

An ICCA Publication

THE A TO Z OF CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

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CHARITY

→ Philanthropy

CHEMICALS SECTOR

→ Responsible Care

CSR in the chemicals sector can be thought of in terms of three historical eras: the Carson era, the Love Canal era and the REACH era.

The Carson era began with the watershed publication of Rachel Carson's 1962 book, *Silent Spring*, in which she argued that the proliferation of persistent chemicals building up in the → environment was unsustainable for all life. Carson illustrated her case with the story of Clear Lake, California, where residues of the poisonous insecticide DDT had accumulated initially in the plankton, then in the fish that ate the plankton, then in the water birds that ate the fish, at each stage increasing in concentration. The dead birds were eventually found with up to 1600 parts per million (ppm) of DDD (a form of DDT), compared to the recommended safe concentration of 0.05 ppm. The Carson era of the 1960s and 1970s was therefore characterised by the expression of health concerns about chemical build-up in the → environment by a small but vocal group of scientists and other concerned groups. By and large, these concerns were dismissed by the chemicals industry and ignored by the public who were enjoying the benefits of chemicals in everyday products.

The Love Canal era began with an explosion in 1978 at an industrial → waste site, owned by Hooker Chemicals, at Love Canal near Niagara Falls in the United States. The resulting dispersion of chemical compounds in the community, many of which were suspected carcinogens, were later claimed to have resulted in birth defects and other harmful health impacts. Love Canal, however, was only the first in a string of high profile incidents

that plagued the chemicals industry in the 1980s, not least of which was the industrial accident in 1984 at Union Carbide's pesticides facility in Bhopal, India, which killed more than 2000 people. Another was the catastrophic spilling of 10.8 million gallons of oil by the *Exxon Valdez* tanker off the coast of Alaska in 1989, resulting in environmental clean-up and community liabilities exceeding \$8 billion. With the sector's reputation severely tarnished, the chemicals industry responded by developing the → Responsible Care programme, a set of self-regulatory standards launched in 1988 and designed to improve chemical companies' health, safety and environmental management practices. This has become the chemicals industry benchmark for good practice worldwide.

The REACH era began with the adoption of the REACH regulations (standing for the Registration, Evaluation and Authorisation of Chemicals) by the Council of European Environment Ministers on 13 December 2006 and its entry into force on 1 June 2007. The intention of the REACH regulations is to subject the more than 100 000 chemicals that have proliferated in the past decades to rigorous testing for their environmental and health impacts. The process essentially involves registering the chemicals, including an analysis of their impacts and how best to manage these, followed by an evaluation by the government agency. Deadlines for chemical registration are staged with a deadline of June 2008 for the most hazardous substances. It is expected that over 30 000 chemicals will be registered with the agency by 2018 and of these around 1500 are likely to be considered of high concern. Substances of high concern include those that are persistent, bio-accumulative and toxic (so-called PBTs), very persistent or very bio-accumulative and endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs). For these, an authorisation process is then required. Hence, in the REACH era, chemicals companies will increasingly be required to be transparent and accountable for the environmental and health impacts of their products.

In summary, the main CSR issues faced by the chemicals sector include:

- Environmental impacts, including emissions to air (especially → greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide and noxious gases like sulphur dioxide), → water (especially persistent chemicals) and land (including chemical spills, soil contamination and sterilisation of land).
- Health impacts, including exposure to chemicals that are toxic, carcinogenic, affect human immune or reproductive systems and cause skin irritation.
- Safety impacts, including the loss of life or cause of injuries among employees and the public through industrial accidents at chemical plants or during transportation or consumption.
- Community impacts, including economic benefits through the provision of jobs and social investment in → infrastructure and public services, but also disruption or displacement of communities through chemical infrastructure projects or layoffs.

Wayne Visser

CHILD LABOUR

→ Labour issues

Child labour refers to the systematic use of children as part of the workforce (domestic or industrial). It is often considered exploitative, and there are international conventions that seek to protect children from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with their education, or to be harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development.

There is disagreement about what is acceptable child labour. The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and ILO's Convention 182 focus on the worst and most harmful forms of child labour. Children's rights organisations such as Save the Children endorse

THE A TO Z OF CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

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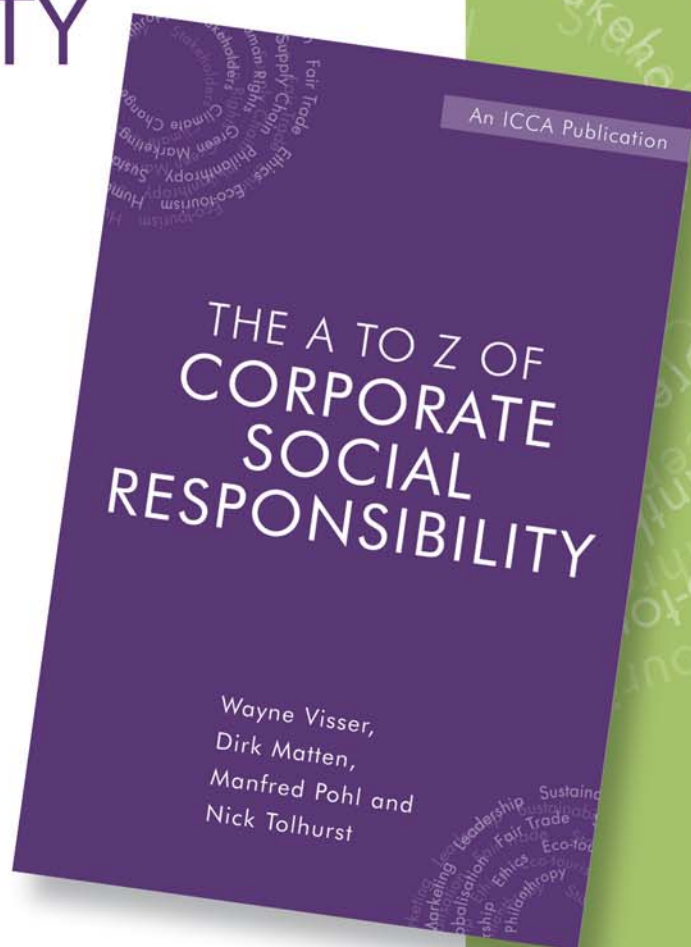
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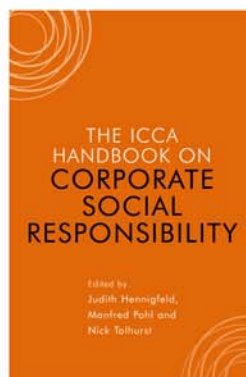


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***The A to Z of Corporate
Social Responsibility***

Available on amazon.com,
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ISBN: 978-0-470-72395-1
Hardback 535 pages
November 2007 (UK)
January 2008 (USA)



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THE A TO Z OF CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY: The Complete Reference of Concepts, Codes and Organisations

Editors: Wayne Visser, Dirk Matten, Manfred Pohl and Nick Tolhurst

Publisher: Wiley, 2007 (UK) & 2008 (USA) (ISBN-10: 0470723955, ISBN-13: 978-0470723951)

Available from: Amazon.com, Amazon.co.uk, Wiley.com

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DESCRIPTION

This is the world's first complete reference on CSR, compiled by the Institute for Corporate Culture Affairs (the ICCA). The entries have been written by leading experts, leading global thinkers and CSR practitioners. The reference also lists and describes the most important organizations and landmarks in the field of CSR. The book comprises 339 terms, which are split into core concepts, key words and definitions to form the standard reference for managers, academics, teachers, students, officials and volunteers in the field of CSR. This is a timely and innovative contribution to the field of Corporate Social Responsibility; the definitive terminology reference on CSR, business society relations and the organizations and standards in the field.

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TERMS

3 Rs | Accountability | Accounting | Accreditation | Activism | Advertising | Affirmative action | Africa | Agricultural sector | AIDS | Air pollution | Animal rights | Animal testing | Animal welfare | Anti-capitalism | Anti-globalisation | Asia | Assurance | Auditing | Australia | Automotive sector | Banking sector | Base of the Pyramid model | Benchmarking | Best of class investing | Best practice | Biodiversity | Bioremediation | Black economic empowerment | Bluewash | Boycotts | Branding | Bribery | Business case | Business ethics | Carbon balance | Carbon credits | Carbon funds | Carbon neutral | Carbon offsetting | Carbon sink | Carbon tax | Carbon trading | Cause-related marketing | Certification | Charity | Chemicals sector | Child labour | Civil regulation | Civil society organisations (CSOs) | Clean technology | Cleaner production | Climate change | Codes of conduct | Codes of ethics | Codes of practice | Common good | Community development | Community investing | Competitive advantage | Conflict of interest | Conservation | Consumerism | Consumer rights | Continual improvement | Corporate affairs | Corporate citizenship | Corporate communication | Corporate culture | Corporate environmental management | Corporate foundation | Corporate governance | Corporate history | Corporate responsibility | Corporate social entrepreneur | Corporate social investment | Corporate social opportunity | Corporate social performance (CSP) | Corporate social responsibility (CSR) | Corporate social responsiveness | Corporate sustainability | Corporate volunteering | Corruption | Cradle-to-grave | Cultural issues | Developing countries | Development | Digital divide | Discrimination | Diversity | Donations | Donors | Downsizing | Drug and alcohol testing | Due diligence | Due process | Earth Summit | Eco-efficiency | Eco-friendly products and services | Eco-labelling | Ecological footprint | Economically targeted investment | Eco-subsidies | Ecosystem degradation | Eco-taxation | Eco-tourism | E-learning | Emerging markets | Emission trading | Employee rights | Employee volunteering | Empowerment | Energy management | Engagement | Environment | Environment, health and safety (EHS) | Environmental accounting | Environmental auditing | Environmental champions | Environmental due diligence | Environmental entrepreneurship | Environmental excellence | Environmental impact assessment (EIA) | Environmental liabilities | Environmental management | Environmental management system (EMS) | Environmental movement | Environmental reporting | Environmentally friendly products and services | Equal opportunities | Equity | Ergonomics | Ethical consumption | Ethical decision-making | Ethical investment | Ethical sourcing | Ethics | Ethics officer | Europe | Executive pay | Externalities | Factor four | Factor ten | Fair trade | Financial services sector | Food and beverage sector | Forensic accounting | Foundation | Fraud | Gaia hypothesis | Gender issues | Genetically modified organisms (GMOs) | Geographical information systems (GIS) | Global commons | Global governance | Globalisation | Global warming | Governance | Green consumerism | Greenhouse gases | Green marketing | Green movement | Greenwash | Hazardous waste | Health | Health and safety | HIV/AIDS | Human rights | Human security | Hydrogen economy | Impact assessment | Indigenous people | Industrial ecology | Infrastructure sector | Integrated pollution control | Integrity | Intellectual property rights (IPRs) | Interested and affected parties | Intergenerational equity | Intragenerational equity | Joint Implementation | Labelling | Labour issues | Labour relations | Land contamination | Latin America | Leadership | Learning | Legal compliance | Legislation | Licence to operate | Life cycle assessment | Living wage | Lobbying | Local community | Local economic development | Market based instruments | Marketing ethics | Media sector | Microfinance | Microlending | Mining sector | Moral case | Moral responsibilities | Natural capitalism | New economics | Non-financial assurance | Non-financial reporting | Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) | North America | North-South divide | Not in my back yard (NIMBY) | Occupational health and safety (OHS) | Off-shoring | Oil & gas sector | Organic food | Organisational culture | Ozone depletion | Partnerships | Persistent organic pollutants (POPs) | Personal & household goods sector | Pharmaceutical sector | Philanthropy | Policies | Political action committees | Polluter pays principle | Pollution | Poverty | Precautionary principle | Pressure groups | Privacy | Privatization | Product stewardship | Product take-back schemes | Public affairs | Public goods | Public interest | Public participation | Public relations | Public-private partnerships (PPP) | Quality management | Race to the bottom | Recycling | Regulation | Renewable resources | Report verification | Reporting | Reputation | Research | Responsible competitiveness | Retail sector | Risk management | Safety | Security | Self-regulation | Shareholder activism | Shareholder democracy | Shareholder resolution | Sin taxes | Small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) | Social and environmental accounting | Social auditing | Social enterprise | Social entrepreneurship | Social impact assessment | Social innovation | Social justice | Social reporting | Social responsibility | Socially responsible investment (SRI) | Sponsorship | Stakeholder democracy | Stakeholder engagement | Stakeholder management | Stakeholder theory | Stakeholders | Stewardship | Strategic impact assessment | Subsidies | Supply chain | Sustainability | Sustainability reporting | Sustainable consumption | Sustainable consumption and production | Sustainable development | Sustainable livelihoods | Sweatshops | Take-back schemes | Tax avoidance | Technology sector | Telecommunications sector | Tobin tax | Traceability | Tragedy of the commons | Transparency | Travel and leisure sector | Triple bottom line | Union busting | Utilities sector | Value chain | Value creation | Values | Verification | Voluntary self regulation | Volunteering | Waste management | Water management | Water pollution | Whistle-blowing | White collar crime | Work-life balance | Zen

CODES, GUIDELINES & STANDARDS

AA 1000 Series of Standards | Agenda 21 | Anti-Slavery International | Apparel Industry Partnership (AIP) Code of 1997 | Bribe Payers Index | Business Charter for Sustainable Development | Business Principles for Countering Bribery | Business Social Compliance Initiative (BSCI) | CACG Principles | CERES Principles | Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) | Code of Labour Practices for the Apparel Industry Including Sportswear | Combined Code of Corporate Governance | Commonwealth Corporate Governance Principles | Corporate Responsibility Index | Corruption Perception Index | CSR Competency Framework | Domini 400 Social Index | Dow Jones Sustainability Indexes | Earth Charter | Eco-Management and Auditing Scheme (EMAS) | Equator Principles | ETI Base Code | EU Directive on Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) | EU Green and White Papers on Corporate Social Responsibility | EU Greenhouse Gas Emission Trading System | Extractive Industries Review | Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) | Fairtrade Mark | Five Capitals Framework | FLA Workplace Code of Conduct | Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) | FTSE4Good Index | General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT) | Global Compact | Global Corruption Barometer | Global Sullivan Principles of Social Responsibility | ICC Business Charter for Sustainable Development | ICFTU Code of Labour Practice | IFC Social and Environmental Performance Standards | ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work | ILO-OSH 2001 Guidelines on Occupational Safety and Health Management Systems | ILO Tripartite Declaration of Principles Concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy | Interfaith Declaration: A Code of Ethics on International Business for Christians, Muslims and Jews | ISAE 3000 Standard for Assurance Engagements | ISO 9000 Series of Standards on Quality Management | ISO 14000 Series of Standards on Environmental Management | ISO 26000 Series on Corporate Social Responsibility | Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development | Joint Implementation | King Report on Corporate Governance in South Africa | Kyoto Protocol | London Benchmarking Group Model | London Principles | Maquiladoras Standards of Conduct | Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) | Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) | Mining and Minerals for Sustainable Development | Montreal Protocol | National Corporate Responsibility Index | Natural Step Framework | OECD Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions | OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises | OECD Principles of Corporate Governance | OHSAS 18001 Standard on Occupational Health & Safety | Operating and Financial Review (OFR) | Rainforest Alliance Certification | Responsible Care Programme | Responsible Competitiveness Index | Rio Declaration on Environment and Development | SA 8000 | Sarbanes-Oxley Act | Sigma Project | Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) | Sullivan Principles | Sustainability Reporting Guidelines | TRIPS (Trade Related Aspects of International Property Rights) Agreement | UN Convention Against Corruption | UN Declaration against Corruption and Bribery in International Commercial Transactions | UNEP International Declaration on Cleaner Production | UNEP Statement by Banks on the Environment and Sustainable Development | UNEP Statement of Environmental Commitment for the Insurance Industry | UN Global Compact | UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) | UN Norms on the Responsibilities of Transnational Corporations and Other Business Enterprises with Regard to Human Rights | UN Principles on Responsible Investment | UN Universal Declaration on Human Rights | US Federal Sentencing Guidelines | US Superfund Legislation | Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights | Wolfsberg Principles | World Federation of Sporting Goods Industry Code of Conduct

ORGANISATIONS

AccountAbility | African Institute for Corporate Citizenship (AICC) | Brundtland Commission | Business and Human Rights Resource Centre | Business for Social Responsibility (BSR) | Business in the Community (BITC) | Carbon Disclosure Project | Caux Round Table | Club of Rome | CSR Academy | CSR Asia | CSR Europe | Ethical Trading Initiative (ETI) | Ethics and Compliance Officer Association | EU Multi-stakeholder Forum on CSR | European Academy for Business in Society (EABIS) | European Alliance on CSR | European Business Ethics Network (EBEN) | Fair Labour Association (FLA) | Fairtrade Labelling Organizations International (FLO) | FINE | Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) | Forum EMPRESA | Global Business Coalition on HIV/AIDS | Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) | Institute for Corporate Culture Affairs (ICCA) | Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) | Institute of Social and Ethical Accountability (ISEA) | International Accreditation Forum (IAF) | International Association for Business and Society (IABS) | International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA) | International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (IAASB) | International Business Leaders Forum (IBLF) | International Fair Trade Association (IFAT) | International Federation for Alternative Trade (IFAT) | International Organic Accreditation Service (IOAS) | ISEAL Alliance | Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) | Rio Earth Summit | Social Venture Network | Society for Business Ethics | UN Conference on Environment and Development | World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) | World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED) | World Economic Forum | World Social Forum | World Summit on Sustainable Development | World Trade Organization (WTO)