

Corporate Social Responsibility



Respect for the environment



Mission

AVK is an international group created through the efforts of dedicated people using advanced technology in products and processes to achieve the highest standards of quality products and services. We believe in basic strategies such as being innovative, keeping our business simple, being close to our markets and customers and focusing on their needs.

Global business

It is our aim to be recognised as a leading global partner in the fields of development, manufacture, and sale of products within our business segments.

There is an increasing need for quality and innovative products within our business segments. We also experience and recognise varying local standards and norms for products and services which clearly differ from country to country. This is reflected in our mission.

Therefore, being a local manufacturer, supported by a worldwide organisation, is considered to be a great benefit to our customers, partners, employees as well as to the group as a whole.

We focus on setting up and managing our regional facilities according to local values and regulations as well as to the social conditions prevailing in the regions in question.

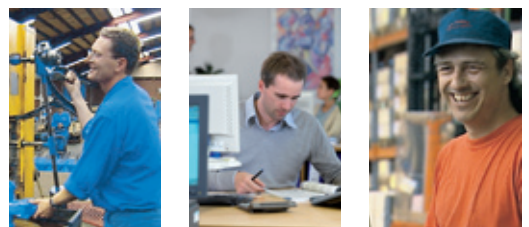
We believe that giving our local people and entities the freedom to operate the daily business in due consideration of local standards and legislation provides the best conditions for a successful business.

People in focus / working environment

AVK employs more than 2,500 men and women worldwide. We have a diverse group of dedicated people with needs and ideas which are respected at all times. We set a challenging and rewarding environment and wherever possible provide opportunities for our employees to gain new experiences, personal development, and growth.

The working environment is an important issue within AVK. Irrespective of country or location we focus on our employees' working environment and safety. We continuously reduce our target figures for accidents at work and focus on preventive measures. This has resulted in a steady decline in the frequency of accidents. We also ensure that the working conditions, equipment, and tools to undertake the specific business process are maintained, reviewed and developed on a regular basis.

The AVK Group has set very strict objectives for its production companies with regard to energy and water consumption. We are aware of the importance of reducing electricity consumption as this adds to the discharge of CO₂. We are also aware of the fact that clean water is a scarce resource. Consequently, all companies make great efforts to reduce their consumption wherever they can, and they even obtain direct savings as a side benefit.





Partnership/responsibility

We wish to be recognised as a reliable partner for both our customers and our suppliers.

AVK is committed to expansion and development. We will continue to maintain and develop our position as one of the leading manufacturers in the world within our business segments. We will continue to extend and widen our product range to the benefit of our customers. The satisfaction of our customers is a crucial objective of AVK. Our service offer and supply chain shall meet the exact demands of our customers, no matter where in the world they are located.

We also recognise our responsibility as a global player when it comes to social and environmental issues.

We constantly strive to find new means and methods of protecting the environment, and we urge our suppliers to focus on the environment and to have a serious attitude towards finding methods of improvement. All of AVK's objectives for the protection of the environment reflect the fact that AVK is a responsible company with a sound and sustainable attitude towards the environment.

In a world of intensified globalisation, resulting in increasing business relations between countries and cultures, it is vital to achieve sustainability throughout the supply chain. We wish to assure our customers that we work with responsible partners who adhere to the same standards as we do. We seek partners with high ethical standards – partners who also feel a strong commitment to comply with international legislation in the field of labour. We especially respect all child labour restrictions, throughout the entire supply chain, and do not accept any discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

Sustainable future

AVK recognises sustainability as a factor of vital importance to future success. Not only do our products, in terms of the materials that we use, show respect for the environment. It is also an important criterion for AVK to provide a safe and healthy working environment for our employees.

In addition, our production units are set up using processes that put as little strain on the surrounding environment as possible.

The AVK Group has production companies in 10 countries around the world. All production companies are certified according to ISO 9000 in respect of quality management and ISO 14001 in respect of environmental management. Moreover, most companies are also certified according to OHSAS 18001, the international standard for occupational health and safety management.

We clearly understand our obligation to comply with all local regulations and environmental legislation relating to the protection of the environment and set out with the best of our ability to make a difference in this important area. We have a proactive approach to business, and this ethos will continue to be reflected in all aspects of our business.



Recognition of the United Nations Global Compact principles

The AVK Group realises that a global presence demands high ethical standards. Throughout our organisation and in all our actions we therefore recognise the principles laid out in the United Nations Global Compact document, which is a set of core values in the following areas:

- Human rights
- Labour standards
- Environment
- Anti-corruption

Human rights

- Principle 1: Businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights; and
- Principle 2: make sure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses.

Labour standards

- Principle 3: Businesses should uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining;
- Principle 4: the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour;
- Principle 5: the effective abolition of child labour; and
- Principle 6: the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

Environment

- Principle 7: Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges;
- Principle 8: undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility; and
- Principle 9: encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies

Anti-corruption

- Principle 10: Businesses should work against all forms of corruption, including extortion and bribery.

High ethical standards and recognition of the above-mentioned principles along with an evolving set of policies form an integral part of the day-to-day operation of our business.



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