
Independent Practitioner's Limited Assurance Report

Heraeus Deutschland GmbH & Co. KG
Hanau

Limited assurance engagement on the LBMA Refiner's Compliance
Report of Heraeus Deutschland GmbH & Co. KG for the period
1 January 2020 to 31 December 2020

Engagement: 0.0966442.001



Independent Practitioner's Reasonable Assurance Report

To Heraeus Deutschland GmbH & Co. KG, Hanau

We have been engaged to perform a limited assurance engagement on the Refiner's Compliance Report prepared by Heraeus Deutschland GmbH & Co. KG, Hanau (Germany), (the "Refiner") for the business group Heraeus Deutschland GmbH & Co. KG as defined in the Compliance Report for the period 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2020 (the "Refiner's Compliance Report").

Management's Responsibility for the Refiner's Compliance Report

The Management of the Refiner is responsible for the preparation and presentation of the Refiner's Compliance Report in accordance with the LBMA Responsible Gold Guidance (version 8) as of 11 December 2018 and the LBMA Responsible Silver Guidance (version 1) as of 1 September 2017 as well as the Supplement on Tin, Tantalum and Tungsten of the OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas as of April 2016 (the "Guidances").

This responsibility includes establishing appropriate risk management and internal controls from which the reported information is derived. The criteria identified by management as relevant for demonstrating compliance with the Guidances are the activities described in the Refiner's Compliance Report. Furthermore, the responsibility includes designing, implementing and maintaining systems and processes relevant to the proper preparation and presentation of the Refiner's Compliance Report, which is free of material misstatements due to intentional or unintentional errors.

Audit Firm's Independence and Quality Control

We have complied with the German professional provisions regarding independence as well as other ethical requirements.

The audit firm applies the national legal requirements and professional standards – in particular the Professional Code for German Public Auditors and German Chartered Auditors ("Berufssatzung für Wirtschaftsprüfer und vereidigte Buchprüfer": "BS WP/vBP") as well as the Standard on Quality Control 1 published by the Institut der Wirtschaftsprüfer (Institute of Public Auditors in Germany; IDW): Requirements to quality control for audit firms (IDW Qualitätssicherungsstandard 1: Anforderungen an die Qualitätssicherung in der Wirtschaftsprüferpraxis - IDW QS 1) – and accordingly maintains a comprehensive system of quality control including documented policies and procedures regarding compliance with ethical requirements, professional standards and applicable legal and regulatory requirements.

Practitioner's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express a limited assurance conclusion on the Refiner's Compliance Report based on our work performed. Within the scope of our engagement we did not perform an audit on external sources of information or expert opinions, referred to in the Refiner's Compliance Report.

We conducted our work in accordance with the International Standard on Assurance Engagements (ISAE) 3000 (Revised): "Assurance Engagements other than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information" published by IAASB and the supplementary guidance set out in the LBMA Responsible Sourcing Programme – Third Party Audit Guidance (version 1) as of 11 December 2018. This Audit Guidance requires that we plan and perform the assurance engagement to obtain limited assurance whether any matters come to our attention that cause us to believe that the Refiner's Compliance Report, prepared by the Refiner for the business group Heraeus Deutschland GmbH & Co. KG for the period 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2020, in all material aspects, does not describe

fairly the activities undertaken during the year to demonstrate compliance, and management's overall conclusion contained therein in accordance with the Guidances.

In a limited assurance engagement the evidence-gathering procedures are more limited than for a reasonable assurance engagement, and therefore less assurance is obtained than in a reasonable assurance engagement. The procedures selected depend on the practitioner's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the Refiner's Compliance Report with the Guidances.

Within the scope of our work we performed primarily on a test basis amongst others the following procedures:

- Interviews with the compliance officers in charge of the preparation of the Refiner's Compliance Report;
- Interviews with management and employees of departments in charge of recycling, purchasing, material management and trading;
- Inspection of relevant corporate guidelines and documents describing the management systems, due diligence and risk management approach towards a responsible supply chain;
- Review of documentation of requirements on the group-wide processes for collecting, analyzing and aggregating data on the supply chain of gold and silver;
- Performance of site visits at the Refiner's location in Hanau (Germany) as part of the inspection of relevant systems, processes and controls, including process walkthroughs from supplier selection to materials receipt and lot processing;
- Evaluation of the consistency of the statements provided in the Refiner's Compliance Report with the findings obtained during our engagement.

Inherent limitations

Non-financial information, such as that included in the Refiner's Compliance Report, is subject to more inherent limitations than financial information, given the more qualitative characteristics of the subject matter and the methods used for determining such information. The methods used by the Refiner to comply with the Guidances may differ. It is important to read the Refiner's conflict minerals supply chain policy available in the download section on Refiner's website:

<http://herae.us/conflictminerals>

Conclusion

Based on our limited assurance engagement, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that, in all material aspects, the Refiner's Compliance Report, prepared by Heraeus Deutschland GmbH & Co. KG, Hanau (Germany) for the business group Heraeus Deutschland GmbH & Co. KG for the period 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2020, does not describe fairly the activities undertaken during the year to demonstrate compliance, and management's overall conclusion contained therein in accordance with the Guidances.

Restriction on Use and Distribution

We issue this report on the basis of the engagement agreed with the Refiner. The audit has been performed for purposes of the Refiner and is solely intended to inform the Refiner about the results of the audit. The report is not intended for any third parties to base any (financial) decision thereon. We do not assume any responsibility towards third parties.

We refer to the fact that the Refiner's Compliance Report subject to our assurance engagement comprises the Annex "List of countries of origin of mined gold and silver" and the treatment of the Refiner. According to the LBMA Responsible Gold Guidance (version 8) as of 11 December 2018 and the LBMA Responsible Silver Guidance (version 1) as of 1 September 2017, this Annex detailing the countries of origin of mined gold and silver has to be submitted to the LBMA Executive only and does not need to be disclosed publicly.

Munich, 12 May 2021

PricewaterhouseCoopers GmbH
Wirtschaftsprüfungsgesellschaft



Hendrik Fink
Wirtschaftsprüfer
(German Public Auditor)



ppa. Mirjam Kolmar

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General Terms of Engagement:

Allgemeine Auftragsbedingungen für Wirtschaftsprüfer und Wirtschaftsprüfungsgesellschaften vom 1. Januar 2017

General Engagement Terms for Wirtschaftsprüfer and Wirtschaftsprüfungsgesellschaften [German Public Auditors and Public Audit Firms] as of January 1, 2017

Heraeus LBMA Compliance Report 2020 for HDE

Table 1: Refiner's details	
Refiner's name	Heraeus Deutschland GmbH & Co. KG – [HDE]
Location	Heraeusstr. 12-14 D-6450 Hanau, Germany
Reporting year-end	31.12.2020
Date of Report	11.05.2021
Senior Management at HDE responsible for this report:	Andre Kobelt, CEO of HDE, Andre.Kobelt@heraeus.com
<p>A globally leading technology group, Heraeus is headquartered in Hanau, Germany. Founded in 1851, it is a family-owned portfolio company which traces its roots back to a pharmacy opened by the family in 1660. Today, Heraeus combines businesses in the environmental, energy, electronics, health, mobility and industrial applications sectors.</p> <p>In the 2019 financial year, Heraeus generated revenues of €22.4 billion with approximately 15.000 employees in 40 countries. Heraeus is one of the top 10 family-owned companies in Germany and holds a leading position in its global markets. More at: www.heraeus.com</p> <p>Heraeus operates currently 3 Good Delivery refiners under the LBMA scheme in the following countries: Germany, Hong Kong and Switzerland. The latter, "Argor-Heraeus" - 100% owned by Heraeus – publishes its own dedicated LBMA/LPPM compliance report - https://www.argor.com/en/responsibility.</p> <p>The following report is for our site "Heraeus Deutschland GmbH & Co. KG", based in Hanau/Germany</p>	

Heraeus evaluation

Table 2: Summary of activities undertaken to demonstrate compliance	
Step 1: Establish strong company management systems	
Compliance Statement with Requirement: We have fully complied with Step 1: Establish strong management systems.	
1. Has the refiner adopted a company policy regarding due diligence for supply chain of Silver?	
<p>The Heraeus group has an well-established company-wide policy, binding for all entities (including our refinery and downstream entities) regarding due diligence for the supply chain of conflict minerals including Gold, Tin, Tungsten and Tantalum as well as the other precious metals Silver, Platinum, Palladium, Rhodium, Iridium, Ruthenium and Osmium.</p> <p>Comments and Demonstration of Compliance: Already in 2007, we started formalizing our supply chain policy for Precious Metals, which is based on our Code of Conduct and an integral part of our responsibility-conscious management structure.</p> <p>HDE operates strictly in accordance with LBMA's "Responsible Silver Guidance" V1, September 2017 and the "OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas" – Third edition 2016.</p> <p>Our supply chain policy is regularly reviewed and updated. Besides the typical conflict minerals Tin, Tungsten, Tantalum and Gold, we also adopted the same company-wide binding procedures for Silver, Platinum, Palladium, Rhodium, Iridium, Ruthenium and Osmium. The latest version of our policy, updated in Feb 2021, can be found on our website in the download section: www.herae.us/conflictminerals.</p> <p>Besides our supply chain policy, we also updated our Anti-Money laundering guideline to further strengthens and fine-tune our efforts in that area.</p> <p>In addition in 2018 we introduced our new "Human Rights policy", based on the International Labor Organization (ILO) Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and the corresponding fundamental Conventions and the</p>	

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UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights as well as on the above mentioned “OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High Risk Areas”.

With that policy, Heraeus emphasizes to reasonably ensure that the precious metals in its supply chain originate from legal and ethical sources, that the precious metals are not associated with “illegal actions like” crimes, armed conflicts or human rights abuses and that they will not be used for money laundering, financing terrorism, tax evasion, fraud or any other crime.

2. Has the refiner set up an internal management structure to support supply chain due diligence?

Heraeus Precious Metals has set up an internal management structure to support supply chain due diligence.

Comments and Demonstration of Compliance:

An internal management system has been set up to define the governance, roles and responsibilities, internal audit, communication and senior management review as per the adopted policy. The assigned compliance officer on Holding level designs and supervises the overall process. He is supported by the business unit’s compliance officers, which are responsible for implementing and enforcing these policies within our organization and further fine tuning the process with corresponding operating procedures. He also performs the day-to-day KYC checks. The Compliance Officer is assigned with the right competence and knowledge to manage the entire process and has a direct reporting line to the executive committee.

Our corporate auditing team also ensures that our policies and standards are applied through-out our organization.

3. Has the refiner established a strong internal system of due diligence, control and transparency over the supply chains of Silver, including traceability and identification of other supply chain actors?

Comments and Demonstration of Compliance:

Refiner units:

We have a robust ‘lot’ receipts process and specific documents must be received, and transactional details entered before we process any precious metal-bearing (Gold, Silver, Platinum and Palladium) and other conflict materials, like Tin, Tantalum and Tungsten. Each lot received is accurately registered in our transactional system and ensures complete traceability within our production streams. We carry out specific controls regarding received materials before processing incoming material as outlined in our internal guidelines.

Through regular training of our employees we ensure that our guidelines are followed through; any form of non-conformance is unacceptable and must be reported to the compliance officer and senior management.

No such escalation was necessary during the reporting period.

4. Has the refiner strengthened company engagement with Silver supplying counterparties, and where possible, assist Silver supplying counterparties in building due diligence capabilities?

Comments and Demonstration of Compliance:

New suppliers must sign the regularly updated version of our “CODE OF CONDUCT MATERIAL QUESTIONNAIRE FOR PM SUPPLIERS OF HERAEUS” before we are entering into a new business relationship or provide their own Code of Conduct covering the same messages as ours. We further sharpened-up our documentation requirements in our updated business partner check SOP and have addressed that for the rating of new or existing customers since beginning of 2020.

We are renewing our due diligence checks for all our suppliers in one, two- or three-years intervals based on the risk assessment we conducted in our KYC workflow and the results are archived in a database.

In the reporting year, we continued to be actively engaged in various business organizations like IPA (International Platinum organization), EPMF (European Precious Metals Federation, FVEM (Fachvereinigung Edelmetalle) as well engaging with our government in expert hearings.

5. Has the refiner established a company-wide communication mechanism to promote broad based employee participation and risk identification to management?

Comments and Demonstration of Compliance:

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Besides the possibility to raise compliance violations through internal channels, Heraeus is also offering an external compliance hotline giving employees and business partners the opportunity to voice concerns over any compliance violations anonymously and especially over our Precious Metals (Gold, Silver, Platinum and Palladium) and also Tin, Tantalum and Tungsten supply chain or other identified risks regarding conflict minerals or any further issues. All reports can be made via phone, e-mail or post. In addition, we also refer to the compliance hotline offered by RMI (Responsible Minerals Initiative) and LBMA.

Details can be found in our publicly available sourcing policy here: www.heraeus.com/conflictminerals.

However, no concerns were raised in the reporting year 2020 neither by employees nor by external parties.

Step 2: Identify and assess risks in the supply chain

Compliance Statement with Requirement:

We have fully complied with Step 2: Identify and assess risks in the supply chain.

2.1. Does the refiner have a process to identify risks in the supply chain?

Heraeus has processes in place to identify the risks in the supply chain

Comments and Demonstration of Compliance:

We identify and assess risks in the supply chain. For every supplier we have established a client database and allocated a risk profile according to our risk profile criteria. These criteria were – again – reviewed and updated in 2020. This process is a formal requirement before entering any business relationship with any Precious Metals counterparty, including but not limited to our Gold, Silver, Platinum and Palladium supplying counterparties. Our due diligence process is carried out on a risk-based approach and follows our requirements as outlined in our “Code of Conduct for Precious Metal Suppliers of Heraeus”. We are monitoring government regulations and reports from United Nations. In addition, we review a list of relevant NGO’s and other international organizations helping us identifying risks in our supply chain. This monitoring is ongoing but at minimum four times a year.

We use indices like “Conflict Barometer 2019” from Heidelberg Institute for International Conflict Research, “Global Risk Index” published by INFORM (The Joint Research Center of European Commission is the scientific lead for INFORM), “fragile state index” published by “Fund for Peace” and the Corruption Perception Index 2019” from Transparency International to develop our own extensive list of high-risk countries (“CAHRA”), which is at least twice a year revised. Any business partners from those countries would need to undergo enhanced due diligence measures and require 4-eye approval. Our SOP for identifying high risk countries was further updated in 2020 to also address the upcoming EU regulation on conflict minerals with reference to the published CAHRA list (www.cahraslist.net).

In addition, our ERP system was set-up to initially block all transactions with CAHRA listed countries with respect to relevant precious metals materials. Only selected staff at our headquarter in Germany has the formal competency and the authority to release those blocks after enhanced due diligence checks.

The results of that screening are evaluated and help us further strengthen our risk identifying steps and are included in our general Risk Management System and therefore regularly reviewed.

2.2. Does the refiner assess risks in light of the standards of their due diligence system?

Heraeus assesses the risk in light of the standards of our due diligence system

Comments and Demonstration of Compliance:

Refiners units:

Supply chain due diligence comprising all measures required by the LBMA is performed before entering a business relationship with any Silver, Gold, Platinum, Palladium, as well as Rhodium, Iridium, Tin, Tantalum and Tungsten supplying counterpart. We perform enhanced due diligence for higher risk categories, which includes all metal-bearing mining material mentioned above and where they potentially originate from or transits via conflict affected areas and areas with human rights abuse, child labor, ecocide or other serious environmental damage or other high-risk factors. In addition, we conduct appropriate scrutiny and monitoring of transactions undertaken through the course of the relationship following a risk-based approach.

In case our due diligence assessment leaves any doubts, we request additional documentations from our partners by using the “pushback” functionality of our KYC system. We might suspend our business relationship with existing partners or refuse to open a relationship with new partners.

To enforce our supply chain policy in the reporting year, we refused to enter new business relationships with a notable number of potential partners, especially in the case of precious metals supply, for various reasons.

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2.3. Does the refiner report risk assessment to the designated manager?
<p>Comments and Demonstration of Compliance: The compliance officers and their teams assess the potential risks in-line with Heraeus internal guidelines as well as the “OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas” as set out in the Annex II. If high risks are identified with new or existing business partners, the Compliance Officer will deny acceptance of new business partner or cancel business with existing partners. The compliance officer has a right of veto for critical business transaction and we have a clearly defined escalation mechanism for such cases. If the business disagrees with the assessment of the compliance officer, the issue will be escalated to the CEO for final decision; however, no such escalation was necessary during the reporting period. Our corporate guideline “Allocation of Competences in Decision-Making Processes for the Responsibility Functions Compliance, EHS, Tax, Customs & Export Control, Global Trade Compliance and Data Protection” introduced in November 2018 strengthened and clarified the mandate of the compliance officer with a clearly defined “RAPID” model, also with regards to the responsibility for the supply chain of Gold, Silver, Platinum, Palladium, Tin, Tungsten and Tantalum. (In the RAPID-model „R“ stands for „Recommend“, „A“ for „Agree“, „P“ for „Perform“, „I“ for „Input“ and „D“ for „Decide“).</p>
Step 3: Design and implement a management system to respond to identified risks
<p>Compliance Statement with Requirement: We have fully complied with Step 3: Design and implement a management system to respond to identified risks.</p>
3.1. Has the refiner devised a strategy for risk management of an identified risk by either (i) mitigation of the risk while continuing to trade; (ii) mitigation of the risk while suspending trade or (iii) disengagement from the risk
<p>Heraeus has devised a strategy for risk management of an identified risk by either (i) mitigation of the risk while continuing to trade; (ii) mitigation of the risk while suspending trade or (iii) disengagement from the risk.</p>
<p>Comments and Demonstration of Compliance: Heraeus has set-up an automated and ongoing screening of all business partners for identifying risks in the supply chain. In addition and based on the risk assessment a regular re-assessment of all business partners and transactions is established. In addition, the compliance officer will carefully assess any ad-hoc identified risk brought up by any stakeholder and will decide on necessary actions.</p>
3.2. Where a management strategy of risk mitigation is undertaken, it should include measurable steps to be taken and achieved, monitoring of performance, periodic reassessment of risk, and regular reporting to designated senior management.
<p>Comments and Demonstration of Compliance: Corresponding procedures are in place and are applied accordingly. In case our risk assessment identifies medium or high risks, we actively approach our suppliers to receive further information like proof of origin. If we cannot mitigate our risk assessment to at least medium risk level, we will terminate our supply agreement.</p>
Step 4: Arrange for an independent third-party audit of the supply chain due diligence
<p>Compliance Statement with Requirement: We have fully complied with Step 4: Arrange for an independent third-party audit of the supply chain due diligence.</p>
<p>Comments and Demonstration of Compliance: For the reporting period 2020 we did engage PricewaterhouseCoopers GmbH as our assurance provider for the “limited assurance” audit. Our reports can be viewed in the download section here: www.heraeus.com/conflictminerals</p>
Step 5: Report on supply chain due diligence
<p>Compliance Statement with Requirement: We have fully complied with Step 5: Report on supply chain due diligence.</p>

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Comments
 Further information and details of how Heraeus’ systems, procedures, processes and controls have been implemented to align to the specific requirements in the “Responsible Silver Guidance” V1, Sept. 2017 as well as the “OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High Risk Areas” – Third edition November 2016 has been set out in our updated supply chain policy which is available on our company website’s download sections: www.herae.us/conflictminerals

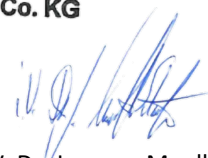
Heraeus overall conclusion

Table 3: Management conclusion	
Is the refiner in compliance with the requirements of the LBMA Responsible Silver Guidance and the OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas for the reporting period?	
YES	In conclusion, Heraeus implemented effective management systems, procedures, processes and practices to conform to the requirements of the LBMA “Responsible Silver Guidance” V1, Sept. 2017 - as explained above in Table 2, for the reporting year ending 31 st of December 2020. Heraeus is committed to continuous improvement and that is monitored internally on a regular basis. Any potentially identified corrective action would be implemented immediately.

Other details

Table 4: Other report comments
If readers of this report wish to provide any feedback to Heraeus please contact the business unit’s compliance officer at: juergen.mueller@heraeus.com .

Heraeus
Heraeus Deutschland GmbH & Co. KG
 Global Business Unit
 Heraeus Precious Metals
 Heraeusstr. 12-14
 63450 Hanau, Germany



Hanau, May 11. 2021

i.V. Dr. Juergen Mueller-Schaefer

Note:

Annex on Page 6 is listing the countries of origin of Silver (both mined and recycled), and amount received from each country, for the assessment period as requested by the LBMA Responsible Silver Guidance, V1 – September 2017.

This information is only communicated to LBMA and will not be disclosed to the public.