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## INTRODUCTION

The Responsible Business Alliance (RBA), formerly the Electronic Industry Citizenship Coalition (EICC), Code of Conduct establishes standards to ensure that working conditions in the electronics industry, or industries in which electronics are a key component, and its supply chains are safe, that workers are treated with respect and dignity, and that business operations are environmentally responsible and conducted ethically. Hypertec Technologie Ciara Inc. and its subsidiaries (collectively, “CIARA”) supports the RBA Code and is a participant (“Participant”).

This CIARA RBA Code of Conduct (the “Code”) is based on the RBA Code of Conduct, which is maintained and updated by RBA in due course. CIARA is adopting the Code<sup>1</sup> for its suppliers (Suppliers) and for its own operations. Whilst we recognize that the existence of difference legal and cultural environments in which Suppliers operate around the world, this Code establishes the minimum requirements that all Suppliers are expected to meet in doing business with CIARA. In alignment with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, the provisions in this Code are derived from and respect internationally recognized standards including the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

It is the policy of CIARA to conduct our business in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations. In areas in which the Code encourages companies to go beyond legal compliance, CIARA will actively pursue conformance with the Code and its standards as reasonably practicable for the size and scope of our business and will strive for continuous improvement in these areas.

The Code is made up of five sections. Sections A, B, and C outline standards for Labor, Health and Safety, and the Environment, respectively. Section D adds standards relating to business ethics. Section E outlines the elements of an acceptable system to manage conformity to this Code.

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<sup>1</sup> The Code is not intended to create new and additional third-party rights, including for workers.

**A. LABOR**

Participants are committed to uphold the human rights of workers, and to treat them with dignity and respect as understood by the international community. This applies to all workers including temporary, migrant, student, contract, direct employees, and any other type of worker. The recognized standards, as set out in the References, were used in preparing the Code and may be useful sources of additional information.

The labor standards are: The labor standards are:

**1) Freely Chosen Employment** Forced, bonded (including debt bondage) or indentured labor, involuntary or exploitative prison labor, slavery or trafficking of persons is not permitted. This includes transporting, harboring, recruiting, transferring, or receiving persons by means of threat, force, coercion, abduction or fraud for labor or services. There shall be no unreasonable restrictions on workers' freedom of movement in the facility in addition to unreasonable restrictions on entering or exiting company- provided facilities including, if applicable, workers' dormitories or living quarters. As part of the hiring process, all workers must be provided with a written employment agreement in their native language that contains a description of terms and conditions of employment. Foreign migrant workers must receive the employment agreement prior to the worker departing from his or her country of origin and there shall be no substitution or change(s) allowed in the employment agreement upon arrival in the receiving country unless these changes are made to meet local law and provide equal or better terms. All work must be voluntary, and workers shall be free to leave work at any time or terminate their employment without penalty if reasonable notice is given as per worker's contract. Employers, agents, and sub-agents' may not hold or otherwise destroy, conceal, or confiscate identity or immigration documents, such as government-issued identification, passports, or work permits. Employers can only hold documentation if such holdings are required by law. In this case, at no time should workers be denied access to their documents. Workers shall not be required to pay employers' agents or sub-agents' recruitment fees or other related fees for their employment. If any such fees are found to have been paid by workers, such fees shall be repaid to the worker. This was drafted in consideration of ILO Force Labor Convention (No.29 and No.105).

**2) Young Workers** - Child labor is not to be used in any stage of manufacturing. The term "child" refers to any person under the age of 15, or under the age for completing compulsory education, or under the minimum age for employment in the country, whichever is greatest. Participants shall implement an appropriate mechanism to verify the age of workers. The use of legitimate workplace learning programs, which comply with all laws and regulations, is supported. Workers under the age of 18 (Young Workers) shall not perform work that is likely to jeopardize their health or safety, including night shifts and overtime. Participants shall ensure proper management of student workers through proper maintenance of student records, rigorous due diligence of educational partners, and protection of students' rights in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. Participants shall provide appropriate support and training to all student workers. In the absence of local law, the wage rate for student workers, interns, and apprentices shall be at least the same wage rate as other entry-level workers performing equal or similar tasks. If child labor is identified, assistance/remediation is provided. This was drafted in consideration of ILO Child labor and the worst forms of child labor Convention (No.138 and No.182).

**3) Working Hours** - Studies of business practices clearly link worker strain to reduced productivity, increased turnover, and increased injury and illness. Working hours are not to exceed the maximum set by local law. Further, a workweek should not be more than 60 hours per week, including overtime, except in emergency or unusual situations. All overtime must be voluntary. Workers shall be allowed at least one day off every seven days.

**4) Wages and Benefits** - Compensation paid to workers shall comply with all applicable wage laws, including those relating to minimum wages, overtime hours and legally mandated benefits. In compliance with local laws, workers shall be compensated for overtime at pay rates greater than regular hourly rates. Deductions from wages as a disciplinary measure shall not be permitted. For each pay period, workers shall be provided with a timely and understandable wage statement that includes sufficient information to verify accurate compensation for work performed. All use of temporary, dispatch and outsourced labor will be within the limits of the local law.

**5) Humane Treatment** - There is to be no harsh or inhumane treatment including violence, gender-based violence, sexual harassment, sexual abuse, corporal punishment, mental or physical coercion, bullying, public shaming, or verbal abuse of workers; nor is there to be the threat of any such treatment. Disciplinary policies and procedures in support of these requirements shall be clearly defined and communicated to workers.

**6) Non-Discrimination** - Participants should be committed to a workplace free of harassment and unlawful discrimination. Companies shall not engage in discrimination or harassment based on race, color, age, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, ethnicity or national origin, disability, pregnancy, religion, political affiliation, union membership, covered veteran status, protected genetic information or marital status in hiring and employment practices such as wages, promotions, rewards, and access to training. Workers shall be provided with reasonable accommodation for religious practices. In addition, workers or potential workers should not be subjected to medical tests, including pregnancy or virginity tests, or physical exams that could be used in a discriminatory way. This was drafted in consideration of ILO Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention (No.111).

**7) Freedom of Association** - In conformance with local law, participants shall respect the right of all workers to form and join trade unions of their own choosing, to bargain collectively, and to engage in peaceful assembly as well as respect the right of workers to refrain from such activities. Workers and/or their representatives shall be able to openly communicate and share ideas and concerns with management regarding working conditions and management practices without fear of discrimination, reprisal, intimidation, or harassment. This was drafted in consideration of ILO Freedom of Association Convention (No.87 and No.98).

**8) Employment contractual relationships** – In conformance with the local law, participants shall respect the terms and conditions of their working arrangement with their employees. This process covers worker contracts for permanent employees, salaried employees, hourly paid employees, temporary staff/workers, seasonal workers (if applicable), juvenile employees, apprentices, and vocational employees (if applicable). The contracts must be provided with a written employment agreement in their native language and establish the rights and responsibilities of both parties and provide a framework for their working relationship. The aspects of employment contractual relationships must cover terms and

conditions such as clear offer and acceptance, duration and termination, and rights and obligations of the parties including confidentiality and intellectual property and dispute resolution. All aspects defined in Section A. (1) Freely Chosen Employment above must be respected. Participants must apply the compliance of this process to labor agencies, labor brokers, and labor service providers (If applicable). The company requires suppliers to disclose information relating to their efforts to address risks of freely chosen employment by respecting their employment contractual relationships in their operations and supply chain. The company has established monitoring controls to prevent this risk across the company and in the supply chain and made the commitment to prevent this from occurring in the future.

**9) Human trafficking** - The United Nations Protocol prevents, suppresses, and punishes trafficking in persons especially women and children, which is protocol is supplemented by the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. In conformance with the protocol, participants shall not permit trafficking of persons within its operations and supply chains. The company requires suppliers to disclose information relating to their efforts too address risks of human trafficking in their operations and supply chain. The company has established and implementing monitoring controls to prevent human trafficking across the company and in the supply chain and makes the commitment to prevent this from occurring in the future.

**B. HEALTH and SAFETY**

Participants recognize that in addition to minimizing the incidence of work-related injury and illness, a safe and healthy work environment enhances the quality of products and services, consistency of production and worker retention and morale. Participants also recognize that ongoing worker input and education are essential to identifying and solving health and safety issues in the workplace.

Recognized management systems such as ISO 45001 and ILO Guidelines on Occupational Safety and Health were used as references in preparing the Code and may be useful sources of additional information.

The health and safety standards are:

**1) Occupational Safety** - Worker potential for exposure to health and safety hazards (chemical, electrical and other energy sources, fire, vehicles, and fall hazards, etc.) are to be identified and assessed, mitigated using the Hierarchy of Controls, which includes eliminating the hazard, substituting processes or materials, controlling through proper design, implementing engineering and administrative controls, preventative maintenance and safe work procedures (including lockout/tagout), and providing ongoing occupational health and safety training. Where hazards cannot be adequately controlled by these means, workers are to be provided with appropriate, well-maintained, personal protective equipment, and educational materials about risks to them associated with these hazards. Reasonable steps must also be taken to remove pregnant women and 'nursing mothers from working conditions with high hazards, remove or reduce any workplace health and safety risks to pregnant women and nursing mothers, including those associated with their work assignments, and provide reasonable accommodations for nursing mothers.

**2) Emergency Preparedness** - Potential emergency situations and events are to be identified and assessed, and their impact minimized by implementing emergency plans and response procedures including emergency reporting, employee notification and evacuation procedures, worker training, and drills. Emergency drills must be executed at least annually or as required by local law, whichever is more stringent. Emergency plans should also include appropriate fire detection and suppression equipment, clear and unobstructed egress, adequate exit facilities, contact information for emergency responders, and recovery plans. Such plans and procedures shall focus on minimizing harm to life, the environment, and property.

**3) Occupational Injury and Illness** - Procedures and systems are to be in place to prevent, manage, track and report occupational injury and illness, including provisions to encourage worker reporting, classify and record injury and illness cases, provide necessary medical treatment, investigate cases and implement corrective actions to eliminate their causes, and facilitate the return of workers to work.

**4) Industrial Hygiene** - Worker exposure to chemical, biological, and physical agents is to be identified, evaluated, and controlled according to the Hierarchy of Controls. If any potential hazards were identified, participants shall look for opportunities to eliminate and/or reduce the potential hazards. If elimination or reduction of the hazards is not feasible, potential hazards are to be controlled through proper design, engineering, and administrative controls. When hazards cannot be adequately controlled by such means, workers are to be provided with and use appropriate, well-maintained, personal protective equipment

free of charge. Protective programs shall be ongoing and include educational materials about the risks associated with these hazards.

**5) Physically Demanding Work** - Worker exposure to the hazards of physically demanding tasks, including manual material handling and heavy or repetitive lifting, prolonged standing, and highly repetitive or forceful assembly tasks is to be identified, evaluated, and controlled.

**6) Machine Safeguarding** - Production and other machinery shall be evaluated for safety hazards. Physical guards, interlocks, and barriers are to be provided and properly maintained where machinery presents an injury hazard to workers.

**7) Sanitation, Food, and Housing** - Workers are to be provided with ready access to clean toilet facilities, potable water and sanitary food preparation, storage, and eating facilities. Worker dormitories provided by the Participant, or a labor agent are to be maintained to be clean and safe, and provided with appropriate emergency egress, hot water for bathing and showering, adequate lighting and heat and ventilation, individually secured accommodations for storing personal and valuable items, and reasonable personal space along with reasonable entry and exit privileges.

**8) Health and Safety Communication** - Participants shall provide workers with appropriate workplace health and safety information and training in the language of the worker or in a language the worker can understand for all identified workplace hazards that workers are exposed to, including but not limited to mechanical, electrical, chemical, fire, and physical hazards. Health and safety related information shall be clearly posted in the facility or placed in a location identifiable and accessible by workers. Training is provided to all workers prior to the beginning of work and regularly thereafter. Workers shall be encouraged to raise any health and safety concerns without retaliation.

**C. ENVIRONMENTAL**

Participants recognize that environmental responsibility is integral to producing world-class products. Participants shall identify the environmental impacts and minimize adverse effects on the community, environment, and natural resources within their manufacturing operations, while safeguarding the health and safety of the public. Recognized management systems such as ISO 14001 and the Eco Management and Audit System (EMAS) were used as references in preparing the Code and may be a useful source of additional information.

The environmental standards are:

**1) Environmental Permits and Reporting** - All required environmental permits (e.g. discharge monitoring), approvals, and registrations are to be obtained, maintained, and kept current and their operational and reporting requirements are to be followed.

**2) Pollution Prevention and Resource Reduction** - Emissions and discharges of pollutants and generation of waste are to be minimized or eliminated at the source or by practices such as adding pollution control equipment; modifying production, maintenance, and facility processes; or by other means. The use of natural resources, including water, fossil fuels, minerals, and virgin forest products, is to be conserved by practices such as modifying production, maintenance and facility processes, materials substitution, re-use, conservation, recycling, or other means.

**3) Hazardous Substances** - Chemicals, waste, and other materials posing a hazard to humans or the environment are to be identified, labeled, and managed to ensure their safe handling, movement, storage, use, recycling or reuse, and disposal.

**4) Solid Waste** - Participants shall implement a systematic approach to identify, manage, reduce, and responsibly dispose of or recycle solid waste (non-hazardous).

**5) Air Emissions** - Air emissions of volatile organic chemicals, aerosols, corrosives, particulates, ozone depleting substances, and combustion by products generated from operations are to be characterized, routinely monitored, controlled, and treated as required prior to discharge. Ozone-depleting substances are to be effectively managed in accordance with the Montreal Protocol and applicable regulations. Participants shall conduct routine monitoring of the performance of its air emission control systems.

**6) Materials Restrictions** - Participants are to adhere to all applicable laws, regulations and customer requirements regarding prohibition or restriction of specific substances in products and manufacturing, including labeling for recycling and disposal.

**7) Water Management** - Participants shall implement a water management program that documents, characterizes, and monitors water sources, use and discharge; seeks opportunities to conserve water; and controls channels of contamination. All wastewater is to be characterized, monitored, controlled, and treated as required prior to discharge or disposal. Participants shall conduct routine monitoring of the performance of its wastewater treatment and containment systems to ensure optimal performance and regulatory compliance.

**8) Energy Consumption and Greenhouse Gas Emissions** - Participants are to establish a corporate-wide greenhouse gas reduction goal. Energy consumption and all relevant Scopes 1 and 2 greenhouse gas



emissions are to be tracked, documented, and publicly reported against the greenhouse gas reduction goal. Participants are to look for methods to improve energy efficiency and to minimize their energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.

#### **D. ETHICS**

To meet social responsibilities and to achieve success in the marketplace, Participants and their agents are to uphold the highest standards of ethics including:

**1) Business Integrity** - The highest standards of integrity are to be upheld in all business interactions. Participants shall have a zero-tolerance policy to prohibit any and all forms of bribery, corruption, extortion and embezzlement.

**2) No Improper Advantage** - Bribes or other means of obtaining undue or improper advantage are not to be promised, offered, authorized, given, or accepted. This prohibition covers promising, offering, authorizing, giving or accepting anything of value, either directly or indirectly through a third party, in order to obtain or retain business, direct business to any person, or otherwise gain an improper advantage. Monitoring, record keeping, and enforcement procedures shall be implemented to ensure compliance with anti-corruption laws.

**3) Disclosure of Information** - All business dealings should be transparently performed and accurately reflected on the Participant's business books and records. Information regarding participant's labor, health and safety, environmental practices, business activities, structure, financial situation, and performance is to be disclosed in accordance with applicable regulations and prevailing industry practices. Falsification of records or misrepresentation of conditions or practices in the supply chain are unacceptable.

**4) Intellectual Property** - Intellectual property rights are to be respected, transfer of technology and know-how is to be done in a manner that protects intellectual property rights, and customer and supplier information is to be safeguarded.

**5) Fair Business, Advertising and Competition** - Standards of fair business, advertising, and competition are to be upheld

**6) Protection of Identity and Non-Retaliation** - Programs that ensure the confidentiality, anonymity, and protection of supplier and employee whistleblowers<sup>2</sup> are to be maintained, unless prohibited by law. Participants should have a communicated process for their personnel to be able to raise any concerns without fear of retaliation.

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<sup>2</sup> Whistleblower definition: Any person who makes a disclosure about improper conduct by an employee or officer of a company, or by a public official or official body.

**7) Responsible Sourcing of Minerals** - Participants shall adopt a policy and exercise due diligence on the source and chain of custody of the tantalum, tin, tungsten, and gold in the products they manufacture to

reasonably assure that they are sourced in a way consistent with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas or an equivalent and recognized due diligence framework.

**8) Privacy** - Participants are to commit to protecting the reasonable privacy expectations of personal information of everyone they do business with, including suppliers, customers, consumers, and employees. Participants are to comply with privacy and information security laws and regulatory requirements when personal information is collected, stored, processed, transmitted, and shared.

## E. MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

Participants shall adopt or establish a management system with a scope that is related to the content of this Code. The management system shall be designed to ensure: (a) compliance with applicable laws, regulations and customer requirements related to the participant's operations and products; (b) conformance with this Code; and (c) identification and mitigation of operational risks related to this Code; (d) Describing context of the organization. It should also facilitate continual improvement.

The management system should contain the following elements:

**1) Company Commitment** - Corporate social and environmental responsibility policy statements affirming Participant's commitment to compliance and continual improvement, endorsed by executive management, and posted in the facility in the local language. Health & Safety Leadership and worker participation is included in the policies.

**2) Management Accountability, Authorities and Responsibility** - The Participant clearly identifies senior executive and company representative(s) responsible for ensuring implementation of the management systems and associated programs. Senior management reviews the status of the management systems on a regular basis. Health & Safety leadership and worker participation is included in the responsibilities.

**3) Legal and Customer Requirements** - A process to identify, monitor and understand applicable laws, regulations, and customer requirements, including the requirements of this Code.

**4) Operational planning and control** – A process to describe the operations and establish the operational controls outlined on the standard operational procedures (SOP) including operational controls that apply to outsourcing, procurement and contractors, emergency preparedness and response and change management.

**4) Risk Assessment and Risk Management** - A process to identify the legal compliance, environmental, health and safety<sup>3</sup> and labor practice and ethics risks associated with Participant's operations. Determination of the relative significance for each risk and implementation of appropriate procedural and physical controls to control the identified risks and ensure regulatory compliance.

**5) Improvement Objectives** - Written performance objectives, targets and implementation plan to improve the Participant's social, environmental, and health and safety performance, including a periodic assessment of Participant's performance in achieving those objectives.

**6) Training** - Programs for training managers and workers to implement Participant's policies, procedures, and improvement objectives and to meet applicable legal and regulatory requirements.

**7) Communication** - A process for communicating clear and accurate information about Participant's policies, practices, expectations, and performance to workers, suppliers, and customers.

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<sup>3</sup> Areas to be included in a risk assessment for environmental health and safety are production areas, warehouse and storage facilities, plant/facilities support equipment, laboratories and test areas, sanitation facilities (bathrooms), kitchen/cafeteria and worker housing/dormitories.

**8) Worker Feedback, Participation and Grievance** - Ongoing processes, including an effective grievance mechanism, to assess workers' understanding of and obtain feedback on or violations against practices and conditions covered by this Code and to foster continuous improvement. Workers must be given a safe environment to provide grievance and feedback without fear of reprisal or retaliation.

**9) Audits and Assessments** - Periodic self-evaluations (internal audits) to ensure conformity to legal and regulatory requirements, the content of the Code, and customer contractual requirements related to social, health & safety and environmental responsibility.

**10) Corrective Action Process** - A process for timely correction of deficiencies identified by internal or external assessments, inspections, investigations, and reviews.

**11) Documentation and Records** - Creation and maintenance of documents and records to ensure regulatory compliance and conformity to company requirements along with appropriate confidentiality to protect privacy.

**12) Supplier Responsibility** - A process to communicate Code requirements to Suppliers and to monitor Supplier compliance to the Code.

**REFERENCES**

- Version 7.0 – Released January 2021 with revisions to multiple provisions
- Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act  
<http://www.sec.gov/about/laws/wallstreetreform-cpa.pdf>
- Eco Management & Audit System [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/emas/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/emas/index_en.htm) Ethical Trading Initiative [www.ethicaltrade.org/](http://www.ethicaltrade.org/)
- ILO Code of Practice in Safety and Health  
[www.ilo.org/public/english/protection/safework/cops/english/download/e000013.pdf](http://www.ilo.org/public/english/protection/safework/cops/english/download/e000013.pdf)
- ILO International Labor Standards  
[www.ilo.org/public/english/standards/norm/whatare/fundam/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/public/english/standards/norm/whatare/fundam/index.htm)
- ISO 14001 [www.iso.org](http://www.iso.org)
- National Fire Protection Association [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org)
- OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict- Affected and High-Risk Areas <https://www.oecd.org/daf/inv/mne/OECD-Due-Diligence-Guidance-Minerals-Edition3.pdf>
- OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises  
<http://www.oecd.org/investment/mne/1903291.pdf>
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights <https://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/>
- United Nations Convention Against Corruption <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/treaties/CAC/>
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child  
<https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/crc.aspx>
- United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women  
<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CEDAW.aspx>
- United Nations Global Compact [www.unglobalcompact.org](http://www.unglobalcompact.org)
- United States Federal Acquisition Regulation [www.acquisition.gov/far/](http://www.acquisition.gov/far/)
- SA 8000 <https://sa-intl.org/programs/sa8000/>
- Social Accountability International (SAI) [www.sa-intl.org](http://www.sa-intl.org)

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01	2019-10-30	First Issue	Mark Girgis	Legal Department
02	2023-05-23	First Revision	Mark Girgis/Candy Morales	Legal Department