

ISM Principles of Sustainability and Social Responsibility



**institute for
supply management**

Sustainability is the ability to meet current needs without hindering the ability to meet the needs of future generations in terms of economic, environmental and social challenges.

Social responsibility is a framework of measurable corporate policies and procedures and resulting behavior designed to benefit the workplace and, by extension, the individual, the organization and the community.

The ISM Principles of Sustainability and Social Responsibility (in alphabetical order) are:

1. **Community.** Community initiatives provide resources to support the community in which the company or organization operates.
2. **Diversity and Inclusiveness — Supply Base.** Supply base diversity and inclusiveness refers to efforts to engage different categories of suppliers in sourcing processes and decisions.
3. **Diversity and Inclusiveness — Workforce.** Workforce diversity and inclusiveness refers to efforts to attract and retain a workforce that represents the varied backgrounds of the customer and community in which the organization operates.
4. **Environment.** Supply management actions and decisions that promote protection and preservation of the health and vitality of the environment within which the organization operates.
5. **Ethics and Business Conduct.** Ethical behavior and business conduct is a critical element impacting personal, business (public and private), supplier and governmental relationships and governance.
6. **Financial Responsibility.** Financial responsibility refers to understanding and applying financial concepts to supply management decisions to address allocation of funds, accurate reporting and management of risk.
7. **Human Rights.** Human rights refer to the concept of human beings having universal natural rights, or status, regardless of legal jurisdiction or other localizing factors.
8. **Health and Safety.** Health and safety refer to the condition of being protected or free from the occurrence of risk of injury, danger, failure, error, accident, harm or loss.
9. **Sustainability.** Sustainability refers to the ability to meet current needs without hindering the ability to meet the needs of future generations in terms of economic, environmental and social challenges.

ISM acknowledges the *United Nations Global Compact* and United Nations' *The Universal Declaration of Human Rights* for concepts adopted and integrated into ISM definitions, policies and documents.



ISM is a member of the International Federation of Purchasing and Supply Management (IFPSM)

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Sustainability and Social Responsibility

Make Good Business Sense

Commitment to sustainable and socially responsible behavior is good business in both the public and the private sectors.

The Institute for Supply Management™ (ISM) believes supply management is a key contributor in the development and implementation of sustainable and socially responsible activities because of the unique position supply professionals hold in their organizations.

ISM is committed to promoting excellence in sustainability and social responsibility through the development of principles and the sharing of tools, information and best practices that will assist in the implementation and continuous improvement of supply management organizations and professionals.

In 2008, the ISM Board of Directors approved the revised *Principles of Sustainability and Social Responsibility*, which were originally adopted by the Board in 2004 as the Principles of Social Responsibility. The purpose of these principles is to increase supply management's awareness and provide tools to supply management professionals for the development of a proactive supply management sustainability and social responsibility program for their organizations. They may complement existing standards, or they may be used as a starting point from which to develop a set of standards unique to the needs of the particular business.

ISM is asking other organizations to:

- 1. Support these sustainability and social responsibility principles.***
- 2. Donate resources to support communication of the sustainability and social responsibility principles and practices.***
- 3. Share best practices and other material with ISM to assist other organizations working to improve sustainability and social responsibility behavior internally and with suppliers.***

For more information on how you and your employer can support and promote sustainability and social responsibility, visit:

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