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Current issue

### **Conflict Materials**

Castolin has a high level of concern regarding the exploitation and the trade of conflict minerals originating in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) that help finance violent conflict in the eastern DRC and cause an emergency humanitarian situation. Conflict minerals include coltan (niobium, tantalum), cassiterite (tin), gold, and wolframite (tungsten) as well as associated refined metals that may directly or indirectly finance or benefit armed groups in the eastern DRC and surrounding regions. Armed conflict in those regions leads to both human rights violations and environmental damage.

In July 2010, new legislation was signed into US law, which pertains to the use of conflict minerals (Dodd–Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act). This law may affect Castolin's supply chain of tungsten carbides.

Castolin is committed to maintaining a socially and environmentally responsible supply chain and will therefore take all appropriate action to avoid illegal and unethical mineral sourcing in its products.

In this regard, Castolin requested and will continue to request written confirmation that the powders or products supplied by its vendors do not contain any conflict minerals (which are those minerals originating in the DRC or its surrounding countries). Castolin also intends to comply with the principles set forth by the United Nations and US Congress. Up to now all of our suppliers have send us statements of compliance to the described rules above.

Castolin is currently not aware of the use of any conflict minerals in its products. If you have any concerns, please address your contact person at Castolin or send an e-mail to

[oliver.kronauer@castolin.eu](mailto:oliver.kronauer@castolin.eu).

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