



## INDEPENDENCE GROUP NL: IGO GROUP GOVERNANCE STANDARD 6 - CONTINUOUS DISCLOSURE AND INFORMATION

Original adoption: 27 March 2015

Last review: 26 June 2017

Last amendment: 26 June 2017

### 1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Standard is to set out the procedure for:

- identifying potentially material price sensitive information (**Material Information**) and reporting it to the Responsible Person (defined below) for review;
- ensuring Independence Group NL (**IGO**) achieves best practice in complying with its continuous disclosure obligations under the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth) (**Corporations Act**), ASX Listing Rules (**Listing Rules**) and ASX Corporate Governance Principles and Recommendations;
- ensuring IGO and individual officers do not contravene the Corporations Act or Listing Rules (which carry serious penalties); and
- protecting confidential information from unauthorised disclosure.

### 2. PERSONS TO WHOM THIS STANDARD APPLIES

The Standard applies to all directors and full-time, part-time and casual employees, contractors and consultants of IGO, and IGO group companies (the **Group**) (each being **IGO personnel**).

The Company Secretary is the Responsible Person and, in his or her absence, the Managing Director will act as the Responsible Person.

### 3. DISCLOSURE PRINCIPLES

***Under Listing Rule 3.1 and the Corporations Act, IGO is required to notify the ASX immediately if it is, or becomes, aware of: “any information concerning it that a reasonable person would expect to have a material effect on the price or value of IGO securities.”***

Disclosure under Listing Rule 3.1 is not required where **all** of the following conditions are and remain satisfied:

- a reasonable person would not expect the information to be disclosed; and
- the information is confidential and ASX has not formed the view that the information has ceased to be confidential; and
- one or more of the following applies:
  - it would be a breach of a law to disclose the information;
  - the information concerns an incomplete proposal or negotiation;



- the information comprises matters of supposition or is insufficiently definite to warrant disclosure;
- the information is generated for the internal management purposes of IGO; or
- the information is a trade secret.

A reasonable person will be taken to expect particular information to have a material effect on the price or value of IGO's securities if ***the information would, or would be likely to, influence persons who commonly invest in such securities in deciding whether or not to subscribe for, buy or sell, the securities.*** As this is an assessment of market behaviour, advice may be required from a suitable expert.

#### 4. RESPONSIBILITIES

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION
<p>IGO personnel who possess confidential information must continue to preserve the confidentiality of that information in accordance with the IGO Code of Conduct and the terms of their contract with the Company (as applicable), including by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• refraining from discussing that information with, or divulging that information to, any person who is not authorised to receive that information; and</li><li>• ensuring any documents or other written material in their possession in relation to that information are properly and securely stored and are not disclosed to an unauthorised person.</li></ul>
IDENTIFY POTENTIALLY PRICE SENSITIVE INFORMATION
<p>IGO personnel must identify when they become aware of information that is not generally available (i.e. the information in question has not been included in any ASX release) and may be price sensitive (likely to have a financial or reputational impact upon IGO or impact the price or value of IGO securities – see examples below).</p> <p>IGO personnel must also assess when they ought to have become aware of such information; this requires staying alert and engaged and making an active assessment. It is not sufficient to take a passive role, or turn a “blind eye” to facts IGO personnel would ordinarily become aware of in the performance of their duties.</p>
REPORT
<p>When the above occurs, IGO personnel must immediately provide the Responsible Person with the relevant information, and the following details, if known:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• a general description of the matter (including the relevant date of the event or transaction and the estimated value involved);</li><li>• details of the parties involved (including the names of any in-house or external advisers involved in the matter);</li><li>• the status of the matter (e.g. final/negotiations still in progress/preliminary negotiations only/speculation); and</li></ul>



- the estimated effect on IGO's finances or operations.

### RESPONSIBLE PERSON

The Responsible Person will review the information and determine, in consultation with the Managing Director (or in his or her absence, the Chief Financial Officer (**CFO**)), whether the information requires disclosure to the ASX, liaise with the Board, as appropriate, in relation to the disclosure of information and co-ordinate the actual form of any disclosure, including reviewing proposed announcements and supervising the sign-off process for ASX releases – see section 6 below. The Responsible Person in consultation with the Managing Director (or in his or her absence, the CFO), will investigate leak allegations and take steps to remedy breaches as soon as possible.

The Responsible Person will liaise with the ASX in relation to continuous disclosure issues, ensure IGO's system for disclosure to the ASX is operating effectively and ensure this Standard is being complied with (including record keeping requirements), including periodically reviewing IGO's disclosure procedures in light of changes to the Listing Rules or Corporations Act and recommending any necessary changes to the procedures. The Responsible Person will ensure regular disclosure reports are prepared for the Board which advise of any material matters to be considered, investigations undertaken and the form of disclosure (if any).

### TRAINING AND AWARENESS

Each director and member of senior management, including any person who reports directly to the Managing Director, must ensure staff for whom they are responsible are aware, and periodically reminded, of:

- the relevant responsibilities included in the Standard; and
- their obligations of confidence to IGO in relation to confidential information (such as manuals, strategies or financial data), including as contained in the Code of Conduct and employment agreements, and the importance of confidentiality in relation to the public market for IGO's shares.

### MONITOR

IGO personnel must immediately notify the Responsible Person as soon as they become aware of:

- any breach of this Standard;
- all instances of unauthorised or selective disclosure or rumours which may impact the price or value of IGO securities; or
- any breach of confidence in relation to confidential information.

### DISCLOSING INFORMATION

No one other than the Responsible Person may release information to, or communicate with, ASIC or the ASX unless specifically authorised to do so by the Responsible Person or the Managing Director.

Any employee proposing to disclose information about IGO to third parties, such as to a professional body, customers, at a presentation, private meeting or analyst briefing, must:



- provide details of the proposed disclosure, date, time and documents to be used by the Responsible Person and the Managing Director, (who will check them for accuracy, completeness, balance and consistency, and any matters which require ASX and website disclosure) and obtain prior consent to any disclosure;
- only provide information (including in response to questions) that has previously been released to the ASX or is not of a material nature;
- not comment on any financial or other projections other than to correct errors in publicly available factual information; and
- audit the disclosure for any new material information inadvertently disclosed.

### **INVESTOR/ANALYST/BROKER INTERACTIONS**

IGO actively supports investors being given equal access to information. Material information must not be selectively disclosed to any person.

- IGO does not blacklist or favour individual analysts;
- IGO aims for at least two company representatives, which are to be determined in consultation with the Managing Director, to attend every investor relations event, and is implementing a system for keeping records of each event;
- IGO monitors whether new information has inadvertently been provided to analysts; and
- The Managing Director, in consultation with the Board, may impose a “blackout period” prohibiting investor relations activity in the lead up to significant board meetings and material announcements.

### **EXAMPLES OF POTENTIALLY PRICE SENSITIVE INFORMATION WHICH REQUIRE IDENTIFICATION AND REPORTING**

- Significant departures, from that anticipated by IGO or the market, in relation to the financial condition, results of operations, the life of mine, company issued forecasts and earning performance of IGO or a controlled entity;
- A material mineral discovery or indications of the same;
- A proposed acquisition or disposal of material assets to be announced by IGO, a controlled entity or joint venture partner;
- Granting or withdrawal of a licence material to IGO's operations;
- Events or occurrences that have an impact on the operations of IGO or a controlled entity such as a natural disaster, accident, strike by employees or a declaration of force majeure by the Company or its contractors in respect to one of its mining operations;
- Legal proceedings against or allegation of any breach of the law, whether civil or criminal, by IGO or any of its employees;
- The appointment of a receiver, manager, liquidator or administrator in respect of any loan, trade credit, trade debt, borrowing or securities held by IGO or any controlled entity;



- An agreement between IGO (or a related party or subsidiary) and a director (or a related party of the director);
- Changes in IGO's senior management or auditors;
- Any negative publicity or social media that relates to IGO;
- Planning to undertake a significant financing or security issue (whether debt or equity) or to take other action with respect to outstanding securities (e.g. share repurchase program or redemption of bonds); and
- Potential default under a material financing facility.

***These examples are not an exhaustive list. Notify the Responsible Person of any matters or information which may impact the price or value of securities or influence an investor's decision to buy or sell securities.***

## 5. AUTHORISED DISCLOSURE

In addition to the specific sign-off processes for ASX releases set out below, the only other person(s) authorised to speak to the media or any other person outside IGO about information that is subject to this Standard or market rumours regarding IGO are:

- the Chairman;
- the Managing Director;
- a member of senior management with delegated authority from the Managing Director or the Board; and
- the Company Secretary (particularly in regard to shareholders, ASIC or the ASX).

Each person listed above will use their best endeavours to liaise with the other persons listed (as applicable and appropriate) prior to such communication.

All enquiries from analysts and the media must be referred to the Managing Director and the Responsible Person.

## 6. SIGN OFF PROCESS FOR ASX RELEASES

### ***All ASX releases***

In addition to the disclosure responsibilities above, all ASX releases should be reviewed and checked for accuracy, completeness, balance and consistency by the Managing Director, and prior to being transmitted to the ASX, authorised by:

- the Managing Director and the Responsible Person; and
- if they relate to financial results, forecasts or expectations of IGO, changes to the Board, executive composition or roles, significant transactions by IGO (such as material asset acquisitions or disposals, fundraisings or takeover bids) or developments which may impact upon



the corporate standing or reputation of IGO (such as material litigation by or against IGO, major OH&S occurrences or major environmental breaches), the Board.

### **Trading halts**

The ASX requires IGO to consider whether a trading halt or suspension of quotation of securities is appropriate where it is not possible to properly inform the market without disclosing highly sensitive or confidential information, or where further time is required to finalise an announcement. IGO views the trading halt mechanism as:

- a tool of good disclosure process, to be used in the interests of a fully informed, fair and transparent market;
- an appropriate way of managing an unexplained price and/or volume change until an announcement can be made; and
- being specifically designed by ASX to protect listed entities from premature disclosure in cases where a more detailed announcement is imminent.

Before any request for a trading halt is made, the Responsible Person must first make an assessment as to whether the particular information is market sensitive information and therefore needs to be disclosed under Listing Rule 3.1. If the Company is unsure about whether it should be requesting a trading halt (or voluntary suspension) to cover the period required to prepare an announcement, the Responsible Person should contact the Company's listing adviser at ASX to discuss the situation. Only the Responsible Person may request, or authorise another person to request, a trading halt.

## **7. SPECULATION, RUMOUR AND CORRECTING A FALSE MARKET**

Generally, IGO will not respond to reports or rumours published by analysts, fund managers or reporters. However, ASX may require IGO to make a clarifying statement or announcement in circumstances where there may be a "false market" affecting the price or volume of trading in IGO's securities.

The term "**false market**" refers to a situation where there is material misinformation or materially incomplete information in the market which is compromising proper price discovery; this might include, for example, a reasonably specific rumour which has not been confirmed or clarified by IGO in an announcement. IGO has a positive obligation to make disclosures necessary to prevent a false market in IGO's securities.

If ASX requires IGO to give it information to correct or prevent a false market under Listing Rule 3.1B, the Responsible Person must respond to such request immediately. If an announcement is required, and IGO needs time to prepare the announcement, the Responsible Person should request a trading halt.

## **8. CONSEQUENCES**

A breach of IGO's continuous disclosure obligations can result in criminal and civil liability under the Corporations Act including fines, adverse publicity orders and claims for compensation by persons who have suffered loss as a result of the contravention (such as those who traded securities in the period the market was not properly informed).



A person involved in a company's contravention of the continuous disclosure provisions can be held personally liable for the contravention. In addition, other penalties as prescribed under the Corporations Act may be incurred by the IGO.

If you have any questions, concerns or feedback about this Standard, you should contact the Company Secretary at: Independence Group NL, PO Box 496, South Perth, WA 6151.

Phone: 08 9238 8300

Email: [contact@igo.com.au](mailto:contact@igo.com.au), Attention: the Company Secretary

This Standard will be reviewed annually by the Board.

\*\*\*