

The basics for creating a statement of principles

Why do I need a statement of principles if there are applicable laws for the situation?

- A statement of principles emphasizes the meaning of a certain topic for your company and at the same time increases its value
- A statement of principles clarifies the fundamental values and norms of your company
- It shows internal and external parties what the company stands for
- A statement of principles offers employees the orientation they need to align their own actions with the objectives of the company.
- It provides a binding frame of reference for both internal and external partners

What does a statement of principles contain?

- A commitment to complying with applicable laws and international standards as well as, under certain circumstances, a reference to other relevant frameworks
- A focus on the topics most relevant to the company
- Defined objectives for the most relevant topics
- Established responsibilities
- A commitment to open exchange with internal and external partners

What formalities need to be observed?

- A statement of principles can focus on a specific subject area or cover different subject areas. The correct form for your company depends, among other things, on the size of the company, your risk exposure, requirements from management systems and external requirements.
- It contains the company logo and the current version
- The management commits itself by signature to the statement of principles
- The area of application, e.g. for subsidiaries, must be included

What do I do with a statement of principles?

- Communicate internally and externally
- Integration in mandatory training courses for employees, e.g. for new hires
- It serves as a basis for the description of procedures and processes, on the basis of which the corresponding subject areas are dealt with
- Revise regularly

Related links:

- [Background information SAQ \(right column\)](#)
- Automotive Industry Guiding Principles to Enhance Sustainability Performance in the Supply Chain: <https://drivesustainability.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Guiding-Principles.pdf>
- Practical Guidance: <https://drivesustainability.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Practical-Guidance.pdf>
- Supplier Handbook SAQ 4.0: https://www.drivesustainability.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Supplier-handbook_2.0.pdf