

## **Equal Opportunities Policy**

South West Steel Supplies Ltd) are committed to building an organisation that makes full use of the talents, skills, experience, and different cultural perspectives available in a multi-ethnic and diverse society, and where people feel they are respected and valued, and can achieve their potential regardless of race, colour, nationality or ethnic origins, sexual orientation, gender, disability or age.

South West Steel Supplies Ltd will follow the recommendations of the Statutory Codes of Practice of both the Commission for Racial Equality and the Equal Opportunities Commission, and the Disability Rights Commission's Code of Practice in Employment and Occupation, in all their employment policies, procedures and practices.

The aims of this policy are to ensure that:

- No-one receives less favourable treatment, on grounds of race, colour, nationality, ethnic or national origins, gender, sexual orientation, religion or belief, disability or age; or is disadvantaged by any conditions, requirements, provisions, criteria, procedures or practices that cannot be justified on any other grounds, or victimised for taking action against any form of discrimination or harassment, or instructed or put under pressure to discriminate against, or harass, someone on the above grounds.
- The organisation is free of unwanted conduct that violates the dignity of workers or creates an intimidating, hostile, degrading, offensive, or humiliating environment.
- Opportunities for employment, training and promotion are equally open to male and female candidates; candidates from all racial groups, candidates with or without disabilities, and candidates of any age, and of any sexual orientation, religion or belief.
- Selection for employment, promotion, transfer, training and access to benefits, facilities and services, will be fair and equitable, and based solely on merit.

This policy applies to all aspects of employment, from recruitment to dismissal and formal workers' rights.

South West Steel Supplies Ltd will take the following steps to put the policy into practice and make sure that it is achieving its aims:

- The policy will be a priority for the organisation.
- Mr. Mark Derrick will be responsible for the day to day operation of the policy.
- The policy will be communicated to all workers and job applicants.
- Workers and their representatives and trade unions will be consulted regularly about the policy.
- All workers will receive guidance on the policy, on their rights and responsibilities under the policy, and how the policy will affect the way they carry out their duties. No-one will be in any doubt about what constitutes acceptable and unacceptable conduct in the organisation.
- Managers and workers in key decision-making areas will be made aware of the discriminatory effects that provisions, practices, requirements, conditions, and criteria can have on some groups, and the importance of being able to justify decisions to apply them.

Complaints about discrimination or harassment in the course of employment will be regarded seriously, and may result in disciplinary sanctions, and even dismissal. The complaints procedure will be published in a form that is easily accessible.

- Opportunities for employment, promotion, transfer and training will be advertised widely, internally and externally, and all applicants will be welcomed, irrespective of race, colour, nationality, ethnic or national origins, gender, sexual orientation, disability or age, religion or belief.
- All workers will be encouraged to develop their skills and qualifications, and to take advantage of promotion and development opportunities in the organisation.
- Selection Criteria will be entirely related to the job or training opportunity.
- South West Steel Supplies Ltd will make reasonable changes to overcome physical and non-physical barriers that make it difficult for disabled employees to carry out their work, and for disabled customers to access our services.
- South West Steel Supplies Ltd will take a flexible approach to working arrangements. The company will consider requests for changes carefully and objectively, and will accommodate them unless it would cause significant difficulties to the business or the employee.
- Information on the ethnic and racial background, gender, disability, and age of each worker and applicant for employment, promotion and training will be collected and analysed, to monitor each stage of the recruitment process. The information will be held in strictest confidence and will only be used to promote equality of opportunity. Information about the religion/belief and sexual orientation of employees may also be monitored.
- If the data shows that people from particular groups are under-represented in particular areas of work, lawful positive action, training and encouragement will be considered for workers and others from that group, to improve their chances of applying successfully for vacancies in these areas.
- Grievances, disciplinary action, performance assessment, and terminations of employment, for whatever reason, will also be monitored by gender, racial group, age, disability, religion/belief and sexual orientation.
- Requirements, conditions, provisions, criteria, and practices will be reviewed regularly, in the light of monitoring results, and revised if they are found to, or might, unlawfully discriminate on any of the above grounds.
- The effectiveness of the policy will be monitored regularly.
- Customers & clients will be made aware of the policy, and of their right to fair and equal treatment, irrespective of race, colour, nationality, national or ethnic origins, sexual orientation, gender, religion/belief, disability or age.

This policy has been endorsed by Mr. Mark Derrick, Director with full support of the management, and the workforce.

Signed  on behalf of **South West Steel Supplies Ltd**  
Name: Mark Derrick Position: Director Date: 22/05/2018