Anti-Bribery and Corruption Policy

“H.Essers takes a zero-tolerance approach to bribery and corruption and we are committed to conduct our business in an honest and ethical manner. We have adopted this policy to communicate this message and to assist those working for us to uphold it.”

Gert Bervoets, 
CEO

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors
Contents

1. Purpose .................................................................................................................. 3
2. To whom does this policy apply? .............................................................................. 3
3. What it means for you – a brief overview ................................................................. 3
4. Our principles ............................................................................................................ 4
5. Responsibility for the policy? ..................................................................................... 4
6. What are bribery and corruption? ............................................................................... 5
7. Gifts and hospitality .................................................................................................. 5
8. What is not acceptable? ............................................................................................. 6
9. Facilitation payments ................................................................................................. 6
10. Donations ................................................................................................................ 7
11. Your responsibilities ................................................................................................ 7
12. Record-keeping ........................................................................................................ 7
13. How to raise a concern ............................................................................................ 8
14. Protection ................................................................................................................ 8
15. Monitoring and review ............................................................................................. 8
16. Training .................................................................................................................... 9
Anti-Bribery and Corruption Policy

1. **Purpose**

1.1 The purpose of this policy is to:

   (a) set out H.Essers’ responsibilities, and the responsibilities of those working for us or associated with us, in observing and upholding our position on bribery and corruption; and

   (b) provide information and guidance to those working for us on how to recognize and deal with bribery and corruption issues.

   In this policy the use of the terms "we", "our" and "us" refer to H.Essers.

   **It is important that you read, understand and act in accordance with this policy.**

2. **To whom does this policy apply?**

This policy applies to all individuals working at all levels and grades, including senior managers, officers, directors, employees (whether permanent, fixed-term or temporary), consultants, contractors, seconded staff, homeworkers, casual workers and agency staff, agents, channel partners or any other person associated with us, or any of our subsidiaries or their employees, wherever located (collectively referred to as "Workers" in this policy).

3. **What it means for you – a brief overview**

3.1 It is an offence (1) to bribe another person, (2) to be bribed, (3) to bribe a foreign public official and (4) for a company to fail to prevent bribery .

3.2 Fines up to 600,000 EUR and imprisonment from 6 months up to 10 years can be imposed on individuals and/or companies who fail to comply with the legislation (Belgian Criminal Code). Additionally on individuals as well as companies fiscal penalties and fines can be imposed. Companies could be forbidden from tendering for public contracts, become blacklisted.

3.3 You must never offer, promise or give a financial or other advantage to any person (including a foreign public official) with the intention of inducing or rewarding improper performance by them of their duties.

3.4 You must never directly or indirectly accept or agree to receive a financial or other advantage as a reward for the improper performance of your duties. It makes no difference whether the advantage is for you or a third party.
3.5 Where your role requires this, you are permitted to give and receive hospitality (you should ask your line manager if you are unsure about this), but this should always be in a reasonable and proportionate manner. Further guidance on this (along with gifts) is set out in this policy later on.

3.6 You must read this policy carefully and if you have any questions on it, please revert to your line manager or the Compliance Manager (as defined in 5.2 below).

4. Our principles

4.1 It is our policy to conduct all of our business in an honest and ethical manner. We take a zero-tolerance approach to bribery and corruption and are committed to acting professionally, fairly and with integrity in all our business dealings and relationships wherever we operate.

4.2 It is our best practice objective that those we do business with take a similar zero-tolerance approach to bribery and corruption.

4.3 We are bound by the laws, in respect of our conduct both at home and abroad. We must also comply with laws relevant to countering bribery and corruption in the jurisdictions in which we operate.

4.4 Bribery and corruption are criminal offences and are punishable for individuals by up to ten years' imprisonment, fines up to 600,000 EUR and fiscal penalties, and if the H.Essers is found to have taken part in corruption we could face the same fines, be excluded from tendering for public contracts and face damage to our reputation. We therefore take our legal responsibilities very seriously and expect you to do the same.

4.5 In this policy "third party" means any individual or organization you come into contact with during the course of your work for us, and includes actual and potential customers, suppliers, distributors, business contacts, agents, advisers, government and public bodies, including their advisors, representatives and officials, politicians and political parties.

5. Responsibility for the policy?

5.1 This Policy is endorsed by the CEO. Our board of directors has overall responsibility for ensuring this policy complies with our legal and ethical obligations, and that all those under our control comply with it.

5.2 For the purposes of this policy, the Compliance Manager is the Internal Auditor. The Compliance Manager has primary and day-to-day responsibility for implementing this policy, and
for monitoring its use and effectiveness. The Compliance Manager can be contacted about this policy through the CEO’s PA.

5.3 Management and senior staff at all levels are responsible for ensuring those reporting to them are made aware of and understand this policy.

6. **What are bribery and corruption?**

Corruption is the abuse of public or private office for personal gain.

A bribe is an inducement or reward offered, promised or provided in order to gain any commercial, contractual, regulatory or personal advantage through “improper performance”.

“Improper performance” happens when a person fails to act (1) in good faith, (2) impartially or (3) in accordance with a position of trust.

7. **Gifts and hospitality**

7.1 This policy does not prohibit normal and appropriate hospitality (given and received) to or from third parties.

7.2 The giving or receipt of gifts and hospitality is not prohibited, if the following requirements are met:

   (a) You have disclosed it to your line manager in advance (where it is possible to do so, or as soon as possible afterwards);

   (b) it is not made with the intention of influencing, inducing or rewarding a third party in order to gain any advantage through improper performance, or in explicit or implicit exchange for favours or benefits;

   (c) it complies with local law;

   (d) it is given in our name, not in your name;

   (e) it does not include cash or a cash equivalent (such as gift certificates or vouchers);

   (f) it is appropriate in the circumstances. For example, small gifts given/ to be given at Christmas time;

   (g) taking into account the reason for the gift, it is of an appropriate type and value and given at an appropriate time. For example, customers are unlikely to be able to accept hospitality from us if we are participating in a tendering process with them;

   (h) it is given openly, not secretly; and
(i) gifts and / or hospitality should not be offered to, or accepted from, government officials or representatives, or politicians or political parties, without the prior approval of the Compliance Manager.

7.3 Where it is an accepted part of your role (you should ask your line manager if you are unsure about this) you can offer and accept a reasonable amount of moderate hospitality for the purposes of business development, having regard to paragraph 7.2 above.

7.4 We appreciate that the practice of giving business gifts varies between countries and regions and what may be normal and acceptable in one region may not be in another. The test to be applied is whether in all the circumstances the gift or hospitality is reasonable, proportionate and justifiable. The intention behind the gift or hospitality should always be considered.

7.5 Company gifts, sponsoring, ... are always approved by the marketing department.

8. **What is not acceptable?**

In addition to the above it is not acceptable for you (or someone on your behalf) to:

(a) give, promise to give, or offer, a payment, gift or hospitality with the intention of influencing, inducing or rewarding improper performance;

(b) give, promise to give, or offer, a payment, gift or hospitality to a government official, agent or representative to "facilitate" or expedite a routine procedure (where the payment is not a legitimate payment pursuant to local written law);

(c) accept payment from a third party that you know or suspect is offered with the expectation that it will obtain a business advantage for them which will be obtained through improper performance by you or us;

(d) accept a gift or hospitality from a third party if you know or suspect that it is offered or provided with the intention of influencing improper performance by us in return;

(e) threaten or retaliate against another Worker who has refused to commit a bribery offence or who has raised concerns under this policy; or

(f) engage in any activity that might lead to a breach of this policy.

9. **Facilitation payments**

9.1 We do not make, and will not accept, "kickbacks" of any kind.

9.2 If you are asked to make a payment on our behalf, you should always be mindful of what the payment is
for and whether the amount requested is proportionate to the goods or services provided. You should always ask for a receipt which details the reason for the payment. If you have any suspicions, concerns or queries regarding a payment, you should raise these with the Compliance Manager.

9.3 Kickbacks are typically payments made in return for a business favour or advantage. All Workers must avoid any activity that might lead to, or suggest, that kickback will be made or accepted by us.

10. Donations

We do not make contributions to political parties. We only make charitable donations that are legal and ethical under local laws and practices and that are in accordance with our Charity Policy which is in force from time to time. Requests for sponsorship should be forwarded to the Head of Marketing for approval in the first instance.

11. Your responsibilities

11.1 You must ensure that you read, understand and comply with this policy at all times.

11.2 You must be open about gifts and hospitality given or received and you must disclose these to your manager in advance (where it is possible to do so, or as soon as possible afterwards).

11.3 The prevention, detection and reporting of bribery and other forms of corruption are the responsibility of all those working for us or under our control. All Workers are required to avoid any activity that might lead to, or suggest, a breach of this policy.

11.4 You must notify your manager or the Compliance Manager as soon as possible if you believe or suspect that a conflict with this policy has occurred, or may occur in the future. For example, if a customer or potential customer offers you something to gain a business advantage with us, or indicates to you that a gift or payment is required to secure their business.

11.5 Any employee who breaches this policy may face disciplinary action, which could result in dismissal for gross misconduct.

11.6 We reserve our right to terminate our contractual relationship with other Workers if they breach this policy.

12. Record-keeping

12.1 We must keep financial records and have appropriate internal controls in place which will evidence the business reason for making payments to third parties.
12.2 You must ensure all expenses claims relating to hospitality, gifts or expenses incurred to third parties are submitted in accordance with our Expenses Policy which can be found on the intranet and specifically record the reason for the expenditure. (“kostenstaat”)

13. **How to raise a concern**

13.1 You are encouraged to raise concerns about any issue or suspicion of malpractice at the earliest possible stage. If you are unsure whether a particular act constitutes bribery or corruption, or if you have any other queries, these should be raised with your line manager or the Compliance Manager.

14. **Protection**

14.1 Workers who refuse to accept or offer a bribe, or those who raise concerns or report another’s wrongdoing, are sometimes worried about possible repercussions. We aim to encourage openness and will support anyone who raises genuine concerns in good faith under this policy, even if they turn out to be mistaken.

15. **Monitoring and review**

15.1 The Compliance Manager will monitor the effectiveness and review the implementation of this policy, considering its suitability, adequacy and effectiveness. Improvements identified will be made as soon as possible.

15.2 All Workers are responsible for the success of this policy and should ensure they use it to disclose any suspected danger or wrongdoing.

15.3 Workers are invited to comment on this policy and suggest ways in which it might be improved. Comments, suggestions and queries should be addressed to the Compliance Manager.

15.4 H.Essers reserves the right to vary and/or amend the terms of this policy from time to time at its absolute discretion.
16. **Training**

The management committee is responsible for the annual training / awareness of all staff.

To do so, we provide following information moments:

**Annual for all employees:**
- This policy will be added to our training matrix to guarantee it is annually trained. Responsibility lies with CHRM.
- Relevant employees will be required to attend training to support the guidance in this policy. Information moments will be organized at different times. Responsibility lies with CHRM.
- Annual discussion of this theme on one of the four mandatory executives meetings. Responsibility lies with CEO.
- This policy is sent / emailed each year to all employees. The policy will be published onto the information boards in the warehouses and drivers’ rooms. Responsibility lies with CEO/MarCom.
- This policy is published on the intranet. Responsibility lies with EQS.
- This policy is published on the website. Responsibility lies with MarCom.
- At regular intervals a brief overview of this policy will appear on the communication screens of all sites. Responsibility lies with EQS.

**For new employees**
- This policy is added to the Welcome brochure for new employees. Responsibility lies with CHRM.
- New employees are informed about this instruction during the mandatory welcome training. Responsibility lies with CHRM.