
Independent Practitioner's Reasonable Assurance Report

Heraeus Precious Metals GmbH & Co. KG
Hanau

Reasonable assurance engagement on the LBMA Refiner's Compliance Report of Heraeus Precious Metals GmbH & Co. KG, Hanau (Germany) for the period 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

Engagement: DEE00173462.1.1



Independent Practitioner’s Reasonable Assurance Report

To Heraeus Precious Metals GmbH & Co. KG, Hanau (Germany)

We have been engaged to perform a reasonable assurance engagement on the accompanying Refiner's Compliance Report of Heraeus Precious Metals GmbH & Co. KG, Hanau (Germany), (“the Refiner”) for the period 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025 (the "Refiner's Compliance Report”).

Management’s Responsibility for the Refiner’s Compliance Report

The Management of the Refiner is responsible for the preparation and presentation of the Refiner’s Compliance Report in accordance with the LBMA Responsible Silver Guidance (version 2) as of November 2023 (the "Guidance").

This responsibility includes establishing appropriate risk management and internal controls from which the reported information is derived. The criteria identified by management as relevant for demonstrating compliance with the Guidance are the activities described in the Refiner's Compliance Report. Furthermore, the responsibility includes designing, implementing and maintaining systems and processes relevant to the proper preparation and presentation of the Refiner's Compliance Report, which is free of material misstatements due to intentional or unintentional errors.

Audit Firm’s Independence and Quality Management

We have complied with the German professional provisions regarding independence as well as other ethical requirements.

Our audit firm applies the national legal requirements and professional standards – in particular the Professional Code for German Public Auditors and German Chartered Auditors (“Berufssatzung für Wirtschaftsprüfer und vereidigte Buchprüfer“: “BS WP/vBP”) as well as the Standard on Quality Management 1 published by the Institut der Wirtschaftsprüfer (Institute of Public Auditors in Germany; IDW): Requirements to quality management for audit firms (IDW Qualitätsmanagementstandard 1: Anforderungen an das Qualitätsmanagement in der Wirtschaftsprüferpraxis - IDW QMS 1 (09.2022)), which requires the audit firm to design, implement and operate a system of quality management that complies with the applicable legal requirements and professional standards.

Practitioner’s Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express a reasonable assurance conclusion on the Refiner’s Compliance Report based on our work performed. Within the scope of our engagement, we did not perform an audit on external sources of information or expert opinions, referred to in the Refiner's Compliance Report.

We conducted our work in accordance with the International Standard on Assurance Engagements (ISAE) 3000 (Revised). "Assurance Engagements other than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information" published by IAASB and the supplementary guidance set out in the LBMA Responsible Sourcing Programme – Third Party Audit Guidance (version 2) as of November 2022. This Standard requires that we plan and perform the assurance engagement to

obtain reasonable assurance whether the Refiner's Compliance Report, prepared by the Refiner for the period 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025 complies in all material respects with the Guidance.

A reasonable assurance engagement involves performing procedures to obtain sufficient appropriate evidence whether the Refiner's Compliance Report is prepared in accordance with the Guidance. The procedures selected depend on the practitioner's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the Refiner's Compliance Report with the Guidance. Within the scope of our work we performed primarily on a test basis amongst others the following procedures:

- Interviews with the precious metals compliance officer and compliance experts in charge of the preparation of the Refiner's Compliance Report;
- Inspection of relevant corporate guidelines and local documents describing the management systems for due diligence and the risk management approach towards a responsible supply chain;
- Live inspection of the due diligence IT system and related documentation (Know Your Business Partner - KYBP);
- Review of documentation of requirements on the group-wide processes for collecting, analyzing and aggregating data on the supply chain of silver;
- Performance of site visit at the Refiner's location in Hanau (Germany) for the inspection of relevant systems, processes and controls, featuring a physical tour of the production site covering materials receipt and batch processing across production, as well as process walkthroughs for a sample of business partners;
- Evaluation of the consistency of the statements provided in the Refiner's Compliance Report with the findings obtained during our engagement.

We believe that the evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our conclusion.

Inherent limitations

Non-financial information, such as that included in the Refiner's Compliance Report, is subject to more inherent limitations than financial information, given the more qualitative characteristics of the subject matter and the methods used for determining such information. The methods used by the Refiner to comply with the Guidance may differ. It is important to read the Supply Chain Due Diligence Policy available in the download section on Refiner's website:

<https://www.heraeus-group.com/en/sustainability/#supplierguidelines>

Conclusion

In our opinion, the Refiner's Compliance Report complies in all material respects with the LBMA Responsible Silver Guidance (version 2) as of November 2023.

Restriction on Use

Our report is issued to the Refiner. The accompanying Refiner's Compliance Report has been prepared for specific purposes of the Refiner and may not be suitable for other purposes.

Accordingly, the audit of the Refiner's Compliance Report has been performed for purposes of Heraeus Precious Metals GmbH & Co. KG, Hanau (Germany) and the assurance report is solely intended to inform Heraeus Precious Metals GmbH & Co. KG, Hanau (Germany) about the results of the audit. The assurance report is not intended for any third parties to base any (financial) decision thereon. We do not assume any responsibility towards third parties.

General Terms of Engagement

We issue this report on the basis of the engagement agreed with the Refiner, which comprises the attached General Engagement Terms for Wirtschaftsprüferinnen, Wirtschaftsprüfer and Wirtschaftsprüfungsgesellschaften [German Public Auditors and Public Audit Firms] as of January 1, 2024, which are also applicable to third parties.

Cologne, 30 March 2026

PricewaterhouseCoopers GmbH
Wirtschaftsprüfungsgesellschaft

Theres Schäfer
Wirtschaftsprüferin
(German Public Auditor)

ppa. Isabel Urrutia

Appendices

Table of Appendices

- I. Heraeus GmbH & Co. KG, Hanau (Germany) LBMA Compliance Report 2025

General Engagement Terms for Wirtschaftsprüferinnen, Wirtschaftsprüfer
and Wirtschaftsprüfungsgesellschaften dated January 1, 2024



Compliance Report – Financial Year 2025

Annual Compliance Report in accordance with LBMA Responsible Sourcing Programme

Heraeus Precious Metals GmbH & Co. KG

Reporting Period:

01 January 2025 – 31 December 2025

Standard:

London Bullion Market Association (LBMA)

Responsible Silver Guidance 2, November 2023

Contents

Introduction	2
1 Step 1: Company Management Systems	5
1.1 Has the Refiner adopted a supply chain policy regarding due diligence for supply chains of gold and/or silver?	5
1.2 Has the Refiner set up an internal management structure to support supply chain due diligence? 6	
1.3 Has the Refiner established a traceability system over gold and/or silver supply chains, including chain of custody mapping and identification of supply chain actors?	7
1.4 Has the Refiner strengthened company engagement with gold and/or silver supplying counterparties, and, where possible, assisted gold and/or silver supplying counterparties in building due diligence capabilities?	8
1.5 Has the Refiner established a company-wide confidential grievance mechanism?	9
2 Step 2: Risk Identification and Assessment	10
2.1 Does the Refiner have a due diligence process to identify risks in the supply chain?	10
2.2 How does the Refiner classify identified risks in light of the standards of its due diligence system?	11
2.3 Has the Refiner undertaken Enhanced Due Diligence (EDD) measures for identified high-risk supply chains?	12
3 Step 3: Risk Management	14
3.1 Does the Refiner have a process to respond to the identified risks by either (i) mitigating the risk while continuing to trade, (ii) mitigating the risk while suspending trade or (iii) disengagement from the risk?	14
4 Step 4: Independent Third-Party Assurance	16
5 Management Conclusion	17
6 Additional Notes and Sign-Off	17

Refiner's details	
Refiner's name	Heraeus Precious Metals GmbH & Co. KG
Location	Heraeusstraße 12-14; 63450 Hanau, Germany
Reporting year end	01 January 2025 – 31 December 2025
Date of Report	30 March 2026
Senior management responsible for this report	Dr. Patrick Henritzi Email: Patrick.Henritzi@heraeus.com
Company website	https://www.heraeus-precious-metals.com/en/responsibility/compliance/ <i>The Refiner's Supply Chain Due Diligence Policy is publicly available on the company website at the above link</i>

Disclaimer

This Compliance Report has been prepared in accordance with the LBMA Responsible Silver Guidance (Version 2, November 2023). It covers only the silver supply chain due diligence of Heraeus Precious Metals GmbH & Co. KG (Hanau) for the period 01 January 2025 to 31 December 2025 and does not constitute a general corporate sustainability report.

Introduction

Heraeus Precious Metals (HPM), a key division of the Heraeus Group, is recognized as a global leader in the precious metals industry. Headquartered in Hanau, Germany, the Heraeus Group operates worldwide with expertise in precious metals, medical technology, sensors, and specialty materials. Within this structure, HPM focuses on refining, trading, and recycling of precious metals, including gold, silver, and platinum group metals (PGMs¹).

Our commitment to responsible sourcing is embedded within Heraeus Precious Metals GmbH & Co. KG (HPMG) and aligned with internationally recognized standards², including:

- OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas
- LBMA Responsible Gold and Silver Guidance
- LPPM Responsible Platinum and Palladium Guidance
- Responsible Jewellery Council (RJC) Code of Practices
- Responsible Minerals Initiative (RMI)
- Fairtrade Standard for Precious Metals

Heraeus Precious Metals operates multiple refining facilities worldwide. Table 1 provides an overview of our global footprint:

¹ PGMs include platinum, palladium, rhodium, ruthenium, iridium, and osmium

























² Refers to the most recent versions of the respective international standards and framework documents

Table 1: Heraeus Precious Metals – Worldwide Refining Sites

Entity	Location
Heraeus Precious Metals GmbH & Co. KG	Hanau, Germany
Heraeus Limited	Fanling, Hong Kong
Heraeus Precious Metals North America	Santa Fe Springs, USA
Heraeus Precious Metals Technologie (China) Co., Ltd	Nanjing, China
Heraeus PGM SA (Pty) Ltd	Gqeberha, South Africa
Argor-Heraeus SA ³	Mendrisio, Switzerland
Choksi Heraeus Private Ltd. ⁴	Udaipur, India
Ravindra Heraeus Private Ltd. ⁴	Udaipur, India

To illustrate the certifications held by each site and applicable precious metals, Table 2 provides an overview:

Table 2: Certifications by Site and Precious Metal

Site	LBMA		LPPM		RMI	RJC	Fairtrade
	Au	Ag	Pd	Pt	Au		
Heraeus Precious Metals GmbH & Co. KG							
Heraeus Limited							
Heraeus Precious Metals North America							
Heraeus Precious Metals Technologie (China) Co., Ltd							
Heraeus PGM SA (Pty) Ltd							
Argor-Heraeus SA							
Choksi Heraeus Private Ltd.							
Ravindra Heraeus Private Ltd.							

The governance and management system is designed to ensure compliance with these standards and is supported by robust due diligence, traceability, and risk management processes. These measures apply to all precious metals processed, including gold, silver, platinum, palladium, rhodium, ruthenium, iridium and osmium.

Heraeus Precious Metals processes materials from different sources, such as:

- Material already certified as “Good Delivery”
- Recycled material, including returned material from industrial activities or old/scrap jewelry
- Primary mine material and by-products from primary mining

Highly industrialized mines are significant cooperation partners for Heraeus. Given the growing demand for precious metals and the environmental impact of primary mining, recycling has become increasingly important as an alternative source. Recycled material includes, among others, industrial returns, obsolete jewelry, and post-consumer precious metals such as spent catalysts and metal alloys.

³ Wholly owned affiliate of Heraeus Precious Metals

⁴ 50:50 joint venture with Heraeus Precious Metals

Heraeus Precious Metals is committed to creating sustainable and transparent value for all partners along the entire value chain. National governments, international standards, and industry associations are working to ensure that the supply chain, from raw material extraction to final business partner, is responsible, sustainable, and compliant with legal and ethical requirements. Heraeus Precious Metals actively supports these efforts and continuously improves its processes in line with global best practices.

Heraeus Precious Metals commitments, including Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) aspects, are reflected in publicly available policies and documents published on our website. More information can be accessed at:

<https://www.heraeus-precious-metals.com/en/responsibility/precious-to-us/>

Scope of Report and Compliance Activities

This report specifically covers Heraeus Precious Metals GmbH & Co. KG, (HPMG) located in Hanau, Germany. The Hanau refinery is one of the largest and most advanced facilities within the Heraeus network and specializes in the refining and processing of silver, gold, and platinum group metals.

The refinery serves a diverse customer base, primarily consisting of mining companies and industrial clients from various sectors. These relationships reflect the global reach and complexity of Heraeus Precious Metals' supply chain.

In line with the LBMA Responsible Silver Guidance, the scope of this report includes the due diligence and compliance activities conducted for the refining activities within the scope of this report to ensure adherence to internationally recognized standards.

HPMG in Hanau primarily processes recycled materials. These include a broad range of secondary sources such as spent catalytic converters, old or defective jewelry, and other post-consumer and industrial recycled materials. Primary materials are received exclusively as side streams, such as those arising from copper refining, or other mining by-products generated during the extraction and processing of base or precious metals.

1 Step 1: Company Management Systems

Compliance Statement with Requirement:

Heraeus Precious Metals GmbH & Co. KG (HPMG) has fully complied with Step 1: Establish Strong Company Management Systems

1.1 Has the Refiner adopted a supply chain policy regarding due diligence for supply chains of gold and/or silver?

Yes, Heraeus Precious Metals GmbH & Co. KG (HPMG) has adopted a supply chain policy regarding due diligence for supply chains of silver.

HPMG applies the Heraeus Supply Chain Due Diligence Policy (Version 10/2024). This policy governs the responsible sourcing of all materials and services procured across the Heraeus Group. It explicitly applies to all Heraeus legal entities and companies, including HPMG. At the Hanau refinery, this includes the responsible sourcing of gold, silver, and platinum group metals. The company structure and global footprint are outlined in the introduction section of this report.

The Supply Chain Due Diligence Policy is aligned with the LBMA Responsible Silver Guidance, the OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas, and other internationally recognized standards. It addresses all OECD Annex II risks, including:

- Human rights violations and child labor
- Money laundering and financing of terrorism
- Corruption and bribery
- Environmental protection and health & safety
- Fraudulent misrepresentation of origin

The Supply Chain Due Diligence Policy was approved by the Board of Managing Directors of Heraeus Holding GmbH and last updated in October 2024. While reviews have historically been conducted as needed, Heraeus will perform and document an annual policy review starting in 2026 to ensure continuous improvement.

Heraeus integrates environmental, social and governance (ESG) considerations into its overall due diligence approach as outlined in the Supply Chain Due Diligence Policy. The Policy defines the company's sustainability expectations and responsible sourcing commitments.

The Supply Chain Due Diligence Policy is publicly available on the Heraeus website and communicated internally via the Heraeus intranet platform Heraeus Touch.

The direct link to the Supply Chain Due Diligence Policy (Version 10/2024) can be accessed here:

<https://www.heraeus-group.com/dam/jcr:526bc9fb-0853-4257-a53d-15c09bef4dc0/2410-supply-chain-due-diligence-policy-en.pdf>

Integration into Document Management System:

The Supply Chain Due Diligence Policy is embedded within the Heraeus document management system. This system ensures alignment between group level policies, business segment guidelines, and operational Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). The HPM Responsible PM Sourcing Guideline functions as the segment specific policy for responsible sourcing and due diligence in

precious metals and operationalizes the requirements of the LBMA Responsible Silver Guidance for all precious metal activities at HPM. The structure is illustrated in Figure 1 below.

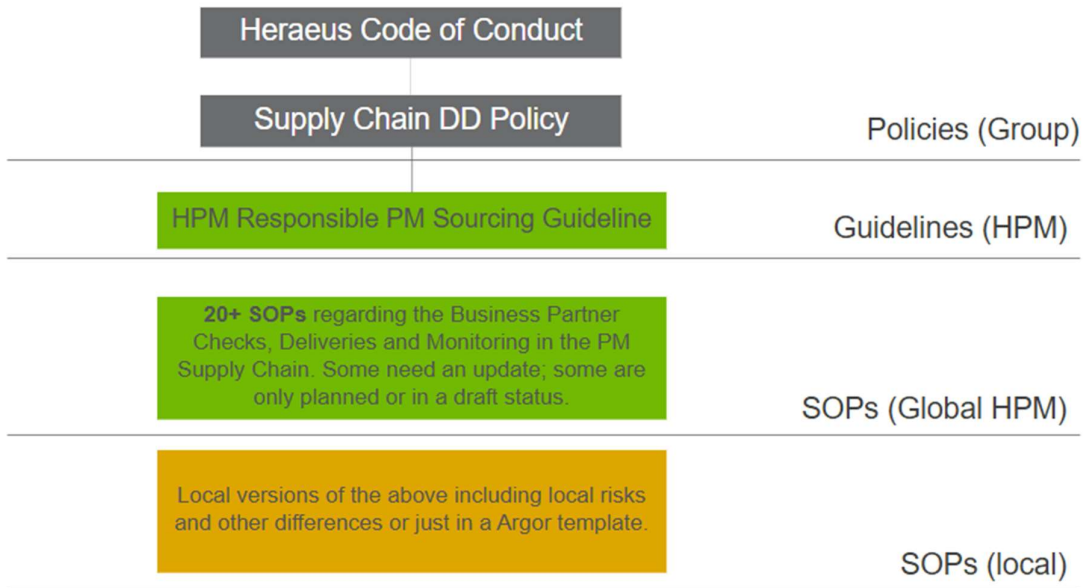


Figure 1: Heraeus Document Hierarchy for Responsible Sourcing.

1.2 Has the Refiner set up an internal management structure to support supply chain due diligence?

Yes, Heraeus Precious Metals GmbH & Co. KG (HPMG) has implemented an internal management structure to support supply chain due diligence within its global Compliance Management System (CMS). The CMS is integrated into Heraeus’s governance framework and ensures effective oversight and implementation of responsible sourcing requirements.

Responsibility for supply chain due diligence lies with the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Heraeus Precious Metals GmbH & Co. KG, who is the highest authority within Heraeus Precious Metals and a member of the Heraeus Holding Board. The CEO participates in annual compliance training to maintain sufficient skills and knowledge for oversight.

The appointed Compliance Officer for HPMG also serves as Global Head of Precious Metals Compliance Experts (PMCE) and acts as the official Anti-Money Laundering Officer for HPMG. The Compliance Function is supported by adequately qualified and experienced personnel from the Responsible Sourcing Team and centrally manages precious metals compliance topics for the entire Heraeus Precious Metals organization worldwide from Hanau.

Supply chain due diligence topics are reviewed and reported to HPM leadership through the quarterly HPM Sourcing Committee. The Committee functions as the primary leadership forum for responsible sourcing and fulfils the LBMA Disclosure Guidance requirement to report to leadership on high-risk supply chains, counterparty reviews, risk mitigation strategies, and progress on improvement actions.

The HPM Sourcing Committee meeting is being held quarterly, attended by the CEO, CFO, Business Line Heads, and other relevant stakeholders. The sessions are chaired by the Head of PMCE. The Committee reviews all management relevant responsible sourcing topics, including Know Your

Business Partner (KYBP) assessments, accepted non conformities, unusual customer behavior, approvals of high risk customers, process maturity updates, and unusual business models. The Committee meets for sixty minutes each quarter and additional ad hoc meetings may be held when required. Since its introduction in the third quarter of 2025, the start of the HPM Sourcing Committee includes a brief training on precious metal supply chain due diligence before proceeding to the agenda covering current topics and management decisions.

No (0-Zero) material violations of internal due diligence processes were identified during the reporting period. Escalation procedures are in place should violations occur.

HPMG allocates sufficient resources and skilled personnel to monitor and implement due diligence processes. Training is provided through two programs:

- Annual Compliance Training for all HPM employees worldwide, covering general compliance topics such as anti-corruption, anti-bribery, and anti-money laundering. In 2025, 302 employees (97 % of assigned staff) at HPMG completed this training.
- Precious Metals Compliance Training, focused on supply chain due diligence topics such as KYBP checks, risk assessment, and conflict minerals. This training is provided to employees whose roles require it, with 113 participants (97 % of assigned staff) trained at HPMG in 2025.

Cash payments are strictly prohibited with no exception; all transactions are processed through official banking channels. All transactions are recorded in SAP and retained for six years in the active system before being archived, ensuring compliance with the 10-year retention requirement applicable to HPMG. Due diligence documentation is stored in the dedicated KYBP tool and on secure SharePoint folders. All due diligence documentation is securely retained and accessible in the KYBP system and archived records

1.3 Has the Refiner established a traceability system over gold and/or silver supply chains, including chain of custody mapping and identification of supply chain actors?

Yes, Heraeus Precious Metals GmbH & Co. KG (HPMG) has implemented a strong internal system of due diligence, controls, and transparency over the silver supply chain, including traceability and identification of all supply chain actors. This system ensures full compliance with LBMA Responsible Guidance requirements.

Business partners are subject to a KYBP process prior to onboarding. As part of this process, partners complete a Recycling Material Questionnaire, which identifies their business model and clarifies whether they are a mining entity or another type of supplier. The questionnaire also specifies the origin and form of the material supplied. In certain cases, KYBP documentation may be completed outside the system, for example through written approval or email correspondence. These cases remain exceptions and are managed on a case-by-case basis supplied.

Silver received at HPMG typically falls into one of the following categories:

- **Primary material:** Material originating from mining operations or mining by-products, including side streams generated from processes such as copper refining, PGM mining or other base-metal extraction activities. HPMG does not currently source silver directly from primary silver mines; all primary silver received is exclusively derived as a by-product of other mining operations.
- **Secondary (recycled) material:** Secondary material at HPMG comprises a wide range of post-consumer and industrial sources. This includes spent catalysts, which predominantly originate from chemical production process plants, oil refining operations, and other industrial

applications that rely on precious-metal-based catalysis. In addition, recycled inputs include electronic scrap and various industrial residues containing recoverable precious metals, as well as obsolete, damaged, or defective jewelry. Further secondary precious-metal-bearing materials may be recovered from diverse manufacturing environments or end-of-life product streams.

- **LBMA Good Delivery certified material:** Material received from LBMA Good Delivery refiners under established industry assurance frameworks, including defective or damaged bars returned for remelting (though less common in recycling operations).

If material is identified as mining origin, enhanced due diligence procedures are applied in line with LBMA Responsible Silver Guidance.

HPMG has established a robust traceability system for all incoming precious metal-bearing material. For each lot received, the following information is recorded in SAP:

- Type of material received
- Weight and assay results
- Unique batch number linking input and output orders
- Date of arrival and date of assay finalization

Supporting transactional documents, depending on the respective business model, such as airwaybills, invoices, packing lists, and export forms are archived in SAP.

Each incoming material lot is assigned a unique batch number, ensuring complete chain of custody mapping from material receipt to final output. All transactions are accurately registered in SAP, allowing full traceability at any time. Specific controls are carried out before processing the material as outlined in internal guidelines. These controls are embedded in prescribed work instructions, which define the handling of raw and starting materials and ensure that all required checks are performed prior to processing. Any form of non-conformity is unacceptable and must be reported immediately for clarification.

Disclosure for Reporting Period (2025):

No (0-Zero) incidents relating to counterparties' identification, origin, or traceability occurred during the reporting period. In case of any future non-conformity or unclear information during initial or ongoing checks, HPMG will either reject the business partner or initiate extraordinary re-assessment and escalation to the Compliance Officer.

1.4 Has the Refiner strengthened company engagement with gold and/or silver supplying counterparties, and, where possible, assisted gold and/or silver supplying counterparties in building due diligence capabilities?

Yes, Heraeus Precious Metals GmbH & Co. KG (HPMG) has strengthened its engagement with precious metals business partners (BP) by clearly communicating due diligence expectations and requirements. All BPs must accept the Heraeus Code of Conduct for Precious Metal Suppliers or submit their own Code of Conduct for review. The review of an alternative Code of Conduct is carried out as part of the KYBP check by the Responsible Sourcing Manager to ensure alignment with OECD guidelines and LBMA Responsible Silver Guidance requirements. In rare cases where questions or uncertainties arise regarding requirements, HPMG clarifies these through email or virtual meetings to ensure full understanding.

Communication of expectations is primarily conducted through the KYBP process in the Responsible Sourcing Portal, where BPs register and complete mandatory questionnaires. These questionnaires, together with the Code of Conduct acceptance, form the basis for onboarding and ongoing

compliance monitoring. The expectations communicated include compliance with applicable laws, prevention of money laundering and terrorist financing, prohibition of corruption and bribery, respect for human rights, prohibition of child labor, occupational health and safety, environmental protection, and assurance that precious metals are not sourced from conflict-affected or high-risk areas. BPs are also required to provide certificates of origin upon request and inform HPMG immediately if material from questionable sources is offered.

HPMG supports the principles of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI). During the reporting period, HPMG did not source silver from a State Owned Enterprises in an EITI country.

1.5 Has the Refiner established a company-wide confidential grievance mechanism?

Yes, Heraeus Precious Metals GmbH & Co. KG (HPMG) has established a company-wide confidential grievance mechanism called Heraeus SpeakUp, which enables internal and external stakeholders to report concerns related to responsible sourcing, compliance, human rights, and environmental obligations. The mechanism is designed to ensure accessibility, confidentiality, and protection against retaliation.

The grievance mechanism is accessible to employees, former employees, business partners, suppliers, and any parties affected by Heraeus' activities. Reports can be submitted through multiple channels, including a secure web portal, mobile app, telephone hotline, e-mail, postal mail, and personal meetings. Anonymous reporting is possible, and all submissions are handled confidentially by the Heraeus Compliance Officer (HCO) and, where necessary, the Group Audit Head, acting independently. The grievance mechanism is accessible in more than 50 languages through the multilingual SpeakUp system, ensuring global usability.

Grievances are recorded in the Heraeus SpeakUp system and processed according to defined procedures. The reporting process includes acknowledgment of receipt within seven days, preliminary review and investigation by the responsible Compliance Officer, and escalation to senior management if significant impact or high-level personnel are involved. Feedback on actions taken and planned measures is provided to the whistleblower within three months. Resolutions and corrective actions are communicated to relevant stakeholders where appropriate, while maintaining confidentiality. All case documentation is retained for at least three years in compliance with legal requirements. The identity of the whistleblower is protected throughout the process, and retaliation against whistleblowers is strictly prohibited.

Further details on the grievance mechanism are available at:

<https://www.heraeus.com/de/sustainability/compliance/#>

Disclosure for Reporting Period (2025):

No (0-Zero) grievances related to responsible sourcing, human rights, environmental issues, or compliance were reported during the period related to HPMG silver business partners. Preventive measures include regular compliance trainings, management oversight, and quarterly sourcing committee meetings to ensure awareness and risk mitigation. Any future grievances will be addressed promptly and confidentially, with corrective and preventive actions implemented as required. The Refiner maintains a defined process to close out any remaining grievances transparently.

2 Step 2: Risk Identification and Assessment

Compliance Statement with Requirement:

Heraeus Precious Metals GmbH & Co. KG (HPMG) has fully complied with Step 2: Identify and assess risks in the supply chain.

2.1 Does the Refiner have a due diligence process to identify risks in the supply chain?

Yes, Heraeus Precious Metals GmbH & Co. KG (HPMG) has implemented a comprehensive due diligence process to identify and assess risks in the silver supply chain, aligned with the LBMA Responsible Silver Guidance and the OECD Due Diligence Framework. This process is embedded in our KYBP program and is mandatory prior to entering any business relationship.

Risk identification and assessment follow the methodology of the LBMA Responsible Silver Guidance and the Due Diligence Requirements. These requirements are embedded into the KYBP process, which is supported by an automated tool. Customer Service initiates the process by creating a business partner profile, which triggers the issuance of the relevant questionnaires to the business partner. These questionnaires include, depending on the business model, the LBMA based Recycling Material Questionnaire, the Beneficial Owner Questionnaire, and other forms required to assess governance practices, material type, country of origin, and other LBMA relevant risk indicators. Business partners complete the questionnaires via the Responsible Sourcing Portal, after which they are reviewed by the Responsible Sourcing Team. Additional checks, including sanctions screening, Politically Exposed Persons (PEP) screening, and adverse media searches, are conducted using commercial and open-source tools. Based on the collected information, the KYBP Tool automatically assigns a preliminary risk rating and triggers re-assessments as required. The preliminary risk rating assigned by the KYBP Tool may be manually adjusted in justified cases. Such adjustments reflect expert judgment of the Responsible Sourcing Team and are being logged in the system, for example when risk-mitigating factors support a different review frequency. The detailed procedure for such adjustments will be further formalized in 2026. All KYBP documentation and supporting evidence are retained for at least ten years in compliance with legal requirements. Records are stored systematically in the KYBP Tool and archived in SharePoint. The process is subject to continuous improvement and periodic review. In 2025, HPM implemented a new KYBP Tool with enhanced functionality, including digital questionnaires and automated risk scoring, significantly improving screening efficiency and transparency.

Risk profiles are classified as low, medium, or high according to predefined criteria. As a general principle, review intervals follow a risk-based cycle: low-risk partners are reviewed every three years, medium-risk every two years, and high-risk annually. However, review frequencies may deviate from these standard intervals when specific risk-mitigating factors allow for a differentiated assessment. This may apply, for example, where material is inherently low-risk, such as spent catalysts sourced directly from established industrial operations, while in other cases a high-risk classification may be influenced by factors such as the type of material or the country of origin. In such low-risk situations, extended review intervals may be applied, provided that the rationale is documented and the overall risk is considered sufficiently low. Enhanced Due Diligence (EDD) is triggered by specific factors such as the form of material (e.g., mined material or pre-melted material), business model (e.g., mine, intermediate refiner), high-risk country exposure (including CAHRAs⁵ and other indices), or significant adverse media findings.

⁵ Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas, as defined by the OECD Due Diligence Guidance

The Responsible Sourcing Team in Hanau consists of two full-time employees supporting the Head of PMCE/Compliance Officer. The team has expertise in AML/CFT (Anti-Money Laundering/Combating the Financing of Terrorism) requirements and OECD Annex II risks. All decisions and approvals are documented within the KYBP Tool. High-risk cases require approval under the four-eyes principle (4EP). In situations where the Responsible Sourcing Team identifies the need for additional senior-level review – based on the nature or complexity of a case – matters may be escalated to the Head of PMCE/Compliance Officer and, where appropriate, further discussed with senior management or the Sourcing Committee. The governance structure and roles are detailed in Section 1.2 of this report.

On-site assessments are part of our risk-based approach and are primarily linked to EDD for high-risk business partners. They are conducted for mining companies, smelters, intermediate refiners, melters, and (spent) autocatalyst suppliers when required by LBMA standards or internal risk triggers. The frequency is not fixed but depends on risk classification, country exposure, and certification status. For example, CAHRA-related mining sites require more frequent checks and may involve third-party auditors to ensure compliance with the six-eyes principle over a ten-year period. In addition to scheduled assessments, ad-hoc visits are performed whenever incident reports or significant changes in risk profile occur. Certified schemes and sustainability reports may be considered as part of the process, provided they meet OECD requirements. Detailed EDD procedures, including on-site methodology, are described in Section 2.3.

2.2 How does the Refiner classify identified risks in light of the standards of its due diligence system?

Yes, Heraeus Precious Metals GmbH & Co. KG (HPMG) classifies identified risks based on a risk-based approach aligned with the LBMA Responsible Silver Guidance, OECD Due Diligence Framework, and applicable legal requirements. The classification process uses predefined criteria and thresholds embedded in our KYBP system to ensure consistency and transparency.

Risk assessment considers multiple factors, including the form and country of origin of the precious metal, the location and business model of business partners, and their responses to the Risk Questionnaire. Additional indicators include Politically Exposed Persons (PEP), ultimate beneficial ownership, sanctions lists, complex corporate structures, and adverse media findings. Country risk is determined using the internal high-risk country list, which incorporate CAHRAs and other recognized indices such as the Heidelberg Barometer, Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering (FATF) lists, SECO⁶ and international sanctions lists, EU CAHRA list, and Dodd-Frank Section 1502.

The KYBP Tool assigns a risk rating of low, medium, or high using the predefined criteria, which include risk levels set by the Responsible Sourcing Team for business models and forms of material, as well as indicators derived from the Risk Questionnaire and the factors described above. Certain responses in the Risk Questionnaire, such as the absence of a company website or the use of a free email provider, may contribute to a medium-risk assessment. A business partner is classified as low-risk if none of the predefined medium- or high-risk criteria apply. If any single criterion is rated high-risk, the overall classification for the business partner is high-risk. Zero-tolerance risks, such as confirmed sanctions breaches, severe human rights violations, or evidence of money laundering or terrorist financing, would lead to non-approval of a new business relationship or to discontinuation of an existing one, if such a case occurred. In line with LBMA requirements, the LBMA would be notified immediately in case such a zero-tolerance finding occurs. The non-approval would require a decision by the Head of PMCE or deliberation in the Sourcing Committee. High-risk classifications may prompt EDD, as outlined in Section 2.3, depending on the overall risk profile of the business

⁶ SECO refers to the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs, the Swiss federal authority responsible for economic policy and the administration and enforcement of international sanctions.

partner and the characteristics of the material. Escalation decisions follow a risk-based approach and are made on a case-by-case basis. Supporting sources used in the KYBP risk assessment include commercial platforms such as Orbis, Factiva, and RepRisk.

Risk Criteria resulting in a high-risk rating include:

- Country Risk: If the customer location or origin country of the material is listed on the internal high-risk country list, as described above.
- Business Model: Assessed using KYBP categories (e.g., mine, intermediate refiner).
- Form of Material: Certain material types, such as mined or pre-melted material, are considered high risk.
- Internal Risk Questionnaire: Responses contribute to the overall evaluation.

Disclosure for Reporting Period (2025):

During the reporting period, HPMG had one business partner (5 % of all business partners assessed during the KYBP process in 2025) classified as high-risk. This partner supplied silver as a by-product from its primary business activity as a PGM mining operation, which constituted the basis for the high-risk classification. No (0-zero) silver-focused business partners held a high-risk classification during the reporting period. No (0-zero) zero-tolerance suppliers were identified during the reporting period.

2.3 Has the Refiner undertaken Enhanced Due Diligence (EDD) measures for identified high-risk supply chains?

Yes, Heraeus Precious Metals GmbH & Co. KG (HPMG) has defined EDD approach for high-risk supply chains in line with the LBMA Responsible Silver Guidance and OECD Due Diligence Framework. No EDD was conducted exclusively within the LBMA Silver scope during the 2025 reporting period. However, one EDD measure was carried out for a business partner operating a PGM mining site that supplies silver to HPMG as a by-product. Due to the PGM mining context, elements of the LPPM Responsible Platinum and Palladium Guidance were applied as methodological references. The following description outlines HPMG's general EDD approach, which applies whenever high-risk supply chains are identified.

EDD is triggered for high-risk business partners where the elevated risk arises from mined material or from situations in which the traceability of the material back to the applicable starting material is not sufficiently clear. In practice, the material characteristics are typically the decisive factor for initiating EDD.

EDD procedures may include a comprehensive review of the high-risk supply chain, focusing on identification of relevant participants up to the starting material and an assessment of supply chain risks in line with LBMA Responsible Silver Guidance expectations. For recycled material, EDD may include a review of the due-diligence processes of intermediate refiners; however, no (0-Zero) such EDD was conducted during the 2025 reporting period.

The key EDD measure is the on-site assessment. These visits follow LBMA templates and Heraeus-specific requirements and include a production site tour and office-based reviews (e.g., interviews, policy checks, and verification of due diligence processes). The LBMA mine assessment questionnaire serves as the main guidance for documentation and agenda setting for mine on-site assessments. These assessments are conducted by the Compliance Officer or Responsible Sourcing Managers. New assessors accompany experienced colleagues during their first on-site visit to ensure proper familiarization with the assessment process. External consultants may be engaged where capacity, travel restrictions, or local expertise require it. HPM maintains a pool of pre-approved external providers capable of performing OECD-aligned assessments, with local representation and language skills.

The timing and frequency of on-site visits follow LBMA standards: for mining suppliers, the first visit should be conducted within six months of onboarding, followed by reassessments according to the Mine Assessment Standard (typically every three years, with a six-eyes principle applied over a ten-year cycle). HPMG applies these timelines in practice; however, they have not yet been formally documented in the internal procedure. If an on-site visit cannot be conducted internally, HPMG first engages an external provider. If neither option is feasible, the case is escalated to the Sourcing Committee for decision-making and documentation. No deviations from the on-site visit standard required escalation to the Sourcing Committee during the reporting period. As of the date of reporting, no transparency notes or compliance roadmaps related to on-site visit deviations were issued or submitted to the Sourcing Committee.

For high-risk recycled material from, e.g., smelters or intermediate refiners, HPMG may request independent assurance reports or credible third-party certifications that are applicable to the specific material and sector. No (Zero-0) recycled smelter or intermediate refiner EDD was applicable to HPMG's silver operations during the reporting period.

Disclosure for Reporting Period (2025):

During the reporting period, HPMG conducted one EDD measure. This consisted of an on-site visit to a high-risk business partner, classified as high-risk based on its business model as a PGM mining operation. The assessment was performed by HPMG internal Responsible Sourcing personnel and applied elements of the LPPM Responsible Platinum and Palladium Guidance as a methodological reference, given the PGM mining context. The on-site visit focused on verifying origin, governance practices, material characteristics, and ownership structure. No (0-Zero) issues or red flags were identified, and no (0-Zero) mitigation measures were required.

3 Step 3: Risk Management

Compliance Statement with Requirement:

Heraeus Precious Metals GmbH & Co. KG (HPMG) has fully complied with Step 3: Design and Implement a Management Strategy to Respond to Identified Risks

3.1 Does the Refiner have a process to respond to the identified risks by either (i) mitigating the risk while continuing to trade, (ii) mitigating the risk while suspending trade or (iii) disengagement from the risk?

Yes, Heraeus Precious Metals GmbH & Co. KG (HPMG) has implemented a robust risk-management strategy in accordance with Step 3 of the LBMA Responsible Silver Guidance. HPMG's escalation process is designed to determine whether identified risks require formal Step-3 mitigation measures, namely:

- i. continued trade under corrective actions,
- ii. temporary suspension of trade, or
- iii. disengagement from a counterparty.

HPMG's Step-3 process is triggered only when risks identified under Step-2 due-diligence activities cannot be sufficiently mitigated through standard follow-up actions or where significant, persistent or structural risks remain unresolved.

In 2025, no issues were identified during routine risk assessment activities. Consequently, no cases approached the threshold for Step 3 escalation, and no actions related to conditional continued trade, trade suspension or disengagement were required.

Disclosure for Reporting Period (2025):

During the reporting period 2025, HPMG recorded:

- 0 (zero) cases of risk mitigation while continuing trade
- 0 (zero) cases of risk mitigation while suspending trade
- 0 (zero) cases of disengagement from a counterparty

No corrective action plans linked to conditional continued trade were issued, and no suppliers were subject to temporary suspension or disengagement. No issues were identified in 2025, and therefore no cases met the criteria for Step 3 under the LBMA framework.

No (0-Zero) cases of cooperation with authorities were required in relation to the silver supply chain due diligence in the reporting period. HPMG notes that Heraeus has publicly communicated an investigation concerning irregularities identified in its internal precious-metals recycling operations. As stated in the official Heraeus communication:

“Following internal indications of possible deviations in the recycling process at the Heraeus Precious Metals operating company, Heraeus initiated a comprehensive and objective investigation by an external law firm. [...] We have informed the relevant authorities on our own initiative, are cooperating fully with them, and are supporting a comprehensive investigation of the matter.”

Source: <https://www.heraeus-precious-metals.com/en/responsibility/compliance/compliance-statement/>

This matter relates exclusively to Heraeus's own recycling processes and has no connection to the silver supply chain covered in this report.

Further details on the LBMA Incident Review Process triggered in relation to this matter are available in the LBMA's public communication linked below:

<https://www.lbma.org.uk/articles/heraeus-precious-metals-gmbh-co-kg-incident-review-process-invoked>

HPMG remains committed to continuous improvement in line with LBMA requirements.

4 Step 4: Independent Third-Party Assurance

Compliance Statement with Requirement:

Heraeus Precious Metals GmbH & Co. KG (HPMG) has fully complied with Step 4: Obtain Independent Third-Party Assurance on Supply Chain Due Diligence Practices

Comments and Demonstration of Compliance:

Heraeus Precious Metals GmbH & Co. KG (HPMG) has arranged for an independent third-party assurance of its supply chain due diligence, in full compliance with LBMA Responsible Silver Guidance requirements.

Assurance Provider Selection Process:

HPMG conducts a formal tender process every three years to select the most suitable assurance provider. Key selection criteria include LBMA and LPPM accreditation, global auditing capability across all Heraeus sites, and proven expertise in responsible sourcing audits. PricewaterhouseCoopers GmbH Wirtschaftsprüfungsgesellschaft (PwC) currently meets these requirements and has been chosen as a trusted, independent provider.

Board Oversight and Independence:

The independence of the assurance provider is ensured through Heraeus' governance framework. The selection process is managed transparently by the Procurement Department without external influence. Additionally, the HPM management receives annual written independence declaration confirming that the assurance provider has no financial or operational relationship with Heraeus beyond the assurance engagement. This process guarantees compliance with LBMA independence requirements.

Disclosure of Non-Conformances:

During the FY2025 assurance cycle, four non-conformances were identified for the HPMG, including two medium-risk non-conformances. The medium-risk findings have been assigned immediate corrective actions and are planned to be resolved as quickly as possible. Implementation is currently in progress and will be completed within the defined remediation timelines. All remaining non-conformances were classified as low risk. There were no outstanding non-conformances from previous audit cycles.

Public Availability of Assurance Report:

The independent third-party assurance report will be published on the Heraeus website upon completion and can be accessed at:

<https://www.heraeus-precious-metals.com/en/responsibility/compliance/>

HPMG remains committed to continuous improvement and transparency in its responsible sourcing practices.

5 Management Conclusion

Based on the activities and controls described in this Compliance Report, Heraeus Precious Metals GmbH & Co. KG confirms effective implementation of LBMA Responsible Silver Guidance (Version 2, November 2023) requirements for 01 January 2025 – 31 December 2025. The Refiner is in full compliance with LBMA's Responsible Sourcing Programme objectives. Heraeus remains committed to continuous improvement and will monitor any corrective actions identified on a regular basis to ensure ongoing conformance and best practice alignment.

6 Additional Notes and Sign-Off

If users of this Compliance Report wish to provide any feedback to Heraeus regarding its content, they may contact the Compliance Officer:

Dr. Patrick Henritzi

Email: Patrick.Henritzi@heraeus.com



Dr. Steffen Metzger

CEO



Heraeus Precious Metals GmbH & Co. KG
Heraeusstrasse 12-14
63450 Hanau
GERMANY

Dr. Patrick Henritzi

Compliance Officer / Global Head of PMCE

Note:

The "Refiners Data Collection, including Country of Origin" will be submitted through the official LBMA GBI database.

General Engagement Terms

for

Wirtschaftsprüferinnen, Wirtschaftsprüfer and Wirtschaftsprüfungsgesellschaften [German Public Auditors and Public Audit Firms]

as of January 1, 2024

1. Scope of application

(1) These engagement terms apply to contracts between German Public Auditors (Wirtschaftsprüferinnen/Wirtschaftsprüfer) or German Public Audit Firms (Wirtschaftsprüfungsgesellschaften) – hereinafter collectively referred to as "German Public Auditors" – and their engaging parties for assurance services, tax advisory services, advice on business matters and other engagements except as otherwise agreed in writing (Textform) or prescribed by a mandatory rule.

(2) Third parties may derive claims from contracts between German Public Auditors and engaging parties only when this is agreed or results from mandatory rules prescribed by law. In relation to such claims, these engagement terms also apply to these third parties. A German Public Auditor is also entitled to invoke objections (Einwendungen) and defences (Einreden) arising from the contractual relationship with the engaging party to third parties.

2. Scope and execution of the engagement

(1) Object of the engagement is the agreed service – not a particular economic result. The engagement will be performed in accordance with the German Principles of Proper Professional Conduct (Grundsätze ordnungsmäßiger Berufsausübung). The German Public Auditor does not assume any management functions in connection with his services. The German Public Auditor is not responsible for the use or implementation of the results of his services. The German Public Auditor is entitled to make use of competent persons to conduct the engagement.

(2) Except for assurance engagements (betriebswirtschaftliche Prüfungen), the consideration of foreign law requires an express agreement in writing (Textform).

(3) If circumstances or the legal situation change subsequent to the release of the final professional statement, the German Public Auditor is not obligated to refer the engaging party to changes or any consequences resulting therefrom.

3. The obligations of the engaging party to cooperate

(1) The engaging party shall ensure that all documents and further information necessary for the performance of the engagement are provided to the German Public Auditor on a timely basis, and that he is informed of all events and circumstances that may be of significance to the performance of the engagement. This also applies to those documents and further information, events and circumstances that first become known during the German Public Auditor's work. The engaging party will also designate suitable persons to provide information.

(2) Upon the request of the German Public Auditor, the engaging party shall confirm the completeness of the documents and further information submitted as well as the explanations and statements provided in statement as drafted by the German Public Auditor or in a legally accepted written form (gesetzliche Schriftform) or any other form determined by the German Public Auditor.

4. Ensuring independence

(1) The engaging party shall refrain from anything that endangers the independence of the German Public Auditor's staff. This applies throughout the term of the engagement, and in particular to offers of employment or to assume an executive or non-executive role, and to offers to accept engagements on their own behalf.

(2) Were the performance of the engagement to impair the independence of the German Public Auditor, of related firms, firms within his network, or such firms associated with him, to which the independence requirements apply in the same way as to the German Public Auditor in other engagement relationships, the German Public Auditor is entitled to terminate the engagement for good cause.

5. Reporting and oral information

To the extent that the German Public Auditor is required to present results in a legally accepted written form (gesetzliche Schriftform) or in writing (Textform) as part of the work in executing the engagement, only that

presentation is authoritative. Draft of such presentations are non-binding. Except as otherwise provided for by law or contractually agreed, oral statements and explanations by the German Public Auditor are binding only when they are confirmed in writing (Textform). Statements and information of the German Public Auditor outside of the engagement are always non-binding.

6. Distribution of, a German Public Auditor's professional statement

(1) The distribution to a third party of professional statements of the German Public Auditor (results of work or extracts of the results of work whether in draft or in a final version) or information about the German Public Auditor acting for the engaging party requires the German Public Auditor's consent be issued in writing (Textform), unless the engaging party is obligated to distribute or inform due to law or a regulatory requirement.

(2) The use by the engaging party for promotional purposes of the German Public Auditor's professional statements and of information about the German Public Auditor acting for the engaging party is prohibited.

7. Deficiency rectification

(1) In case there are any deficiencies, the engaging party is entitled to specific subsequent performance by the German Public Auditor. The engaging party may reduce the fees or cancel the contract for failure of such subsequent performance, for subsequent non-performance or unjustified refusal to perform subsequently, or for unconscionability or impossibility of subsequent performance. If the engagement was not commissioned by a consumer, the engaging party may only cancel the contract due to a deficiency if the service rendered is not relevant to him due to failure of subsequent performance, to subsequent non-performance, to unconscionability or impossibility of subsequent performance. No. 9 applies to the extent that further claims for damages exist.

(2) The engaging party must assert a claim for subsequent performance (Nacherfüllung) in writing (Textform) without delay. Claims for subsequent performance pursuant to paragraph 1 not arising from an intentional act expire after one year subsequent to the commencement of the time limit under the statute of limitations.

(3) Apparent deficiencies, such as clerical errors, arithmetical errors and deficiencies associated with technicalities contained in a German Public Auditor's professional statement (long-form reports, expert opinions etc.) may be corrected – also versus third parties – by the German Public Auditor at any time. Misstatements which may call into question the results contained in a German Public Auditor's professional statement entitle the German Public Auditor to withdraw such statement – also versus third parties. In such cases the German Public Auditor should first hear the engaging party, if practicable.

8. Confidentiality towards third parties, and data protection

(1) Pursuant to the law (§ [Article] 323 Abs 1 [paragraph 1] HGB [German Commercial Code: Handelsgesetzbuch], § 43 WPO [German Law regulating the Profession of Wirtschaftsprüfer: Wirtschaftsprüferordnung], § 203 StGB [German Criminal Code: Strafgesetzbuch]) the German Public Auditor is obligated to maintain confidentiality regarding facts and circumstances confided to him or of which he becomes aware in the course of his professional work, unless the engaging party releases him from this confidentiality obligation.

(2) When processing personal data, the German Public Auditor will observe national and European legal provisions on data protection.

9. Liability

(1) For legally required services by German Public Auditors, in particular audits, the respective legal limitations of liability, in particular the limitation of liability pursuant to § 323 Abs. 2 HGB, apply.

(2) Insofar neither a statutory limitation of liability is applicable, nor an individual contractual limitation of liability exists, claims for damages due to negligence arising out of the contractual relationship between the

engaging party and the German Public Auditor, except for damages resulting from injury to life, body or health as well as for damages that constitute a duty of replacement by a producer pursuant to § 1 ProdHaftG [German Product Liability Act: Produkthaftungsgesetz], are limited to € 4 million pursuant to § 54 a Abs. 1 Number 2 WPO. This applies equally to claims against the German Public Auditor made by third parties arising from, or in connection with, the contractual relationship.

(3) When multiple claimants assert a claim for damages arising from an existing contractual relationship with the German Public Auditor due to the German Public Auditor's negligent breach of duty, the maximum amount stipulated in paragraph 2 applies to the respective claims of all claimants collectively.

(4) The maximum amount under paragraph 2 relates to an individual case of damages. An individual case of damages also exists in relation to a uniform damage arising from a number of breaches of duty. The individual case of damages encompasses all consequences from a breach of duty regardless of whether the damages occurred in one year or in a number of successive years. In this case, multiple acts or omissions based on the same source of error or on a source of error of an equivalent nature are deemed to be a single breach of duty if the matters in question are legally or economically connected to one another. In this event the claim against the German Public Auditor is limited to € 5 million.

(5) A claim for damages expires if a suit is not filed within six months subsequent to the written statement (Textform) of refusal of acceptance of the indemnity and the engaging party has been informed of this consequence. This does not apply to claims for damages resulting from scienter, a culpable injury to life, body or health as well as for damages that constitute a liability for replacement by a producer pursuant to § 1 ProdHaftG. The right to invoke a plea of the statute of limitations remains unaffected.

(6) § 323 HGB remains unaffected by the rules in paragraphs 2 to 5.

10. Supplementary provisions for audit engagements

(1) If the engaging party subsequently amends the financial statements or management report audited by a German Public Auditor and accompanied by an auditor's report (Bestätigungsvermerk), he may no longer use this auditor's report.

If the German Public Auditor has not issued an auditor's report, a reference to the audit conducted by the German Public Auditor in the management report or any other public reference is permitted only with the German Public Auditor's consent, issued in a legally accepted written form (gesetzliche Schriftform), and with a wording authorized by him.

(2) If the German Public Auditor revokes the auditor's report, it may no longer be used. If the engaging party has already made use of the auditor's report, then upon the request of the German Public Auditor he must give notification of the revocation.

(3) The engaging party has a right to five official copies of the report. Additional official copies will be charged separately.

11. Supplementary provisions for assistance in tax matters

(1) When advising on an individual tax issue as well as when providing ongoing tax advice, the German Public Auditor is entitled to use as a correct and complete basis the facts provided by the engaging party – especially numerical disclosures; this also applies to bookkeeping engagements. Nevertheless, he is obligated to indicate to the engaging party any material errors he has identified.

(2) The tax advisory engagement does not encompass procedures required to observe deadlines, unless the German Public Auditor has explicitly accepted a corresponding engagement. In this case the engaging party must provide the German Public Auditor with all documents required to observe deadlines – in particular tax assessments – on such a timely basis that the German Public Auditor has an appropriate lead time.

(3) Except as agreed otherwise in writing (Textform), ongoing tax advice encompasses the following work during the contract period:

- a) preparation and electronic transmission of annual tax returns, including financial statements for tax purposes in electronic format, for income tax, corporate tax and business tax, namely on the basis of the annual financial statements, and on other schedules and evidence documents required for the taxation, to be provided by the engaging party
- b) examination of tax assessments in relation to the taxes referred to in (a)
- c) negotiations with tax authorities in connection with the returns and assessments mentioned in (a) and (b)
- d) support in tax audits and evaluation of the results of tax audits with respect to the taxes referred to in (a)
- e) participation in petition or protest and appeal procedures with respect to the taxes mentioned in (a).

In the aforementioned tasks the German Public Auditor takes into account material published legal decisions and administrative interpretations.

(4) If the German Public auditor receives a fixed fee for ongoing tax advice, the work mentioned under paragraph 3 (d) and (e) is to be remunerated separately, except as agreed otherwise in writing (Textform).

(5) Insofar the German Public Auditor is also a German Tax Advisor and the German Tax Advice Remuneration Regulation (Steuerberatungsvergütungsverordnung) is to be applied to calculate the remuneration, a greater or lesser remuneration than the legal default remuneration can be agreed in writing (Textform).

(6) Work relating to special individual issues for income tax, corporate tax, business tax and valuation assessments for property units as well as all issues in relation to sales tax, payroll tax, other taxes and dues requires a separate engagement. This also applies to:

- a) work on non-recurring tax matters, e.g. in the field of estate tax and real estate sales tax;
- b) support and representation in proceedings before tax and administrative courts and in criminal tax matters;
- c) advisory work and work related to expert opinions in connection with changes in legal form and other re-organizations, capital increases and reductions, insolvency related business reorganizations, admission and retirement of owners, sale of a business, liquidations and the like, and
- d) support in complying with disclosure and documentation obligations.

(7) To the extent that the preparation of the annual sales tax return is undertaken as additional work, this includes neither the review of any special accounting prerequisites nor the issue as to whether all potential sales tax allowances have been identified. No guarantee is given for the complete compilation of documents to claim the input tax credit.

12. Electronic communication

Communication between the German Public Auditor and the engaging party may be via e-mail. In the event that the engaging party does not wish to communicate via e-mail or sets special security requirements, such as the encryption of e-mails, the engaging party will inform the German Public Auditor in writing (Textform) accordingly.

13. Remuneration

(1) In addition to his claims for fees, the German Public Auditor is entitled to claim reimbursement of his expenses; sales tax will be billed additionally. He may claim appropriate advances on remuneration and reimbursement of expenses and may make the delivery of his services dependent upon the complete satisfaction of his claims. Multiple engaging parties are jointly and severally liable.

(2) If the engaging party is not a consumer, then a set-off against the German Public Auditor's claims for remuneration and reimbursement of expenses is admissible only for undisputed claims or claims determined to be legally binding.

14. Dispute Settlement

The German Public Auditor is not prepared to participate in dispute settlement procedures before a consumer arbitration board (Verbraucherschlichtungsstelle) within the meaning of § 2 of the German Act on Consumer Dispute Settlements (Verbraucherstreitbeilegungsgesetz).

15. Applicable law

The contract, the performance of the services and all claims resulting therefrom are exclusively governed by German law.