

Section 1 - Conflict Minerals Disclosure

Item 1.01 - Conflict Minerals Disclosure and Report

Pursuant to Rule 13p-1 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, American Axle & Manufacturing Holdings, Inc. (the "Company" or "AAM") has determined that it is required to file a Conflict Minerals Report, which is filed as Exhibit 1.01 to this Specialized Report on Form SD. AAM's Conflict Minerals Report is also available on our website at aam.com/suppliers/doing-business-with-aam/conflict-minerals.

Item 1.02 - Exhibit

A copy of the Company's Conflict Minerals Report for the period of January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017 is filed as Exhibit 1.01 hereto and is also available on our website at the address referenced in Item 1.01 above.

Section 2 - Exhibits

Item 2.01 - Exhibits

The following exhibit is filed as part of this report:

[Exhibit 1.01](#) - Conflict Minerals Report for the period from January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017 as required by Items 1.01 and 1.02 of this Form SD.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the duly authorized undersigned.

American Axle & Manufacturing Holdings, Inc.
(Registrant)

/s/ David E. Barnes
Vice President & General Counsel

Date: May 29, 2018

**AMERICAN AXLE & MANUFACTURING HOLDINGS, INC.
CONFLICT MINERALS REPORT**

Year End December 31, 2017

Introduction

This report covers the period of January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017 and has been prepared pursuant to Rule 13p-1 (17CFR 240.13p-1) (the Rule) under the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934. The Rule imposes certain reporting requirements on SEC registrants whose manufactured products contain conflict minerals which are necessary to the functionality or production of their products. Conflict minerals are defined as cassiterite, columbite-tantalite, gold, wolframite, and their derivatives, which are limited to tin, tantalum, tungsten, and gold (3TG) that originated in the Democratic Republic of the Congo or an adjoining country.

American Axle & Manufacturing Holdings, Inc. and its subsidiaries (collectively, the “Company” or “AAM”) is a global Tier 1 supplier to the automotive, commercial and industrial markets. We design, engineer, validate and manufacture driveline, metal forming, powertrain and casting products. AAM employs over 25,000 associates operating in more than 90 facilities in 17 countries. As explained below, the strategic growth of our business, and the increased complexity of our product offerings and procurement data bases and systems during 2017, has provided substantially increased complexity as further explained below. The AAM products that principally use 3TG generally include printed circuit boards and the components that go on those boards. Our business and products are more fully described in our public web site (<https://www.aam.com/what-we-do/our-products>).

This report relates to the process undertaken by AAM with respect to its products that were manufactured or contracted to be manufactured during calendar year 2017 that may contain conflict minerals. The automotive industry supply chain is a high volume, complex and interdependent undertaking. As a result, we rely on our direct suppliers to provide us with information about the source of 3TG contained in their products and their downstream supplier products. The successful launch and continued manufacturing of a vehicle takes massive coordination and several years of planning. Many, if not most, of the products sold by AAM are highly engineered mechanical devices subject to extreme tolerances and operating conditions. Changes to the direct material supply base are only conducted by a Tier 1 supplier after extensive research and qualification of the sub-supplier and detailed compliance with the vehicle manufacturer’s production part approval process.

On April 6, 2017 AAM closed the acquisition of Metaldyne Performance Group Inc. (“MPG”), a highly-decentralized company. MPG had over 50 facilities, with several facilities having stand-alone ERP systems (13 different systems, with 55 different variations). Consolidating the MPG supplier base into the existing AAM ERP system is a multi-year undertaking. In order to accelerate this consolidation, a third-party has been hired to combine and enhance the MPG and AAM supplier lists. That effort is currently under way and results should be available by the time the 2018 conflict minerals data collection process begins.

For 2016 reporting, MPG was a supplier to AAM and their supplier data was included in the MPG CMRT reported to AAM. For 2017, MPG supplier responses were directly reviewed by AAM and included in the consolidated AAM CMRT.

Reasonable Country of Origin Inquiry

Step 1: Management System.

A. Conflict Mineral Policy

- AAM’s Conflict Minerals Policy (Policy) can be found on AAM’s public website at <https://www.aam.com/suppliers/doing-business-with-aam/conflict-minerals>.
 - The Policy states AAM will comply with the disclosure and reporting requirements of Section 1502 of the Dodd Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, as well as the rules of the SEC promulgated under such Act.
 - The Policy also requires AAM’s suppliers to engage in due diligence of their supply chain to understand and report the content of their parts supplied to AAM.
 - The Policy is guided in part by AAM’s cultural values, in particular, integrity and “The Power of Doing What is Right.” AAM intends to make sourcing decisions consistent with our cultural values.

B. Internal Management Structure

- *Cross Functional Team*
 - A cross functional team including representatives from Global Procurement, Engineering, Finance, Legal, and Sales has supported supply chain due diligence.
 - The purpose of the cross functional team is to ensure availability of resources necessary to support AAM’s supply chain due diligence process and meet the regulatory requirements applicable to AAM. The team monitors execution and effectiveness of AAM’s process and collaborates to promote compliance.
- *Senior Leadership or Executive Level Awareness*
 - AAM’s Vice President, General Counsel & Secretary and CCO leads and oversees the team and provides periodic program updates to other senior management and to the Audit Committee and Board of Directors. These

briefings include a summary of the information collected during the previous calendar year and actual and potential risks identified in the supply chain risk assessment.

C. Controls and Transparency Over The Mineral Supply Chain

- The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (“OECD”) developed Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High Risk Areas, Third Edition 2016 (the “OECD Guidelines”). The OECD Guidelines encourage participation in industry-driven programs to establish a system of controls and transparency over the mineral supply chain which includes either a chain of custody or a traceability system.
 - AAM is engaged and actively participates in the Original Equipment Suppliers Association (OESA). The OESA has provided forums for a focus group on conflict minerals and AAM has been a participant.
 - AAM also uses the iPoint Conflict Minerals Platform (iPCMP) which is promoted by the Automotive Industry Action Group (AIAG), an organization comprised of membership from original equipment manufacturers and suppliers. This industry-driven group contributes financially to the Responsible Minerals Initiative (RMI) which supports the certification of smelters and refiners to be validated as conflict free. AAM became a full member of the AIAG in 2014. Certification through the RMI validates chain of custody and/or traceability of the minerals from the mine to the smelter. This is the primary methodology for a downstream supplier like AAM to engage with and have potential influence on the upstream supply base (smelters/refiners).
 - AAM retained iPoint Data Management Services to collect, manage, aggregate and report conflict mineral data from suppliers for 2017. These services have enhanced consistency in data reporting across our suppliers and the application of standards consistent with other Tier 1 automotive parts suppliers.
 - AAM adopted the Conflict Minerals Reporting Template (CMRT) Rev. 5.10 and higher for 2017 supplier reporting.
 - AAM added conflict minerals specific questions to its Supplier Entry Form in January 2015 in an attempt to gather relevant information at the time a prospective supplier becomes a direct material supplier to AAM.
 - AAM requested suppliers submit their AAM Supplier Number along with their CMRT for sorting the reliability of the supplier information provided.
 - A contractual condition of doing business with AAM requires each supplier to represent to AAM that neither it nor any of its subcontractors, vendors, agents or other associated third parties will utilize child, slave, prisoner or any other form of forced or involuntary

labor, or engage in abusive employment or corrupt business practices. At AAM's request, the supplier must certify in writing its compliance with these standards. This contractual requirement is broad enough to allow AAM to resource for violations of AAM's Conflict Minerals Policy.

D. Company Engagement With Supplier

- AAM established a supplier portal to strengthen AAM's engagement with suppliers.

The supplier portal is available at <https://www.aam.com/suppliers>

- The supplier portal provides compliance guidance and other conflict mineral specific documents (i.e. Policy, supplier response documentation, AAM expectation of supplier compliance, and general communication).
- AAM conducted its annual Supplier Day in the US in June 2017 during which the importance of timely and thorough compliance with due diligence requests was emphasized once again to suppliers.
- The retention of iPoint Data Management Services has brought additional resources to the data collection task and improved the amount and quality of the communication between AAM and its suppliers during the data collection process.

E. Grievance Mechanism

The conflictminerals@aam.com mailbox is a mechanism available for any interested stakeholder to communicate their concerns/grievances regarding AAM's conflict minerals process. Each supplier contacted is advised of the existence of this mailbox as a point of contact for questions or concerns. Other stakeholders are made aware of this mailbox as a result of previous CMR filings.

Step 2 Identify and Assess Risks

A. Identification of Suppliers and Point of Contact

- AAM has identified each of its direct material suppliers to whom payments were made in 2017. There were 818 direct material suppliers identified with 563 being in-scope.
- Suppliers whose 2017 annual spend was less than \$10,000 totaled 61 and were considered "out of scope". AAM determined that suppliers with such a low annual spend figure are a lower priority and available resources were placed instead on trying to achieve improved compliance from our more substantial direct material suppliers.

- AAM intercompany direct material suppliers were removed from the population as any material supplied to AAM would be purchased from the in-scope direct material suppliers already in the data base.
- Indirect, prototype, consignment, paper, plastic, and certain outside processing suppliers such as heat treating or machining were flagged as “out-of-scope” and removed from the population. AAM is confident that these out-of-scope suppliers did not use 3TG in products or material provided to AAM.
- Suppliers were requested to identify individual(s) responsible for providing conflict mineral information from their company.
- In-scope direct material suppliers were also sent a letter indicating that AAM would be utilizing iPoint throughout the entire process of collecting, reviewing, and processing all of AAM’s conflict minerals suppliers’ CMRTs.
- In-scope direct material suppliers were sent an initial supplier request letter and AAM’s 2017 Supplier Conflict Minerals Reporting Requirements from conflictminerals@aam.com. The reporting requirements were posted to <https://www.aam.com/suppliers/doing-business-with-aam/conflict-minerals> in 2017. In-scope suppliers were also sent a separate, system-generated request to create a free iPoint account and respond to AAM’s request directly through the system.
 - Non-responsive suppliers received follow-up written requests from AAM in the form of reminders and past due notices both by way of email and through iPoint.
 - The reminders were sent out every 2 weeks prior to January 2018.
 - Beginning in January 2018, the past due notices were sent out on a weekly basis.
- In an attempt to determine where conflict minerals originated, AAM’s Reasonable Country of Origin Inquiry was made using an industry standard conflict minerals reporting template commonly referred to as the CMRT (an initiative of the Responsible Business Alliance® (RBA®) and The Global e-Sustainability Initiative (GeSi)). The CMRT was developed to provide a consistent means of reporting and to facilitate disclosure and communication of information regarding smelters that provide material to a company’s supply chain. The CMRT includes questions regarding a company’s conflict free policy, engagement with its direct suppliers, and a listing of the smelters the company and its suppliers use. In addition, the CMRT contains questions about the origin of conflict minerals included in their products, as well as supplier due diligence.
- After receipt of iPoint’s consolidated CMRT for AAM, the AAM Conflict Minerals Team then performed a final review, further eliminating any duplicate records and ensuring the final smelter count was free of duplicates. The final CMRT does have certain smelters listed more than once, and that is because they are providing more than one metal of the 3TG and/or they have mines in multiple locations.

B. Assessment of Risk

- AAM utilized the services of iPoint in reviewing all the suppliers' submissions.
- All emailed CMRTs were manually loaded by iPoint into their system to enable the automated review.
- iPoint automated review was conducted with the knowledge of the AIAG Guide for Responding to the Conflict Minerals Reporting Template (Fourth Edition – 2016) (the Guide). The iPoint system review AAM used was based on the following criteria:
 - AAM did not accept any CMRT prior to revision 5.10.
 - AAM required suppliers to provide a comment on how they determined that they use, or do not use, 3TG.
 - The iPoint system incorporated a series of red flags. Red flags are a series of criteria conditions that if the supplier did not meet any or all of the conditions, then their CMRT was rejected and additional information was requested from the supplier. Suppliers were advised of a response due date of October 31, 2017. The cut-off date for all data collection for 2017 was February 28, 2018 to assure the inclusion of data provided by late responders.
 - If questions arose regarding supplier submission or their CMRT was rejected through iPoint, AAM had further communication with the supplier for clarification and understanding of their submission. Communication was by way of email or through the iPoint system.
- Of all the suppliers that have provided completed CMRTs to AAM, 56% of accepted responses indicate they have a conflict mineral policy in place.

C. Results

- Every direct material supplier as described in Step 2A was contacted. AAM received responses from 68% of the 563 in-scope suppliers that represent 72% of all direct material purchases during 2017. Based on the review standards, AAM accepted 68% of in-scope supplier responses representing 89% of the AAM annual spend for 2017. To date, AAM has determined that 42 of the 378 responses received from a supply base of 563 in-scope direct material suppliers are from suppliers that have purchased materials containing 3TG originating in the covered countries. Another 21 suppliers indicated that the origin of purchased materials containing 3TG was unknown.
- Throughout the data collection process, supplier responses were screened against pre-determined Red Flags. Any CMRT or iPCMP submission that failed any of the Red Flags would immediately be slated for a manual review by iPoint. Upon iPoint's manual review, they would either accept, reject, or submit to AAM for further review prior to disposition. Depending on the Red Flag(s) that triggered the need for manual review, iPoint, and potentially AAM would then communicate with the impacted Supplier and work through their CMRT or iPCMP

to then decide whether to finally accept the original submission or request that they provide a new submission.

Due Diligence

AAM began its due diligence when the first review of the submission by each individual in-scope direct material supplier was completed. The due diligence process conducted by AAM aligns with the OECD Guidelines.

Step 3: Responding to Identified Risks

- AAM responded to risks identified in the supplier responses as provided in the CMRT such as:
 - Requested further information from suppliers that did not provide a completed CMRT or provided a CMRT with contradictory 3TG information.
 - Required CMRT version 5.10 or higher.
 - Confirmed the accuracy of identified smelters from suppliers that acknowledge supply 3TG.
 - Utilized iPCMP to locate the supplier on the RMI or RBA list and determine if certified as “conflict free.”

Step 4: Independent Third Party Audit of Due Diligence

- AAM does not have a direct relationship with 3TG smelters and refiners and does not perform or direct audits of these entities within our supply chain.
- AAM utilizes information from the Responsible Minerals Assurance Process to conclude whether the smelter is in conformance with the OECD Guidance and therefore certified conflict free. Through our participation in the AIAG, AAM supports the RMI.

Smelter / Refiner Disclosures

Step 5: Report on Supply Chain Due Diligence

- *Results*

528 unique smelter names were identified by AAM’s suppliers. Of these, 265 (50.2%) are listed as conflict free. Thirteen (2%) have been identified and listed on the RMI or RBA list, but have not yet been certified conflict free.

The final 263 (49.8%) identified smelters were unknown. Suppliers that submitted unknown smelters were notified that one or more of their smelters were not matched to the RMI or RBA lists and that this should be corrected on future responses.

It should also be noted that responses from our suppliers have been provided on a company-wide basis and not specific to a particular product, and therefore, we are unable to determine with specificity the smelters within our supply chain. Subject to this limitation, the list of smelters reported to AAM is attached to the AAM CMRT.

Risk Mitigation / Future Due Diligence

The due diligence process conducted by AAM aligns with the OECD Guidelines. Efforts will be made to determine the mine or location of origin with the greatest specificity possible given the limitations inherent in the supplier reporting system. There will be continued use of the review criteria applicable to all CMRTs submitted. We will continue our membership in the AIAG and utilize updated CMRT forms as they become available. AAM will continue its use of iPoint Data Management Systems to collect, manage, aggregate and report conflict minerals data from suppliers. These services enhance the consistency in data reporting across suppliers and apply standards consistent with other Tier 1 automotive parts suppliers. The completion of the AAM ERP system consolidation will promote the ease of data collection and improve confidence in the due diligence results.