reasonably available, and submit a report to the CEO.
- The CEO, after consideration of the report, will forward it for consideration by the Board of management and the Board of Directors.

Signed:



**Paul Curryer**  
Chief Executive Officer

8/9/22.

Date: