

Corporate Criminal Offence (CCO) Policy

Applicable Legislation

The Criminal Finances Act came into force on 30 September 2017 the (“Act”). Part 3 of the Act creates the corporate offence of the facilitation of tax evasion, both UK and foreign tax.

There are three stages that apply to both the domestic and foreign tax evasion facilitation offence:

- Stage one: the criminal tax evasion by a taxpayer (either an individual or a legal entity) under existing law;
- Stage two: the criminal facilitation of the tax evasion by an “associated person” of the relevant body acting in that capacity; and
- Stage three: the relevant body failed to prevent its representative from committing the criminal facilitation act.

The foreign offence covers tax evaded in a foreign jurisdiction. If you have concerns that a foreign offence might be/has been committed, you should contact the Director with overriding Board responsibility or, if you prefer, to a senior member of staff of your choosing.

Where the relevant body has put in place reasonable prevention procedures to prevent the criminal facilitation of tax evasion by an associated person (or where it is unreasonable to expect such procedures) the relevant body shall have a defence.

The Corporate Offence

A criminal offence will be committed by Simplified Loader under the Act if:

- you, as an associated person acting for or on behalf of Simplified Loader, facilitate the evasion of a UK, UAE, or foreign tax; and
- Simplified Loader does not have adequate procedures in place to prevent the facilitation of tax evasion.

The consequences of a prosecution for the business include unlimited fines, reputational damage, and the likelihood of regulatory sanction. Tax evasion and facilitation of tax evasion are also punishable for individuals with fines and custodial sentences. Simplified Loader therefore takes its legal responsibilities very seriously.

Any individual who breaches this policy may face disciplinary action, potentially resulting in dismissal for misconduct or gross misconduct. Similarly, the Company’s relationship with other individuals, organisations and other associated persons working on behalf of Simplified Loader may be terminated if they breach this policy.

The legislation applies to all taxes, either personal or corporate and includes other taxes such as VAT, Customs Duties, etc.

Criminal prosecution of the Company, unlimited financial penalties and reputational damage can result if Simplified Loader fail to comply with this law (and individuals can be prosecuted for tax fraud or facilitating tax fraud under pre-existing criminal legislation).

Scope: Who Is Covered by This Policy?

This policy applies to all employees, including leadership, senior managers, officers, directors, employees (whether permanent, fixed-term or temporary), consultants, contractors, casual workers and agency staff, volunteers, interns, agents, or any other person associated with Simplified Loader (see below), any of our subsidiaries or their employees, wherever located. The policy also applies to Officers, Trustees, Board and/or Committee members at any level.

In this policy, and as defined above, an associated person is defined as a person who performs services for or on behalf of Simplified Loader. This can be an individual or an incorporated or unincorporated body. Typically, this includes suppliers, agency workers, outsourced service providers, contractors, etc.

This policy also applies to all Simplified Loader employees in how they manage their relationships with anyone they meet during the course of their work. This will include actual and potential clients, customers, suppliers, distributors, business contacts, agents, advisers and government and public bodies, including their advisors, representatives and officials, politicians, and political parties.

Scope: What Is Covered by This Policy?

It is important to understand what is meant by “tax evasion” and “facilitation of tax evasion”

What Is Tax Evasion?

Tax evasion involves the deliberate and dishonest use of illegal practices in order not to pay the right amount of tax. This could include not reporting all of your income, deliberately not filing an accurate tax return, hiding beneficial ownership and taxable assets from HMRC, or diverting funds to hide income from local taxation authorities.

What Is Criminal Facilitation of Tax Evasion?

Tax evasion was already a criminal offence at the time the Corporate Criminal Offence Act 2017 was introduced. Similarly, it was already (and continues to be) a crime to deliberately and dishonestly facilitate tax fraud, for or on behalf of, another person.

Real-life examples of facilitation of tax evasion could include deliberately and dishonestly changing invoices for customers that could impact the VAT amount or assisting a supplier in not disclosing income (e.g. through making a payment into an undeclared overseas bank account) or deliberately overstating group cross-border intercompany charges where this may impact the Corporation Tax due either in the UK or overseas.

This legislation creates a new responsibility at Company level such that, if an associated person were to facilitate tax evasion, Simplified Loader may be criminally prosecuted for failing to prevent the facilitation offence.

There would be a defence from prosecution if Simplified Loader was able to demonstrate having reasonable prevention procedures in place to try and prevent this facilitation of tax evasion from happening.

How Simplified Loader Is Responding As A Business

Simplified Loader's policy is to have zero tolerance to tax evasion and facilitation of tax evasion. This means all employees and anyone who works for Simplified Loader – e.g. contractors, are expected to not engage in any activity which evades tax or facilitates or may facilitate the evasion of tax by any other person (company or individual). It does not matter whether the taxes are UK taxes or are due to an overseas fiscal authority.

Simplified Loader will not engage with any third party (including those who contract with us or otherwise provide services to us) who do not have a similar policy.

Specifically, we expect all employees and associated persons to be able to identify and take steps to prevent any scenarios where there may be a risk that they are facilitating others to commit tax evasion, either in the UK or overseas.

Simplified Loader supports the questioning and eventual declining of business where there are any suspicions of tax evasion or the facilitation of tax evasion.

All cases of suspicion in relation to future or existing business should be first reported (see below) before making any decisions in relation to existing business relationships or committing the business to transact in the manner proposed.

All parties acting with Simplified Loader or for Simplified Loader are expected to adopt a similarly robust approach.

Ongoing Monitoring

Simplified Loader shall maintain an effective system for monitoring compliance procedure to ensure Simplified Loader remains committed to its zero tolerance to facilitation of tax evasion. This includes awareness and forms part of the induction process for all new employees.

All employees are made aware of how to adhere to this policy.

Simplified Loader' zero-tolerance approach to facilitation of tax evasion must be communicated to all suppliers, contractors, and business partners at the outset of their business relationship with Simplified Loader and as appropriate thereafter.

The Person With Board Responsibility For This Policy

The person with over-riding Board responsibility for Simplified Loader is Puneet Vishnoi, Director.

Authorized signatory



Puneet Vishnoi (General Manager)

Simplified Loader

Signed on: 05-Sep-2024