

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM SD
Specialized Disclosure Report

APPLIED INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGIES, INC.
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Ohio
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

1-2299
(Commission File
Number)

34-0117420
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

One Applied Plaza
Cleveland, Ohio
(Address of principal executive offices)

44115
(Zip Code)

Fred D. Bauer, Vice President,
(216) 426-4000
(Name and telephone number, including area code, of the person
to contact in connection with this report)

Check the appropriate box to indicate the rule pursuant to which this form is being filed, and provide the period to which the information in this form applies:

Rule 13p-1 under the Securities Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13p-1) for the reporting period from January 1 to December 31, 2016.

Section 1 - Conflict Minerals Disclosure

Item 1.01 Conflict Minerals Disclosure and Report

Conflict Minerals Disclosure

Determination Based on Reasonable Country of Origin Inquiry

Based on a reasonable country of origin inquiry, Applied Industrial Technologies, Inc. (“Applied”; the word “us” below refers to Applied and its subsidiaries) has reason to believe that:

1. Certain conflict minerals necessary to the functionality or production of products manufactured by us, or contracted to be manufactured for us, in 2016 may have originated in the Democratic Republic of the Congo or an adjoining country; and
2. The necessary conflict minerals may not be from recycled or scrap sources.

Description of Reasonable Country of Origin Inquiry

A description of Applied’s Reasonable Country of Origin Inquiry is included in the Conflict Minerals Report, which is filed as Exhibit 1.01 to this Form SD.

The Conflict Minerals Report is also publicly available at the following Internet website: www.applied.com/conflictminerals. The content of any website referred to in this Form SD is not incorporated by reference into this Form SD.

Item 1.02 Exhibit

A copy of Applied’s Conflict Minerals Report as required by Item 1.01 is filed as Exhibit 1.01 to this Form SD.

Section 2 - Exhibits

Item 2.01 Exhibits

The following exhibit is filed as part of this report.

Exhibit 1.01 Conflict Minerals Report for the reporting period from January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016 as required by Items 1.01 and 1.02 of this Form SD.

SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the duly authorized undersigned.

APPLIED INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGIES, INC.
(Registrant)

By: /s/ Fred D. Bauer

Fred D. Bauer

Vice President-General Counsel & Secretary

Date: May 30, 2017

EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit

Number

Description of Exhibit

1.01 Conflict Minerals Report for the reporting period from January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016 as required by Items 1.01 and 1.02 of this Form SD.

APPLIED INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGIES, INC.

Conflict Minerals Report for Calendar Year 2016

Introduction

In this Conflict Minerals Report (“CMR”), “Applied,” “we,” “us,” “our,” and “the company” refer to Applied Industrial Technologies, Inc., an Ohio corporation, and its subsidiaries. This CMR has been prepared pursuant to Rule 13p-1 and Form SD promulgated under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, for the reporting period from January 1 to December 31, 2016.

Applied is a leading industrial distributor in North America, Australia, and New Zealand, supplying customers in a wide range of industries with products including bearings, power transmission components, fluid power components and systems, industrial rubber products, linear motion components, tools, safety products, oilfield supplies, and other industrial and maintenance supplies. We serve customers for both MRO (maintenance, repair, and operations) and OEM (original equipment manufacturing) product applications. We provide engineering, design, and systems integration for industrial and fluid power applications, as well as customized mechanical, fabricated rubber, and fluid power shop services. We also offer maintenance training and inventory management solutions.

For our most recent fiscal year, ended June 30, 2016, we believe that greater than 95% of our consolidated net sales were attributable to traditional industrial distribution and less than 5% were attributable to sales of products manufactured by us or contracted to be manufactured for us. Because manufacturing processes are conducted in subsidiary business operations, primarily in the fluid power segment, that use varied information systems and operating processes, we are unable to report a precise value of the products we manufactured or contracted to be manufactured for us.

The types of products manufactured by us or contracted by us to be manufactured include custom-built hydraulic and electro-hydraulic power units and control systems, electronic control systems, pneumatic and electro-pneumatic panels and sub-assemblies, fabricated aluminum assemblies, lubrication systems, hydraulic manifolds, and pump assemblies.

In general, we assemble products using finished components we purchase from hundreds of suppliers, primarily large manufacturers, for whom we may also serve as an authorized distributor. We rely on these direct suppliers for information about conflict minerals in their products, and they in turn rely on their own suppliers for information.

We identified the direct suppliers of products and components to our subsidiary business operations that conduct manufacturing. Because we did not have complete information about which of those products and components contained conflict minerals, we did not limit our inquiries to those suppliers that supplied items that we believed contained or may have contained conflict minerals. Because of the number of suppliers and because hundreds of suppliers represented very small purchase volumes, we chose to send conflict minerals inquiries to suppliers that we estimated would represent greater than the top three-quarters of the dollar volume of 2016 purchases by our manufacturing operations. In this CMR, we refer to these suppliers as “Component Suppliers.”

Following the completion of our conflict minerals review for 2016, we were not able to determine (a) the country of origin of the necessary conflict minerals contained in our products, (b) whether those conflict minerals came from recycled or scrap sources, (c) the smelter or refiner used to process those conflict minerals, or (d) their mine or location of origin.

As permitted by the instructions to Item 1.01 of Form SD, this CMR for 2016 does not include reporting on products manufactured by or contracted to be manufactured by companies we acquired after April 30, 2015.

We did not obtain an independent private sector audit report relating to this CMR because we are not required to obtain such an audit report for this reporting period.

Reasonable Country of Origin Inquiry

We conducted a reasonable country of origin inquiry about the conflict minerals necessary to the functionality or production of products manufactured by us, or contracted to be manufactured for us. Our reasonable country of origin inquiry responds to the second step of the five-step OECD Guidance (defined in the “Due Diligence” section). We conducted a survey of the Component Suppliers using the Conflict Minerals Reporting Template (“CMRT”) developed by the Conflict-Free Sourcing Initiative (“CFSI”). We used an electronic database to organize and retain supplier responses.

We contacted suppliers whose answers contained what we believed was incomplete or potentially inaccurate information to seek clarification. We identified certain suppliers that did not conform with our conflict minerals policy of providing sourcing information to us upon request; we made repeat requests to those suppliers urging them to submit completed CMRTs. We also undertook additional follow-up with suppliers to obtain more complete information after considering factors such as the value of our purchases from the supplier, our subjective beliefs about the supplier’s business reputation, the nature of our company’s relationship with the supplier, and the likelihood that the component contained conflict minerals. After taking that additional follow-up into account, we received complete responses from almost half of the Component Suppliers.

We analyzed the responses that we received from the Component Suppliers in an effort to determine the country of origin of the necessary conflict minerals in the products that we manufacture or contract for manufacture. Only a small number of the Component Suppliers provided information relating to country of origin, and that information was not sufficiently detailed or product-specific for us to identify the country of origin of the necessary conflict minerals in our products or to indicate whether they were from recycled or scrap sources.

As a result of the responses we received, we know or have reason to believe that some of our products manufactured or contracted for manufacture during the reporting period contain necessary conflict minerals that originated, or may have originated, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo or an adjoining country (a “Covered Country”) and are not or may not be from recycled or scrap sources. Accordingly, we performed due diligence in an effort to determine the source and chain of custody of these necessary conflict minerals.

Due Diligence

Design of Due Diligence

Our due diligence measures have been designed to conform, in all material respects, with the due diligence framework set forth in The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas, Third Edition, 2016, and the related supplements for tin, tantalum, and tungsten, and for gold (the “OECD Guidance”).

Due Diligence Measures

The due diligence measures we performed are described below and are consistent with the five-step framework set out in the OECD Guidance.

OECD Step 1. Establish Strong Company Management Systems.

- We maintain a policy regarding the sourcing of conflict minerals, which is publicly available at the following Internet website: www.applied.com/conflictminerals. The content of any website referred to in this CMR is not incorporated by reference in this CMR.
- A multidisciplinary team of associates led our conflict minerals program, including members with legal, regulatory compliance, supply chain, and communications backgrounds.
- Team members attended training sessions offered by experts on conflict minerals compliance.
- Our standard terms and conditions of purchase require suppliers to conduct conflict minerals due diligence activities and to respond to our inquiries.
- We obtained quarterly certifications from business unit leaders to identify changes in the use of suppliers and components during the year.
- We enable employees, suppliers and other stakeholders to report concerns relating to our conflict minerals program through our corporate responsibility reporting and grievance mechanism, as described on our conflict minerals website (www.applied.com/conflictminerals).

OECD Step 2. Identify and Assess Risks in the Supply Chain.

- We followed up with suppliers who did not respond to our initial request for information to educate them about the conflict minerals rule and to urge them to submit a completed CMRT.
- We reviewed the CMRT responses we received from suppliers.
- When we determined that suppliers’ CMRT responses contained information we believed was incomplete or potentially inaccurate, we followed up with those suppliers to seek clarification. We made repeat requests to non-responsive suppliers and urged them to submit completed CMRTs.
- We provided progress reports to senior management members, summarizing the status of our supplier engagement.

OECD Step 3. Design and Implement a Strategy to Respond to Identified Risks.

Our conflict minerals team reviewed and assessed the risks in our supply chain. The following actions were among those used to respond to the risks in the supply chain:

- We have adopted, and refer suppliers to, our conflict minerals policy, posted on our website.
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- We compared smelters and refiners identified by our suppliers with the list of facilities that have received a “compliant” or “active” designation on the CFSI website.
- During the year, team members briefed, and engaged in dialogue with, senior management members about our due diligence measures and the quality and detail of information provided by suppliers.

OECD Step 4. Carry Out Independent Third-Party Audit of Smelter/Refiner’s Due Diligence Practices.

We do not have direct relationships with smelters or refiners of conflict minerals. Therefore, we do not carry out audits of these facilities. However, we believe that audits of smelters and refiners and other due diligence practices conducted by CFSI or other third parties are the best way to identify smelters and refiners that have due diligence systems in place that promote responsible sourcing.

OECD Step 5. Report Annually on Supply Chain Due Diligence.

We file a Form SD and CMR with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission on an annual basis. This CMR is publicly available at www.applied.com/conflictminerals.

Results of Review

Supplier Responses

- Certain suppliers reported that they manufactured products containing one or more of tin, tantalum, tungsten, and gold. Some of them provided information about specific smelters and refiners and a few even reported that it was possible that conflict minerals in their products originated in a Covered Country.
- However, supplier responses were typically provided on a company-wide basis, rather than specific to the particular components we purchased.
- Some suppliers cited multiple possible sources of conflict minerals in products they supplied to us but did not provide definitive information by product.
- In some cases, suppliers did not respond or stated they had not yet completed their due diligence on the origin of the conflict minerals in their products because they were still making inquiries of their own suppliers.

Conclusions Relative to Facilities Used to Process, and Country of Origin, of Necessary Conflict Minerals

Because of the lack of sufficiently detailed responses, we were unable to determine (1) whether a particular smelter or refiner named in a response processed the necessary conflict minerals in our products, or (2) the specific country of origin of the necessary conflict minerals in our products.

Efforts to Determine the Mine or Location of Origin

We have determined that the most reasonable effort we can make to determine the mines or locations of origin of the necessary conflict minerals in our products is to seek information from our direct suppliers about the smelters and refiners and the countries of origin of the necessary conflict minerals in our products and to urge that our suppliers do the same with their suppliers.

Steps Taken and to be Taken to Mitigate Risk and Improve Due Diligence

Applied is committed to enhancing our ability to identify, trace, and assess conflict minerals in our supply chain in ways that support human rights, labor, health and safety, environment, and ethics. To that end, we have taken or currently intend to take the following steps to refine and improve our due diligence measures and mitigate the risk that our necessary conflict minerals benefit armed groups:

- We continue to engage our direct suppliers and encourage them to obtain more complete and accurate responses from their suppliers in order to provide the information needed to identify the source and chain of custody of the necessary conflict minerals in our products.
- We continue to refine supplier data by conducting outreach where reported data is incomplete or uncertain and by directing suppliers to reporting resources so that they can provide more complete and accurate information in their responses.
- We continue to require our business unit leaders to report on manufacturing and contracting to manufacture activities quarterly.
- Our conflict minerals template is included in supplier questionnaire packages.
- We continue to respond to industry trends and legal requirements to seek to improve our processes.

Forward-Looking Statements

Certain statements contained in this CMR, including those made under the “Steps Taken and to be Taken to Mitigate Risks and Improve Due Diligence” section, reflect Applied’s expectations with respect to future performance and constitute “forward-looking statements” within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. Forward-looking statements include, among other things, statements of the plans and objectives of management for future operations. These statements are subject to a variety of uncertainties, unknown risks and other factors concerning our operations and business environment, which are difficult to predict and are beyond the control of Applied. Factors that could adversely affect our future performance include (1) those described under the heading “Risk Factors” in Item 1A of Part I of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended June 30, 2016, (2) the responsible sourcing of conflict minerals by our suppliers, and (3) the effectiveness of traceability systems used by our suppliers to determine the source and chain of custody of conflict minerals contained in our supply chain.