

Sustainability and Social Responsibility

Banknote Ethics Initiative (BnEI): Code of Ethical Business Practice

Corporate Social Responsibility pursues a wide range of different objectives. A core aspect for companies operating internationally with governments or government-related organisations as customers is the battle against bribery and corruption. Systemic risks have to be borne in mind here especially in banknote printing. These include: a small number of suppliers, international customers, direct or indirect access to government representatives and a valuable, high-quality product.

The Banknote Ethics Initiative (BnEI) is committed to this important theme. The BnEI was established in Brussels in 2013 as a non-profit-organisation with the objective to combat bribery and corruption together with representatives of the industry. For this purpose the BnEI has defined binding rules and requirements which can be verified by independent audit organisations – above all the BnEI Code of Ethical Business Practices. Accredited members of the BnEI are subject to regular independent audits. These audits review the functional features and effectiveness of in-house processes to prevent bribery and corruption. 40 central banks are currently among the supporters of the initiative, which to date has 13 members – and growing.

Orell Füssli Security Printing (OFS) joined the BnEI as a member in 2017. After the completion of eleven interviews, the study of almost 100 documents, reviews of all relevant directives and a detailed reconciliation with BnEI requirements, OFS was awarded the sought-after accreditation. Orell Füssli's long-standing tradition of purposeful and sustainable corporate management is reflected in the fact that a large proportion of the required monitoring processes and basic conditions had already been implemented. The resulting transparency in business processes significantly facilitated the external verification that is now required.

The BnEI is being continuously further developed by its members. The market is also developing, however: the number of international contracts awarded via competitive tender and thus subject to audit and transparency predominates in comparison to direct procurement, which is more difficult to monitor.

Environment

The responsible and sustainable use of natural resources and the preservation of our environment are part of every company's responsibility.

Since 2006, Orell Füssli Security Printing has operated an environmental management system certified under ISO 14001 which is continuously reviewed and further developed. Upstream, in-house and downstream processes are included in this.

When selecting suppliers and service providers OFS attaches great importance to working with companies which also operate certified environmental management systems and submit themselves to appropriate annual external audits. OFS is also a member of the energy model group of the Energie-Agentur für Wirtschaft (EnAW)*. This entity specifies a clear target path and tightens the requirements for saving energy and reducing CO₂ emissions annually. In this way, OFS systematically makes an annually increasing contribution to environmental protection. This has enabled the Group to save over 1025 tonnes of CO₂ emissions since 2013, while improving energy efficiency by over 15 GWh.

Occupational safety

Despite extensive precautionary measures, occupational accidents cannot be completely eliminated even at OFS. For this reason and with the objective of systematically reducing the associated risks, OFS decided to incorporate the theme «Occupational Safety and Health Protection» (AS-GS) in its integrated management system.

The new «ISO 45001 – Occupational Safety and Health Protection» standard was issued in May 2018. OFS obtained certification three months after its publication. The results are a modern system for the continuous reduction of occupational accidents and specific action to preserve and expand health protection – also outside of working hours and Orell Füssli Security Printing premises.

As with all management systems, the «Occupational Safety and Health Protection» (AS-GS) topic is being continuously further developed and adapted to changing requirements. Personnel are closely integrated in the process through risk assessment and the definition of action to be taken.