

Supplier Responsibilities Statement

Rio Tinto Minerals sources most of its talc ore from its wholly owned mines in France, Austria, Italy, Spain, the United States, Canada and Australia. To meet increasing market demand for high brightness products, we also buy crude ore from talc mines in China.

This ore is processed at Rio Tinto Minerals grinding facilities around the world. We verify the quality and purity of the crude talc that we purchase – particularly with respect to the presence of mineral impurities in the ore – and we apply the same rigorous quality standards at all stages of the production process that we apply to ores from our own deposits. We also use independent certified laboratories for verification.

Rio Tinto Minerals also controls its full supply chain from mine to market in line with good business practice. As set out Rio Tinto's statement of business practice, *The way we work*, "Through appropriate contractual arrangements and procurement policies, consultants, agents, contractors and suppliers of Rio Tinto are equally expected to comply with *The way we work* in all their dealings with or on behalf of the Group". To this end, our supply chain responsibility work features annual outreach to talc suppliers to ensure they meet our standards and to share good practices in the realms of health, safety and the environment (HSE). We also verify that suppliers comply with our ethical principles in areas such as social welfare, the non-employment of child labour and human rights abuse. We are currently satisfied that all our present crude ore purchases comply with Rio Tinto Minerals' HSE and ethical requirements.

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