

# RESPONSIBLE SUPPLY CHAIN REPORT







On May 11, 2023, the Fighting Against Forced Labour and Child Labour in Supply Chains Act (the "Act") received royal assent. The Act imposes annual reporting obligations on various entities relating to their efforts to reduce the risk that forced labour or child labour is used at any step of the production of goods in Canada or elsewhere by the entity, or of goods imported into Canada by the entity. This report covers the activities of both Elexicon Corporation ("EC") and Elexicon Energy Inc. ("Elexicon Energy", and collectively with EC, "Elexicon").

# **Corporate Structure**

EC is a holding corporation owned by five municipal shareholders – the Town of Ajax, the City of Belleville, the Municipality of Clarington, the City of Pickering, and the Town of Whitby.

EC owns 100% of the shares of Elexicon Energy, which is an electricity distributor that is regulated by the Ontario Energy Board ("OEB").

EC also owns 100% of the shares of Elexicon Group Inc., which is an unregulated for-profit corporation that does not qualify as an "entity" under the Act.

## **Activities**

Elexicon Energy is a regulated electricity distributor that serves approximately 177,000 residential and business customers in our service territories in the communities of Ajax, Belleville, Brock, Clarington, Gravenhurst, Pickering, Port Hope, Scugog, Uxbridge and Whitby. Elexicon Energy honours its four strategic pillars of customer centricity, operational excellence, economic development and strategic investment in each decision. With the end-customer in mind, the organization invests in grid modernization, resiliency and the integration of innovative technologies within its distribution system. This forward-thinking approach ensures the delivery of reliable, adaptable and cost-effective electricity both now and into the future.

Aside from holding shares in Elexicon Energy and Elexicon Group Inc., EC owned and operated two combined-heat-and-power (CHP) units located in the City of Belleville for part of the 2024 calendar year. EC has no employees, and it is a reporting entity under the Act because it is the sole shareholder of Elexicon Energy.

# **Supply Chains**

The Act addresses goods that are produced outside of Canada and imported into Canada by Elexicon. While the vast majority of our suppliers are located in Canada, Elexicon imports a minimal quantity of goods from outside of Canada (all of them from suppliers in the United States). The amount paid for goods imported from outside of Canada in 2024 was approximately \$12,000, which is less than 0.01% of the total amount paid by Elexicon to its non-electricity suppliers in 2024.

The types of goods imported by Elexicon from the United States in 2024 include electrical components (e.g. fibre optic/ethernet cables and transceivers), computer equipment (e.g. programmable hardware tokens and safety interlock keys), and other mechanical equipment (e.g. filters).

# Forced Labour and Child Labour: Steps Taken, Policies and Due Diligence, and Risks

The Act requires all reporting entities to report on, among other things: (1) the steps the entity has taken during its previous financial year to prevent and reduce the risk that forced labour or child labour is used at any step of the production of goods in Canada or elsewhere by the entity or of goods imported into Canada by the entity; (2) its policies and its due diligence processes in relation to forced labour and child labour; and (3) the parts of its business and supply chains that carry a risk of forced labour or child labour being used and the steps it has taken to assess and manage that risk.

#### Risks

The risk of forced labour or child labour existing in a supply chain varies based on sector. According to the United Nations Global Compact Business & Human Rights Navigator, the sectors where forced labour is most prevalent include fashion/apparel (such as the production of cotton/textiles), agriculture/fishing, construction, electronics manufacturing, hospitality, and mining/extractive industries. The consumer goods sector also generally carries a higher risk of modern slavery, particularly in the production of cocoa, coffee, tea, spices, rice, cotton/textiles, and seafood/fish. While Elexicon does not import goods in most of these sectors, Elexicon does engage in construction projects in Ontario and imports a minimal amount of electronic and mechanical equipment from the United States.

In assessing the risk that forced labour or child labour exists in Elexicon's supply chains, the place of origin of the goods that Elexicon purchases is an important factor to consider. Elexicon does not import any goods from outside of North America, and only a minimal quantity of goods are imported from the United States. The risk of forced labour in the Ontario construction industry or in manufacturing in the United States tends to be less than in some non-OECD contexts – the United Nations Global Compact Business & Human Rights Navigator notes that the risk increases in countries with high poverty, high inequality, a large informal economy, corruption, a lack of legal protection, and/or poor law enforcement. Both Canada and the United States have robust laws prohibiting child labour and forced labour, as well as effective judicial systems to enforce those laws. Constitutional protections for freedom of the expression make it easier for media and other anti-corruption/transparency organizations to investigate and report on potential situations involving modern slavery in Canada and the United States, and corruption tends to be less prevalent than in non-OECD contexts. Thus, while Elexicon engages in construction in Ontario and also imports some electronic and mechanical equipment from the United States, the risk that forced labour or child labour is used in these supply chains is relatively low.

#### Steps Taken, Policies and Due Diligence

While Elexicon assesses that the risk of forced labour and child labour being present in its supply chains is relatively low, Elexicon is nonetheless serious about preventing forced labour and child labour in its supply chains. Elexicon has always been careful to choose suppliers who align with our values; and in keeping with this philosophy, Elexicon has developed legal language for inclusion in our contracts with suppliers. While our template supplier contract had already included a provision requiring suppliers to comply with applicable Canadian laws (which prohibit the use of child labour or forced labour), these new provisions include specific representations and warranties made by our suppliers that they do not use child labour or forced labour, and that they are making efforts to ensure that child labour and forced labour do not exist in their supply chains. These specific legal provisions are meant to focus our suppliers' attention on this important issue.

Elexicon has also engaged our peers in the industry to discuss and determine best practices in minimizing the risk of forced labour and child labour. Based on these discussions, Elexicon has developed a Supplier Code of Conduct outlining the standards and expectations to which we intend to hold all of our suppliers. This Supplier Code of Conduct has been provided to our suppliers, with a clear expectation that this Code must be followed.

Preventing forced labour and child labour in the modern era isn't just about holding suppliers to account. Elexicon recognizes that we also need to ensure that all of our workers are upholding our standards. To supplement the employee training that Elexicon continues to implement on a regular basis (as described below), we have updated our Employee Code of Conduct to make it clear that employees must report any situations that they encounter that might involve child labour or forced labour.

# **Training**

As mentioned above, Elexicon has revised its Employee Code of Conduct to ensure that employees are aware of Elexicon's standards and expectations relating to the identification and elimination of child labour and forced labour from Elexicon's supply chains. These revisions to the Employee Code of Conduct have been clearly communicated to employees, and further training related to the identification and elimination of child labour and forced labour has been added to Elexicon Energy's standard training given to all of its employees.

# **Other Reporting Requirements**

The Act requires reporting entities to report on any measures taken to remediate any forced labour or child labour, as well as on any measures taken to remediate the loss of income to the most vulnerable families that results from any measure taken to eliminate the use of forced labour or child labour in its activities and supply chains. Since no forced labour nor child labour has been found in Elexicon's supply chains, we have not taken any specific measures in these two areas.

## **Overall Assessment of Effectiveness**

The Act requires reporting entities to provide an overall assessment of their effectiveness in ensuring that forced labour and child labour are not being used in their business and supply chains. Elexicon has seen no evidence of forced labour or child labour in its supply chains and given the minimal quantity of goods imported from outside of Canada by Elexicon (all of which came from the United States), Elexicon assesses that there is a relatively low risk that forced labour or child labour might exist in the supply chains for its imported goods.

Elexicon therefore assesses its overall effectiveness in this area as good. However, Elexicon will remain vigilant and will continue to implement the steps outlined in this report with the aim of ensuring that forced labour and child labour are not being used in our business or supply chains.

#### Attestation for the year ended December 31, 2024

In accordance with the requirements of the *Fighting Against Forced Labour and Child Labour in Supply Chains Act* (the "Act"), and in particular section 11(4)(b)(ii) thereof, I attest that I have reviewed the information contained in this report for the entities listed above. Based on my knowledge, and having exercised reasonable diligence, I attest that the information in the report is true, accurate and complete in all material respects for the purposes of the Act, for the reporting year listed above.

DATED as of the 27 day of March, 2025.

Name: Anthony Haines

Title: Chair of Elexicon Corporation Board of Directors