

Code of Conduct

We create trust in technology –
below ground, on ground, in space.



Our Guiding Principles – Our responsibility

The Guiding Principles of the TÜV NORD GROUP unite our vision, our mission and our values. The TÜV NORD Code of Conduct sets out our Guiding Principles in concrete terms.

It provides orientation for the implementation of our strategic priorities, and therefore constitutes the worldwide binding basis for the personal conduct of the Board of Management, managing directors, managers, employees and trainees in the company.

The Code of Conduct is an integral constituent of our Compliance Management System. All Group Regulations as well as internal guidelines and instructions are based on our Guiding Principles and our Code of Conduct.



Jürgen Himmelsbach
Chief Financial Officer

Dr. Dirk Stenkamp
Chairman of the Board of Management

Inga Dransfeld-Haase
Human Resources and Labour Director

Ringo Schmelzer
Chief Operating Officer



Hartmut Abeln
CEO Business Unit Mobility



Dr. Ralf Jung
CEO Business Unit Industry



Dr. Maik Tiedemann
CEO Business Unit Energy & Resources



Wolfgang Wielpütz
CEO Business Unit Certification



Luis Gómez
CEO Business Unit Digital & Semiconductor



Axel Dreckschmidt
CEO Business Unit People & Empowerment

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Our individual conduct

The TÜV NORD GROUP regards itself as a global network in which we implement our Guiding Principles through our professional approach, whilst acting with fairness and mutual respect.

At TÜV NORD GROUP, we respect and support international human rights, in particular the principles of the International Charter of Human Rights, the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the labour and social standards of the International Labour Organization (ILO). We treat employees and partners equally in an environment free of discrimination and racism. Any harassment and/or discrimination on the basis of gender, ethnic origin, age, citizenship, disability, religion or sexual orientation is incompatible with our Guiding Principles and will not be tolerated.

Our conduct at the place of work and during business-related events is guided by our corporate values, in particular integrity. We recognise the right to freedom of expression as well as to involvement in political and trade-union activities, and accept the right of our employees to engage in charitable activities as private persons.

At the same time, we pay attention to ensuring that corporate interests are safeguarded during activities away from the place of work. The companies of TÜV NORD GROUP are committed to sustainable, efficient treatment of resources. All employees undertake to act responsibly at all times, whilst showing consideration for the economic, ecological and social effects of their own actions.

Any participation by TÜV NORD GROUP in political activities is exclusively in accordance with our Guiding Principles and our Code of Conduct. Due to the complex legal and interests position, the companies of TÜV NORD GROUP do not engage in political activities without the prior written approval of the Board of Management of TÜV NORD AG. Donations to political organisations or candidates using financial resources of the TÜV NORD GROUP companies are not permitted in any form.



Our dealings with customers

Our corporate processes focus on customer requirements, quality and operative efficiency. Continuous learning helps us to achieve constant improvement and to enhance added value.

The TÜV NORD GROUP does not permit, support or tolerate corruption under any circumstances.

Acceptance of payments

All members of TÜV NORD GROUP are forbidden from directly or indirectly accepting, granting, promising, offering or approving payments or other benefits in kind for the purpose of conclusion or maintaining of business transactions. Violations result in direct disciplinary actions.

Dealings with officials and government bodies

In almost all countries, dealings with officials and government bodies are covered by specific laws and regulations. As a rule, the legal consequences of violations of these regulations are more severe than for dealings with other customers. Consequently, the creation of transparency and compliance with any approval requirements within the framework of the business relationships are of the utmost importance in these cases.

Transparency with conflicts of interest

All conflicts of interest resulting in connection with our work for TÜV NORD GROUP must be rendered transparent. This is done primarily through reporting to the immediate superior who decides on what further measures to take. In addition, further clarification routes exist for cases of doubt (see p. 10).

Invitations and gifts

The TÜV NORD GROUP assumes that it is generally permissible to exchange courtesy gestures in order to improve business relationships. This covers entertainment and gifts that are appropriate and related to our business activities. In this respect the applicable laws and relevant internal regulations must be observed.



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Our brands

Brands and company names are fundamental values within TÜV NORD GROUP that distinguish us from our competitors. Our comments and actions must safeguard and strengthen the name, the brand identity, the brand positioning and the image of TÜV NORD GROUP.

The requirements of the central brand strategy must be observed and implemented with the aim of achieving a brand-based, globally uniform image. Use of the brands by third parties is permitted exclusively within the framework of the applicable regulations.

Employees are not permitted to use the brands of TÜV NORD GROUP for own or third-party purposes.

Our markets and our competitors

We at TÜV NORD GROUP work globally to enhance the success of our customers. Our business activities are structured fairly, with integrity and in compliance with all applicable laws and standards.

We convince our customers through a broad range of future-orientated services. They are available globally and ensure quality, safety and reliability.

Marketing

We at TÜV NORD GROUP promote our services and products in a responsible manner. We take account of global cultural differences of our customers and markets. Our marketing measures avoid offending or degrading of any gender, ethnicity, religion, culture or minority.

Dealings with competitors

TÜV NORD GROUP participates actively in competition. Competitors are treated fairly. In particular, it must be ensured at all times that our personal actions exclude violations of anti-trust regulations.

Work in the field of nuclear technology

TÜV NORD GROUP uses its nuclear technology services exclusively for peaceful purposes. Activities in areas of nuclear technology that create the impression of not serving peaceful purposes, or that are capable of contributing indirectly to non-peaceful use of nuclear technology, are not permitted. This also applies to the fields of research and development on behalf of third parties.

Export control and embargoes

At TÜV NORD GROUP we comply with the relevant laws and regulations governing the export of services and products. Each and every one of us is responsible for rendering relevant facts transparent within the scope of his or her work. This is achieved primarily through reporting to the immediate superior or to the responsible Export Control Officer. These persons decide on further measures to be taken. Additional clarification routes exist for cases of doubt (see p. 10).

Deployment in crisis areas

Given the global business activities of TÜV NORD GROUP our employees can find themselves in crisis areas within the scope of their work. This refers to crises caused by war, terror, natural forces, disasters or comparable occurrences. If employees spend time in such areas for their work, TÜV NORD GROUP takes appropriate measures to protect them.



Integrity and confidentiality

We are committed to protecting the tangible and intangible assets of TÜV NORD GROUP with the greatest possible degree of care, and to using them exclusively for lawful business purposes.



Financial integrity

All companies within TÜV NORD GROUP are obliged to comply with national or international statutory regulations and recognised accounting principles as well as with the relevant Group Regulations. TÜV NORD GROUP has set up an Internal Control System (ICS), including a Risk Management System, in accordance with KonTraG (German Corporate Sector Supervision and Transparency Act). The ICS covers the organisation as well as all coordinated measures aimed at safeguarding the assets, guaranteeing the reliability of the accounting data and ensuring compliance with all internal control mechanisms.

Insider knowledge

The use of information from so-called insiders is prohibited worldwide. Employees of TÜV NORD GROUP, who have acquired such information within the scope of their work, are not permitted to use it to purchase or sell securities of a customer or third party. The forwarding of such information is also prohibited.

Intellectual property

Security and success through knowledge is our vision. For this reason, we share our internal knowledge within the TÜV NORD GROUP via suitable instruments. All work results, achieved by the employees of TÜV NORD GROUP within the framework of their employment, are the exclusive property of TÜV NORD GROUP. At TÜV NORD GROUP we take appropriate measures to safeguard protected and/or confidential information of our customers, our companies or third parties. We do not use copyright-protected, licensed or confidential information of our customers, our companies or third parties for personal or other benefit without the consent of the entitled parties.

Data protection

TÜV NORD GROUP treats personal data of its employees, customers and business partners confidentially. In order to maintain the security of personal data, to ensure their legality and to protect the confidentiality of personal data, we comply with the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) as well as of relevant laws and regulations.

Support in cases of doubt

Compliance with the Code of Conduct is part of our personally responsible behaviour. Various ways of clarification exist in case of questions or doubts concerning the alignment or assessment of personal conduct.



Ethnic or legal doubts as well as questions can be addressed here, and help or support obtained:

- Immediate superiors
- Members of the Board of Management or Managing Directors
- Compliance Officer and Compliance Manager
- Legal Department
- Internal Audit Department
- Works Council representatives
- Equal Opportunities Officer
- Ombudsman (report-tvh.com)
- Whistleblower-System “Trust Line”
(secure.ethicspoint.eu/domain/media/en/gui/111762/index.html)



Our personal responsibility is expressed among other things through the fact that cases of doubt and questions are addressed in advance wherever possible, in all cases however as early as possible.

Acting in the perceived interest of TÜV NORD GROUP can however constitute a violation of the Code, thus making it unacceptable. Non-compliance with or violation of our Code of Conduct will result in consequences and/or sanctions.

