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RD-260 Antitrust Guidelines (DOs and DONTs)		Date of issue 22/08/2023	

Antitrust Guidelines (DOs and DONTs)

Release notes: This document is drafted as an information to be provided to everyone involved in activities at the IIW, at any level.

WORKFLOW AND RESPONSIBILITIES

PREPARATION/REVIEW	VERIFICATION/ISSUER	APPROBATION/VALIDATION	TARGET USER GROUP(S)
IIW General Secretariat	WG-Governance	Board of Directors	All

DEPENDENCIES

DOCUMENT(S) TO REFER: [Documents in reference]	APPENDED DOCUMENT(S): [Appended Documents]
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1. Introduction

It is the policy of the International Institute of Welding (IIW), the working units and their participants, and its member societies, to comply fully with the antitrust, trade regulation, and anti-competitive laws of the EU and of the various states.

In carrying out its activities, IIW operates to ensure compliance with the antitrust laws by requiring notice of all meetings, and meeting agendas. Records of all meetings will be kept by the working unit secretary. Legal counsel will be consulted should sensitive issues be anticipated.

Member Societies and their delegates, experts, and observers must participate in IIW activities with particular care not only to avoid improper actions or results, but also to avoid even their appearance. The best guarantee of fulfilment of the IIW Antitrust Policy is the prudence of the member country representatives. They are most aware of what are sensitive matters in the industry, and thus are in the best position to avoid problems.

2. Antitrust Overview

Antitrust laws prohibit agreements or understandings between two or more individuals or businesses to regulate prices or quantities of goods or services, to allocate customers or territories, to hinder or limit a competitor or potential competitor's operations, or otherwise unreasonably to restrain business activity. Discriminatory pricing or servicing is also prohibited.

The criminal penalties for violating the antitrust laws are severe: corporations, other organizations and individuals may be fined or prosecuted.

3. Rules of Conduct

Every individual should, therefore, follow these rules:

- DO NOT discuss your prices or competitors' prices with a competitor (except when buying from or selling to that competitor) or discuss anything that might affect prices such as costs, discounts, terms of sale or profit margins.
- DO NOT agree with competitors to uniform terms of sale, warranties or contract provisions.
- DO NOT agree with competitors to divide customers or territories.
- DO NOT act jointly with one or more competitors to put another competitor at a disadvantage.
- DO NOT try to prevent your supplier from selling to your competitor.
- DO NOT discuss your future pricing, marketing, or policy plans with competitors.
- DO NOT discuss your customers with your competitors.

With respect to IIW Activities:

- DO NOT make statements regarding prices or matters affecting prices at IIW meetings.
- DO NOT make statements about your future pricing plans, expansion or other policies with competitive overtones. Do not participate in a discussion where other members do.
- DO NOT propose or agree to any standardization that will injure your competitor.
- DO NOT assume you are protected by informal advice from a government official.



- DO NOT do anything immediately before or after IIW meeting, or at IIW social events that would be improper at a formal IIW meeting.
- DO leave any meeting where any of the foregoing topics are being discussed –and state why you are leaving.
- DO comply with the IIW Communication Policy.
- DO alert the IIW Board of Directors to anything inaccurate or improper. This includes a position the IIW has taken or intends to take or a meeting or activity of which you have learned.
- DO consult your own legal counsel or the IIW before raising any matter, which you feel might be sensitive.
- DO alert every delegate, expert, and observer from your organization who deals with the IIW of these guidelines.
- DO be conservative. If you feel an activity might be improper, do not do it.