

On August 22, 2012, the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) issued the final conflict minerals rule under Section 1502 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act. This Conflict Minerals rule requires publicly traded companies to report annually the presence of conflict minerals (tin, tungsten, tantalum, and gold) originating in the Democratic Republic of the Congo or adjoining countries.

PNE supports Dodd-Franks act to the ending of human rights violations in the mining of 3TG minerals from the area known as the "Conflict Region" in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and surrounding countries.

PNE is committed to:

- investigate the use and origin of 3TG metals (tin, tantalum, tungsten and gold)
- request our suppliers to be DRC's conflict free
- not knowingly use 3TG metals originating from mines directly or indirectly financing or benefiting armed groups in the DRC or any conflict countries

PNE encourages our suppliers to adopt similar policies and management systems with respect to conflict minerals. We also will be requiring all of our suppliers to provide us with complete conflict minerals declarations using the standardized RMI (Responsible Minerals Initiative) Conflict Minerals Reporting Template. We strive to work cooperatively with our customer and supply chain partners to support this conflict mineral program.