Survey: Anti-corruption compliance control in company

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To conduct a survey in nowadays Brazil about sensitive issues like corruption or compliance mechanisms is a very difficult task.

Many lawyers approached by us said they would like to cooperate with the survey but they had express orientation from the upper levels of their companies not to answer any questions related to these subjects. Even the formal guarantee of non-disclosure of the company name was not sufficient to obtain a considerable number of answers.

Despite all these difficulties it was possible to go ahead with the survey even considering that we could get only a small number of responses when compared with the large number of Brazilian companies which are potentially included in such a survey.

The survey was conducted only with corporate lawyers. That means that the respondents were lawyers who work directly with compliance issues inside a company. For reasons of focus, we decided to exclude from this survey lawyers who work in law firms even if they are involved in the area of compliance. In our view, obtaining answers from lawyers who work directly on compliance issues inside a company would give us a better understanding of the structure and importance companies place in the compliance activities.

Our survey is comprised of 29 answers given by corporate lawyers. Most of the questions posed in the survey were fully answered by the respondents. Some of the questions were not answered by all the respondents but the number of NR’s were very small. Again, the level of responses depended on the perceived sensitiveness each respondent gave to the question.

The largest number of respondents work in the transformation industry (26%), followed by financial activities, insurance and related services (22%). We had also responses from

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lawyers working in areas such transport, building, information and communication, health services, agriculture, accommodation, among others. In all, the main areas of business activities in the Brazilian economy were included in this small sample.

The companies are in their majority (62%) Brazilian companies. The remaining 38% of the companies are branches of foreign companies, mainly from United States. There are also companies whose headquarters are in United Kingdom, Italy, France, South Korea, Belgium and Germany.

When asked if the company is obliged to carry out internal controls in accordance with the anti-money laundering law, 65% of the respondents gave a yes as answer. Only 28% said that their company has no obligation in this respect.

Regardless of the specific obligation, all companies have an anti-corruption control system. Most of the companies have an especial anticorruption department dealing with compliance and corruption issues (59%). In the absence of a specific department, the companies have at least an anticorruption executive (41%). In general, the executive entitled to deal with compliance and corruption is positioned in different areas inside the structure of the company. In some cases there is an Anticorruption Director (18%), or an employee from the Legal Department (21%), or an employee from a Money Laundry Department (7%), or even on people working in different departments inside the company, such as Audit, Finance, and Internal Controls. The anticorruption officer reports generally to the company’s CEO (52%), but there is also a “joint control” exerted by either the Audit Committee (48%) and/or the Company Board (52%).

It is important to notice that all companies surveyed have a Code of Business Conduct or a Code of Ethics. Considering that these are large companies and/or branches of foreign companies, this is not a surprising result. In respect of having an internal document for dealing specifically with anticorruption matters 79% of the respondents said that the company has such a document. For 52% of the respondents the company took into consideration foreign anticorruption laws when drafting its anticorruption policy. A large majority of these rules were based in similar rules adopted in U.S
companies (64%), with a significant number from U.K companies (28%). Regardless of the origin of these rules, the drafting of the internal document was made basically by the employees of the company (65%) or with the assistance of external consultants (23%). In 22% of the cases the internal document was based exclusively in the equivalent document written by the companies’ headquarters.

An important issue about the anticorruption policies adopted by the companies surveyed is related to the standards and procedures which are included in the structure of the anticorruption document prepared by these companies.

We have listed 15 topics and/or procedures in the questionnaire and asked to the respondents for their answers. Of course, this was an open-ended question, allowing them to respond to more than one item. The idea was to check which items were comprised in the document prepared by the company and the frequency each item was referred.

The items are listed below in a decreasing order of citations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Standards and/or procedures</th>
<th>% of answers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Anticorruption clauses in contracts</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Organization of internal procedures</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Gifts and hospitality</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Monitoring anticorruption practices</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Procedure to report conflict of interests</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Training for employees</td>
<td>59</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Not surprising, the anticorruption clauses in the contracts signed by the company appear in the top of the list with a 76% citation index. It is through contracts that most companies interact with the external world, including suppliers and clients. For this reason, the protection against possible future problems in terms of relationship with third parties are normally established in a formal contract. Of course, the organization of internal procedures themselves are part relevant in the anticorruption policy with a 72% citation index. Employees and third party contractors should be aware of the internal policies applied by the company when dealing with compliance and corruption issues. It is interesting to notice that employees training is cited by “only” 59% of the respondents meaning that the anticorruption culture is still not completely spread over the companies surveyed.

In terms of corruption risk assessment, 24% of the respondents said their companies have not a risk assessment system. In the remaining 76% where corruption risk assessment is taken into consideration, the main types of risk appointed were (a) risks related to the type of business of the third party (72%), risks related to the condition of doing business (45%), risks related to financial transactions (45%), internal risks (45%). The data used by companies for risk assessment are by large the financial statements provided by the third party companies (69%), followed by commercial databases (59%), mass media information (48%), and legal databases (48%). In average, companies use 4
different sources when trying to assess risks, but this number ranges from only one source to up 7 different ones. Most of the companies look for more than 3 different sources when trying to assess risks on third party companies.

Latin America is considered a region of high-risk of corruption by the respondents. There were some citations on Africa, Middle East, India, Russia and China when applying the questionnaire but the majority of the respondents placed countries in Latin American on the top of their concerns about corruption. A word of cautiousness should be taken at this stage since all the respondents are engaged in doing business mainly in Latin America and their perceptions may be somewhat distorted by this fact. In the types of business associated with higher risks, the public sector had the largest number of answers. Even though a large number of the companies surveyed do not have the public sector as a client, more than 50% of the respondents mentioned the risks of dealing with the public sector when dealing with corruption issues.

In terms of specific anticorruption clauses in their contracts, 90% of the respondents said there is an anticorruption clause in the contracts. Of these, 75% said that such clauses exist in all contracts, while 7% said that the clauses exist on some contracts depending on the amount involved, and other 7% said that clauses exist on some contracts depending on the other party risk level.

For 83% of the respondents, the breach of an anticorruption clause is reason for the termination of the contract, while for 38% there are reasons for the application of penalties (with or without termination).

Generally, the anticorruption clauses in the contracts include (a) provisions guaranteeing assurance of anticorruption procedures and negative consequences for persons reporting acts of corruption (52%), (b) right to conduct an audit of anticorruption policy in a partner (38%), (c) information sharing on disclosed facts of corruption (28%), and (d) disclosure of final beneficiaries owners (21%).
In terms of conducting an investigation in case of a completed (or planned) corruption offence 90% of the respondents said the company will proceed with an investigation. The investigation will be conducted by the area in charge of the anticorruption control in the company (77%), by the security department (8%), or by an external organization (15%). If the investigation leads to an ascertainment of the corruption fact (confirmation of a corruption evidence), the information is reported to government authorities only in cases stipulated by law (82%) or in any situation (18%).

When asked about the existence of a hot-line as communication channel for reporting possible cases of corruption in the company, 83% of the respondents said there is a hot-line, while 10% said there is not such a channel. In the existence of a hot-line channel, in 45% of the cases it is operated by a third-party operator, and in 38% it is operated by an employee of the company. The hot-line may be used anonymously in 73% of the companies, while in 10% of them there is a need of disclosing personal data.

In terms of cooperation with affiliates and subsidiaries in respect of anticorruption policies, in 66% of the cases it was declared that the affiliates and subsidiaries have anticorruption procedures based in the parent company, while in only 14% of the cases they have their own anticorruption policies.

Finally, when asked about the main problems faced by companies in the sphere of anticorruption compliance control, the answers pointed out to the following issues: (a) the significant anticorruption control costs for the company (41%); (b) lack of effective participation of the company board (41%); (c) lack of stimulation and training measures (34%); (d) absence of a specific monitoring body in the company (28%), (e) lack of information about the need of anticorruption controls in the company (24%); (f) lack of administrative responsibility for deficiencies in anticorruption controls (24%), and deficiencies in legislative regulations (21%).

Some suggestions were made by the respondents for the improvement of anticorruption standards controls. In their opinion, it is necessary the full support of the Board and a total commitment of the higher levels of a company including the provision
of finance and human resources for dealing with this question. It was also mentioned the need of an efficient monitoring system inside the company mainly in the cases where public agents are involved. Most of the respondents argued that it is extremely important to disseminate a culture of good practices against corruption inside the company, including continuous training for employees and also specific training during the hiring process of new labor. In addition, it was mentioned the importance of a quick investigation process of corruption cases within the company, with the consequent application of the correspondent penalties when the corruption is

ANNEX I:

ANTI-CORRUPTION COMPLIANCE CONTROL IN COMPANY

QUESTIONNAIRE
SECTION 1. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. MAIN COMPANY AREA OF ACTIVITY:
   ( ) AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK, FORESTRY PRODUCTION, FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE.
   ( ) EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES
   ( ) TRANSFORMATION INDUSTRY
   ( ) ELECTRICITY AND GAS
   ( ) WATER, SEWAGE, WASTE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES AND DECONTAMINATION.
   ( ) BUILDING
   ( ) TRADE; AUTOMOTIVE AND REPAIR OF MOTORCYCLES.
   ( ) TRANSPORT, STORAGE AND MAIL.
   ( ) ACCOMMODATION AND MEALS
   ( ) INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION
   ( ) FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES, INSURANCE AND RELATED SERVICES.
   ( ) REAL ESTATE ACTIVITIES
   ( ) PROFESSIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ACTIVITIES,
   ( ) ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES AND SUPPLEMENTARY SERVICES
   ( ) PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, DEFENCE AND SOCIAL SECURITY.
   ( ) EDUCATION
   ( ) HUMAN HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
   ( ) ARTS, CULTURE, SPORT AND RECREATION.
   ( ) HOUSEHOLD SERVICES
   ( ) INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND OTHER EXTRA-TERRITORIALS ORGANIZATIONS

2. OTHER LINES OF ACTIVITY:

3. IS YOUR COMPANY A BRANCH OF A FOREIGN COMPANY?

   ( ) Yes
   ( ) No
If so, in which country your parent company is incorporated in?

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4. IS YOUR COMPANY OBLIGED TO CARRY OUT INTERNAL CONTROL IN ACCORDANCE WITH ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING LAW?

( ) Yes
( ) No

Section 2. PLACE OF ANTI-CORRUPTION COMPLIANCE CONTROL IN THE STRUCTURE OF THE COMPANY.

2.1. WHO PERFORMS FUNCTIONS OF ANTI-CORRUPTION COMPLIANCE CONTROL IN THE COMPANY?

☐ Anti-corruption compliance officer

☐ Special anti-corruption unit (department)

2.2. ANTI – CORRUPTION COMPLIANCE OFFICER IS

☐ Director of anti-corruption compliance department

☐ Employee of Security unit (department)

☐ Employee of Legal unit (department)

☐ Employee of AML unit (department)
Employee of another unit (department) (specify which one)

3. ANTICORRUPTION OFFICER IS ENTITLED TO REPORT TO:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YES</th>
<th>NO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CEO of the Company</td>
<td>( )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audit Committee</td>
<td>( )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Council</td>
<td>( )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Another company director</td>
<td>( )</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please Specify: ____________________________

SECTION 3. CODE OF BUSINESS CONDUCT

3.1. Is there a code of business conduct (business ethic) in the company?

☐ Yes  ☐ No

SECTION 4. ANTI-CORRUPTION POLICY

1. DOES THE COMPANY HAVE ANTI-CORRUPTION POLICY AS A SPECIAL INTERNAL DOCUMENT?

( ) Yes

( ) No

2. DID THE COMPANY TAKE INTO ACCOUNT FOREIGN ANTI-CORRUPTION LAWS WHEN DRAFTING ITS ANTI-CORRUPTION POLICY?

( ) Yes

( ) No

3. IF SO, THE RULES OF WHICH COUNTRY WAS USED? (YOU CAN MARK MORE THAN ONE OPTION)
4. ANTI-CORRUPTION POLICY WAS DRAFTED (YOU CAN MARK MORE THAN ONE OPTION):

☐ By the employees of the company
☐ With the assistance of external consultants
☐ On the basis of anti-corruption policy of foreign parent company

5. THE FOLLOWING STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES ARE INCLUDED IN THE STRUCTURE OF YOUR ANTI-CORRUPTION POLICY (YOU CAN MARK MORE THAN ONE OPTION)

☐ financial support of political parties (if company in principle supports or plans to support political parties)
☐ legal audit
☐ charity
☐ anti-corruption clauses in business contracts
☐ interaction with affiliates, subsidiaries, affiliated companies
☐ monitoring the implementation of anti-corruption policy
☐ organization of internal procedures for corruption prevention
☐ effective participation of the Company Board (Executive and Administrative Council)
☐ gifts and hospitality
☐ procedure to report conflict of interest
☐ procedure for financial transactions controls with risk of possible relationships with corruption
Section 5. RISK ASSESSMENT

1. COMPANY RISK ASSESSMENT SYSTEM IS:

   ( ) there is no risk assessment system
   ( ) a two-level system
   ( ) a three-tier system
   ( ) a multilevel system (please specify)

2. THE MAIN TYPES OF RISKS ARE: (YOU CAN MARK MORE THAN ONE OPTION)

   ( ) geographical risks
   ( ) risks related to the type of business
   ( ) risks related to conditions of doing business
   ( ) risks of business partnership (politically exposed persons and their relatives, companies with ownership or state control)
   ( ) risks related to financial transactions
   ( ) internal risks
   ( ) other risks (please, specify)

3. FOR THE PURPOSES OF RISK-ASSESSMENT THE COMPANY USES THE FOLLOWING DATA:

   ( ) accounting statements
( ) commercial databases
( ) lists of international sanctions
( ) lists of foreign country sanctions
( ) data from commercial registries
( ) list of persons banned from hiring
( ) legal databases
( ) property and real state registries
( ) mass media information
( ) other sources (please specify)
_______________________

4. WHICH COUNTRIES/REGIONS DO YOU CONSIDER TO BE HIGH RISK LEVEL?

5. WHICH TYPES OF BUSINESS DO YOU CONSIDER TO BE HIGH RISK LEVEL?

_______________________

SECTION 6. IDENTIFICATION OF BENEFICIAL OWNERS OF COMPANIES - BUSINESS PARTNERS

1. IDENTIFICATION OF BENEFICIAL OWNERS IS MADE:

☐ According to oral information provided by business partners

☐ By virtue of personal identification document of final beneficial owner

☐ By virtue of statutory documents of all companies in a chain, which allow to show who is the beneficiary

( ) not applicable
SECTION 7 – ANTI-CORRUPTION CLAUSE

1. DOES THE COMPANY INCLUDE ANTI-CORRUPTION CLAUSES IN ITS CONTRACTS?

   ( ) yes
   ( ) no

2. IF YES, CLAUSE ANTI-CORRUPTION IS INCLUDED IN:

   ( ) all contracts
   ( ) some contracts, depending on their value
   ( ) some contracts, depending on the other party's risk level
   ( ) some contracts, depending on
   (please, specify): ________________________________

3. ANTI-CORRUPTION CLAUSE INCLUDES: (YOU CAN MARK MORE THAN ONE OPTION)

  Disclosure of final beneficial owners

   Information sharing about disclosed facts of corruption

   Responds on requests as required to implement anti-corruption program within an agreed timeframe

   Right to conduct an audit of anti-corruption policy of a partner

   Refusal of partner employees stimulation in company's own interest

   Provisions guaranteeing confidence of anti-corruption procedures and negative consequences for persons reporting the facts of corruption

   Other sections and provisions (please, specify)

   __________________________________________
   __________________________________________
4. BREACH OF ANTI-CORRUPTION CLAUSE IS A REASON FOR:

☐ Termination of a contract
☐ Penalties
☐ There are no any consequences

SECTION 8. INTERNAL INVESTIGATIONS

1. IF COMPANY GETS INFORMATION ABOUT COMPLETED (OR PLANNED) CORRUPTION OFFENCE, IS THE COMPANY GOING TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION?

( ) yes
( ) no

2. INVESTIGATION / AUDIT WILL BE CONDUCTED BY:

( ) employees responsible for anti-corruption control department of the company
( ) security department
( ) external organizations

3. AFTER ASCERTAINMENT MADE BY INVESTIGATION / AUDIT (IF CONFIRMED A CORRUPTION EVIDENCE), THE INFORMATION IS SENT TO GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES

( ) in any situation
( ) only in cases stipulated by law

SECTION 9. HOT-LINE

1. IS THERE HOT-LINE IN COMPANY?
( ) yes
( ) no

2. IF YES, THE COMMUNICATION CHANNEL (HOTLINE) IS OPERATED BY:

( ) Company employees
( ) a third-party operator

3. THE COMMUNICATION CHANNEL (HOTLINE) MAY BE USED:

( ) anonymously
( ) with personal data specification

Seção 10. COOPERATION WITH AFFILIATES AND SUBSIDIARIES

1. THE AFFILIATED AND SUBSIDIARY COMPANIES:

( ) have their own anti-corruption policies
( ) have anti-corruption measures based on those of the parent company
( ) not applicable

Section 11. MAIN PROBLEMS IN THE SPHERE OF ANTI-CORRUPTION COMPLIANCE CONTROL

1. IN YOUR OPINION WHAT ARE THE MAIN PROBLEMS KEEPING DOWN ANTI-CORRUPTION COMPLIANCE CONTROL?

( ) legislative regulation
( ) lack of information about the need for anti-corruption controls in the company
( ) lack of stimulation / training measures
( ) lack of administrative responsibility for deficiency in anti-corruption controls in companies
( ) absence of specific monitoring body
( ) significant anti-corruption control costs for the company
( ) effective participation of the Company Board
( ) other problems (please, specify)
2. WHAT ARE YOUR SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT OF ANTI-CORRUPTION STANDARDS CONTROLS:

_________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________

SECTION 12. SUGGESTIONS OR COMMENTS ABOUT THIS RESEARCH

1. DO YOU HAVE ANY QUESTION OR COMMENT ABOUT THIS RESEARCH? IF YES, YOU CAN USE THIS SPACE TO SEND YOUR OPINION.

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