



Best Practices for Securing Your Supply Chain



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A secure supply chain gets your goods where they are intended to go on-time and at the expected cost.

Have you taken commercially reasonable steps to secure your supply chain?

The following is a list of best practices to help secure your supply chain.



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1. Vet and know your business partners, especially suppliers.



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2. Identify all the trademarks and copyrights which appear on your product, including any inserts and packaging.



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3. Identify all the patents used to make your product.



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4. Who owns which Trademark? Copyright? Patent?



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- 5. If the seller does not own the IP, validate with the IP owner the usage is legitimate.**
 - Is that validation information available online?



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6. Walk away from potential suppliers who will not cooperate.



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7. If you own the IP, what internal controls do your suppliers and resellers have in place to make sure only legitimate use is made of your IP?



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8. If you are buying and selling goods which bear IP owned by others, you risk trading in counterfeit goods without an adequate due diligence program. What procedures do you have in place to verify the seller is offering goods which are not counterfeit?



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9. Do your contracts include provisions (with penalties) to enhance compliance and allow recovery of damages when misdeeds occur?





Thank You!



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