

Combating Bribery and Corruption

A company can only achieve sustainable success if it behaves in a responsible and legally compliant manner. With this in mind, compliance with legal requirements and internal company guidelines is a key part of HHLA's corporate governance policy.

► see also Corporate Governance Report, page 46 HHLA strives to achieve this prime objective by establishing, coordinating and constantly further enhancing its Group-wide compliance management system (CMS). It has also set itself the goal of identifying key compliance risks, assessing them on an ongoing basis, and minimising them by implementing suitable measures and processes. Furthermore, the CMS aims to raise awareness among HHLA Group employees regarding the need to comply with both the legal requirements relevant to their work and internal guidelines. By doing so, it sets out to foster an appropriate level of risk awareness within the workforce with a view to preventing compliance violations. HHLA's CMS centres on a code of conduct that goes beyond the statutory requirements by formulating overriding principles on relevant topics for compliance, such as fair conduct in the competitive environment and dealing with conflicts of interest or sensitive corporate information. The HHLA Code of Conduct can be accessed online at ► www.hhla.de/compliance.

Preventing corruption is another key issue addressed in the Code of Conduct. In the course of its activities, HHLA is constantly in contact with business partners and officials at different levels – especially in Germany, Central and Eastern Europe, and Asia. The aim of the in-depth anti-corruption guidelines is to help employees assess situations with potential corruption implications in their day-to-day work in order to effectively prevent corrupt behaviour and the associated consequences for both employees and the company. The anti-corruption guidelines provide staff with the necessary knowledge about granting or accepting benefits to or from business partners and officials. Practical examples are used by way of illustration.

The Code of Conduct obliges employees to pass on any information they may have about misconduct at the company. Third parties can also use the compliance hotline for whistle-blowing. All information received is treated confidentially and callers can choose to remain anonymous. Moreover, the anti-corruption guidelines state that staff must seek advice or report violations if they have any doubts or suspicions.

Training courses and internal corporate media constantly provide employees with information on important aspects of the Code of Conduct and associated issues, such as corruption prevention and how they are expected to behave in accordance with the anti-corruption guidelines.

The number of incidents is constantly documented and monitored as part of the CMS using an internal reporting system. This enables the company to adjust its risk assessment should there be an increase, for example, and to introduce appropriate measures, such as more communication and adapting processes in its internal control system.

The responsibility of each individual to comply with the provisions laid down by regulators, professional associations and the government, both within the company itself and in dealings with contractual partners, is also stated in HHLA's own in-house purchasing guidelines, in combination with HHLA's externally applicable purchasing guidelines. The focus here is on analysing and evaluating relationships with suppliers in terms of their reliability, quality, innovativeness, cost structures, economic stability, occupational safety, sustainability and compliance. Selecting suppliers on the basis of these criteria also helps to prevent corruption. ► see also Management Report/Purchasing and Materials Management, page 22