

AIM-PROGRESS Charter

AIM-PROGRESS is a forum of leading Fast Moving Consumer Goods Manufacturers and common suppliers (“Participating companies”) assembled to enable and promote responsible sourcing practices and sustainable supply chains.

We aim to be globally recognised as the leading FMCG/CPG business forum for responsible sourcing,

- by improving the sustainability of the businesses and communities with whom we work,
- by collaboratively deploying leading practices and building ownership throughout the supply chain.

AIM-PROGRESS is a global initiative supported and sponsored by the FMCG industry associations in Europe (AIM) and North America (GMA).

Scope

1. The 4 pillars of the AIM-PROGRESS programme are Human Rights & Labour Standards, Health & Safety, Environmental Compliance and Business Integrity.
2. The 4 pillars reflect the core values and principles shared by the Participating companies.
3. It is not intended to create a unified supplier policy or ethics code for Participating companies.
4. Supplier evaluation methods and questionnaires will meet the combined requirements of all Participating companies, and thereby ensure a harmonized approach to responsible sourcing
5. The combined requirements of participating companies will not only include assurance of compliance but will move beyond compliance towards measureable performance improvement.
6. The programme’s main priority will be Tier 1 suppliers of Raw and Packaging materials and critical indirect items. This will include Agents, Finished Goods Manufacturing Operations, and/or other parts of the supply chain as determined from time to time by the Participating companies.
7. AIM-PROGRESS will provide flexibility to address specific initiatives of Participating companies, which may involve deeper Tiers in the supply chain (e.g. from farm/mine to shelf.)
8. Issue resolution and corrective action plans arising from supplier evaluations will be left to the needs and discretion of individual members.

Objectives

The key objectives of AIM-PROGRESS are as follows:

1. Provide a forum for exchanging views and sharing experience regarding responsible sourcing practices.
2. Support collaboration and alignment with other global initiatives having similar aims or interests, e.g. GSCP¹.
3. Develop and promote the use of common evaluation methods to determine the CSR² performance within the supply chain.
4. Drive efficiencies for all companies, manufacturers and their suppliers, by collecting, assessing and sharing non-competitive information on supply chain CSR performance.
5. Help develop, assess and promote responsible sourcing practices within the supply chain
6. Reduce audit fatigue for suppliers by encouraging them to share their audit reports with customers to avoid duplicate audits. “An audit for one is an audit for all.”

¹ GSCP: Global Social Compliance Programme – Consumer Goods Forum initiative to improve labour standards within supplier production sites.

² CSR: Corporate Social Responsibility – Generic term relating in this context to the supply chain performance of the 4 pillars of AIM-PROGRESS’ scope.

Guiding principles for AIM-PROGRESS

1. Whether or not to adopt specific AIM-PROGRESS recommendations is left to the judgement and ultimate decision of the respective Participating companies
2. All supplier-related decisions (including selection criteria, supplier policies etc.) will be entirely within the discretion of each of the Participating companies.
3. Participating companies are sensitive to competition laws and are committed to comply with all applicable antitrust laws. This includes that no competitively sensitive information will be discussed or exchanged during or outside of any AIM-PROGRESS meeting or in connection with any AIM-PROGRESS activity. Competitively sensitive information includes at least all information relating to pricing, terms and conditions, and downstream activities related to sales, marketing or product development initiatives.
4. All FMCG brand manufacturers, both members and non-members of AIM and GMA as well as common suppliers, are encouraged to participate in AIM-PROGRESS. All will be required to pay an appropriate fee to cover costs incurred through meetings, work stream activities, etc.
5. Participation in AIM-PROGRESS does not require joining a specific data handling platform nor prevent members from joining platforms of their choice.
6. Participating companies who have agreed to deploy a collaborative approach within an existing platform provider may do so.
7. AIM-PROGRESS shall act as a forum to support the collective interests of Participating companies using common platforms in the pursuit of the objectives, and encourage convergence between those platforms.
8. AIM-PROGRESS members hold themselves to at least the same standards as they require of their suppliers.
9. AIM-PROGRESS members are committed to assuring compliance and, where appropriate, to moving beyond compliance towards measureable performance improvement.

AIM-PROGRESS Membership Criteria

AIM-PROGRESS is open to any manufacturer and associated company integral to the FMCG manufacturer's supply chain that meets the expectations of the members, with the exception of companies in the arms and tobacco industries.

Expectations of the members:

- Support the Mission of AIM-PROGRESS
- Attend at least one meeting per year
- Actively participate in at least one work stream
- Agree to participate in the Mutual Recognition Initiative
- Share current code or audit protocol for benchmarking
- Contribute to the AIM-PROGRESS shared audited supplier list where audits exist
- Have overlap of suppliers within the supply chain
- Hold themselves to at least the same standards as they require of their suppliers
- Be current on AIM-PROGRESS annual membership fees
5000 Euro for AIM and GMA members
7500 Euro for non-members