



Meet the CCO – Sophie Wettlaufer, Code Compliance Officer Lidl UK GmbH

Question: Tell us something about yourself and your path to becoming a Code Compliance Officer.

I joined the company in 2014 and worked in the company's Sales Organisation department for three years before joining the Legal & Compliance team. Having studied law, I am glad to be able to apply both my legal knowledge and commercial understanding of the company to help ensure our business practices are Code-compliant and we are a fair player in the competitive retail industry.

Question: What are the most challenging aspects of your CCO role?

The rapid company growth means the business is continuously optimising efficiency and costs in order to deliver competitive prices for our customers. The most challenging aspect of the role is this fast changing nature of the business, whereby established processes are reviewed for improvement and may need assessment from a GSCOP perspective. By meeting the relevant stakeholders, I am continuously raising awareness of my function as Code Compliance Officer and encouraging communication and consultation regarding the Code.

Question: If you could change one thing about the groceries market, what would it be?

We are currently the fastest growing supermarket in the UK, so I wouldn't change much at the moment. However, retail never stops and we are operating in a constantly evolving market place. As a discounter with a lean and dynamic business model, we are naturally able to adapt to changing sector conditions such as Brexit. It continues to be an exciting time in the UK retail industry!

Question: What achievement as CCO are you most proud of?

As part of my role in the Legal & Compliance department, I review buying contract clauses and advise our International HQ on GSCOP and other UK laws. This allows me to raise concerns directly. I am proud that the business takes a clear stance on GSCOP compliance, which has made my role as CCO these past few months straight forward. I am looking forward to strengthening and raising the profile of the company's culture of compliance.

Question: What 3 things do you want to achieve in the next 12 months?

1. Develop the GSCOP training to improve engagement around the topic
2. Increase awareness of the CCO role to support buyers and suppliers with GSCOP queries
3. Maintain the collaborative approach with the GCA

Question: Is there anything else you would like to share with readers of News from the Adjudicator?

At Lidl we are committed to fostering strong and collaborative supplier relationships. We are proud to have dealt with many of our suppliers for over a decade and grown our businesses together. For this reason, we were one of the first retailers to sign up to the NFU Fruit & Veg pledge, in which we made further commitments to our Fruit & Veg suppliers. I would like to encourage suppliers to contact me via compliance@lidl.co.uk if there is ever a concern that we fell short of our high standards in order to give me the opportunity to resolve the matter.