

The APEC Mexico City Principles Section Thirteen: Public Sector Relationships and Procurement

What the APEC Principles say:

- A. The decision-making process by Companies and Governments during and including the government procurement process, through bidding or any other procedure of government procurement, must be professional and ethical. There should be no attempt to exert inappropriate influence.
- B. Companies must provide accurate and balanced information to the Government.
- C. Companies and government officials should ensure that their relationships and fee-for-service arrangements comply with government ethics rules or procedures.

In practice, this means:

For enterprises to ensure that:

- Personnel responsible for interacting with government officials in relation to government procurement are equally as well trained, informed about and comply with these principles as other personnel within the company;
- Relevant personnel are aware of and comply with government policies and procedures for biopharmaceutical procurement;
- There is never an overt or implied benefit offered or given to a government official in order to influence the procurement process; and
- Information provided to the Government should include all relevant information, which is current, accurate and balanced, in order to assist the officials to properly evaluate a procurement proposal.

For Government Officials to:

- Ensure that all relevant government officers who are responsible for interacting with biopharmaceutical companies in relation to government procurement are aware of and trained on these principles;
- Develop and make known clear, distinctive, accountable and comprehensive policies on procurement processes and procedures;
- Ensure that company personnel are informed of all relevant government policies, processes and procedures on procurement of biopharmaceuticals in a timely manner to enable companies to respond to procurement proposals; and
- Never seek, or receive if offered, a personal benefit to themselves or their organization from an enterprise which may influence or compromise the independence of the procurement process.