

# Brambles

## **Tax Policy**

**Brambles Limited**

Revised: 1 January 2020

Version 2.0

### Introduction

Brambles' Code of Conduct provides an ethical and legal framework for all employees. Our Tax Policy aligns with the principles of the Code of Conduct and applies to Brambles businesses globally.

Brambles is committed to complying with tax laws and to having open and constructive relationships with tax authorities. Taxation laws are inherently complex, and Brambles seeks to comply with the laws by paying the right amount of tax in the correct jurisdiction, disclosing relevant information, and claiming reliefs or incentives where they are available. We support greater transparency of companies' tax payments and processes, in order to build public trust and have adopted the Voluntary Tax Transparency Code of the Australian Board of Taxation.

We pay corporate income taxes, customs duties, employment and other taxes. In addition, we collect and pay employee taxes as well as indirect taxes such as sales tax and VAT. The taxes we pay and collect form a significant part of the economic contribution to the countries in which we operate.

Our commitment is underpinned by the following principles:

#### **1. Tax risk management and governance framework**

We follow Brambles' risk management framework as part of our internal control processes. We identify, assess and manage tax risks and account for them appropriately. We implement risk management measures including controls over the following risks:

- Operation and Transaction risks – the risk of inadequate tax consideration, expertise and judgement into business transactions, and poor implementation or management of key risks, including inadequate documentation to support positions taken. Key controls include sign-off by key functional areas including Group Tax in accordance with an approvals framework
- Compliance risk – the risk of late or inaccurate tax returns. Key controls include a central database monitoring the lodgement of tax returns, and the use of external accounting firms to prepare or review such returns
- Tax accounting risk – the risk of material financial mis-statement as defined in the relevant accounting standards. Key controls include providing tax accounting instructions to financial statement preparers, and review and sign-off of material tax balances by Group Tax
- External and management risk – the risk associated with new laws and management of the tax function. Key controls include ensuring that appropriate policies and procedures are in place, maintained and used consistently around the world, and that the global tax team has the skills and experience to implement the approach appropriately.

Material tax issues and risks, when identified, are reported to the Brambles Audit Committee and Brambles Board.

#### **2. Level of risk in relation to taxation Brambles is prepared to accept**

The effective management of risk, including tax risk, is vital to the continued growth and success of Brambles. We incorporate effective risk management as part of our business processes. Brambles has designed and implemented internal control systems and risk management processes, including those relevant to tax risk, and these are reviewed by the Board.

Internal governance procedures impact on acceptable levels of risk by:

- Identifying, analysing and ranking risk issues, including tax, in a consistent manner, using a common methodology;
- Making our risk tolerance for tax issues a key consideration in our decision making; and
- Requiring approval by senior management, or the Board, for transactions according to an approval process having regard to the level of risk and materiality of the consequences involved.

We adhere to relevant tax law and we seek to minimize the risk of uncertainty or disputes. For material transactions we seek certainty, for example by way of obtaining external advice and legal opinions or agreement with tax authorities where the law is uncertain or complex.

### **3. Tax strategy and planning**

Brambles Code of Conduct states that all business should be conducted in accordance with the laws and regulations in the countries in which the business is located. Our tax strategy and planning supports our business strategy and reflects commercial and economic activity. Relevant Brambles Group stakeholders are involved, according to an approval process having regard to the level of risk and materiality of the consequences involved, to ensure transactions are acceptable, including Brambles Board, CEO, CFO, and commercial, legal, treasury and accounting functions.

We conduct transactions between group companies on an arm's-length basis and in accordance with OECD Transfer Pricing Guidelines.

Brambles does not seek to avoid tax using artificial arrangements, or tax haven jurisdictions, lacking business purpose.

### **4. Approach towards tax authorities**

We seek to build and sustain relationships with governments and fiscal authorities that are constructive and based on trust and mutual respect. Brambles complies with the tax laws in each country, but should any inaccuracies arise, these will be voluntarily disclosed to taxation authorities.

We work collaboratively wherever possible with fiscal authorities to resolve disputes and to achieve early agreement and certainty.

If material disputes arise and we cannot obtain agreement with tax authorities, and believe the company's position is correct, we are prepared to litigate the matter.

We engage with governments, and its various bodies, on the development of tax laws, and their administrations, either directly or through trade and other similar associations as appropriate.

Our approach is evidenced by, for example, low risk ratings from the Australian Taxation Office and Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs.

## 5. Roles & Responsibilities

The following table provides an overview of the roles and responsibilities for tax risk management within the Brambles group:

<b>Role</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
<b>Brambles Board</b>	Brambles Ltd.'s board is responsible for setting the Group's risk appetite and its risk management framework and systems of internal control including approval of the Tax Policy.
<b>Audit Committee</b>	The Audit Committee assists the Board in fulfilling its corporate governance and oversight responsibilities including the effectiveness of the management of the Group's material risks, including tax risks.
<b>Chief Financial Officer (CFO)</b>	The CFO is responsible for managing Brambles's financial risks, including tax risks, and the reporting of these risks to the Audit Committee and Brambles Board.
<b>Group Vice President, Taxation (Group VP Tax)</b>	The Group VP Tax is responsible for the design of the Tax Policy and the tax risk management framework and ensuring that appropriate processes and controls are maintained and providing specialist support.
<b>Regional Vice Presidents, Taxation (Regional VP's Tax)</b>	The Regional VP's Tax and their teams are responsible for ensuring compliance with the Tax Policy at a regional level, maintaining the tax risk management framework and providing specialist support to the regional business units.
<b>Regional Financial Controllers</b>	Regional Financial Controllers are responsible for compliance with local legislation and Tax Policy at an entity level from processing of transactions through to reporting and the filing of tax notices and returns with support from external advisers and Regional VP Tax, as appropriate.

## 6. UK Legislative Requirements

This document is published in accordance with Paragraph 16(2) of Schedule 19 of the Finance Act 2016 for the financial year ended 30 June 2019.

## 7. Board Approval

This Policy was approved by the Board of Directors on 27 June 2019.