



# Principles on Conflict Minerals

Updated November 2018

GE condemns the ongoing conflict and resulting humanitarian harm in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), which is fueled, in part, by financing from trade in the ores from which tin, tantalum, tungsten and gold are derived. These four minerals are now known as “conflict minerals” — when they originate in mines operated or taxed by the warring factions, they can be referred to as “conflict minerals from conflict mines.”

Tin, tantalum, tungsten and gold are common constituents of many of GE’s products, ranging from light bulbs to aircraft engines. Because the minerals in these products typically enter supply chains many layers removed from manufacturers like GE, it is difficult to determine where the minerals originated and whether their extraction supports armed conflict. At the same time, millions of Congolese workers rely on mining of the minerals for their livelihood. Avoiding purchase of all conflict minerals from the DRC region would cause severe hardship for the workers and their dependents.

As part of our commitment to our [Human Rights Statement of Principles](#), GE is committed to work to eliminate from our products all conflict minerals that support armed groups in the DRC or in the surrounding countries, while at the same time minimizing unintended consequences for legitimate miners and their dependents.

GE will:


- Continue to work toward the elimination, over time, of all conflict minerals from conflict mines in our products, and endeavor to improve, year-over-year, our ability to track conflict minerals in our supply chain, report on their origin, and eliminate those that originate in conflict mines.
- Comply with the requirements of Section 1502 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010, which requires companies to inquire into the origin of tantalum, tin, tungsten and gold in their supply chains, and report on the reasonable inquiry or due diligence the companies conduct to determine whether purchases of tantalum, tin, tungsten and gold supported armed groups in the DRC.
- Support industry-wide due diligence mechanisms, such as the Responsible Minerals Initiative, that identify conformant smelters and refiners.

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