AIM-Progress Membership Application Form

**My company would like to join AIM-Progress and is prepared to adhere to the membership criteria outlined below**

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| --- | --- |
| Name of company |  |
| Name of Applicant |  |
| Job title of Applicant |  |
| Phone number |  |
| e-mail |  |
| Date of application |  |

AIM-PROGRESS Membership Criteria

AIM-Progress membership is open to:

* all FMCG brand manufacturers\* meeting the membership criteria
* suppliers common to the AIM-Progress brand manufacturers and meeting the membership criteria (provided that proportion of brand manufacturer members remains at a minimum of 2/3 of the overall membership).

*\*with the exception of companies from the arms and tobacco industries.*

The annual base membership fee is set at 20,000 EUR.

Expectations of Members: ALL AIM-Progress members are expected to:

1. Engage: Contribute to collective problem solving, innovation and understanding emerging trends in the field by doing ALL of the following:
   1. Attending at least one full member meeting per year
   2. Engagement in at least one workstream or project per year
   3. Engagement in at least one regional hub by 2025 or in the first three years of membership (which ever provides a longer period)[[1]](#footnote-1)

AND

1. Participate: Support industry convergence on key responsible sourcing topics by doing ANY ONE OF the following:
   1. Participating in mutual recognition of social responsibility audits (including virtual assessments) through sharing at least 50 audited sites (for brand companies, 30 for supplier companies) over a three-year period
   2. Participating in mutual recognition of validated self-assessments through sharing at least 100 self-assessments over a three-year period[[2]](#footnote-2)
   3. Participating in mutual recognition through other approaches recognized and standardized by the Mutual Recognition Work Stream.

AND

1. Contribute: Support development of collective insights on approach, organization and current practices by completing the annual member benchmarking survey and provide timely payment of annual membership fees

Discount opportunities on full membership fee

An annual membership discount of €4,000 is available for members that:

1. Sponsor: Directly support more effective and efficient engagement of the industry and supply chains by doing ANY ONE OF the following:
   1. Hosting (or co-hosting) a full member meeting at least once in a three-year period
   2. Sponsoring an AIM-Progress supplier capability building event at least once in a three-year period
   3. Sponsoring a project or activity within AIM-Progress at least once in a three-year period

AND

1. Lead: Drive progress on key issues of value to AIM-Progress members by doing ANY ONE OF the following:
   1. Serving as co-lead of an AIM-Progress work stream or member of the Leadership Team or Human Rights Steering Committee for at least one-year in a three-year period
   2. Leading at least one project or work stream activity during a three-year period[[3]](#footnote-3)

An additional annual membership discount of €2,000 is applied to members of AIM – The European Brands Association.

Regional Hub Membership and Project Collaborators

Some organizations may join as members of regional hubs only[[4]](#footnote-4) at a cost of €3,000 per year. This should be considered an initial proposal. Specific regional hub fees may be determined separately by regional hub members and may be adjusted over time as needed.

Members joining exclusively at the regional hub level must have a footprint of operations and product sales limited to that region (i.e., global companies are not able to join only as regional members) and all regional hub members are expected to do both of the following:

1. Engage: Contribute to collective problem solving, innovation and understanding emerging trends in the region by regularly attending regional hub meetings and webinars[[5]](#footnote-5)
2. Contribute: Provide timely payment of annual regional hub contributions or fees (as and when decided by the hub management and AIM-Progress).

Anti-trust Compliance

AIM-Progress is a globally voluntary membership-based initiative of fast-moving consumer goods companies and common suppliers. AIM-Progress operates under the [AIM anti-trust compliance policy](https://aim-progress.com/storage/resources/AIM%20Compliance%20policy%20-%2020%20May%202022.pdf).

AIM-Progress members are required to abide by this policy which foresees that the Association shall not enter into any discussion, activity or conduct that may infringe, on its part or on the part of its members, any applicable competition law. By way of example, members shall not discuss, communicate or exchange any commercially sensitive information, including non-public information relating to prices, marketing and advertising strategy, costs and revenues, trading terms and conditions with third parties, including purchasing strategy, terms of supply, trade programs or distribution strategy. This applies not only to discussions in formal meetings but also to informal discussions before, during and after meetings.

AIM-Progress Membership Application Questionnaire

The answers to this will be used to assess the application and also ensure we can support you most effectively should it be successful.

**Q1: Why is Responsible Sourcing considered important and/or how is the work justified?**

Risk Management

Legal Compliance

Desire to be perceived as Industry Leader

Part of overall sustainability platform

Improving supply chain management

Other (please specify)

**Q2: How would you categorize what stage your Responsible Sourcing program is in (one option):**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Launched** | *A reactive responsible sourcing programme is in place, with a Supplier Code of Conduct or equivalent to set minimum expectations; key suppliers are identified, but limited activity is taking place and it is compliance-oriented.* |  |
| **Established** | *A more organised level of maturity, with established resources and programmes, related to key risks and steps beyond compliance.* |  |
| **Integrated** | *A more proactive and integrated level of maturity in which the programme links to SDGs as well, with key metrics, targets and stakeholders fully engaged.* |  |
| **Leading** | *The most mature level of programme, in which the organisation is driving measurable, positive impact for people and the planet, through industry-wide collaboration.* |  |

**Q3: Of the key activities and areas of value to the AIM-Progress membership, which are relevant to you?**

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| **Mutual Recognition** | *The mutual recognition of audits equates to an estimated saving of $5,000 and up to 2 FTE days per audit. Members can additionally benefit from a shared list of EcoVadis rated suppliers.* |  |
| **Supplier Engagement/ Training** | *Sharing of the cost and resources required to engage suppliers can save up to $15,000 per event* |  |
| **Shared Content/Resources** | *Members on average expect to save between $5,000 -$50,000 on consultancy and content fees by collaborating to develop and share knowledge and tools* |  |
| **Annual Benchmark of your Responsible Sourcing maturity** | *Members receive a detailed indication of their current maturity and performance compared to peers – with support and guidance on how and where to improve. This supports justification to senior management for resources and would otherwise cost significant consultancy fees and be very difficult to deliver without the collaboration* |  |
| **Capability building for yourself and team** | *Members save an average of $5,000 - $10,000 per year on training fees, plus additional savings on select 3rd party conferences and events.* |  |
| **Positive brand impact** | *Members report a significant positive impact on brand value and the attractiveness of the business to new talent. Working as an industry collaboratively also significantly increases trust with key stakeholders.* |  |
| **Collaborative impact** | *Acting independently, without the collaborative support of AIM-Progress and peers, it would not otherwise be as efficient to drive change, leverage and partner with suppliers, and deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals* |  |

**Q4: Are any of the above irrelevant to you or that you’d be concerned at realizing the value, if so, please tell us why?**

**Q5: Who is ultimately responsible for social risk, compliance and improvement in the supply chain, and therefore the budget holder for AIM-Progress membership? (Name, job title)**

**Q6: Do you publish a supplier code of conduct? Please provide a link or copy with the application.**

**Q7: Who in your responsible sourcing team would benefit from AIM-Progress activities and would need to be included in the email distribution list? *Please include names/job title/email addresses***

**Q8: What would you like to achieve in regard to progress on human rights in your supply chain in the next 12 months?**

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**Consent regarding sharing of personal data within AIM-Progress**

As AIM-Progress member, we will be part of a network of like-minded companies and individuals and consent to sharing our contact details (Name, company, job title, email address) with the Secretariat and other AIM-Progress members through:

a contact list featured on the password protected member zone of the AIM-Progress website (only available to AIM-Progress members)

visibility of email addresses in member email communications with restricted AIM-Progress working groups and calendar invitations

1. Members should aspire to be actively involved in a regional hub over time. We recognize that not all members will be able to participate at the same level regionally and exceptions to this member expectation can be made on a case-by-case basis. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Validated self-assessments are currently limited to Ecovadis assessments as this is the only standard approach which a large part of the membership is utilising. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. As documented in a project or activity charter or through any other standardized and transparent method determined by the AIM-Progress secretariat [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. It is recommended that regional members have access to all resources produced by the regional hub, but not all AIM-Progress resources available to global members. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. In the event of questions regarding “regular” attendance, this should be taken to mean attending at least one in-person meeting per year or attending 3 regional hub webinars or virtual events per year subject to the availability of such events. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)