Pillars Of A Robust Compliance Program

1. SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY
   The term “social standards” in the context of business typically refers to labor standards, or the working conditions under which products are manufactured. Many companies adopt a code of conduct that acknowledges nine fundamental standards, and they adopt this code as a statement of corporate principles. These fundamental standards are based on a number of international standards and treaties adopted by the International Labour Organization (ILO), a United Nations agency that works with governments, employers and workers to shape policies and programs.

2. PRODUCT RESPONSIBILITY
   Properly categorizing a consumer product is not always easy, and it is more challenging in the promotional products industry where the end use or end user is not always known at the time of manufacture. While it is the responsibility of the manufacturer, importer or supplier to ensure compliance of a product, the distributor also needs to exercise due diligence to ensure that the product complies with appropriate requirements and regulations based on the target audience, type of product, distribution point and distribution method.

3. ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY
   It is imperative that industry professionals recognize their obligation to environmental responsibility as well as legal restrictions regarding environmental statements and claims they may make. There are certain standards and best practices that can be adopted by industry practitioners that will minimize adverse impact on environmental resources and protect the community. In addition, clients and consumers are increasingly aware of their environmental responsibilities—and they expect the promotional products industry to be fully versed in the subject as well.

4. PRODUCT QUALITY
   Quality is a subjective term as each individual or entity has their own interpretation or definition. At its core quality assurance addresses two main points: the product is free of defects and the product satisfies the manufacturer’s stated basic features, characteristics and performance standards. Higher quality standards ensure consistency over time.

5. SUPPLY CHAIN SECURITY
   Protecting the supply chain from illegal activity and/or dangerous activity is an essential element in supply chain control in a global economy. Increasingly, these global efforts insulate supply chains against terrorism, piracy, theft and more, as part of an overall responsible sourcing strategy. Safeguarding the world’s trading industry is vital to economic health.