

Code of Conduct



Dear employees,

Success does not happen by chance. Success is the result of commitment and a wealth of ideas, of foresight and entrepreneurial courage. And: success is always based upon reliability. In a world where everything is always changing, being able to rely upon something is one of the most important cornerstones in our lives – both business and private.

Ever since our group was founded 160 years ago, this aspect has played a central role for us. Reliability, combined with open, transparent and fair interactions with one another, is what has made us successful in our markets and is the reason for Schwan-STABILO's excellent reputation in our home country and around the globe. That is something we are very proud of.

This Code of Conduct summarises the main basic rules and principles that we should all abide by in our actions and behaviour, and which we also expect from our business partners. This should provide a reliable framework to guide us, our employees, our customers and our partners. The Code of Conduct stands for our self-image, which is shaped by our willingness to accept personal responsibility, and by behaviour that is at all times lawful and ethical.

Thus, our Code of Conduct is proof of our inner attitude. We are utterly convinced that it is exactly this inner attitude that has made us successful over the past decades and will be the basis for our success in the future. Let's work together to do everything we can so that everyone can always completely rely upon us!

Many thanks,

A blue ink signature of Sebastian Schwanhäußner, consisting of a stylized 'S' followed by a horizontal line and a vertical stroke.

Sebastian Schwanhäußner

A blue ink signature of Martin Reim, featuring a cursive 'M' and 'R'.

Martin Reim



PREAMBLE

The focus of our actions is upon people – whether employee*, customer, business partner or shareholder. Therefore, we are constantly committed to doing today what will still be right tomorrow – and always with a balance between economics, ecology and social responsibility.

Our Code of Conduct is based upon this premise, and outlines the most important principles and rules for all of our activities – transparently, openly and bindingly.

*These and other general terms always refer to all genders.



Foto: Natee Meejian © stock.adobe.com

1. Behaviour in all corporate activities



Complying with the law

Compliance with all legal and statutory regulations is a matter of course for us, as is compliance with internationally recognised standards for good and responsible corporate governance and supervision. In this respect, the stricter of the internal and national regulations always takes precedence.

Fair competition

We resolutely oppose any anti-competitive agreements with our business partners and suppliers and agreements that violate cartel law.

Avoiding conflicts of interest

Employees should avoid all situations in which personal interests conflict with the interests of the Schwan-STABILO Group. In the event of a conflict of interest, all employees must inform the company.

Protecting company property

We shall utilise company property and resources appropriately and considerately. This also means that we will protect company property against loss, theft, misuse and damage. This also refers explicitly to the intellectual property of the Schwan-STABILO Group, which we shall protect against unauthorised third-party access.

No bribery

We resolutely oppose the direct or indirect offer, promise or guarantee of benefits to officials or business partners in Germany and abroad in order to attain a decision or behaviour that is favourable to the Schwan-STABILO Group. Our employees shall not accept the promise of benefits, nor shall they accept benefits, as this might give the impression that employees can be influenced when it comes to company decisions.

Money laundering prevention

We comply with all legal specifications for the prevention of money laundering and shall take all necessary measures to prevent money laundering within the Schwan-STABILO Group.



2. Employee relations and workplaces



Safeguarding human and labour rights

We comply with internationally recognised human rights and ILO core labour standards and guarantee to uphold the minimum age for admission to employment – always in accordance with relevant national provisions. In this respect, the stricter of the internal and national regulations always takes precedence. We explicitly recognise the basic right to freedom of association, as well as the right to collective bargaining within the scope of national regulations and existing agreements.

Equal treatment and non-discrimination

Equal opportunities and equal treatment are important to us. We resolutely oppose any form of discrimination in the workplace and are committed to expressly promoting equal opportunities and diversity amongst employees in relation to gender, age, culture, religion, ability and sexual orientation, taking into account respective cultural and legal specificities.

Effective occupational health and safety

All of our employees have the right to a safe and healthy working environment. That is why we comply with the relevant national guidelines and standards as a minimum.



3. Behaviour in society



Public appearance and communication

All employees have the right to freedom of expression. Personal rights and privacy shall be protected. We shall always be aware that, as employees, we are perceived by the public as representatives of the company when we make comments about the Schwan-STABILO Group.

Environmental and climate protection

We shall respect the environment and always aim to keep our impact on the environment as small as possible. Therefore, compliance with the respective statutory provisions and standards for environmental protection is a matter of course for us – as is the continuous optimisation of our use of natural resources and raw materials.

Political lobbying

We resolutely oppose undue influence upon politics and legislation.

Transparency in donations and sponsorships

We shall be transparent in our donations and other forms of social commitment.



4. Handling confidential data and information



Protection of confidential information

Confidential information is valuable. Unauthorised disclosure can cause significant damage to the Schwan-STABILO Group. We protect confidential information and company documents from unauthorised viewing and unauthorised access. Our employees shall observe their duty of confidentiality, even in their private lives and when using social networks.

Guaranteed data protection and data security

All employees have the right to data protection. We protect personal data, in particular the data of employees, customers and suppliers, by handling it carefully and responsibly, and we process it in accordance with applicable data protection regulations. This naturally includes implementing the relevant technical and organisational measures to secure all company, customer, supplier and personal data against unauthorised access, unauthorised and improper use, loss and premature destruction.

www.schwan-stabilo.com

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