



Industrials

The industrials sector is continually evolving and crossing borders. Global economic uncertainty, political instability, and its impact on trade, climate change, digitalization, automation and disruptive business models are just a few of the many challenges businesses in the industrials sector are currently facing.

Prudent businesses in this rapidly changing sector turn to lawyers who have cross-disciplinary knowledge and on-the-ground presence in local markets, who are able to advise clients on their day-to-day and strategic concerns wherever they choose to do business. With offices in over 40 countries throughout the world, we offer a dedicated team that understands the sector, the challenges it faces and the pragmatic, cost-effective solutions that work for our clients. We are proud to support the diverse needs of our global client base, which includes many of the most successful industrial companies worldwide across our core areas:

- Aerospace and defense
- Automotive
- Chemicals
- Manufacturing

We help our clients on important issues affecting the industry, such as:

- Acquisition, asset and export finance
- Brand protection, patents, licensing and IP
- Commercial and procurement contracts and outsourcing
- Cybersecurity
- Data protection
- Digitalization and IoT
- HR, employment, employee benefits and pensions
- Litigation and arbitration
- M&A and international corporate restructurings (ICR)
- Product compliance and safety
- Real estate and real estate finance
- Regulatory advice, including on environmental, health and safety (EHS) matters
- Restructuring
- Risk, governance and compliance, including anti-bribery and corruption
- Supply chain management, including distribution/agency agreements and contracts
- Tax, including import and export, transfer pricing and sanctions

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- Corporate
- Finance
- Intellectual Property and Technology
- Regulatory and Government Affairs
- Litigation, Arbitration and Investigations
- Product Liability, Mass Torts and Product Stewardship
- Projects, Energy and Infrastructure
- Real Estate

Publications

Regulatory perspectives for hydrogen in Brazil

29 September 2022

[PANORAMA](#)

Hydrogen fuels are being seen as potentially bringing enormous environmental benefits.

Global M&A Intelligence Report 2022

27 September 2022

This report provides an insight into Industrials sector M&A deal activity between the period 2019 to 2021.

Bioeconomy Executive Order: A whole-of-government approach to advancing biotechnology and biomanufacturing

26 September 2022

The EO signals the Biden Administration's commitment to US leadership in biotechnology and biomanufacturing.

Episode 4 – enforcement of UPC decisions

23 September 2022

[UPC ON THE GO – PRACTICAL ADVICE ON THE UNIFIED PATENT COURT](#)

Frank Valentin leads the DLA Piper Intellectual Property practice in France and has significant experience in the Tech and Life Sciences sectors. In this episode, Frank continues his conversation with Cédric Meiller, a senior IP lawyer also based in our Paris office, to discuss how judgments will be enforced in the UPC.

Episode 3 – how to choose the right court

26 August 2022

[UPC ON THE GO – PRACTICAL ADVICE ON THE UNIFIED PATENT COURT](#)

Frank Valentin leads the DLA Piper Intellectual Property practice in France and has significant experience in the Tech and Life Sciences sectors. In this episode, Frank is joined by Cédric Meiller, a senior IP lawyer who is also based in our Paris office, to discuss how to choose the right court for your dispute in the new system.

Inflation Reduction Act seeks to jumpstart electric vehicle market

19 August 2022

Electric vehicle-related tax incentives in the Inflation Reduction Act and the multiple conditions that may initially limit their applicability and use.

Inside the Inflation Reduction Act

19 August 2022

A look at the business-critical aspects of this sweeping, extraordinary legislation and its implications for clean energy projects, electric vehicle development, corporate taxes, healthcare, and environmental policy.

Colombia's National Mining Authority is tracking contracts on the blockchain: What can other Latin American countries learn from this experience?

18 August 2022

[PANORAMA](#)

The Agency registers each mining concession contract as a non-fungible token, making it a unique, encrypted digital asset.

The clean energy provisions of the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 – a historic effort to encourage the development of clean energy and reduce carbon emissions

17 August 2022

The IRA will have a dramatic impact on development and financing of clean energy projects in the US over the next ten years, not least by expanding tax credits to additional technologies and allowing project owners to directly transfer those credits.

Episode 2 – the language issue

12 August 2022

[UPC ON THE GO – PRACTICAL ADVICE ON THE UNIFIED PATENT COURT](#)

Gualtiero Dragotti, a partner in our Milan office and Co-Chair of DLA Piper's global patent group who specialises in Life Sciences, looks at the controversial topic of language in the new system.

Judge declares reforms to Electricity Industry Law unconstitutional

11 August 2022

Key details and implications for individuals, businesses and investors in Mexico's electricity sector.

Employment law in 5: 5 developments to read for August in less than 5 minutes

9 August 2022

5 developments to read for August in less than 5 minutes.

Episode 1 – the basics

28 July 2022

[UPC ON THE GO – PRACTICAL ADVICE ON THE UNIFIED PATENT COURT](#)

Markus Gampp, head of the firm's German patent practice and Co-Chair of DLA Piper's global patent group, who has a special interest in the Tech sector, begins our podcast series by introducing the concept of the UPC and explaining why you should care about it.

Food and Beverage News and Trends

22 July 2022

[FOOD AND BEVERAGE NEWS AND TRENDS](#)

The soaring cost of fertilizer is bringing long-term changes to the global food system.

California's new Extended Producer Responsibility Act is major addition to suite of plastic-focused laws

11 July 2022

SB 4 sets out the country's most ambitious restrictions on single-use plastics and packaging.

Trade dress protects your automobile's design

11 July 2022

[INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS](#)

Trade dress may be used to protect the unique, non-functional aspects of a car.

Tax incentives in Puerto Rico

6 July 2022

[PANORAMA](#)

In this handbook, we highlight some of the tax incentives available under the PR-IC for certain targeted activities that may apply for and obtain a tax decree to enjoy these incentives.

Coming soon: a national security screening mechanism for outbound investments

28 June 2022

The US would not be alone in regulating outbound investment.

Mexican Energy Regulatory Commission imposes sanction of more than US\$450 million; Mexico's Supreme Court issues precedent unfavorable to permit holders

28 June 2022

Details of the decision and implications on private investments in the Mexican electricity market.

Mexican labor law amendments impose restrictions on personnel subcontracting

14 June 2022

[PANORAMA](#)

In essence, the changes effectively prohibit employers in Mexico from subcontracting their personnel.

Employment law in 5: 5 developments to read for June in less than 5 minutes

8 June 2022

5 developments to read for June in less than 5 minutes.

Puerto Rico updates guidance for the management of COVID-19 cases

19 May 2022

The new guidance is applicable to all employers in the public and private sectors.

Brazil sets forth conditions for tax settlements in goodwill disputes: multinationals take note

18 May 2022

A quick discussion of Public Notice n° 9/2022.

New wave of US sanctions on Russia targets services, broadcasting, banking, and US exports

16 May 2022

[GLOBAL SANCTIONS ALERT](#)

The US government continues to announce new measures.

10 considerations for companies on the path to sustainability

11 May 2022

For boards of directors and management teams as they discuss measuring, disclosing and reducing the company's climate impact.

Employment law in 5: 5 developments to read for May in less than 5 minutes

5 May 2022

5 developments to read for May in less than 5 minutes.

Global M&A Intelligence Report 2022

Updated: 29 June 2022

Our annual Global M&A Intelligence Report is based on an analysis of key deal terms in almost 5,000 private M&A transactions on which we have advised since 2015.

Mexican Congress rejects electricity constitutional reform and approves bill to regulate lithium

20 April 2022

An outline of the House of Representatives' decision regarding the Electricity Reform and Mining Reform, as well as its possible implications.

Latest sanctions block Russia's largest banks, cyber actors and more; Biden's executive order prohibits investments in Russia by US persons

8 April 2022

[GLOBAL SANCTIONS ALERT](#)

Two of Russia's largest banks, Sberbank and Alfa-Bank, which had previously been subject to narrower restrictions, have now been blocked.

New wave of US sanctions targets Russian Duma, additional elites, defense entities; BIS extends export controls to more than 100 Russian aircraft

29 March 2022

[GLOBAL SANCTIONS ALERT](#)

The latest sanctions affect all members of the Duma, Russian elites, bank executives and board members, and Russian defense firms, and BIS has extended export controls to certain Russian aircraft.

ISDA proposes Form of Amendment for nickel market disruption fallbacks: understanding the options

28 March 2022

Those who use nickel for their commodity reference price may find the Form of Amendment useful to avoid calculation uncertainty.

US lifts Section 232 tariffs on steel and aluminum from the UK effective June 1, 2022

28 March 2022

The US-UK agreement includes novel requirements that deserve special attention.

Biden Administration urges American companies to act quickly to improve cybersecurity safeguards

22 March 2022

[GLOBAL SANCTIONS ALERT](#)

The White House stresses the importance of taking key steps to thwart nation-state bad actor activities.

SEC proposes mandatory climate-related disclosure and governance rules

21 March 2022

The SEC's latest effort to advance the Biden Administration's climate agenda.

US announces new trade restrictions against Russia as well as a new round of sanctions against Russian political elites

16 March 2022

[GLOBAL SANCTIONS ALERT](#)

Many of the newly announced measures will require Congressional action.

US sanctions Russian energy sector while allowing various energy-related activities to continue

9 March 2022

[GLOBAL SANCTIONS ALERT](#)

Today's actions further restrict commercial activity and increase risks of sanctions violations by well-intentioned companies.

Canadian sanctions in response to Russian military actions against Ukraine

March 7, 2022

[GLOBAL SANCTIONS ALERT](#)

The Government of Canada has recently announced a series of new economic sanctions in response to Russia's invasion of and continued military actions against Ukraine.

US continues to escalate sanctions against Russia and Belarus

4 March 2022

[GLOBAL SANCTIONS ALERT](#)

White House announces new sanctions while putting in place extensive new export control measures against Russia and Belarus; DOJ announces Task Force KleptoCapture; OFAC closes some loopholes.

US escalates its sanctions regime against Russia, targeting its financial system

28 February 2022

[GLOBAL SANCTIONS ALERT](#)

And additional measures are expected to be announced by the US and its allies in the coming days

US imposes further sanctions and export controls against Russia

25 February 2022

[GLOBAL SANCTIONS ALERT](#)

The White House emphasized that these newly announced sanctions and export controls will be complemented with similar measures imposed by US allies and partners.

Aiscension: an AI tool to ensure effective risk management by detecting anti-competitive practice

24 February 2022

Anti-competitive activity has been rife in companies for centuries and there are many who like to take the ostrich approach and bury their head in the sand. However, it is known that this approach to risk management is ineffective should the regulators come looking, and with fines of up to 10% of global turnover, it is a big risk to take.

New US sanctions in response to Russia's actions against Ukraine

23 February 2022

GLOBAL SANCTIONS ALERT

Additional sanctions are expected that will target Russia's financial, technology, and defense sectors.

Looking to verify your energy project to generate carbon credits? Understanding two popular verification registries

18 February 2022

A summary of VERRA and Gold Standard.

Mexican labor law amendments impose restrictions on personnel subcontracting

14 February 2022

The changes effectively prohibit employers in Mexico from subcontracting their personnel.

US lifts Section 232 tariffs on steel from Japan, effective April 1, 2022

10 February 2022

Beginning April 1, 2022, steel from Japan will be subject to a tariff-rate quota (TRQ), allowing a yearly set volume to enter the US tariff-free.

Canada develops GHG offset regulations

8 February 2022

The System will work in tandem with existing provincial and territorial systems to develop a consistent suite of requirements for transferability and fungibility of GHG offset credits across Canada.

Focus on the industrials sector

18 January 2022

UNDERSTANDING THE UK NATIONAL SECURITY & INVESTMENT REGIME PODCAST

In the third episode of the series we turn our focus to specific sectors. Sarah Smith and Matt Evans are joined by DLA Piper's defence sector specialist, Maria Pereira to discuss the impact of the regime on the industrials sector, specifically in relation to the defence, military and dual-use, advanced materials and satellite and space sectors.

A legal overview

4 January 2022

[UNDERSTANDING THE UK NATIONAL SECURITY & INVESTMENT REGIME PODCAST](#)

In episode 2 of our podcast series we discuss the legal context of the regime: how it will operate and the implications for businesses. In particular, the legislation - which comes into force today, 4 January - has wide reaching implications for M&A involving businesses or assets connected with the UK.

What's driving the new National Security and Investment Regime

12 December 2021

[UNDERSTANDING THE UK NATIONAL SECURITY & INVESTMENT REGIME PODCAST](#)

Episode 1 of our new Podcast series discusses what is driving the new National Security and Investment Regime. What is the political context for the new regime? Who and what is driving the pressure to strengthen investment screening both in the UK and internationally? Sarah Smith, Partner in DLA Piper's Competition practice is joined by Lord Gavin Barwell, Strategic Advisor and former Chief of Staff to Teresa May and Paul Hardy, Head of UK Government Affairs at DLA Piper to discuss the context of the new regime.

European Commission's Proposals for reform of AIFMD, UCITS Directive and the ELTIF regime

26 November 2021

Following its review of the scope and functioning of the Alternative Investment Funds Manager Directive¹ (AIFMD), the European Commission (the Commission) has concluded that the AIFMD's standards for ensuring high levels of investor protection are mostly effective, but that amendments are required which are intended to be targeted in scope, but may have far-reaching effects.

The Commission has now published new legislative amendments to AIFMD, the UCITS Directive² (UCITSD) and the ELTIF Regulation³ (ELTIF Regulation) (the Commission Proposal). The proposed amendments set out in the Commission Proposal will be introduced by way of an omnibus directive amending the AIFMD, UCITSD and the ELTIF Regulation.⁴

The Glasgow Climate Pact: What does it mean for Business?

23 November 2021

In this article, members of our Sustainability and ESG Steering Committee share their thoughts on eight key themes emerging from COP26 and what they mean for business.

Treasury releases 2021 Sanctions Review: Its key recommendations and their implications for the private sector

28 October 2021

[GLOBAL SANCTIONS ALERT](#)

The Report puts into perspective recent Biden Administration sanctions while helping to forecast what will come.

Five issues to watch for at COP26 in Glasgow

12 October 2021

Hopes had already been high for COP26 even before the pandemic paused it. The pent-up potential has only heightened those expectations.

An interview with Aldersgate Funding

11 October 2021

In this podcast, DLA Piper partner Henry Quinlan interviews Jim Holding and Matthew Lo at Aldersgate Funding Limited, who shed some light on the advantages of litigation and arbitration funding; the types of claims eligible for funding; the process of funding a case; and the jurisdictional constraints on this type of financing.

DLA Piper · Aldersgate Funding on how litigation funding can help your business

OECD announces global deal on international tax reform with its Two-Pillar solution

11 October 2021

In addition, the OECD sets out a detailed implementation timeline aiming to have parts of the plan ratified in 2022 and effective as early as 2023.

New antidumping and countervailing duty petition: Oil country tubular goods from Argentina, Mexico, the Republic of Korea, and Russia – consequences for industry and downstream consumers

8 October 2021

US AD and CVD investigations can result in the imposition of substantial duties in addition to already applicable duties and tariffs.

US Trade Representative seeks comments on possible reinstatements of previously extended exclusions to Section 301 tariffs

6 October 2021

Interested parties should consider submitting comments in support or opposition to any possible reinstatement.

Commodities News and Trends

20 September 2021

COMMODITIES NEWS AND TRENDS

Brazil and Argentina lead the way in biofuels; CFTC: we will support transition to a low-carbon economy; is the end in sight for the shale-driven pipeline building boom?

White House announces plan to substantially expand introduction of sustainable aviation fuel

15 September 2021

Key details.

Defending trademarks from non-use cancellations: Strategies for OEM manufacturers in China

September 2021

For many companies, China is an essential piece of their business, but they may never sell a single product to a Chinese company or consumer. Those businesses must answer the tricky question of how to protect their brand in a country where consumers never see it.

Protecting your company from supply chain cyber attacks

September 2021

Today, virtually all companies rely on third-party technical solutions to manage their business. The downside is that incorporating new third-party technology into business operations creates new vectors for cyberattacks.

New workplace sexual harassment laws passed – (some) Respect@Work recommendations become law

8 September 2021

After months of anticipation, the Australian Federal Government's Sex Discrimination and Fair Work (Respect at Work) Amendment Act 2021 has now passed both houses of Parliament. The amendment contains important reforms to address workplace sexual harassment.

Framing patents as essential facilities in Chinese antitrust: *Ningbo Ketian Magnet Co., Ltd. v. Hitachi Metals*

7 September 2021

ANTITRUST MATTERS

A Chinese court recently ruled in *Ningbo Ketian Magnet Co., Ltd. v. Hitachi Metals, Ltd.* that a patent-holder's refusal to license patents for producing rare-earth magnets to competitors constituted an abuse of dominance in violation of China's Antimonopoly Law (AML).

When are non-US products incorporating US products free from US jurisdiction?

25 August 2021

DLA PIPER TRADE TRUTHS

This summary article provides key points to consider as well exemptions possible if your non-US manufactured products are subject to US reexport authorization requirements.

LatAm: Tax authorities address negative effects of the pandemic on national coffers

12 August 2021

The tax authorities' revenue-generating approaches vary from incentives to additional taxation.

Mexico: Understanding SAT's "benchmark" disclosure of effective income tax rates

14 July 2021

The effective tax rates are not binding, but it is expected that the SAT will use the rates as a reference to identify taxpayers for audits.

Global M&A Intelligence Report 2021

23 June 2021

Our annual Global M&A Intelligence Report is based on an analysis of key deal terms in over 3,200 private M&A transactions on which we advised since 2015.

Biden's FY 2022 budget and Treasury Green Book – additional details on international tax proposals

2 June 2021

Fleshing out revenue proposals in the White House's American Jobs Plan and American Families Plan.

The Russia sanctions and their impacts on commodities companies: Action steps for companies engaged in transactions with Russian gas and energy companies

11 May 2021

Implications of key provisions in President Biden's Executive Order.

Managing Mexican mandatory disclosure rules

8 April 2021

A review of new obligations for taxpayers and advisors under Mexico's mandatory disclosure rules.

Supreme Court Corner

30 March 2021

Numerous amici in *American Axle* urge the Supreme Court to take the case; update on *USPTO v. Booking.com*.

SEC interim final amendments signal stricter regulation on Chinese and other emerging market companies

29 March 2021

Under the new requirements, certain companies must establish that they are not owned or controlled by a foreign government entity and must disclose any foreign government influence.

United States imposes significant new export controls and sanctions on Russia and China

23 March 2021

Reflecting a further hardening of US foreign policy and national security policy positions with those two countries.

Antidumping and countervailing duty petition against imports of certain Chinese mobile access equipment and subassemblies: Consequences for exporters and US importers

16 March 2021

Foreign producers, exporters and importers may consider having a strategy for addressing AD and CVD investigations, including possible participation.

Country-specific guidance on the transfer pricing implications of the COVID-19 pandemic

4 March 2021

Businesses may wish to consider the guidance from several countries on the appropriate transfer pricing treatment for governmental subsidies related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Corruption Perceptions Index 2020 - a regional perspective

11 February 2021

Last week Transparency International launched the 2020 edition of its Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI), which ranks 180 countries and territories by their perceived levels of public sector corruption, according to experts and business people, using a scale of zero to 100 (100 being very clean and zero being highly corrupt).

No firing for lighting up? Cannabis in the workplace

28 January 2021

Appropriately addressing cannabis usage in the workplace while navigating anti-discrimination protections for workers.

The Qualified Maquiladora Approach Agreement has been renewed: Implications for multinationals' transfer pricing

26 January 2021

US-based multinationals using the maquiladora structure to manufacture goods in Mexico are taking note.

China's Blocking Rules: New trade-compliance dilemmas for third-country companies

25 January 2021

The Blocking Rules respond to the increased use of "secondary" economic sanctions and export controls by the US.

Understanding the OECD's guidance on the transfer pricing implications of the COVID-19 pandemic

5 January 2021

A practical look at the new OECD guidance.

Boardroom Brexit: What the deal means for trade in goods

31 December 2020

BOARDROOM BREXIT

What will the Trade and Cooperation Agreement mean for tariffs and quotas, rules of origin, technical barriers to trade, customs and product standards

Climate activism: Status check and opportunities for public companies

14 December 2020

The systemic risk of climate change is being discussed and managed in board rooms around the world.

Cyberfrauds and Cyberattacks: Remote Working Posing Increased Risks and How to Stay Protected

14 December 2020

Cybercriminals are becoming more sophisticated in the ways they facilitate cyberfrauds, with the increasing use of personalised messages on instant messaging platforms such as WeChat or WhatsApp and socially engineered phishing emails to deceive recipients to transfer funds, disclose sensitive information or click on malicious links.

US DOT issues groundbreaking proposals for regulation of automated driving systems, seeks input

11 December 2020

The rulemaking initiates an important new chapter in autonomous vehicle development and commercialization in the US.

REACH 2.0 – New EU Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability

10 December 2020

Chemicals are omnipresent in our everyday life and play a fundamental role as building blocks in technologies, materials and products. However, chemicals with hazardous components can also cause damage to human and animal health and the environment.

Practical Compliance

8 December 2020

PRACTICAL COMPLIANCE

Q4 2020: Spotlight on real estate COVID-19 compliance.

Contracting for the climate: The Climate Contract Playbook is a trove of climate clauses

11 November 2020

Contracts have become an essential vehicle for companies seek to mitigate their environmental risks and limit their carbon footprints.

Replacing NAFTA: What the USMCA means for the future of North American trade and investment – a Q&A

26 October 2020

Contributors from the US, Mexico and Canada discuss several key considerations.

China Enforces Tax Collection on Employees Working for Chinese-invested Enterprises Overseas

16 October 2020

With the recent IIT reform in 2019, and the introduction of a number of implementation rules (particularly the tax policy on overseas income), it appears the China tax authorities are taking a harder stance on how overseas income derived by China tax residents will be taxed in China, starting with Chinese expatriates working for Chinese state-owned enterprises.

COVID-19 – Galvanising your business against supply chain and customer insolvency risk

7 October 2020

The risk of unforeseen counterparty customer or supplier financial distress and failure amidst the on-going challenges for businesses from COVID-19 means that pre-emptive legal and operational protections against the risk of heavy financial loss or business disruption from customer/supplier failure are more valuable than ever.

Mass layoffs and collective redundancies guide

6 October 2020

As COVID-19 continues to impact the global economy in unprecedented ways, companies that have had to scale back or shut down operations are bracing for what the next few months will bring, and what this means for their workforces. In this guide, we examine key considerations for employers looking to make permanent reductions in force across APAC.

PFAS: in California, regulators put cleanup levels on hold, but announce major data hunt

7 MAR 2019

This data hunt will affect thousands of facilities, drinking water systems and private drinking water well owners.

Law à la Mode: Word of the industry's mouth; Enforcement of IP rights through Ukrainian customs register; E-commerce in Poland; The development of artificial intelligence in the fashion industry; and more

26 NOV 2018

[LAW À LA MODE](#)

The US editorial team is delighted to bring you the 27th edition of *Law à la Mode*, the legal magazine produced by DLA Piper's Retail Sector Group for clients and contacts of the firm worldwide.

Law à la Mode: Social Media Influencers & Effective Disclosures, IP and E-Commerce: Your basic checklist, Longchamp's Handbag Copyright Saga, IP Protection of Fashion Shows in Italy and more

21 MAY 2018

LAW À LA MODE

The UK editorial team is delighted to bring you this special edition of Law à la Mode, produced by DLA Piper's Retail Sector group for distribution to clients and contacts of the firm worldwide and marking the 140th Annual Meeting of INTA in Seattle.

Law à la Mode: Social Media Influencers & Effective Disclosures, IP and E-Commerce: Your basic checklist, Longchamp's Handbag Copyright Saga, IP Protection of Fashion Shows in Italy and more

21 MAY 2018

LAW À LA MODE

The UK editorial team is delighted to bring you this special edition of Law à la Mode, produced by DLA Piper's Retail Sector group for distribution to clients and contacts of the firm worldwide and marking the 140th Annual Meeting of INTA in Seattle.

Law à la Mode: Virtual Reality and Augmented Reality; Insta-worthy or Insta-infringement; E-commerce in Poland; Harnessing hidden advertising; and more

20 DEC 2017

LAW À LA MODE

The Asia Pacific editorial team is delighted to bring you the 24th edition of Law à la Mode, the quarterly legal magazine published by DLA Piper's Retail Sector group for clients and contacts of the firm worldwide.

Slavery in the supply chain: new corporate reporting obligations for companies

9 DEC 2015

HEALTH, SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS SERIES

The UK's Modern Slavery Act 2015 is in force, imposing on companies new reporting requirements and new enforcement powers, including the creation of an Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner.

EVENTS

Upcoming

Carbon Markets – What's next ahead of COP27?

18 October 2022

Previous

Industrials - Latest sanctions and export controls on Russia and China:

4 May 2022
Webinar

Using AI to monitor your compliance risks

31 March 2022
Webinar

Embracing Digital Evolution

15 September 2021
Webinar

Extension of Foreign Direct Investment Control Regime: Update

9 June 2021
Webinar

Biden's Climate Summit - what changes can we expect and how could those impact COP26?

27 April 2021
Webinar

EDPB recommendations for safeguarding data transfers after Schrems II

19 November 2020
Webinar

Sustainability and ESG

Businesses in the industrials sector face diverse and complex sustainability and ESG challenges, depending on where they are in their sustainability journey. While the sector has been quick to adapt to technological changes, it is now being tested by more sweeping changes in the transition to sustainability – affecting the business model, strategy and operations.

The focus of the manufacturing, automotive and chemicals industries has been on environmental issues, such as energy and waste management, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving efficiency of design and resource use throughout the product life cycle. Companies in aerospace and defense have been predominantly grappling with social and governance issues, such as demonstrating their commitment to human rights, anti-corruption, business integrity and transparency.

The following key sustainability themes cut across the industrials sector:

- **Towards a circular economy:** Businesses in industrials have been reassessing materials sourcing, energy use and waste

management in line with circular economy principles. Some companies have gained revenues, market leverage and consumer support from making improvements to product design and life-cycle management which increase sustainable sourcing and material reuse while striving for a zero-waste supply chain. The automotive industry, for example, has responded to consumer demand for open business models and closed-loop value chains, with some car companies upcycling used materials to reduce total emissions.

- **Towards a low-carbon economy:** The industrials sector also has a leading role to play in driving the transition to a net-zero future. The overall environmental impact and carbon footprint of the sector remains significant, considering the high consumption of energy and resources and hazardous waste management involved in business operations. Some reductions in greenhouse gas emissions have been achieved through operational efficiencies, including energy efficiency, waste reduction and the increasing use of renewable energy sources. While some companies have remodeled their business strategy and brand on environmental sustainability principles, it can be more challenging for others depending on their products, operations and hurdles that may limit immediate transition. Companies not focused on identifying transition opportunities risk regulatory action, consumer backlash, investor withdrawals and/or litigation – as potential for loss of value as well.
- **Improving product quality and safety:** For companies in the chemicals business, a customer-centric approach has been essential for focusing on public trust following concerns with product quality and safety, marketing practices and concerns of potential anti-competitive behavior. The manufacturing and automotive industries have also had to address rising consumer expectations on demonstrating product quality and safety, in addition to meeting regulatory compliance standards.
- **Improving employees' health and safety:** There are growing demands from employees for industrials companies to assure occupational health and safety, given the nature of the work and risk of critical safety incidents if safety processes and procedures are not thorough and followed. The most successful companies have proactively put in place internal procedures to ensure workplace health and safety beyond what is required by law, thereby minimizing potential for injury claims and reputational risks.
- **Developing internal procedures to prevent crises:** Companies in the defense industry are particularly exposed to human rights abuse allegations and other ethical issues. However, such controversies have decreased in recent years as several companies have established internal systems to prevent complicity in human rights violations, especially in relation to arms proliferation in conflict areas. The most successful of these include human rights due diligence processes which go beyond the minimum required by government licensing regimes.
- **Improving transparency and reporting:** Across the industrials sector, there is a shift towards mandatory sustainability and climate-related reporting and disclosure obligations, such as on carbon emissions and energy use. More broadly, transparency is an important issue for the aerospace and defense sector, considering the sensitive nature of the business and vulnerability to corruption risks. In this subsector, a small but growing proportion of companies have taken a proactive approach to increasing transparency and integrity measures and preventing corruption.

To discuss the implications of these issues for your business, please contact our ESG leaders.