

Modern slavery

Next steps for Australian businesses

Meeting the legislative requirements of the Modern Slavery Act 2018—and satisfying the growing market standards—will require a proactive and strategic approach to modern slavery risk management, due diligence, and external reporting. By taking action, businesses can meet increasing government, investor, and civil society expectations; manage legal, reputational, financial and operational risks; and demonstrate corporate leadership on an urgent global issue.

The team at Seyfarth Shaw can support you with

1. Strategic legal advice

- ✓ Provide strategic advice to company directors and executive leadership on modern slavery risk management, aligned with core corporate governance.
- ✓ Develop detailed legal guidance for management and staff across teams and business units—including legal, compliance, risk, HR, operations, supply chain, procurement, investment management, community, and communications.

2. Practical implementation

- ✓ Design an effective plan for modern slavery risk management and due diligence, informed by international best practice and in line with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.
- ✓ Formulate policies, standards, contractual clauses and supplier codes of conduct on modern slavery and broader human rights.
- ✓ Identify, map and assess salient modern slavery risks linked to business operations, products and relationships.
- ✓ Conduct impact assessments, internal investigations and stakeholder engagement.
- ✓ Recommend practical measures for preventing, mitigating and remediating any actual or potential risks of modern slavery.
- ✓ Create tailored training programmes and toolkits for management, staff, suppliers and other stakeholders in managing modern slavery risks.
- ✓ Review and evaluate the performance of suppliers and other business partners on modern slavery compliance.

3. Market leading reporting

- ✓ Prepare clear and comprehensive modern slavery statements in line with legal requirements and market expectations.
- ✓ Advise on communications with affected stakeholders, investors, commercial partners, employees, government, and civil society.

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