

AkzoNobel formalizes membership of Responsible Mica Initiative

AkzoNobel has formalized its membership with the Responsible Mica Initiative (RMI), having been one of the founding members when it was launched in 2017.

Used in a wide range of industries, mica minerals are mined extensively in India, where a variety of factors contribute to poor working conditions, including the use of child labor. The RMI's mission is to establish responsible and sustainable mica supply chains that are free of child labor.

Following the RMI's pilot year, AkzoNobel continued to focus on the issue and a commitment was made to conduct serious due diligence and look for creative ways to contribute to the initiative - which has now resulted in full membership.

"We're pleased to formalize our relationship as an official member and are keen to start collaborating more closely with the RMI to fully support their efforts in eliminating child labor and poor working conditions," says Anja Verbeke, AkzoNobel's Global Director of Integrity and Compliance. "Formalizing our membership demonstrates that we take our responsibility to respect human rights across our value chain very seriously and are determined to be part of the solution."

Continues Verbeke: "We rigorously enforce the fundamental principle of respecting human rights and our position is clear - we only source our mica from suppliers who are a member of the RMI. Together, we're committed to banning child labor from the supply chain in a sustainable manner."

AkzoNobel closely monitors how mica is sourced and works hard to ensure that the supply chain which uses the mineral is made transparent, traceable and sustainable. The company uses mica in some of its automotive and aerospace coatings as a pearlescent pigment.

Commenting on the company's formal RMI membership, Jan Paul van der Velde, AkzoNobel's Chief Procurement Officer, adds: "This fits very well with our sustainable sourcing processes. External benchmarks such as EcoVadis already rate us highly on this, which we view as encouragement to further build on the practices we have in place."

Currently working with more than 70 members, the RMI is one of the few global organizations devoted solely to addressing workplace conditions and the use of child labor in the mica industry.

About AkzoNobel

We've been pioneering a world of possibilities to bring surfaces to life for well over 200 years. As experts in making coatings, there's a good chance you're only ever a few meters away from one of our products. Our world class portfolio of brands - including Dulux, International, Sikkens and Interpon - is trusted by customers around the globe. We're active in more than 150 countries and have set our sights on becoming the global industry leader. It's what you'd expect from the most sustainable paints company, which has been inventing the future for more than two centuries.

About the Responsible Mica Initiative

The Responsible Mica Initiative is a non-governmental organization created to establish fair, responsible and sustainable mica supply chains by promoting responsible sourcing practices, and eradicating child labor and unacceptable working conditions. RMI members are drawn from industries associated with the mica supply chain in partnership with civil society organizations and local stakeholders. The Responsible Mica Initiative is an association, established in accordance with the French Law of 1901 concerning non-profit organizations, with its head office located in 44-46 rue de la Bienfaisance, 75008 PARIS - France.