Anthesis

Tackling modern slavery in your supply chain

Although slavery has been legally abolished in most countries around the world, it remains a very real issue today; a recent estimate by the Global Slavery Index is that more than 45 million people are in slavery.

Modern day slavery affects businesses and supply chains in developing and developed economies alike. Definitions for modern slavery vary, but generally refer to:

- Holding a person in servitude for the purpose of sexual exploitation or forced labour

- Arranging or facilitating human trafficking

The UN Guiding Principles on Human Rights take the view that businesses should mitigate risks posed by business relationships. This has led to some jurisdictions, such as the State of California (California Transparency in Supply Chains Act of 2010) and more recently the UK (Modern Slavery Act 2015), to enact new legislation to compel businesses to take action.

They require businesses above a certain turnover threshold to publish a statement every financial year describing what steps the organisation has taken, if any, to ensure slavery and human trafficking is not taking place in any of its supply chains and in any part of its business.

This isn't just about compliance. Being unaware of slavery and human trafficking issues in your business or supply chains can not only have legal consequences but can lead to:

- Financial and reputational loss

- Scrutiny and investigation by governments and NGOs

- The inability to attract top talent

What you need to do

In order to eliminate slavery and human trafficking from your business and supply chain, your organisation needs to take the following steps:

1. Map your supply chains and identify your priority risk areas and suppliers

2. Carry out due diligence to understand your impacts

3. Develop policies and procedures to mitigate and monitor the risks

4. Identify and implement actions to eliminate any issues you have found

5. Develop and implement awareness and process training for all relevant employees

Anthesis has developed a range of tools and methods to support businesses in carrying out those steps and complying with relevant legislation.

RiskHorizon™

As the first web tool to quantify and monetise sustainability risk, RiskHorizon™ has been designed to help you:

- Screen your supply chain to identify your risk hotspots and assess their value

- Prioritise actions for implementation to reduce and mitigate this risk

- Build commercial resilience and reputational advantage

RiskHorizon™ has specific capabilities to screen your supply chains to identify potential vulnerabilities to modern slavery, and where these risks may occur.

The UK Modern Slavery Act 2015

What do you need to know?

The UK Modern Slavery Act came into force in 2015 and addresses the role of businesses in preventing modern slavery from occurring in their supply chains and organisations. It requires all organisations which supply goods and services with a legal entity in the UK and a turnover exceeding £36 million to prepare a slavery and human trafficking statement for each financial year.

The statement is a summary of the steps the organisation has taken during the financial year to ensure that slavery and human trafficking is not taking place in any part of its business or its supply chains.

A statement needs to be published regardless of whether any steps have been taken or not.

How Anthesis can help?

Anthesis is well placed to help our clients meet the compliance requirements set out in the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

Our approach would include, but is not limited to:

- Assessing the actual and potential supply chain impacts, policies and processes

- Evaluating gaps and risks

- Defining policies, procedures and suggested actions that are needed to comply

- Drafting a slavery and human trafficking statement to demonstrate compliance with the Act

For further information on our services in this area, please have a look at those outlined in this document.

Due diligence and supply chain support

Anthesis' supply chain specialists have a proven track record of working with clients to deliver:

- Supply chain impact assessments

- Risk quantification

- Review and implementation of KPIs

- Development and execution of policies, procedures, engagement and training activities

- Communication strategies and support

- On-going management in response to changing business operations, operating context and global conditions

Responsible procurement

Our independent audit and certification programmes, the Responsible Procurement Code and the CIPS Sustainable Procurement Review, offer organisations a thorough assessment of their sustainability performance in this area and help to baseline your performance.

We also provide bespoke advice to realise cost savings, managing and mitigating supply chain risk, and establishing better supplier relations to ensure that 'sustainability' becomes 'business as usual' by offering:

- Procurement policy and strategy development

- Auditing and process improvement

- Supplier engagement

- Development and capability building and training

About Anthesis

Anthesis is a global sustainability services and solutions provider, which believes that commercial success and sustainability go hand in hand. We develop financially driven sustainability strategies, underpinned by technical expertise and delivered by innovative collaborative teams across the world.

Our experts have extensive experience in the service areas of supply chain mapping, carrying out due diligence and impact assessments, reviewing supply chain and procurement policies and procedures, helping our clients to identify and implement actions for risk mitigation and developing and implementing awareness and process training with relevant stakeholders. We are therefore best place to support our clients in tackling Modern Slavery and making their supply chains more transparent.

For further information, contact:

Chris Stanley
Director
Chris.Stanley@anthesisgroup.com
T: +44 (0)1865 250 818

Fiona Place
Associate Director
Fiona.Place@anthesisgroup.com
M: +44 (0)7876 662 528