www.srgssr.ch
Schweizerische Radio- und Fernsehgesellschaft
Société suisse de radiodiffusion et télévision
Società svizzera di radiotelevisione
Societad svizra da radio e televisiun

Code of Conduct for Suppliers of SRG SSR

The present Code of Conduct for Suppliers of Schweizerischen Radio- und Fernsehgesellschaft ('SRG') applies to all organisational units and associated companies of SRG. SRG expects the principles laid out here to apply to business partners, authorities and other third parties, as well as to subsidiaries and contractual partners of suppliers that directly or indirectly supply SRG or provide it with services.

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SRG SSR

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1 Background

The way in which SRG treats its staff, business partners, the supervisory authorities and the public is characterised by integrity, fairness and credibility.

1.1 Objective

This Code of Conduct governs the prerequisites for successful commercial activities based on SRG's values, and incorporates the basic rules for dealing with business partners, authorities and other third parties ethically and in accordance with the law.

As a largely licence fee-funded provider of media services, SRG is subject to critical public interest and high ethical and moral expectations. SRG aims also at establishing its values in its supply chain.

This Code of Conduct for suppliers defines the minimum expectations SRG has of its suppliers and providers when manufacturing products and providing services. Any infringements of this Code may compromise business relationships with SRG.

1.2 Corporate principles[1]

Vision
Our audio-visual public service forms part of Swiss life and reflects its reality. Our programmes are distinctive and successfully hold their own against international competition. We recognize changing usage patterns promptly and are open to technical innovation. Our services set quality standards and make an essential contribution to social cohesion in Switzerland.

Mission
We inform, entertain and contribute to education and cultural development. We promote the democratic opinion-forming process, social orientation and cultural identity. For our audience, we broadcast equivalent programmes under similar conditions in the four language regions. We take account of the demands of majority and minority groups, thereby promoting mutual understanding and solidarity.

Key principles
Credibility: We provide factual, transparent information and enable different opinions to be voiced. We encourage and expect a high degree of expertise from our employees in terms of journalism and programme creation. We assume responsibility for the reliability of our programmes and the credibility of their content.

Independence: We select and design our content independently of political and economic interests. Our public service contract and licence-fee funding commit us to particular quality and responsibility with regard to our audience. We are open to criticism and transparent to the general public, and subject ourselves to internal and external scrutiny.

Diversity: With regard to programme design, we focus on the diverse needs of majority and minority groups in multilingual and multicultural Switzerland. Diversity shapes our formats, content and viewpoint. We address international events and their impact on the role and significance of Switzerland.

[1] Source: Internet (SRG website: in the event of discrepancies the version published on the internet takes precedence)

Creativity: Creativity is both a prerequisite and a driver for our success. We encourage a climate of openness towards technical, social and economic change. We place great emphasis on creativeness and we promote creative accomplishments in order to be able to survive in the increasingly competitive world of media.

Fairness: Respect for human dignity is a prerequisite for our programme output. In our journalistic activities, we treat people with respect and fairness. Business and social partners can rely on us. We offer our staff progressive working conditions, and rely on their loyalty and commitment to public service broadcasting.

Our Code of Conduct sets out our values in greater detail, and derives from them principles for our conduct.

2 Principles

The principles listed here assist SRG and its purchasing staff in evaluating its suppliers / providers, and are being continuously refined. Similarly, the Guidelines on Responsible Supply Chain Management (GRSCM) which derive from them and which are set out below, should also be binding on our suppliers in terms of the conduct that we expect from them.

2.1 Laws and regulations

We expect our suppliers to comply with all of the legal regulations which apply to them at regional, national and international level, in addition to any voluntary undertakings. In particular, we expect them to strictly observe all legislation concerning free competition and to desist from unfair practices, especially the fixing of prices, terms and conditions. This definition also covers adherence to the relevant standards and certifications.

2.2 Health and safety

From our suppliers, we expect products and services that are free from defects, are not harmful to health, and meet the highest safety standards when used. It is also important to us that all legal requirements and the ethical standards that are recognised in Switzerland are complied with in the course of their manufacture or provision.

2.3 Employees

The dignity and personal rights of all our suppliers' employees, including temporary staff, must be protected. Their working conditions should be fair, working hours and rest days, as well as equal pay for women and men should be observed. Efforts should be made to ensure a hazard-free working environment. Occupational health and safety legislation should be followed. SRG condemns all forms of exploitation and discrimination, and respects differing outlooks on life and cultural distinctions.

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2.4 Corruption and conflicts of interest

SRG condemns all forms of corruption, bribery and money laundering, and expects the same of its suppliers. In a directive on the acceptance and grant of gifts and other benefits, SRG has clearly defined the conditions under which such practices may, in exceptional cases, be permitted. SRG must be notified immediately if there are any potential conflicts of interests that might impair the impartial conduct of business or give such an impression.

2.5 Illegal employment

We want to contribute to the common good and are committed to fight against any kind of illegal employment and other unfair commercial practices.

2.6 Confidential information and insider knowledge

We expect personal data and confidential information to be respected and protected in accordance with applicable law and, where appropriate, in accordance with contractual agreements. This may involve a wide variety of corporate and external information such as reports, contracts, personal data or intellectual property in different media. Suppliers with access to such information undertake to observe Swiss data protection legislation at all times, pay heed to confidentiality when disseminating information, and take suitable measures to prevent it being passed on to unauthorized persons.

2.7 Freedom of association

Suppliers to SRG must respect the right of freedom of association as defined in Art. 28 of the Federal Constitution, Art. 11 of the European Convention on Human Rights and Art. 22 of the UN International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

2.8 Enforced labour and child labour

SRG condemns all forms of forced and child labour. We demand that our suppliers strictly observe the relevant laws and provisions concerning exploitation and discrimination.

2.9 Environment

To protect our environment, we expect our suppliers and business partners to demonstrate their responsibility towards the environment when using and purchasing resources, and to consume them in a sustainable manner.

3 Implementation

The implementation of the Code of Conduct for suppliers and ensuring compliance with it is a management task which must be exercised at all levels.

All of the necessary measures, resources and structures must be put in place by management in such a way that employees and suppliers are made aware of this Code of Conduct and apply it consistently. To achieve this, suppliers and providers must, as part of the tendering process in particular, confirm in writing that they observe this Code and the (RSCM) principles it contains (via the quotations platform or in the form of a signature).

The most important aspects of this Code of Conduct are included in SRG's individual General Terms and Conditions. With appropriate risk assessment, in individual cases supplementary provisions may be agreed upon in the individual contracts concerned.

SRG also reserves the right to review compliance with aspects of this Code of Conduct during supplier audits. Likewise, SRG reserves the right to define data or information and periodically make enquiries regarding this with suppliers.

Should the supplier or provider determine or suspect breaches of this Code of Conduct, it must notify SRG immediately.

3.1 Responsibilities

Any queries regarding the content, interpretation or implementation of this Code of Conduct for suppliers should be addressed in writing to procurement@srgssr.ch.