

## **Carolina At Cost Metals, LLC**

## STATEMENT OF POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

*Effective January 5, 2024 Last Revised January 5, 2024* 

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#### POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

#### **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1 Mutual Commitment Statement**

At Cost Metals, LLC (hereafter "ACM" or simply the "Company") recognizes that in order to develop a long-term and mutually rewarding relationship with its independent business owners ("Affiliates") and retail customers ("Customers"), Company and its Affiliates must acknowledge and respect the true nature of the relationship.

- A. In the spirit of mutual respect and understanding, Company is committed to:
  - I. Providing prompt, professional and courteous service and communications to all of its Affiliates and Customers;
  - II. Providing the highest level of quality products/services at fair and reasonable prices;
  - III. Exchanging the purchase or refunding the purchase price of any product, service or membership as provided in our Return/Refund Policy;
  - IV. Delivering orders accurately and expeditiously as possible;
  - V. Paying commissions accurately and timely; and
  - VI. Offering Affiliates an opportunity to grow with the Company.
- B. In return, Company expects that its Affiliates will:
  - I. Conduct themselves in a professional, honest, and considerate manner;
  - II. Present Company and product/service information in an accurate and professional manner;
  - III. Present the Compensation Plan and Refund/Return Policy in a complete and accurate manner;
  - IV. Not make exaggerated or unsubstantiated income claims;

- V. Make reasonable efforts to support Customers and to support and train Affiliates in their downline;
- VI. Not engage in cross-line recruiting, unhealthy competition or unethical business practices;
- VII. Provide positive guidance and training to Affiliates in their downline while exercising caution to avoid interference with other downlines;
- VIII. Accurately complete and submit the Affiliate Agreement and any requested supporting documentation in a timely manner; and
- IX. Refrain from acting in any way that may constitute harassment of any kind, such conduct may include, but not be limited to, derogatory or threatening comments, inappropriate sexual behavior including but not limited to unwelcomed sexual advances or requests for sexual favors, displaying visual images of a sexual nature, physical or verbal harassment, or violent behavior. Affiliates are strongly encouraged to report any type of harassment incidents immediately. Company will not tolerate acts or threats of violence or other violative actions and will investigate all reports and will not hesitate to discipline or terminate an Affiliate who is found to have violated this provision.

#### **1.2** Policies and Compensation Plan Incorporated into the Affiliate Agreement

Throughout these Policies, when the term "Agreement" is used, it collectively refers to the Income Disclosure Statement, Company Policies and Procedures, the Company Privacy Policy, the Compensation Plan, the Affiliate Agreement, and if applicable, the Business Entity Registration Form. It is the responsibility of the Sponsoring Affiliate to provide the most current version of these Policies and Procedures (available on the Company website or upon request), the most updated Income Disclosure Statement, and the Company Compensation Plan to each applicant prior to their execution of the Affiliate Agreement.

#### **1.3 Purpose of Policies**

- A. Company markets products and services through a network of business owners. To clearly define the relationship that exists between Affiliates and Company and to explicitly set a standard for acceptable business conduct, Company has established these Policies and Procedures.
- B. Company Affiliate are required to comply with: (i) all of the terms and conditions set forth in the Affiliate Agreement, which Company may amend from time to time in its

sole discretion; (ii) all federal, state and/or local laws governing their Company business; and (iii) these Policies and Procedures and all agreements incorporated herein.

C. Company Affiliates must review the information in these Policies and Procedures carefully. Should an Affiliate have any questions regarding a policy or rule, the Affiliate is encouraged to seek an answer from their Sponsor or any other upline Affiliate. If further clarification is needed, the Affiliate may contact Company Customer Service at: info@carolinaatcostmetals.com

#### **1.4** Changes, Amendments, or Modifications

A. Because federal, state, and local laws, as well as the business environment, periodically change, Company reserves the right to amend the Agreement and the prices of Company products/services in its sole and absolute discretion. Notification of amendments shall appear in Official Company Materials. Amended provisions shall not apply retroactively to conduct that occurred prior to the effective date of the amendment(s) except where indicated, and only in the event that the Affiliate expressly agrees to the amendment applying retroactively.

NOTWITHSTANDING ANYTHING TO THE CONTRARY ABOVE, ANY AMENDMENT BY THE COMPANY TO THE DISPUTE RESOLUTION SECTION HEREIN SHALL ONLY TAKE EFFECT UPON AN AFFILIATE'S EXPRESS AGREEMENT TO SUCH AMENDMENT. AN AFFILIATE MAY INDICATE THEIR AGREEMENT TO SUCH PROPOSED AMENDMENT BY FOLLOWING THE INSTRUCTIONS ACCOMPANYING THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT THAT WILL APPEAR WHEN LOGGING IN TO THE CORPORATE WEBSITE OR THE AFFILIATE'S PERSONAL WEBSITE. COMPANY MAY TERMINATE THE AFFILIATE AGREEMENT OF ANY AFFILIATE WHO DOES NOT AGREE TO A PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE DISPUTE RESOLUTION SECTION WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE AMENDMENT. ANY SUCH AMENDMENT SHALL APPLY TO ALL CLAIMS BROUGHT BY COMPANY OR THE AFFILIATE ON OR AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE AMENDMENT, **REGARDLESS OF THE DATE OF OCCURRENCE OR ACCRUAL OF ANY** FACTS UNDERLYING SUCH CLAIM.

B. For purposes of this Section and others within these Policies and Procedures, it is imperative for Affiliates to keep all contact information up to date for any such amendment, change, or modification shall be effective immediately upon notice by one of the following methods:

- I. Posting on the official Company website;
- II. Electronic mail (e-mail); or
- III. In writing through Company newsletters or other Company communication channels.

#### 1.5 Delays

Company shall not be responsible for delays or failures in performance of its obligations when such failure is due to circumstances beyond its reasonable control. This includes, without limitation, strikes, labor difficulties, transportation difficulties, riot, war, fire, weather, pandemic, curtailment of a source of supply, or government decrees or orders.

#### **BASIC PRINCIPLES** 2.0

#### 2.1 **Becoming An Affiliate**

- Α. To become an Affiliate, an applicant must comply with the following requirements:
  - I. Be eighteen (18) years of age;
  - II. Have a valid address in (i) the United States; (ii) the territories of Puerto Rico or United States Virgin Islands (collectively, "U.S. Territories"); or (iii) a U.S. military base or U.S. embassy (i.e., an Army/Air Post Office, Fleet Post Office, or Diplomatic Post Office address) (collectively, "U.S. Jurisdictions"). You cannot use a post office box (other than on a U.S. military base or at a Post Office).

Diplomatic

- III. Have a valid taxpayer identification number (i.e. Social Security Number, Federal Tax ID Number, ITIN, etc.) that is not associated with an existing Affiliate account:
- IV. Submit a properly completed and signed Affiliate Agreement to Company;
- V. Submit payment of a \$99 (plus applicable tax) non-commissionable enrollment fee; and
- VI. Provide an e-mail address that is not already associated with an existing Affiliate account.

#### 2.2 **New Affiliate Registration By Internet**

- A. A potential new Affiliate may self-enroll on the Company corporate website or a Sponsor's replicated website. In such event, instead of a physically signed Affiliate Agreement, Company will accept the electronic Affiliate Agreement by way of webenrollment and one's "electronic signature." This electronic signature signifies that the new Affiliate has accepted the Terms and Conditions of the Affiliate Agreement. *Please note that such electronic signature constitutes a legally binding agreement between you and the Company.*
- B. Company reserves the right to require signed paperwork for any account, regardless of origin.
- C. If requested, the signed Affiliate Agreement must be received by Company within seven (7) days of enrollment.
- D. Signed documents are legally binding contracts which must not be altered, tampered with or changed in any manner after they have been signed. False or misleading information, forged signatures or alterations to any document made after a document has been signed may lead to sanctions, up to and including involuntary termination of the Affiliate's business.

#### 2.3 **Rights Granted**

- A. Company hereby grants to the Affiliate a non-exclusive right, based upon the terms and conditions contained in the Affiliate Agreement and these Policies and Procedures to:
  - I. Purchase Company products/services;
  - II. Promote and sell Company products/services; and
  - III. Sponsor new Affiliates and Customers in the United States and in countries where Company may become established after the Effective Date of these Policies and Procedures.

#### 2.4 Identification Numbers

All Affiliates are required to provide their Social Security Number, Federal Employer Identification Number, or their Government Issued ID Number to the Company either on the Affiliate Agreement or at the Company's request. Upon enrollment, the Company will provide a unique Affiliate/Company Identification Number to the Affiliate by which they will be identified. This number will be used to place orders, structure organizations, and track commissions and bonuses.

#### 2.5 One Business Per Affiliate.

An Affiliate may operate or have an ownership interest, legal or equitable, as an individual, sole proprietorship, partner, shareholder, trustee, or beneficiary, in only one Company business. No individual may have, operate or receive compensation from more than one Company business. Individuals of the same family unit may each enter into or have an interest in their own separate Company businesses, only if each subsequent family position is placed frontline to the first family member enrolled. A "family unit" is defined as spouses and dependent children living at or doing business at the same address.

#### 2.6 Renewals and Expiration of the Affiliate Agreement

- A. In order to remain Active, an Affiliate must meet the requirements outlined within the Company Compensation Plan.
- B. If the Affiliate allows their Affiliate Agreement to expire, the Affiliate will lose any and all rights to their downline organization unless the Affiliate re-activates within sixty (60) days following the expiration of the Agreement.
- C. If the former Affiliate re-activates within the 60-day time limit, the Affiliate will resume the rank and position held immediately prior to the expiration of the Affiliate Agreement. However, such Affiliate's paid as level will not be restored unless their position or their entity qualifies at that payout level in the new month. The Affiliate is not eligible to receive commissions for the time period that the Affiliate's business was expired.
- D. Any Affiliate who was terminated or whose Agreement has expired and lapsed the 60day grace period is not eligible to re-apply for a Company business for twelve (12) months following the expiration of the Affiliate Agreement.
- E. The downline of the expired Affiliate will roll up to the immediate, active upline Sponsor, or as otherwise determined at Company's sole discretion so as to protect the integrity of the genealogy and to avoid any potential manipulation thereof.

#### 2.7 Business Entities

A. A corporation, partnership, LLC, or trust (collectively referred to as a "Business Entity") may apply to be a Company Affiliate by way of the Business Entity Registration Form. This Affiliate business and position will remain *temporary* until the proper documents are submitted. The Business Entity Registration Form stipulates the

specific documents necessary for submission, including but not limited to: Certificate of Incorporation, Articles of Organization, Affiliate Agreement or appropriate Trust documents. Company must receive these documents within seven (7) days from the date the Affiliate Agreement was signed.

- B. A Company Affiliate may change their status under the same Sponsor from an individual to a partnership, LLC, corporation, trust or from one type of business entity to another.
- C. **Changes to a Business Entity.** Each Affiliate must immediately notify the Company of any changes to the type of business entity they utilize in operating their Company business and the addition or removal of business associates. A Company business may change its status under the same sponsor from an individual to a partnership, corporation or trust, or from one type of entity to another. The Affiliate Agreement form must be signed by all of the shareholders, partners, or trustees. Members of the entity are jointly and severally liable for any indebtedness or other obligation to the Company.

#### 2.8 Independent Business Relationship; Indemnification for Actions

- A. A Company Affiliate is an independent contractor and not a purchaser of a franchise or sales opportunity. Therefore, each Affiliate's success depends on their independent efforts.
- B. The Agreement between Company and its Affiliates does not create an employer/employee relationship, agency, partnership, or joint venture between Company and the Affiliate.
- C. A Company Affiliate shall not be treated as an employee of Company for any purposes, including, without limitation, for federal or state tax purposes. All Affiliates are responsible for paying federal, state, and local taxes due from all compensation earned as an Affiliate of Company. Any other compensation received by Affiliates from Company will be governed by applicable U.S. tax laws (or the tax laws of any other applicable jurisdiction). The Affiliate has no express or implied authority to bind Company to any obligation or to make any commitments by or on behalf of Company. Each Affiliate, whether acting as management of a Business Entity or represented as an individual, shall establish their own goals, hours, and methods of operation and sale, so long as they comply with the Terms of the Affiliate Agreement, these Policies and Procedures and applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations.
- D. The Company Affiliate is fully responsible for all of their verbal and written communications made regarding Company products, services, and the Compensation

Plan that are not expressly contained within Official Company materials. Affiliates shall indemnify and hold harmless Company, its directors, officers, employees, product suppliers and agents from any and against all liability including judgments, civil penalties, refunds, attorneys' fees and court costs incurred by Company as a result of the Affiliate's unauthorized representations or actions. This Provision shall survive the termination of the Company Affiliate Agreement.

- E. Affiliates may not answer the telephone by saying "ACM," "At Cost Metals, LLC" or by any other manner that would lead the caller to believe that they have reached the Company's corporate offices. An Affiliate may only represent that they are a Company Affiliate. Therefore, all correspondence and business cards relating to or in connection with an Affiliate's Company business shall contain the Affiliate's name followed by the term "Affiliate."
- F. Company encourages each Affiliate to consult with a tax advisor for additional information for their business.

#### 2.9 Errors or Questions

If an Affiliate has questions about or believes any errors have been made regarding commissions, bonuses, business reports, orders, or charges, the Affiliate must notify Company in writing within thirty (30) days of the date of the error or incident in question. Any such errors, omissions or problems not reported within thirty (30) days shall be deemed expressly waived by the Affiliate.

#### 2.10 Governmental Approval or Endorsement

Neither federal nor state regulatory agencies or officials approve or endorse any direct selling or network marketing companies or programs. Therefore, Affiliates shall not represent or imply that the Company or its Compensation Plan have been approved, endorsed, or otherwise sanctioned by any government agency.

### **3.0 AFFILIATE RESPONSIBILITIES**

#### 3.1 Training and Leadership

A. Any Company Affiliate who sponsors another Affiliate into Company must perform an authentic assistance and training function to ensure their downline is properly operating their Company business. Sponsoring Affiliate should have ongoing contact and communication with the Affiliates in their downline organizations. Examples of communication may include, but are not limited to, newsletters, written correspondence, telephone, contact, team calls, voicemail, e-mail, personal meetings, accompaniment of

downline Affiliate to Company meetings, training sessions and any other related functions.

- B. A Sponsoring Company Affiliate should monitor the Affiliates in their downline organizations to ensure that downline Affiliates do not make improper product or business claims or engage in any illegal or inappropriate conduct. Upon request, such Affiliate should be able to provide documented evidence to Company of their ongoing fulfillment of the responsibilities of a Sponsor.
- C. Upline Affiliates are encouraged to motivate and train new Affiliates about Company's products and services, effective sales techniques, the Company Compensation Plan and compliance with Company Policies and Procedures.
- D. It is a required activity to market Company products, and this must be emphasized in all recruiting presentations. In fact, the Company emphasizes and encourages all of its Affiliates to sell Company's products and services to Customers.
- E. To promote both the products and the opportunity Company offers, Affiliates must use the sales aids and support materials produced by Company. If Company Affiliates develop their own sales aids and promotional materials, which includes Internet advertising, notwithstanding Affiliates' good intentions, they may unintentionally violate any number of statutes or regulations affecting the Company business. These violations, although they may be relatively few in number, could jeopardize the Company opportunity for all Affiliates. Accordingly, Affiliates must submit all written sales aids, promotional materials, advertisements, websites and other literature to the Company for Company's approval prior to use. Unless the Affiliate receives specific written approval to use the material, the request shall be deemed denied. All Affiliates shall safeguard and promote the good reputation of Company and its products and services. The marketing and promotion of Company, the Company opportunity, the Compensation Plan, and Company products and services shall be consistent with the public interest, and must avoid all discourteous, deceptive, misleading, unethical or immoral conduct or practices.

#### **3.2** Constructive Criticism; Ethics

A. Company desires to provide its independent Affiliates with the best products and services and Compensation Plan in the industry. Accordingly, Company values

constructive criticism and encourages the submission of written comments addressed to Company Compliance Department at <u>info@carolinaatcostmetals.com</u>

#### B. Company endorses the following Code of Ethics:

- I. Affiliates must show fairness, tolerance, and respect to all people associated with Company, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, social class, religion, or otherwise, thereby fostering a positive atmosphere of teamwork, good morale and community spirit.
- II. Affiliates shall strive to resolve business issues, including situations with upline and downline Affiliates, by emphasizing tact, good will and taking care not to create additional problems.
- III. Affiliates must be honest, responsible, professional and conduct themselves with integrity.
- IV. Affiliates shall always present accurate information like proper disclaimers and access to the Income Disclosure Statement when encouraging prospects to join the Company. Moreover, as an Affiliate you agree to never intimidate nor engage in unlawful recruiting practices, including any suggestion that excessive inventory purchases are necessary to participate in Company or to be successful as a Company Affiliate.
- C. Company may take appropriate action against an Affiliate if it determines, in its sole discretion, that an Affiliate's conduct is detrimental, disruptive, or injurious to Company or to other Affiliates.

#### 3.3 Non-Disparagement

In accordance with other provisions within these Policies and Procedures, Affiliates must not disparage, demean, or make negative remarks about the Company, other Company

Affiliates, Company's products or services, the Compensation Plan, or Company's owners, board members, directors, officers, employees, or the like, or make statements that unreasonably offend, mislead or coerce others. Such conduct represents a material breach of these Policies and may result in Company sanctioning or otherwise disciplining the Affiliates in

accordance with these Policies and Procedures as deemed appropriate by the Company at its sole discretion.

#### **3.4 Reporting Policy Violation**

- A. An Affiliate who observes a policy violation by another Affiliate should submit a written and signed letter (e-mail will not be accepted) of the violation directly to the Company Corporate office. The letter shall set forth the details of the incident as follows:
  - I. The nature of the violation and specific facts to support the allegations;
  - II. Dates and number of occurrences;
  - III. The person/people involved; and
  - IV. Supporting documentation.
- B. Once the matter has been presented to Company, the Company Compliance Department will investigate the report thoroughly and decide what, if any, action should be taken.
- C. This Section refers to the general reporting of policy violations as observed by other Affiliates for the mutual effort to support, protect, and defend the integrity of the Company business and sales opportunity. If an Affiliate has a grievance or complaint against another Affiliate which directly relates to their Company business, the steps set forth in these Policies and Procedures must be followed.

#### 3.5 Sponsorship

- A. The Sponsor is the person who introduces a Customer/Affiliate to Company, helps them complete their enrollment, and supports and trains those in their downline.
- B. Company recognizes the Sponsor as the name(s) shown on the first:
  - I. Physically signed Company Affiliate Agreement on file; or
  - II. Electronically signed Affiliate Agreement from either the corporate website or an Affiliate's replicated website.
- C. An Affiliate Agreement that contains notations such as "by phone" or the signatures of other individuals (i.e., Sponsors, spouses, relatives, or friends) is not valid and will not be accepted by Company.

- D. Company recognizes that each new prospect has the right to ultimately choose their own Sponsor, but Company will not allow Affiliates to engage in unethical sponsoring activities.
- E. All active Affiliates in good standing have the right to Sponsor and enroll others into Company. While engaged in sponsoring activities, it is not uncommon to encounter situations when more than one Affiliate will approach the same prospect. It is the accepted courtesy that the new prospect will be sponsored by the first Affiliate who presented a comprehensive introduction to Company products/services or sales opportunity.
- F. A Protected Prospect is a guest of any Company Customer/Affiliate who attended a Company event or conference call. For sixty (60) days following the event, a Protected Prospect cannot be solicited or sponsored by any other Company Affiliate who attended the same event. A Company event can be defined as the following:
  - I. Any Company training session;
  - II. Conference call;
  - III. Fly-in meeting; or
  - IV. Presentation, including but not limited to a Company at home presentation, whether sponsored by Company, an Affiliate, a Customer, or an agent or agency designated by Company.

#### **3.6 Cross Sponsoring Prohibition**

- A. "Cross sponsoring" is defined as the enrollment into a different line of sponsorship of an individual or Business Entity that already has a signed Affiliate Agreement. Actual or attempted cross sponsoring is not allowed. If cross sponsoring is verified by Company, sanctions up to and including termination of an Affiliate's business may be imposed.
- B. The use of a spouse's or relative's name, trade names, assumed names, DBA names, corporation, partnership, trust, Federal ID numbers, fictitious ID numbers, or otherwise to evade or circumvent this policy is not permitted and Company has the right to reject any Affiliate application or terminate any Affiliate Agreement.
- C. This policy does not prohibit the transfer of a Company business in accordance with Company Sale or Transfer Policy set forth herein.

#### 3.7 Adherence to the Compensation Plan

- A. Affiliates must adhere to the terms of the Company Compensation Plan as set forth in these Policies and Procedures as well as in Official Company literature. Deviation from the Compensation Plan is prohibited.
- B. Affiliates shall not offer the Company opportunity through, or in combination with, any other system, program, or method of marketing other than that specifically set forth in Official Company literature.
- C. Affiliates shall not require or encourage a current or prospective Customer or Affiliate to participate in Company in any manner that varies from the Compensation Plan as set forth in Official Company literature.
- D. Affiliates shall not require or encourage a current or prospective Customer or Affiliate to make a purchase from or payment to any individual or other entity as a condition to participating in the Company Compensation Plan, other than such purchases or payments required to naturally build their business.

### 3.8 Adherence to Laws, Regulations, and Ordinances

Many cities and counties have laws regulating certain home-based businesses. In most cases, these ordinances do not apply to Affiliates because of the nature of the business. However, Affiliates must check their local laws and obey the laws that do apply to them. Affiliates shall comply with all federal, state and local laws and regulations in operating their Company business.

### **3.9** Compliance with Applicable Income Tax Laws

- A. Company will automatically provide a complete 1099-NEC form (nonemployee compensation) to each U.S. Affiliate whose earnings for the year is at least \$600 or who has purchased more than \$5,000 of Company products for resale, or who received trips, prizes or awards valued at \$600 or more. If earnings and purchases are less than stated above, IRS forms will be sent only at the request of the Affiliate, and a fee may be assessed by Company to the Affiliate.
- B. Affiliates accept sole responsibility for and agrees to pay all federal, state and local taxes on any income generated as an independent Affiliate, and further agrees to indemnify Company from any failure to pay such tax amounts when due.

- C. If an Affiliate's business is tax exempt, the Federal Tax Identification number must be provided to Company in writing.
- D. Company encourages all Affiliates to consult with a tax advisor for additional information for their business.

#### 3.10 Actions of Household Members or Affiliated Parties

If any member of an Affiliate's immediate household engages in any activity which, if performed by the Affiliate, would violate any provision of the Agreement, such activity will be deemed a violation by the Affiliate and Company may take disciplinary action pursuant to these Policies and Procedures against the Affiliate. Similarly, if any individual associated in any way with a corporation, partnership, LLC, trust or other entity (collectively "Business Entity") violates the Agreement, such action(s) will be deemed a violation by the Business Entity, and Company may take disciplinary action against the Business Entity. Likewise, if an Affiliate enrolls in Company as a Business Entity, each affiliated party of the Business Entity shall be personally and individually bound to, and must comply with, the Terms and Conditions of the Agreement.

#### 3.11 Solicitation for Other Companies; Other Business Restrictions

- A. Affiliates may participate in other direct sales, multilevel, network marketing or relationship marketing business ventures or marketing opportunities (collectively, "Network Marketing"). However, during the Term of this Agreement and for one (1) year thereafter, an Affiliate may not recruit any Affiliate or Customer for any other Network Marketing business, unless that Affiliate or Customer was personally sponsored by such Affiliate. The preceding sentence shall not be construed to permit an Affiliate to recruit one of their downline Affiliates and Customers in an effort to have that Affiliate do the same. Company shall, in its sole discretion, have the ability to enforce this provision as it deems fit in order to fulfill both the purpose and the spirit of this non-Solicitation provision.
- B. The term "recruit" means actual or attempted solicitation, enrollment, encouragement, or effort to influence in any other way (either directly or through a third party), another Affiliate or Customer to enroll or participate in any Network Marketing opportunity and the active role of discouraging others from enrolling within the Company opportunity. This conduct represents recruiting even if the Affiliate's actions are in response to an inquiry made by another Affiliate or Customer. If any lawsuit, arbitration, or mediation is brought against an Affiliate alleging that they engaged in inappropriate recruiting activity of its sales force or Customers, the Company will not pay any of Affiliate's defense costs or legal fees, nor will the Company indemnify the Affiliate for any judgment, award, or settlement.

C. However, you may sell *non-competing* products or services to Company Customers and Affiliates. Specifically, a non-competing company is defined as a Network Marketing company that does *NOT* market, offer, or sell products or services similarly related to that of Company. The term non-competing or similar products or services are determined based on the sole discretion of Company. Affiliates at all levels are obligated to notify the Company if they are enrolled as distributor for another Network Marketing company by sending an email to the Company Compliance Department. Failure to notify Company within a reasonable time shall constitute a breach of this Agreement. This provision shall apply to product and service offerings that Company may add to its current offerings in the future.

If at the time of enforcement of any provision of Section 3.12A, 3.12B, or 3.12C, a court shall hold that the duration, scope or area restriction of any provision herein is unreasonable under circumstances now or then existing, you and Company hereto agree that the maximum restricted period, scope or territory reasonable under the circumstances shall be substituted by the court for the stated duration, scope or area.

- D. Affiliate may not display or bundle Company products or services, in sales literature, on a website or in sales meetings, with any other products or services to avoid confusing or misleading a prospective Customer or Affiliate into believing there is a relationship between the Company and non-Company products and services.
- E. Affiliate may not offer any non-Company opportunity, products or services at any Company related meeting, seminar or convention, or immediately following a Company event.
- F. Affiliate may not offer any type of contact information connected to any Company Affiliate to another party with the intent of having the other party solicit that Affiliate to consider any product or income opportunity unrelated to Company.
- G. During the term of this Agreement, in order to avoid legal liability related to promotion of sales aids, you as an Affiliate may not sell training materials or sales aids including published books, eBooks, videos, or other general miscellaneous training aids to your Downline or other Affiliates.
- H. A violation of any of the provisions in this Section shall constitute unreasonable and unwarranted contractual interference between Company and its Affiliates and would inflict irreparable harm on Company. In such event, Company may, at its sole discretion, impose any sanction it deems necessary and appropriate against such

Affiliate or such Affiliate's business including termination, or seek immediate injunctive relief without the necessity of posting a bond.

#### 3.12 Presentation of the Sales Opportunity

- A. In presenting the Company opportunity to potential Customers and Affiliates, an Affiliate is required to comply with the following provisions:
  - I. Affiliates shall not misquote or omit any significant material fact about the Compensation Plan.
  - II. Affiliates shall make it clear that the Compensation Plan is based upon sales of Company products and services.
  - III. Affiliates shall make it clear that success can be achieved only through substantial independent efforts and must refrain from misrepresentations that include, but are not limited to:
    - a. It's a turnkey system;
    - b. The system will do the work for you;
    - c. Just get in and your downline will build through spillover;
    - d. The Company does all the work for you; or
    - e. All you have to do is buy Company products/services every month.

The above are just examples of improper representations about the Compensation Plan. It is important that you do not make these, or any other representations, that could lead a prospect to believe that they can be successful as an Affiliate without commitment, effort, and sales skill. The Company reserves the right to determine what it considers an inappropriate income or Compensation Plan claim and discipline the offender accordingly.

- IV. Affiliates shall not make unauthorized income projections, claims, or guarantees while presenting or discussing the Company opportunity or Compensation Plan to prospective Affiliates or Customers.
- V. Affiliates may not make any claims regarding products or services of any offerings by Company, except those contained in official Company literature.
- VI. Affiliates may not use Official Company material to promote the Company sales opportunity in any country other than those officially permitted by Company.

VII. In an effort to conduct best business practices, Company has developed the Income Disclosure Statement ("IDS"). The Company IDS is designed to convey truthful, timely, and comprehensive information regarding the income that Company Affiliates earn. In order to accomplish this objective, a copy of the IDS must be presented to all prospective Affiliates.

A copy of the IDS must be presented to a prospective Affiliate anytime the Compensation Plan is presented or discussed, or any type of income claim or earnings representation is made.

The terms "income claim" and/or "earnings representation" (collectively "Income Claim") includes, but is not limited to, the following: (1) statements of average earnings, (2) statements of non-average earnings, (3) statements of earnings ranges, (4) income testimonials, (5) lifestyle claims, and (6) hypothetical claims. Examples of "statements of non-average earnings" include, "Our number one Affiliate earned over a million dollars last year" or "Our average-ranking Affiliate makes five thousand per month." An example of a "statement of earnings ranges" is "The monthly income for our higher-ranking Affiliates is ten thousand dollars a month on the low end to thirty thousand dollars a month on the high end."

VIII. Lifestyle claims (e.g., my Company business allowed me to buy a house, retire from my other job, allow my spouse to quit his or her job, or take a luxury vacation) are also considered to be equivalent to Income Claims.

When an Affiliate discussess their earnings as an Affiliate with Company, the Company explicitly requires any testimonial, social media post, presentation, etc. to include a variation of the following, "This is my unique story, as actual earnings can vary significantly as no income is guaranteed. But for typical earnings averages please click here," with the "here" representing a link to the Company IDS.

#### 3.13 Compensation Plan Governs Sales Requirements

- A. The Company program is built on sales to the ultimate consumer. Company encourages its Affiliates to only purchase inventory that they and their family will personally consume or will be resold to others for their ultimate consumption. Affiliates must never attempt to influence any other Affiliate to buy more products than they can reasonably use or sell to retail Customers in a month.
- B. *Purchasing product solely for the purpose of collecting bonuses or achieving rank is prohibited.* Company retains the right to limit the number of purchases you may make

if, in Company's sole judgment, Company believes those purchases are being made contrary to this policy.

#### 4.0 PAYMENT OF COMMISSIONS & BONUSES

#### 4.1 Bonus and Commission Qualifications

- A. Affiliates must be Active and in compliance with Company Policies and Procedures to qualify for bonuses and commissions. So long as an Affiliate complies with the terms of the Agreement, Company shall pay commissions to such Affiliate in accordance with the Compensation Plan.
- B. Company will not issue a payment to an Affiliate without the receipt of a completed and signed Company Affiliate Agreement.
- C. Company reserves the right to postpone bonus and commission payments until such time the cumulative amount exceeds \$25.
- Compression shall be a critical aspect to implementing the Company Compensation D. Plan and will be applied across the spectrum of participants within the Company opportunity, unless the Company elects, in its sole discretion, to keep or discard the compressed volume. Compression occurs when there are Inactive Affiliates, terminated Affiliates, suspended Affiliates and other instances in which Company finds, in its sole discretion, to be in the best interests of the Company as a whole. Compression is defined as the mechanism in which the genealogy has been disrupted to create an absence in the genealogy that disrupts the commission and bonus allotment within the pay plan. As an example, if an Affiliate is Inactive, Compression will result in searching the upline until an Active Affiliate is located. Commissionable volume will then "compress" to include all the volume generated by the inactive positions and disburse the volume to the next Active Affiliate. The Company is not obligated to compress volume in this fashion. In some situations, the Company may exercise its discretion to keep the volume for internal purposes. This Compression model shall be used to continue the effectiveness of the pay plan during temporary conditions that may occur when someone fails to meet the "Active" requirement for one pay period, e.g., Inactive, suspension, or leaves the opportunity entirely to leave a void in the genealogy.

#### 4.2 Computation of Commissions and Discrepancies

- A. Affiliates must review their monthly statement and bonus/commission reports promptly and report any discrepancies within thirty (30) days of receipt. After this 30-day "grace period," no additional requests will be considered for commission recalculations.
- B. For additional information on payment of commissions, please review the Compensation Plan.

#### 4.3 Bonus and Commission Adjustment for Returns

- A. Affiliates receive bonuses and commissions based on the actual sales of products and services to end consumers by way of product and service purchases. When a product or service is returned to Company for a refund from the end consumer, the bonuses and commissions attributable to the returned product or service will be deducted from the Affiliate who received bonuses or commissions on such sales. Deductions will occur in the month in which the refund is given and continue every pay period thereafter until the bonus/and or commission is recovered.
- B. In the event that an Affiliate terminates their business, and the amounts of the bonuses or commissions attributable to the returned products or services have not yet been fully recovered by Company, the remainder of the outstanding balance may be offset against any other amounts that may be owed by Company to the terminated Affiliate.

#### 5.0 **REFUNDS/RETURNS**

#### 5.1 Customer and Affiliate Return/Refund Policies

#### **Customer Return Policy**

All Customer returns/requests for refunds shall abide by the Return/Refund Policy found within the Company corporate website for the particular product/service in question.

#### A. Affiliate Refund Policy

All Affiliates have the ability to receive a full refund of their enrollment fee subject to the Notice of Right to Cancel within the Affiliate Agreement and in accordance with the rules of the particular locale in which they reside.

#### **B.** Memberships Refund Policy

Membership cancellations received within three (3) days of purchase (or within the applicable "rescission" or "cooling off" period provided by law) are eligible for a full refund of the Membership purchase price, minus any bank fees, credit card charges and other transactional fees imposed by third-parties, which are non-refundable. Cancellation of a Membership after

the rescission period will not result in a partial or prorated refund. If a Member completes a transaction that utilizes at cost pricing of bullion the used service to purchase at cost metal will not be eligible for refund of membership.

Members may cancel their Membership if the request for a refund is received within the specified time frame:

5 Days	Australia, New Zealand, Alaska (US)
10 Days	Residents of Canada
14 Days	United Kingdom or European Union
15 Days	Residents of North Dakota (US) aged 65+

#### **C. Product Returns or Exchanges**

Bullion: All sales of Bullion are non-refundable but can be sold back to ACM at the stated Buy Back Price. Bullion stored in the vault may be sold back to ACM at anytime. Funds will be made available to your Members Cash Account after reasonable processing time.

Graded Bullion Numismatic Coins: Members may return Graded Bullion Numismatic Coins purchased directly from for a refund of the original purchase price minus a 10% restocking fee, if the refund request is received by ACM within 30 calendar days from the date of purchase. Items must be in their original packaging and in sellable condition.

Shipping the Bullion to ACM for a proposed Bullion Buy Back constitutes a proposal and offer to sell at the current market buy-back price. Once ACM is in possession the item(s) and ACM had sufficient time for inspection, ACM will make an offer that the member must accept in writing via email or online customer support messaging. Again, funds for the transaction will be made available in the Member's Cash Account. It is possible that the value of the items being sold back to ACM incur a loss of value. All risk of loss of value is borne by the seller. The Buy Back Price will be stated on the website for typical items sold by ACM. Members are responsible for all costs related to shipping / insuring bullion products.

#### **D.** Shipping and Handling

If ACM items are damaged during the original shipment, the ACM Member may contact Customer Support for a return shipping label / RMA that will provide transit of the items back to ACM at no cost to the Member. Any Shipping and Handling charges or return shipping costs incurred by the Member are non-refundable.

#### E. Risk of Loss

Members are solely responsible for all risks related in returning merchandise to ACM, until ACM confirms receipt of the items. ACM is not responsible or liable for merchandise that is lost or damaged in transit when being shipped back to ACM.

#### F. Return Process

All items must be returned by the original purchasing Member and must be accompanied by the Return of Merchandise Authorization (RMA) Number provided by ACM. ACM reserves the right to reject any item(s) that does not meet all the mentioned requirements.

Note: If a Member returns multiple orders for a refund in a manner that appears fraudulent or inaccurate ACM reserves the right to decide to process or not process the requested refund and subsequently terminate the ACM Membership.

### 6.0 **PRIVACY POLICY**

#### 6.1 Introduction

This policy is to ensure that all Customers/Affiliates understand and adhere to the basic principles of confidentiality. For more information on the Company's privacy practices and procedures, please refer to the Company Privacy Policy found on the corporate website.

Each Affiliate is responsible for keeping their Affiliate Information up to date and accurate and must immediately update any changes in their back office. It is particularly important that an Affiliate provides Company with their current email address, since email is one of the primary ways that Company and an Affiliate's upline will communicate with the Affiliate. By agreeing to these Policies and Procedures, the Affiliate consents to the Company Privacy Policy and to receiving emails from Company as well as from their upline. Each Affiliate may modify their Affiliate Information (e.g., update an address, phone number or email address). Affiliate agrees that Company may share with Affiliate's upline their name, telephone number, address, email address and select sales performance data for all Affiliate's upline without separate express permission by Affiliate to allow such personal information sharing. By providing their email address and telephone number, Affiliate agrees to disclose their email address and telephone number to Company as well as to their upline. Affiliate further acknowledges that information provided to Company by Affiliate will be shared with and processed by Company corporate offices.

#### 6.2 Expectation of Privacy

Company recognizes and respects the importance its Customers/Affiliates place on the privacy of their financial and personal information. Company will make reasonable efforts to safeguard the privacy of and maintain the confidentiality of its Customers'/Affiliates' financial and account information and non-public personal information.

#### 6.3 Employee Access to Information

Company limits the number of employees who have access to Customer's/Affiliate's nonpublic personal information.

#### 6.4 **Restrictions on the Disclosure of Account Information**

Company will not share non-public personal information or financial information about current or former Customers/Affiliates with third parties, except as permitted or required by laws and regulations, court orders, or to serve the Customers'/Affiliates' interests or to enforce its rights or obligations under these Policies and Procedures, the Affiliate Agreement, or with express written permission from the accountholder on file.

#### 6.5 Security and Security Breaches

All Affiliates must adopt, implement and maintain appropriate administrative, technical and physical safeguards to protect against anticipated threats or hazards to the security of confidential information, including Customer & Affiliate Data. These safeguards must be appropriate to the sensitivity of the information. Appropriate safeguards for electronic and paper records may include but are not limited to: (i) encrypting data before electronically transmitting it; (ii) storing records in a secure location; and (iii) password-protecting computer files and securely shredding paper files containing confidential information. Affiliates must keep confidential information secure from all persons who do not have legitimate business needs to see or use such information. Affiliates must ensure they obtain and maintain consent from prospective Customers/Affiliates and existing Customers/Affiliates before sharing such data with the Company.

Affiliates must comply with all applicable privacy and data security laws, including any security breach notification laws. Without limitation of the preceding sentence, in the event of an actual or suspected Security Breach affecting Company's data, the applicable Affiliates shall first promptly notify the Company Compliance Department in writing after becoming aware of such Security Breach, and if instructed by the Compliance Department, notify applicable Customers/Affiliates. Any such notification to Customers/Affiliates shall be made in compliance with applicable law and shall specify the following: (i) the extent to which Customer/Affiliate Data was or was suspected to be disclosed or compromised; (ii) the circumstances of the Security Breach; (iii) the date or period of time on which it occurred; (iv) a description of the information affected; (v) a description of the steps taken to reduce the risk of harm from the Security Breach; (vi) any other information required by the applicable law; and (viii) in the case of a notice to a privacy commissioner or other regulatory body, an assessment of the risk of harm to any affected persons and an estimate of the number of persons affected. Affiliates shall promptly comply with all applicable information Security Breach disclosure laws. Affiliates, at

their expense, shall cooperate with Company, any applicable privacy commissioner or other regulatory body and the applicable Customers/Affiliates and use their best efforts to mitigate any potential damage caused by a breach of their obligations under the Affiliate Agreement or any law applicable to confidential data, including by sending notice to the affected individuals, applicable agencies and consumer reporting agencies, if such notification is required the Company in its sole and absolute discretion.

#### 6.6 **Privacy and Confidentiality**

All Affiliates are required to abide by the Company's Privacy Policy with regard to Affiliate and Customer information.

#### 6.7 The Data Management Rule

The Data Management Rule (the "Rule") is intended to protect the LOS for the benefit of all Affiliates, as well as the Company. LOS information is information compiled by the Company that discloses or relates to all or part of the specific arrangement of sponsorship within the Company business, including, without limitation, Affiliate lists, sponsorship trees, and all Affiliate information generated therefrom, in its present and future forms. The Company LOS, constitutes a commercially advantageous, unique, and proprietary trade secret ("Proprietary Information"), which it keeps proprietary and confidential and treats as a trade secret. Company is the exclusive owner of all Proprietary Information, which is derived, compiled, configured, and maintained through the expenditure of considerable time, effort, and resources by the Company and its Affiliates. Through this Rule, Affiliates are granted a personal, non-exclusive, non-transferable and revocable right by the Company to use Proprietary Information only as necessary to facilitate their business as contemplated under these Policies. The Company reserves the right to deny or revoke this right, upon reasonable notice to the Affiliate stating the reason(s) for such denial or revocation, whenever, in the reasonable opinion of the Company, such is necessary to protect the confidentiality or value of Proprietary Information. All Affiliates shall maintain Proprietary Information in strictest confidence and shall take all reasonable steps and appropriate measures to safeguard Proprietary Information and maintain the confidentiality thereof.

### 7.0 PROPRIETARY INFORMATION AND TRADE SECRETS

#### 7.1 Business Reports, Lists, and Proprietary Information

By completing and signing the Company Affiliate Agreement, the Affiliate acknowledges that Business Reports, lists of Customer and Affiliate names and contact information and any other information, which contain financial, scientific or other information both written or otherwise circulated by Company pertaining to the business of Company (collectively, "Reports"), are confidential and proprietary information and trade secrets belonging to Company.

### 7.2 Obligation of Confidentiality

During the term of the Company Affiliate Agreement and for a period of five (5) years after the termination or expiration of the Affiliate Agreement between the Affiliate and Company, the Affiliate shall not:

- I. Use the information in the Reports to compete with Company or for any purpose other than promoting their Company business;
- II. Use or disclose to any person or entity any confidential information contained in the Reports, including the replication of the genealogy in another network marketing company.

Trade secrets, Company goodwill, and other Company know-how shall remain confidential beyond the 5-year period.

#### 7.3 Breach and Remedies

The Affiliate acknowledges that such proprietary information is of such character as to render it unique and that disclosure or use thereof in violation of this provision will result in irreparable damage to Company and to independent Company businesses. Company and its Affiliates will be entitled to injunctive relief or to recover damages against any Affiliate who violates this provision in any action to enforce its rights under this Section. The prevailing party shall be entitled to an award of attorney's fees, court costs and expenses.

#### 7.4 **Return of Materials**

Upon demand by Company, any current or former Affiliate will return the original and all copies of all "Reports" to Company together with any Company confidential information in such person's possession.

# 8.0 ADVERTISING, PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL, USE OF AT COST METALS NAMES AND TRADEMARKS

#### 8.1 Use of At Cost Metals Names and Protected Materials

A. All promotional materials supplied or created by Company must be used in their *original* form and cannot be changed, amended or altered except with prior written approval from the Company Compliance Department.

- B. The name of Company, each of its product and service names and other names that have been adopted by Company in connection with its business are proprietary trade names, trademarks and service marks of Company. As such, these marks are of great value to Company and are supplied to Affiliates for their use only in an expressly authorized manner.
- C. Affiliate's use of the name "At Cost Metals," or other related names is restricted to protect Company proprietary rights, ensuring that the Company protected names will not be lost or compromised by unauthorized use. Use of the Company name on any item not produced by Company is prohibited except as follows:
  - I. [Affiliate's name] Independent At Cost Metals Affiliate; or
  - II. [Affiliate's name] Independent Affiliate of At Cost Metals products and services.
- D. Further procedures relating to the use of the Company name are as follows:
  - I. All stationary (i.e., letterhead, envelopes, and business cards) bearing the Company name or logo intended for use by the Affiliate must be approved in writing by the Company Compliance Department.
  - II. Affiliates may list "Independent At Cost Metals Affiliate" or "At Cost Metals Affiliate" in online directories under their own name.
  - III. Affiliates may not use the name At Cost Metals, or any form thereof, in answering their telephone, creating a voice message or using an answering service, such as to give the impression to the caller that they have reached the corporate office. They may state, "Independent At Cost Metals Affiliate."
- E. Certain photos and graphic images used by Company in its advertising, packaging, and websites are the result of paid contracts with outside vendors that do not extend to Affiliates. If an Affiliate wants to use these photos or graphic images, they must negotiate individual contracts with the vendors for a fee.
- F. Affiliates shall not appear on or make use of television or radio or make use of any other media to promote or discuss Company or its programs, products or services without prior written permission from the Company Compliance Department.

- G. Affiliates may not produce for sale or distribution any Company event or speech, nor may an Affiliate reproduce Company audio or video clips for sale or for personal use without prior written permission from the Company Compliance Department.
- H. Company reserves the right to rescind its prior approval of any sales aid or promotional material to comply with changing laws and regulations and may request the removal from the marketplace of such materials without financial obligation to the affected Affiliate.
- I. Affiliates shall not promote non-Company products or services in conjunction with Company products or services on the same websites or same advertisement without prior approval from the Company Compliance Department.

#### 8.3 E-mail Limitations

- A. Except as provided in this Section, an Affiliate may not use or transmit email, mass email distribution, or "spamming" that advertises or promotes the operation of their Company business. The exceptions are:
  - I. E-mailing any person who has given prior permission or invitation;
  - II. E-mailing any person with whom the Affiliate has established a prior business or personal relationship.
- B. In all states where prohibited by law, an Affiliate may not transmit, or cause to be transmitted through a third party, (by telephone, facsimile, computer or other device), an unsolicited advertisement to any equipment, which has the capacity to transcribe text or images from an electronic signal received over a regular telephone line, cable line, ISDN, T1 or any other signal carrying device, except as set forth in this Section.
- C. All e-mail or computer broadcasted documents subject to this provision shall include each of the following:
  - I. A clear and obvious identification that the fax or e-mail message is an advertisement or solicitation. The words "advertisement" or "solicitation" should appear in the subject line of the message;
  - II. A clear return path or routing information;
  - III. The use of legal and proper domain name;

- IV. A clear and obvious notice of the opportunity to decline to receive further commercial e-mail messages from the sender;
- V. Unsubscribe or opt-out instructions should be the very first text in the body of the message box in the same size text as the majority of the message;
- VI. The true and correct name of the sender, valid senders' e-mail address, and a valid sender physical address;
- VII. The date and time of the transmission; and
- VIII. Upon notification by recipient of their request not to receive further e-mailed documents, a Company Affiliate shall not transmit any further documents to that recipient.
- D. All e-mail or computer broadcasted documents subject to this provision shall not include any of the following;
  - I. Use of any third party domain name without permission;
  - II. Sexually explicit materials.

#### 8.4 Internet and Third-Party Website Restrictions

- A. Affiliates may not use or attempt to register any of Company's trade names, trademarks, service names, service marks, product names, URLs, advertising phrases, the Company's name or any derivative thereof, for any purpose including, but not limited to, Internet domain names (URL), third party websites, e-mail addresses, web pages, blogs, or social media (for more information on social media guidelines please refer to the social networking and social media Section below).
- B. Affiliates **MAY NOT** sell Company products, services or offer the sales opportunity using "online auctions," such as eBay, or on online marketplaces like Etsy, Amazon, Craigslist, Facebook Marketplace, or any other similarly-related platform.

This rule is required for many reasons, including consumer protection, compliance with laws regarding the Company products/services and to protect Company Affiliates from losing potential enrollments of Customers/Affiliates who may be reluctant to engage in the Company sales opportunity because they view the third-party sites as a competitive source of supply.

- C. Affiliates may only sell Company products/services through their Company replicated website ("Replicated Website") or the Company corporate website. Affiliates may not have any other third-party websites (defined as a website that is not Company-approved personal website hosted on non-Company servers and with no affiliation with Company). Please note that a third-party website does not include social networking and social media sites. Any Affiliate who wishes to develop their own third-party website must submit a properly completed third-party website application and agreement and receive Company's prior written approval before going live with such a website. Third-party websites may be used to promote your business and Company's products and services so long as the third-party website adheres to Company's advertising policies. Moreover, no orders may be placed through third-party websites and no enrollments may occur through a third-party website. If you wish to use any third-party website, you must do the following:
  - a. Identify yourself as an Affiliatefor Company;
  - b. Use only the approved images and wording authorized by Company;
  - c. Adhere to the branding, trademark, and image usage policies described in this document;
  - d. Adhere to any other provision regarding the use of a third-party website described in this document;
  - e. Agree to give the Compliance Department at Company access to the third-party website and, if the website is password protected, the Compliance Department must receive passwords or credentials allowing unlimited access; and
  - f. Agree to modify your website to comply with current or future Company policies.
- D. All marketing materials used on an Affiliate's third-party website must be provided by Company or approved in writing by Company.
- E. To avoid confusion, the following three elements must also be prominently displayed at the top of every page of your third-party website:
  - 1. The Company Affiliate Logo
  - 2. Your Name and Title
  - 3. Company Corporate Website Redirect Button
- F. An Affiliate may not use third-party sites that contain materials copied from corporate sources (such as Company brochures, CDs, videos, tapes, events, presentations, and corporate websites). This policy ensures brand consistency, allows Customers and Affiliates to stay up to date with changing products, services and information, facilitates

enrollment under the correct Sponsor, and assists in compliance with government regulations.

G. If the independent Company business of an Affiliate who has received authorization to create and post a third-party website is voluntarily or involuntarily canceled for any reason or if Company revokes its authorization allowing the Affiliate to maintain a third-party website, the Affiliate shall assign the URL to their third-party website to the Company within three (3) days from the date of the cancellation and/or re-direct all traffic to the site as directed by the Company. Company reserves the right to revoke any Affiliate's right to use a third-party website at any time if Company believes that such revocation is in the best interest of Company, its Affiliates, and Customers. Decisions and corrective actions in this area are at Company's sole discretion.

#### 8.5 Social Networking and Social Media

- A. Affiliates may join social networking and/or social media sites, online forums, discussion groups, and blogs to leverage the power of the Company brand and to communicate the benefits of the Company products and sales opportunity. Online social pages belonging to an Affiliate may be used to drive traffic to a Replicated Website or to the Company Corporate Website.
- B. Company-dedicated accounts on social media may never be used to promote other business opportunities, other products or services, etc. An Affiliate may post suggestions to visit, like, or follow the business page on their personal page. An Affiliate may also post artwork or other tangential-to-business posts on their personal pages, but no enticements, ads, offers, non-Company product announcements, etc. may be posted on the personal pages.
- C. Social networks and social media sites include but are not limited to such sites as Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest, LinkedIn, Twitter, etc. Affiliates may use their own social networking profiles to advertise and promote their Company businesses and the Company products, and direct traffic to their respective Replicated Website or the Company Corporate Website. However, no actual sales of Company products may be processed on social networking profiles or groups and no pricing may be shown on an image or in the text of a post. Banner ads and images used on these sites must be current and must come from the Company approved library.
- D. PROFILES AN AFFILIATE GENERATES IN ANY SOCIAL COMMUNITY WHERE COMPANY IS DISCUSSED OR MENTIONED MUST CLEARLY IDENTIFY THE AFFILIATE AS A COMPANY AFFILIATE, and when an Affiliate participates in those communities, Affiliate must avoid inappropriate conversations,

comments, images, video, audio, applications or any other adult, profane, discriminatory or vulgar content. The determination of what is inappropriate is at Company's sole discretion, and offending Affiliates will be subject to disciplinary action.

- E. Affiliates are personally responsible for their postings and all other online activity that relates to Company. Therefore, even if an Affiliate does not own or operate a blog or social media site, if an Affiliate makes a post that relates to Company or which can be traced to the Company, the Affiliate is responsible for the posting. Affiliates are also responsible for postings which occur on any blog or social media site that the Affiliate owns, operates or controls. Company reserves the right to require the removal of non-compliant or infringing posts from any Affiliate who materially or repeatedly breaches this Section. Postings that are false, misleading or deceptive are strictly prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, false or deceptive postings relating to the Company, Company income opportunity, Company products, and/or Affiliate information and credentials. Further, Affiliates **MAY NOT** make any posting, or link to any posting or other material, that:
  - I. Is sexually explicit, obscene, or pornographic;
  - II. Is profane, hateful, threatening, defamatory, libelous, harassing or discriminatory in any way, shape or form;
  - III. Is solicitous of any unlawful behavior;
  - IV. Engages in personal attacks on any individual, group or entity;
  - V. Is in violation of any intellectual property rights of the Company or any third party; or
  - VI. Is not consistent with the standards as set forth in these Policies and Procedures.
- F. Anonymous postings or use of an alias on any social network or media site is prohibited, and offending Affiliates will be subject to disciplinary action.
- G. Affiliates may not use blog spam, spamdexing or any other mass-replicated methods to leave blog comments. Comments Affiliates create or leave must be useful, unique, relevant and specific to the blog's article.

- H. Affiliates must disclose their full name on all social network and media postings, and conspicuously identify themselves as an independent Affiliate for Company.
- I. As a Company Affiliate, it is important to not converse with any person who places a negative post against you, other Affiliates, or Company. Report negative posts to the Company Compliance Department. Responding to such negative posts often simply fuels a discussion with someone carrying a grudge that does not hold themselves to the same high standards as Company, and therefore damages the reputation and goodwill of Company.
- J. The distinction between a social networking and/or media site and a third-party website may not be clear-cut. Because some social networking and/or media sites are particularly robust, Company therefore reserves the sole and exclusive right to classify certain sites as third-party websites and require that Affiliates using, or who wish to use, such sites adhere to the Company's policies relating to third-party websites.
- K. If your Company business is cancelled for any reason, you must discontinue using the Company name, and all of Company's trademarks, trade names, service marks, and other intellectual property, and all derivatives of such marks and intellectual property, in any postings and all social websites that you utilize. If you post on any social website on which you have previously identified yourself as an independent Company Affiliate, you must conspicuously disclose that you are no longer an independent Company Affiliate. Absent such disclosure, Affiliate comments and actions may be construed as being taken on behalf of Company and Affiliate shall be responsible for indemnifying Company for such actions if any action is taken against Company.
- L. Failure to comply with these Policies for conducting business online may result in the Affiliate losing their right to advertise and market Company products, services and Company's sales opportunity online in addition to any other disciplinary action available under these Policies and Procedures.

#### 8.6 Advertising and Promotional Materials

- A. Advertising and all forms of communications must adhere to principles of honesty and propriety.
- B. All advertising, including, but not limited to, print, Internet, computer bulletin boards, television, radio, etc., are subject to prior written approval by the Company Compliance Department. Further, all requests for approval for advertising must be directed in writing to the Company Compliance Department.

- C. Company approval is not required to place blind ads that do not mention Company, its employees, any of its products, services, designs, symbols, programs, and trademarked, copyrighted, or otherwise protected materials. However, an Affiliate may not purchase (or encourage or solicit any third party to purchase) any term containing Company, its products, programs, trademarks, copyright and any other protected material as a metatag, keyword, paid search term, sponsored advertisement or sponsored link in markets in which Company conducts business.
- D. Company reserves the right to rescind its prior approval of submitted advertising or promotional materials in order to comply with changing laws and regulations and may require the removal of such advertisements from the marketplace without obligation to the affected Affiliate.

#### 8.7 Testimonial Permission

By signing the Company Affiliate Agreement, an Affiliate gives Company permission to use their testimonial or image and likeness in corporate sales materials, including but not limited to print media, electronic media, audio and video. In consideration of being allowed to participate in the Company sales opportunity, an Affiliate waives any right to be compensated for the use of their testimonial or image and likeness even though Company may be paid for items or sales materials containing such image and likeness. In some cases, an Affiliate's testimonial may appear in another Affiliate's advertising materials. If an Affiliate does not wish to participate in Company sales and marketing materials, they should provide a written notice to the Company Compliance Department to ensure that their testimonial or image and likeness will not be used in any corporate materials, corporate recognition pieces, advertising or recordings of annual events.

#### 8.8 Telemarketing Limitations

- A. Affiliates must not engage in telemarketing in relation to the operation of the Affiliate's Company business. The term "telemarketing" means the placing of one or more telephone calls, text messages or any other messaging service to an individual or entity to induce the purchase of Company products or services, or to recruit them for the Company opportunity.
- B. The Federal Trade Commission ("FTC") and the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") each have laws that restrict telemarketing practices. Both federal agencies, as well as a number of states have "do not call" regulations as part of their telemarketing laws.
- C. While an Affiliate may not consider himself or herself a "telemarketer" in the traditional sense, these regulations broadly define the term "telemarketer" and

"telemarketing" so that the unintentional action of calling someone whose telephone number is listed on the Federal "Do Not Call" registry could cause the Affiliate to violate the law. These regulations must not be taken lightly, as they carry significant penalties.

- D. "Cold calls" or "state-to-state calls" made to prospective Customers, or Affiliates that promote either Company products, services or the Company opportunity is considered telemarketing and is prohibited.
- E. Exceptions to Telemarketing Regulations

Affiliates may place telephone calls to prospective Customers, or Affiliates under the following limited situations:

- I. If the Affiliate has an established business relationship with the prospect;
- II. In response to the prospect's personal inquiry or application regarding a product or service offered by the Company Affiliate, within three (3) months immediately before the date of such a call;
- III. If the Affiliate receives written and signed permission from the prospect authorizing the Affiliate to call;
- IV. If the call is to family members, personal friends, and acquaintances. However, if an Affiliate makes a habit of collecting business cards from everyone they meet and subsequently calls them, the FTC may consider this a form of telemarketing that is not subject to this exemption;
- V. Company Affiliates engaged in calling "acquaintances," must make such calls on an occasional basis only and not as a routine practice.
- F. Affiliates shall not use automatic telephone dialing systems or automatic messaging services in the operation of his or her Company businesses.
- G. Failure to abide by Company policies or regulations as set forth by the FTC and FCC regarding telemarketing may lead to sanctions against the Affiliate's business, up to and including termination of the business.
- H. By signing the Affiliate Agreement, or by accepting commission checks, other payments or awards from Company, an Affiliate gives permission to Company and other Affiliates to contact them as permitted under the Federal Do Not Call regulations.

I. In the event an Affiliate violates this Section, Company reserves the right to initiate legal proceedings to obtain monetary or equitable relief against the Affiliate.

## 8.9 International Marketing Policy

- A. Affiliates is authorized to sell Company products and services to Customers and Affiliates only in the countries in which Company is authorized to conduct business, according to the Policies and Procedures of each country. Affiliates may not sell products or services in any country where Company products and services have not received applicable government authorization or approval.
- B. Affiliates may not, in any unauthorized country, conduct sales, enrollment or training meetings, enroll or attempt to enroll potential Customers, or Affiliates, nor conduct any other activity for the purpose of selling Company products and services, establishing a sales organization, or promoting the Company sales opportunity.

## 9.0 CHANGES TO AN AFFILIATE'S BUSINESS

## 9.1 Modification of the Affiliate Agreement

Affiliates may modify their existing Affiliate Agreement (i.e., change a social security number to a Federal ID number, add a spouse or partner to the account, or change the form of ownership from an individual to a Business Entity owned by the Affiliate) by submitting a written request, accompanied by a new Affiliate Agreement and the Business Registration Form, if applicable, completed with fresh signatures (not a "crossed out" or "white-out" version of the first Agreement), and any appropriate supporting documentation.

## 9.2 Change Sponsor or Placement for Active Affiliate

- A. Maintaining the integrity of the organizational structure is mandatory for the success of Company and our independent Affiliates. As such, under exceptional circumstances at the discretion of the Company, a request to change placement may only be made within the first thirty (30) days of initial enrollment as an Affiliate. Furthermore, such changes may only occur within the same organization.
- B. Sponsors may make "Placement changes" from one Affiliate to another for personally Sponsored (frontline) Affiliates during the first thirty (30) days of enrollment.
- C. New Affiliates or their original Sponsor may request a change of Sponsor or Placement within the first thirty (30) days of enrollment for the purpose of structuring an

organization. The new Affiliate Agreement must be received within the calendar month for commission calculations to be effective with the requested change.

- D. To change or correct the Sponsor, an Affiliate must comply with the following procedures:
  - I. Submit a Sponsor Placement Transfer Form;
  - II. Submit a Company Affiliate Agreement showing the correct Sponsor and Placement and any appropriate supporting documentation;
  - III. The Affiliate Agreement must be a new, completed document bearing "fresh" signatures, not a "crossed-out" or "white-out" version of the first Agreement.
- E. Upon approval, the Affiliate's downline, if any, will transfer with the Affiliate.
- F. If one transfer has already been made a \$20 fee will be assessed for the second and for each transfer thereafter.
- G. After the first thirty (30) days from initial enrollment, Company will honor the Sponsor/Placement as shown:
  - I. On the most recently signed Affiliate Agreement on file; or
  - II. Self-enrolled on the website (i.e., electronically signed Agreement).
- H. Company retains the right to approve or deny any requests to change Sponsor or Placement, and to correct any errors related thereto at any time and in whatever manner it deems necessary.
- I. Please note that decisions made for any change request (sponsor or placement) are at the sole discretion of the Company and the acceptance of one change will never constitute the acceptance of future changes for that Affiliate or any other regardless of similarity in situation.

#### 9.3 Change Sponsor or Placement for Inactive Affiliate

A. At the discretion of Company, Affiliates who remained inactive for a period of twelve (12) months, and who have not tendered a letter of resignation, are eligible to re-enroll in Company under the Sponsor/Placement of their choice.



- B. Upon written notice to Company that a former Affiliate wishes to re-enroll, Company will "compress" (close) the original account. A new Company ID number will then be issued to the former Affiliate.
- C. Such Affiliate does not retain former rank, downline, or rights to commission checks from their former organizations.
- D. Company reserves the right to correct Sponsor or Placement errors at any time and in whatever manner it deems necessary.

## 9.4 Unethical Sponsoring

- A. Unethical sponsoring activities include, but are not limited to, enticing, bidding or engaging in unhealthy competition in trying to acquire a prospect or new Affiliate from another Affiliate or influencing another Affiliate to transfer to a different sponsor.
- B. Allegations of unethical sponsoring must be reported in writing to the Company Compliance Department within the first ninety (90) days of enrollment. If the reports are substantiated, Company may transfer the Affiliate or the Affiliate's downline to another Sponsor, Placement or organization without approval from the current upline Sponsor or Placement Affiliates. Company remains the final authority in such cases.
- C. **Company prohibits the act of "Stacking."** Stacking is the unauthorized manipulation of the Company compensation system and/or the marketing plan in order to trigger commissions or cause a promotion off a downline Affiliate in an unearned manner. One example of stacking occurs when a Sponsor places participants under an inactive downline without their knowledge in order to trigger unearned qualification for commissioning. Stacking is unethical and unacceptable behavior, and as such, it is a punishable offense with measures up to and including the termination of the independent consultant positions of all individuals and/or entities found to be directly involved.
- D. Should Affiliates engage in solicitation and/or enticement of members of another direct sales company to sell or distribute Company products and services to, they bear the risk of being sued by the other direct sales company. If any lawsuit, arbitration, or mediation is brought against an Affiliate alleging that they engaged in inappropriate recruiting activity of another company's sales force or Customers, Company will not pay any of Affiliate's defense costs or legal fees, nor will Company indemnify the Affiliate for any judgment, award, or settlement.

### 9.5 Sell, Assign or Delegate Ownership

- A. In order to preserve the integrity of the hierarchical structure, it is necessary for Company to place restrictions on the transfer, assignment, or sale of a business.
- B. Affiliates may not sell or assign their rights or delegate their position as an Affiliate without *prior written approval* by Company, as approval will not be unreasonably withheld. Any attempted sale, assignment, or delegation without such approval may be voided at the discretion of Company.
- C. Prior to Company approval, the selling Affiliate must first offer their position to their upline Sponsor. The Sponsor shall have five (5) business days in which to accept the offer. If Sponsor accepts the offer, they must provide the Company with written notice of acceptance. If the Sponsor declines the offer, the selling Affiliate may offer the position to another buyer.
- D. Should the sale be approved by Company, the Buyer assumes the position of the Seller at the current qualified title, but at the current "paid as" rank, at the time of the sale and acquires the Seller's Downline.
- E. To request corporate authorization for a sale or transfer of a Company business, the following items must be submitted to the Company Compliance Department:
  - I. A Sale/Transfer of Business Form properly completed, with the requisite signatures;
  - II. A copy of the Sales Agreement signed and dated by both Buyer and Seller;
  - III. A Company Affiliate Agreement completed and signed by the Buyer;
  - IV. Payment of the \$100 administration fee;
  - V. Any additional supporting documentation requested by Company.
- F. Any debt obligations that either Seller or Buyer may have with Company must be satisfied prior to the approval of the sale or transfer by Company.
- G. An Affiliate who sells their business is not eligible to re-enroll as a Company Affiliate in any organization for six (6) full calendar months following the date of the sale except as otherwise expressly set forth in these Policies and Procedures.

- H. Protection of existing LOS must always be maintained so that the Company business continues to be operated in that LOS.
- I. The selling Affiliate must be in good standing and not in violation of any of the terms of the Agreement in order to be eligible to sell, transfer, or assign a Company business.

### 9.6 Separating an At Cost Metals Business

Affiliates sometimes operate their Company businesses as spouse-spouse partnerships, regular partnerships, corporations, or trusts. At such time as a marriage may end in divorce or a corporation, partnership, or trust (the latter three entities are collectively referred to herein as "entities") may dissolve, arrangements must be made to assure that any separation or division of the business is accomplished so as not to adversely affect the interests and income of other businesses up or down the LOS. If the separating parties fail to provide for the best interests of other Affiliates and the Company in a timely fashion, the Company will involuntarily terminate the Affiliate Agreement.

During the divorce or entity dissolution process, the parties must adopt one of the following methods of operation:

- A. One of the parties may, with consent of the other(s), operate the Company business pursuant to an assignment in writing whereby the relinquishing spouse, shareholders, partners, or trustees authorize the Company to deal directly and solely with the other spouse or non-relinquishing shareholder, partner, or trustee; or
- B. The parties may continue to operate the Company business jointly on a "businessas-usual" basis, whereupon all compensation paid by the Company will be paid according to the status quo as it existed prior to the divorce filing or dissolution proceedings. This is the default procedure if the parties do not agree on the format set forth above. The Company will never remove a party to a position from an Affiliate account without that party's written permission and signature. Under no circumstances will the downline organization of divorcing spouses or a dissolving business entity be divided. Under no circumstances will the Company split commission and bonus checks between divorcing spouses or members of dissolving entities. Company will recognize only one downline organization and will issue only one commission check per Company business per commission cycle. Commission checks shall always be issued to the same individual or entity. In the event that parties to a divorce or dissolution proceeding are unable to resolve a dispute over the disposition of commissions and ownership of the business in a timely fashion as determined by the Company, the Affiliate Agreement shall be involuntarily cancelled. If a former spouse has completely relinquished all rights in the original Company business pursuant to a divorce, they are thereafter free to

enroll under any sponsor of their choosing without waiting six (6) calendar months. In the case of business entity dissolutions, the former partner, shareholder, member, or other entity affiliate who retains no interest in the business must wait six (6) calendar months from the date of the final dissolution before re-enrolling as an Affiliate. In either case, however, the former spouse or business affiliate shall have no rights to any Affiliate in their former organization or to any former customer. They must develop the new business in the same manner as would any other new Affiliate.

#### 9.7 Succession

- A. Upon the death or incapacity of an Affiliate, the Affiliate's business may be passed on to their legal successors in interest (successor). Whenever a Company business is transferred by will or other testamentary process, the successor acquires the right to collect all bonuses and commissions of the deceased Affiliate's sales organization. The successor must:
  - I. Complete and sign a new Company Affiliate Agreement;
  - II. Comply with the terms and conditions of the Affiliate Agreement; and
  - III. Meet all of the qualifications for the last rank achieved by the former Affiliate.
- B. Bonuses and commission checks of a Company business transferred based on this Section will be paid in a single check to the successor. The successor must provide Company with an "address of record" to which all bonus and commission Payments will be sent. Payments will be based on the current performance of the business, not the highest rank or volume achieved.
- C. If the business is bequeathed to joint devisees (successors), they must form a business entity and acquire a federal taxpayer identification number. Company will issue all bonus and commission payments and one 1099-NEC form to the managing business entity only.
- D. Appropriate legal documentation must be submitted to the Company Compliance Department to ensure the transfer is done properly. To affect a testamentary transfer of a Company business, the successor must provide the following to the Company Compliance Department:
  - I. A certified copy of the death certificate; and

- II. A notarized copy of the will or other appropriate legal documentation establishing the successor's right to the Company business.
- E. To complete a transfer of the Company business because of incapacity, the successor must provide the following to the Company Compliance Department:
  - I. A notarized copy of an appointment as trustee;
  - II. A notarized copy of the trust document or other appropriate legal documentation establishing the trustee's right to administer the Company business; and
  - III. A completed Affiliate Agreement executed by the trustee.
- F. If the successor is already an existing Affiliate, Company will allow such Affiliate to keep their own business plus the inherited business active for up to six (6) months. By the end of the 6-month period, the Affiliate must have compressed (if applicable), sold or otherwise transferred either the existing business or the inherited business.
- G. If the successor wishes to terminate the Company business, they must submit a notarized statement stating the desire to terminate the business, along with a certified copy of the death certificate, appointment as trustee, and/or any other appropriate legal documentation.
- H. Upon written request, Company may grant a one (1) month bereavement waiver and pay out at the last "paid as" rank.

### 9.8 Resignation/Voluntary Termination

- A. Affiliates may immediately terminate their business by submitting a written notice or email to the Company Compliance Department. The written notice must include the following:
  - I. The Affiliate's intent to resign and date of resignation;
  - II. Company Identification Number and reason for resigning; and
  - III. Signature.
- B. Affiliates may not use resignation as a way to immediately change Sponsor and Placement. Instead, the Affiliate who has voluntarily resigned is not eligible to reapply

for a business or have any financial interest in a or any Company business for six (6) months from the receipt of the written notice of resignation.

### 9.9 Involuntary Termination

- A. Company reserves the right to terminate an Affiliate's business for, but not limited to, the following reasons:
  - I. Violation of any terms and conditions of the Affiliate Agreement;
  - II. Violation of any provision in these Policies and Procedures;
  - III. Violation of any provision in the Compensation Plan;
  - IV. Violation of any applicable law, ordinance, or regulation regarding the Company business;
  - V. Engaging in unethical business practices or violating standards of fair dealing; or
- B. Company will notify the Affiliate in writing, at their last known home address or e-mail address of its intent to terminate the Affiliate's business and the reasons for termination.
- C. If the Affiliate wishes to provide documentation to appeal Company's decision, Affiliate must do so within three (3) business days from the date of termination notice. Company shall then make a decision on whether or not to rescind termination.
- D. If the termination is not rescinded, the termination will be effective as of the date of the original termination notice by Company. The former Affiliate shall thereafter be prohibited from using the names, marks or signs, labels, stationery, advertising, or business material referring to or relating to any Company products or services. Company will notify the active upline Sponsor within ten (10) days after termination. The organization of the terminated Affiliate will "roll up" to the active Upline Sponsor on record.
- E. The Company Affiliate who is involuntarily terminated by Company may not reapply for a business, either under their present name or any other name or entity, *without the express written consent of an officer of Company following a review by the Company Compliance Committee*. In any event, such Affiliate may not reapply for a business for twelve (12) months from the date of termination.

## 9.10 Effect of Cancellation

- A. Following an Affiliate's cancellation for inactivity or voluntary or involuntary termination (collectively, a "cancellation") such Affiliate:
  - I. Shall have no right, title, claim or interest to any commission or bonus from the sales generated by the Affiliate's former organization or any other payments in association with the Affiliate's former independent business;
  - II. Effectively waives any and all claims to property rights or any interest in or to the Affiliate's former Downline organization; and
  - III. Shall receive commissions and bonuses only for the last full pay period in which they were active prior to cancellation, less any amounts withheld during an investigation preceding an involuntary cancellation, and less any other amounts owed to Company.

## **10.0 WARRANTIES AND LIMITATIONS OF LIABILITY**

### **10.1** Warranty; Disclaimer

Company warrants to Affiliates that the Company products as and when delivered by Company shall be free from material defects. Company's sole obligation to Affiliates, and Affiliate's sole and exclusive remedy, for breach of this warranty shall be to return any defective Company products and receive a replacement or refund as outlined on the Company's corporate website. TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT PERMITTED BY APPLICABLE LAW, COMPANY HEREBY DISCLAIMS ALL OTHER WARRANTIES WITH RESPECT TO THE COMPANY PRODUCTS, THE SALES PROGRAM, COMPANY MARKETING MATERIALS. COMPANY BUSINESS SUPPLIES, AND ANY OTHER SUBJECT MATTER OF THE AFFILIATE AGREEMENT, WHETHER EXPRESS, IMPLIED OR STATUTORY, WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY, INCLUDING ANY FITNESS FOR Α PARTICULAR **PURPOSE.** TITLE, NONINFRINGEMENT, ACCURACY OR COMPLETENESS OF CONTENT, RESULTS, LACK OF NEGLIGENCE OR LACK OF WORKMANLIKE EFFORT, AND CORRESPONDENCE TO DESCRIPTION.

### **10.2** Limitation of Liability

NOTWITHSTANDING ANYTHING HEREIN TO THE CONTRARY OR ANY FAILURE OF ESSENTIAL PURPOSE, IN NO EVENT SHALL AN AFFILIATE OR COMPANY

(INCLUDING ANY OF ITS RELATED PARTIES (AS DEFINED IN SECTION 12.3E) BE LIABLE TO THE OTHER PARTY FOR ANY SPECIAL, INCIDENTAL, INDIRECT, PUNITIVE OR EXEMPLARY, OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES OF ANY KIND OR NATURE, HOWEVER CAUSED, ARISING OUT OF OR RELATED TO THE AFFILIATE AGREEMENT OR THE SUBJECT MATTER HEREOF (INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED COMPANY PRODUCTS, THE PROGRAM, COMPANY MARKETING TO THE MATERIALS OR COMPANY BUSINESS SUPPLIES), WHETHER SUCH LIABILITY IS ASSERTED ON THE BASIS OF CONTRACT, TORT OR OTHER THEORY OF LIABILITY (INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO NEGLIGENCE OR STRICT LIABILITY), OR OTHERWISE, EVEN IF THE AFFILIATE OR COMPANY (OR ANY OF ITS RELATED PARTIES) HAVE BEEN ADVISED OF THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH DAMAGES. IN JURISDICTIONS THAT DO NOT GIVE EFFECT TO LIMITED LIABILITY OR **EXCULPATORY CLAUSES, THIS PROVISION IS NOT APPLICABLE. IN JURISDICTIONS** THAT ALLOW FOR EXCULPATORY OR LIMITED LIABILITY CLAUSES IN A LIMITED MANNER, THIS PROVISION IS APPLICABLE TO THE FULLEST EXTENT ALLOWED **BY THE LAW OF SUCH JURISDICTION.** 

### **11.0 DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS**

### **11.1** Imposition of Disciplinary Action - Purpose

It is the spirit of Company that integrity and fairness should pervade among its Affiliates, thereby providing everyone with an equal opportunity to build a successful business. Therefore, Company reserves the right to impose disciplinary sanctions at any time, when it has determined that an Affiliate has violated the Agreement or any of these Policies and Procedures or the Compensation Plan as they may be amended from time to time by Company.

### **11.2** Consequences and Remedies of Breach

- A. Disciplinary actions may include one or more of the following:
  - I. Monitoring an Affiliate's conduct over a specified period of time to assure compliance;
  - II. Issuance of a written warning or requiring the Affiliate to take immediate corrective action;
  - III. Imposition of a fine (which may be imposed immediately or withheld from future commission payments) or the withholding of commission payments ("Commission Hold") until the matter causing the Commission Hold is resolved

or until Company receives adequate additional assurances from the Affiliate to ensure future compliance;

- IV. Suspension from participation in Company or Affiliate events, rewards, or recognition;
- V. Suspension of the Company Affiliate Agreement and business for one or more pay periods;
- VI. Involuntary termination of the Affiliate's Agreement and business;
- VII. Any other measure which Company deems feasible and appropriate to justly resolve injuries caused by the Affiliate's Policy violation or contractual breach; OR
- VIII. Legal proceedings for monetary or equitable relief.

### 12.0 GRIEVANCES & DISPUTE RESOLUTION

### 12.1 Grievances

- A. If a Company Affiliate has a grievance or complaint against another Affiliate regarding any practice or conduct relating to their respective Company businesses, they are encouraged to resolve the issue directly with the other party. If an agreement cannot be reached, it must be reported directly to the Company Compliance Department as outlined below in this Section.
- B. The Company Compliance Department will be the final authority on settling such grievance or complaint and its written decision shall be final and binding on the Affiliates involved.
- C. Company will confine its involvement to disputes regarding Company business matters only. Company will not decide issues that involve personality conflicts or unprofessional conduct by or between Affiliates outside the context of a Company business. These issues go beyond the scope of Company and may not be used to justify a Sponsor or Placement change or a transfer to another Company organization.
- D. Company does not consider, enforce, or mediate third party agreements between Affiliates, nor does it provide names, funding, or advice for obtaining outside legal counsel.

- E. Process for Grievances:
  - I. The Affiliate should submit a written letter of complaint (e-mail will not be accepted) directly to the Company Compliance Department. The letter shall set forth the details of the incident as follows:
    - a. The nature of the violation;
    - b. Specific facts to support the allegations;
    - c. Date(s) and number(s) of occurrences;
    - d. Persons involved; and
    - e. Supporting documentation.
  - II. Upon receipt of the written complaint, Company will conduct an investigation according to the following procedures:
    - a. The Compliance Department will send an acknowledgment of receipt to the complaining Affiliate.
    - b. The Compliance Department will provide a verbal or written notice of the allegation to the Affiliate under investigation. If a written notice is sent to the Affiliate, they will have five (5) business days from the date of the notification letter to present all information relating to the incident for review by Company.
    - c. The Compliance Department will thoroughly investigate the complaint and consider all the submitted information it deems relevant, including information from collateral sources. Due to the unique nature of each situation, determinations of the appropriate remedy will be on a case-bycase basis, and the length of time to reach a resolution will vary.
    - d. During the course of the investigation, the Compliance Department will only provide periodic updates simply stating that the investigation is ongoing. No other information will be released during that time. Affiliate calls, letters, and requests for "progress reports" during the course of the investigation will not be answered or returned.
- E. Company will make a final decision and timely notify the Company Affiliates involved.

### **12.2 Liquidated Damages**

In any case which arises from or relates to the wrongful termination of the Agreement and/or an Affiliate's business, Company and the Affiliate agree that damages will be extremely difficult to ascertain. Therefore, the Company and the Affiliate stipulate that if the involuntary termination of the

Agreement and/or loss of Affiliate's Company business is proven and held to be wrongful under any theory of law, the Affiliate's sole remedy will be liquidated damages calculated as follows:

- a. Liquidated damages will be in the amount of their gross compensation that they earned pursuant to the Company's Compensation Plan in the twelve (12) months immediately preceding the termination.
- b. In any action arising from or relating to the Agreement, the Company business, or the relationship between the Company and an Affiliate, both Parties waive all claims for incidental and/or consequential damages, even if the other Party has been apprised of the likelihood of such damage. The Company and Affiliate further waive all claims to exemplary and punitive damages.

### **12.3** Dispute Resolution

THIS PROVISION CONTAINS AN AGREEMENT THAT AFFECTS HOW A. CLAIMS AN AFFILIATE MAY HAVE AGAINST COMPANY, OR CLAIMS COMPANY MAY HAVE AGAINST AN AFFILIATE, WILL BE RESOLVED. THE PARTIES UNDERSTAND AND AGREE THAT THIS DISPUTE **RESOLUTION AGREEMENT OPERATES AS A SEPARATE AND DISTINCT** AGREEMENT THAT IS SEVERABLE FROM THE REMAINDER OF THE AFFILIATE AGREEMENT AND IS ENFORCEABLE REGARDLESS OF THE ENFORCEABILITY OF ANY OTHER PROVISION OF THE AFFILIATE AGREEMENT OR THE AFFILIATE AGREEMENT AS A WHOLE. CONSIDERATION FOR THIS DISPUTE **RESOLUTION AGREEMENT** INCLUDES, WITHOUT LIMITATION. THE **PARTIES' MUTUAL** AGREEMENT TO ARBITRATE CLAIMS. THE PARTIES FURTHER UNDERSTAND AND AGREE THAT THE UNENFORCEABILITY OF THE AFFILIATE AGREEMENT IN WHOLE OR IN PART SHALL NOT SUPPORT Α FINDING THAT THIS DISPUTE RESOLUTION AGREEMENT IS **UNENFORCEABLE. THE FEDERAL ARBITRATION ACT ("FAA") SHALL GOVERN THIS DISPUTE RESOLUTION AGREEMENT WITHOUT GIVING** EFFECT TO ANY STATE LAW TO THE CONTRARY.

Any controversy, claim or dispute of whatever nature arising between Affiliate, on the one hand, and Company and/or the Related Parties (as defined in subsection E below), on the other, including but not limited to those arising out of or relating to the Affiliate Agreement including these Policies and Procedures or the breach thereof, the sale, purchase or use of the Company products/services, or the commercial, economic or other relationship of Affiliate and Company and/or the Related Parties (for purposes of this Section, each a "party"), whether such claim is based on rights, privileges or

interests recognized by or based upon statute, contract, tort, common law or otherwise ("Dispute"), and any Dispute as to the arbitrability of a matter under this provision, shall be settled through negotiation, mediation or arbitration, as provided herein.

- Β. **Negotiation and Mediation.** If a Dispute arises, the Parties shall first attempt in good faith to resolve it promptly by negotiation. Any of the Parties involved in the Dispute may initiate negotiation by providing notice (the "Dispute Notice") to each involved Party setting forth the subject of the Dispute and the relief sought by the Party providing the Dispute Notice and designating a representative who has full authority to negotiate and settle the Dispute. Within ten (10) Business Days after the Dispute Notice is provided, each recipient shall respond to all other known recipients of the Dispute Notice with notice of the recipient's position on and recommended solution to the Dispute, designating a representative who has full authority to negotiate and settle the Dispute. Within twenty (20) Business Days after the Dispute Notice is provided, the representatives designated by the Parties shall confer either in person at a mutually acceptable time and place or by telephone, and thereafter as often as they reasonably deem necessary, to attempt to resolve the Dispute. At any time twenty (20) Business Days or more after the Dispute Notice is provided, but prior to the initiation of arbitration, regardless of whether negotiations are continuing, any Party may submit the Dispute to JAMS for mediation by providing notice of such request to all other concerned Parties and providing such notice and a copy of all relevant Dispute Notices and notices responding thereto to JAMS. In such case, the Parties shall cooperate with JAMS and with one another in selecting a mediator from the JAMS panel of neutrals and in promptly scheduling the mediation proceedings and shall participate in good faith in the mediation either in person at a mutually acceptable time and place or by telephone, in accordance with the then-prevailing JAMS's mediation procedures and this Section, which shall control.
- C. Arbitration. Any Dispute not resolved in writing by negotiation or mediation shall be subject to and shall be settled exclusively by final, binding arbitration before a single arbitrator or, for Disputes in excess of two million dollars (\$2,000,000 USD), a panel of three arbitrators, in Dallas County, Texas, in accordance with the then-prevailing Comprehensive Arbitration Rules of JAMS, Inc. No Party may commence Arbitration with respect to any Dispute unless that Party has pursued negotiation and, if requested, mediation, as provided herein, provided, however, that no Party shall be obligated to continue to participate in negotiation or mediation if the Parties have not resolved the Dispute in writing within sixty (60) Business Days after the Dispute Notice was provided to any Party or such longer period as may be agreed by the Parties. Unless otherwise agreed by the Parties, the mediator shall be disqualified from serving as an arbitrator in the case. The Parties understand and agree that if the arbitrator or arbitral panel awards any relief that is inconsistent with the Limitation of Liability provision of

these Policies and Procedures, such award exceeds the scope of the arbitrator's or the arbitral panel's authority, and any Party may seek a review of the award in the exclusive jurisdiction and venue of the courts in Dall County, Texas.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, venue and jurisdiction for any claims or disputes arising under or relating to the Affiliate Agreement brought by residents of Louisiana shall be established pursuant to Louisiana law.

- D. Waiver of Class Action and Jury Trial. THE NEGOTIATION, MEDIATION OR ARBITRATION OF ANY DISPUTE SHALL BE LIMITED TO INDIVIDUAL RELIEF ONLY AND SHALL NOT INCLUDE CLASS, COLLECTIVE OR REPRESENTATIVE RELIEF. IN ANY ARBITRATION OF A DISPUTE, THE ARBITRATOR OR ARBITRAL PANEL SHALL ONLY HAVE THE POWER TO AWARD INDIVIDUAL RELIEF AND SHALL NOT HAVE THE POWER TO AWARD ANY CLASS, COLLECTIVE OR REPRESENTATIVE RELIEF. THE PARTIES UNDERSTAND AND AGREE THAT EACH IS WAIVING THE RIGHT TO TRIAL BY JURY OR TO PARTICIPATE IN A CLASS, COLLECTIVE OR OTHER REPRESENTATIVE ACTION.
- E. Although the Affiliate Agreement is made and entered into between Affiliate and Company, Company affiliates, owners, members, managers and employees ("Related Parties") are intended third-party beneficiaries of the Affiliate Agreement for purposes of the provisions of the Affiliate Agreement referring specifically to them, including this agreement to negotiate, mediate and arbitrate. The Parties acknowledge that nothing contained herein is intended to create any involvement by, responsibility of, or liability for, the Related Parties with respect to any dealings between Affiliate and Company, and the Parties further acknowledge that nothing contained herein shall be argued by either of them to constitute any waiver by the Related Parties of any defense which Related Parties may otherwise have concerning whether they can properly be made a party to any dispute between the other parties.
- F. To the fullest extent allowed by law: (i) the costs of negotiation, mediation and arbitration, including fees and expenses of any mediator, arbitrator, JAMS, or other persons independent of all Parties acting with the consent of the Parties to facilitate settlement, shall be shared in equal measure by Affiliate, on the one hand, and Company and any Related Parties involved on the other, except where applicable law requires that Company bear any costs unique to arbitration (which Company shall bear); and (ii) the arbitrator or arbitral panel or, in the case of provisional or equitable relief or to challenge an award that exceeds arbitral authority as described in this Section, the court, shall award reasonable costs and attorneys' fees to the person or entity that the arbitrator, arbitral panel, or court finds to be the prevailing party; provided, however,

that if fees are sought under a statute or rule that sets a different standard for awarding fees or cots, then that statute or rule shall apply.

- G. Nothing in these Policies and Procedures shall prevent Company from applying for or obtaining from any court having jurisdiction a writ of attachment, a temporary injunction, preliminary injunction, permanent injunction, or other relief available to safeguard and protect Company interests or its Confidential Information prior to, during or following the filing of an arbitration or other proceeding, or pending the rendition of a decision or award in connection with any arbitration or other proceeding.
- H. Any Party may seek specific performance of this Section, and any Party may seek to compel each other Party to comply with this Section by petition to any court of competent jurisdiction. For purposes of any provisional or equitable relief sought under this Section, the Parties consent to exclusive jurisdiction and venue in the courts in Dallas County, Texas or the United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas. The pendency of mediation or arbitration shall not preclude a Party from seeking provisional remedies in aid of the arbitration from a court of appropriate jurisdiction, and the Parties agree not to defend against any application for provisional relief on the ground that mediation or arbitration is pending.
- I. ANY AMENDMENT BY COMPANY TO THE DISPUTE RESOLUTION AGREEMENT IN THIS SECTION SHALL ONLY TAKE EFFECT UPON AN AFFILIATE'S EXPRESS AGREEMENT TO SUCH AMENDMENT. AN AFFILIATE MAY INDICATE THEIR AGREEMENT TO SUCH PROPOSED AMENDMENT BY FOLLOWING THE INSTRUCTIONS THAT WILL APPEAR WHEN LOGGING IN TO THE COMPANY CORPORATE WEBSITE THE AFFILIATE'S REPLICATED WEBSITE. COMPANY OR MAY TERMINATE THE AFFILIATE AGREEMENT OF ANY AFFILIATE WHO DOES NOT AGREE TO A PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE DISPUTE **RESOLUTION AGREEMENT IN THIS SECTION WITHIN THIRTY (30)** DAYS AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE AMENDMENT. ANY SUCH AMENDMENT SHALL APPLY TO ALL CLAIMS BROUGHT BY COMPANY OR THE AFFILIATE ON OR AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE AMENDMENT. REGARDLESS OF THE DATE OF OCCURRENCE OR ACCRUAL OF ANY FACTS UNDERLYING SUCH CLAIM.

## 12.4 Governing Law

This Agreement is to be construed in accordance with and governed by the laws of the State of Texas, without regard to its choice of law principles, and the Federal Arbitration Act shall govern the Dispute

Resolution Agreement of these Policies and Procedures and the Affiliate Agreement without giving effect to any state law to the contrary.

# **13.0 MISCELLANEOUS**

### 13.1 Severability

If any provision of these Policies and Procedures is found to be invalid, or unenforceable for any reason, only the invalid provision shall be severed. The remaining terms and provisions hereof shall remain in full force and shall be construed as if such invalid or unenforceable provision never had comprised a part of these Policies and Procedures.

### 13.2 Waiver

- A. Only an officer of Company can, in writing, affect a waiver of the Company Policies and Procedures. Company's waiver of any particular breach by an Affiliate shall not affect Company's rights with respect to any subsequent breach, nor shall it affect the rights or obligations of any other Affiliate. A waiver in one instance does not constitute a waiver at any other point for that Affiliate or for any other Affiliate likely situated.
- B. The existence of any claim or cause of action of an Affiliate against Company shall not constitute a defense to Company's enforcement of any term or provision of these Policies and Procedures.

### **13.3** Successors and Claims

This Agreement shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the Parties and their respective successors and assigns.

### **14.0 DEFINITIONS**

ACTIVE AFFILIATE: An Affiliate who satisfies the minimum volume requirements and has paid the required fees, as set forth in the Compensation Plan and these Policies, to ensure that they are eligible to receive bonuses and commissions.

AFFILIATE: A generic term for any person or entity that has completed the Affiliate Agreement with the Company and fulfilled all requirements to participate within the career path.

AGREEMENT: The contract between the Company and each Affiliate; includes the Affiliate Agreement, the Company Policies and Procedures, the Company Compensation Plan, and all other applicable forms incorporated herein, all in their current form and as amended by Company in its sole discretion. These documents are collectively referred to as the "Agreement."

BUSINESS DAYS: Monday through Friday, excluding the weekend days of Saturday and Sunday. If a day within a period of Business Days, for purposes of counting, falls on a Monday through Friday on which there is a national holiday in which, for example, federal banks are closed, then that day shall not count as a Business Day.

CANCEL: The termination of an Affiliate's business. Cancellation may be either voluntary, involuntary, or through non-renewal.

COMPENSATION PLAN: The guidelines and referenced literature for describing how Affiliates can generate commissions and bonuses.

CUSTOMER: A Customer who purchases Company products and does not engage in building a business or retailing product.

LINE OF SPONSORSHIP (LOS): A report generated by Company that provides critical data relating to the identities of Affiliates, sales information, and enrollment activity of each Affiliate's organization. This report contains confidential and trade secret information which is proprietary to Company.

ORGANIZATION: The Customers and Affiliates placed below a particular Affiliate.

OFFICIAL COMPANY MATERIAL: Literature, audio or video tapes, and other materials developed, printed, published, and distributed by Company to Affiliates.

PLACEMENT: Your position inside your Sponsor's organization.

RECRUIT: For purposes of Company's Conflict of Interest Policy, the term "Recruit" means the actual or attempted solicitation, enrollment, encouragement, or effort to influence in any other way, either directly, indirectly, or through a third party, another Company Affiliate or Customer to enroll or participate in another multilevel marketing, network marketing, or direct sales opportunity.

RESALABLE: Products shall be deemed "resalable" if each of the following elements is satisfied: 1) they are unopened and unused, 2) original packaging and labelling has not been altered or damaged, 3) they are in a condition such that it is a commercially reasonable practice within the trade to sell the merchandise at full price, and 4) the product contains current Company labelling. Any merchandise

that is clearly identified at the time of sale as nonreturnable, discontinued, or as a seasonal item, shall not be resalable.

SPONSOR: An Affiliate who enrolls a Customer, Retailer, or another Affiliate into the Company, and is listed as the Sponsor on the Affiliate Agreement. The act of enrolling others and training them to become Affiliates is called "sponsoring."

UPLINE: This term refers to the Affiliate or Affiliates above a particular Affiliate in a sponsorship line up to the Company. It is the line of sponsors that links any particular Affiliate to the Company.

## Last Revised Date: January 24, 2024