



Responsible Contracting
Project (RCP)

About RCP

RCP's mission is to drive better outcomes for people and the planet through better, more Responsible Contracts. We develop practical contractual tools that promote shared responsibility for human rights and the environment in global supply chains.

RCP equips companies, public and private standard-setters, civil society organizations, and investors with essential tools to prevent and address human rights and environmental harms.

Responsible Contracts are:

- ✓ **Critical** for protecting human rights and the environment.
- ✓ **Aligned** with leading international responsible business conduct standards, e.g., the [UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights](#), the [OECD Guidelines](#), and the [OECD Due Diligence Guidance](#).
- ✓ **Aligned with regulatory requirements**, including the EU Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD), the EU Forced Labor Regulation, the US Tariff Act, and the UK Modern Slavery Act.

Core Principles



1) Responsibility for human rights and the environment is shared:

The parties contractually commit to work together to uphold human rights and environmental standards. Responsibilities are allocated based on each party's size and circumstances.

2) Responsible purchasing practices:

Buyers commit to responsible purchasing practices that support positive human rights and environmental outcomes.

3) Remediation first:

If harm occurs, remediation to victims is prioritized ahead of traditional contract remedies. Contract termination can be pursued only as a last resort and must be done responsibly.

Uptake & Impact

Responsible Contracting tools and principles are in use in the automotive, apparel, electronics, shipping, and agriculture sectors and have been referenced by the OECD, the UN Working Group on BHR, Know the Chain, Ethical Tea Partnership, Electronics Watch, and the Global Commission on Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking, to name a few.

Services

Our international team of legal and business & human rights (BHR) experts offers:

- Informational webinars,
- workshops and training, and
- contract & policy gap analyses.



The RCP Toolkit

This open-source and modular resource offers versatile pan-industry and sector-specific tools, implementation guidance, and policy analysis.

Model Contract Clauses & Code of Conduct

- Model Contract Clauses 2.0
- European Model Clauses
- Supplier Model Contract Clauses (apparel)
- Tea Sector Model Clauses
- Responsible Investor Model Clauses
- Responsible Purchasing Code of Conduct (The Buyer Code)

Implementation Guidance

- Investor Guidance on Responsible Contracting
- United Nations Global Compact (UNGC): Chapter on Responsible Contracting in Sustainable Procurement

Policy Briefs

- What the EU CSDDD Says About Contracts
- Forced Labour Trade Bans and Human Rights Due Diligence: Why Responsible Contracting Matters



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For more information, visit www.responsiblecontracting.org.