

Sprint Statement on Conflict Minerals

Conflict minerals are defined as those minerals typically mined in conditions of armed conflict and human rights abuse, most notably in the eastern provinces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (“DRC”). The profits from the sale of these minerals may help finance continued unrest and, as a result, control of the mines often becomes a focal point. The most commonly mined conflict minerals are tin, tantalum, tungsten, and gold, which can ultimately be used in a variety of electronic devices, including mobile phones, laptops, and MP3 players.

The Dodd–Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (Pub. L. No. 111- 203, H.R. 4173), signed into law in July, 2010, includes a section on conflict minerals. The intent of the law is to help ensure minerals do not come from conflict areas of the DRC or otherwise help fund the conflict there. It is not intended to ban the use of these minerals. Under the law, certain companies must disclose if the minerals originated in the DRC or adjoining countries, post a description of measures taken to obtain the source and chain of custody of the minerals, and provide an independent audit of the report.

While Sprint does not manufacture handsets or accessories, it does purchase them. Sprint shares the concerns about conflict minerals and tries to monitor the efforts of device manufacturers and other related activities within the telecommunications industry. Sprint generally supports the objectives of the law and is actively participating in the Global e-Sustainability Initiative’s working committee to develop a conflict-free smelter certification program in the DRC. The program should help provide a path for enabling responsible mineral sourcing within the DRC and other regions through evaluation and audit of the source and conflict-free status of minerals processed by smelters.