

File 20111116.1501: In the annual corporate ethics booklet, some items were noticeable. On page 5, a footnote that implies that waivers to the Code exist. On page 11, ‘maintain accurate business records’ when the corporation sets the email system to delete messages automatically after a very short time; they don’t say it’s to avoid subpoenas, but I think that’s why they do it. It sure creates a dual problem of wilfull corporate amnesia combined with near universal noncompliance with policy and procedures by people just trying to do their jobs. I looked for an update of the policy on bribes in light of recent changes to the UK Bribery Act, and there it was; for a long time the policy was ‘we never pay bribes’, then for a short time recently it said, ‘well, it’s OK sometimes’ and now it’s back to ‘we never pay bribes’. But there is something new in there this time about ‘personal safety payments’. I love the perennial antiboycott phrasing; it never ever mentions the country of Israel by name. The rest of it is reasonable. On the back cover of the PDF file there are a few placeholders for recycled paper, ‘rainforest logo’ and ‘soy ink’ logo that probably don’t actually appear in the printed copies. I shouldn’t be snarky; I only think it’s funny to see the scaffolding that isn’t normally visible. The inside content I have some serious questions about, though.

References