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IPC-1401B

Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Management System Standard

If a conflict occurs between the English language and translated versions of this document, the English version will take precedence.

Developed by the Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Sustainability Task Group (4-35a) of the Environment, Health & Safety Steering Committee (4-30) of Global Electronics Association.

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Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Management System Standard

1 SCOPE

This standard specifies the requirements and best practice guidelines for an effective environmental, social and governance (ESG) management system to help an enterprise integrate ESG as a customer requirement into products and value chain activities, as well as to identify and manage ESG risks and opportunities through cooperation with customers and suppliers, so as to enhance the competitive advantages of the enterprise and its supply chain.

1.1 Purpose This standard helps an enterprise to continually improve its ESG performance through innovation (see 3.10), achieve the following intended outcomes of the ESG management system, which creates value for the enterprise, its customers, its investors, its suppliers and other stakeholders, while striving to achieve corporate sustainability.

- a. Fulfillment of compliance obligations (see 3.8);
- b. Improvement of customer satisfaction (see 3.6);
- c. Control of business risks (see 3.9);
- d. Enhancement of operational efficiency.

This standard is developed for and intended to be applicable to electronics manufacturing enterprises, other enterprise may use it as a reference. This standard does not state specific criteria of ESG performance, nor does it add or change the responsibility or obligation the enterprise undertook before it adopts this standard.

An enterprise may use this standard in the following purpose:

- a. Establish an ESG management system to guide functional departments or branches to manage their ESG risks and opportunities;
- b. Self-evaluate and self-declare to demonstrate its ESG commitments to stakeholders such as customers, employees and investors;
- c. Seek confirmation from stakeholders such as customers or investors on their self-declaration;
- d. Guide suppliers or investee enterprises to establish their ESG management systems;
- e. Seek certification of its ESG management system by an external organization; and
- f. Use as a framework for industry cooperation and supply chain cooperation.

This standard may be used in whole or in part to systematically improve ESG management.

1.1.1 Background In the global electronics manufacturing industry, ESG has become a priority topic on the mainstream business agenda. An increasing number of customers and consumers require enterprises to demonstrate responsible business conduct (RBC) and to provide responsible products and services (RPS), and increasing investors and finance institutions require enterprises to disclose ESG information and enhance ESG ratings. For such a purpose, the United Nations has issued the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGP) and SDG Compass – The Guide for Business Action on the SDGs, the OECD has issued OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Business Conduct, and the EU has formulated Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD). Leading enterprises have proactively implemented ESG strategies and effectively enhanced their competitiveness.

This standard helps an enterprise to establish an effective management system, benchmark with industry best practices, and integrate ESG as a customer requirement into products and value chain activities including marketing, research and development, procurement, manufacturing, logistics, after-sales, EHS, human resources, finance, communication and other functional activities, as well as to achieve compliance assurance, customer satisfaction, risk control and efficiency enhancement through innovation.

Unlike other compliance or risk-control-oriented management system standards, this standard treats ESG as a business opportunity and encourages an enterprise to achieve cost leadership and/or differentiation competitive strategy through innovation.