

*Do Apple need to ensure that their
materials are ethically sourced?
(Against)*

Overview

- *What is the current state of Apple's mining labour conditions?*

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- *What is the degree of Apple's **accountability** and **responsibility** for these conditions?*

Scenario

- In 2012, Apple was discovered to have used tin mined illegally, by children, in Indonesia (*Reboh, Bangka Island*)¹



1: Hodal, K. (2012) *Death metal: tin mining in Indonesia*. Available at
<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2012/nov/23/tin-mining-indonesia-bangka>

2: BBC. (2014) *Apple 'deeply offended' by BBC investigation*. Available at
<http://www.bbc.com/news/technology-30548468>

Scenario

- In 2012, Apple was discovered to have used tin mined illegally, by children, in Indonesia (*Reboh, Bangka Island*)¹
- Apple is transparent about these conditions²



1: Hodal, K. (2012) *Death metal: tin mining in Indonesia*. Available at
<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2012/nov/23/tin-mining-indonesia-bangka>

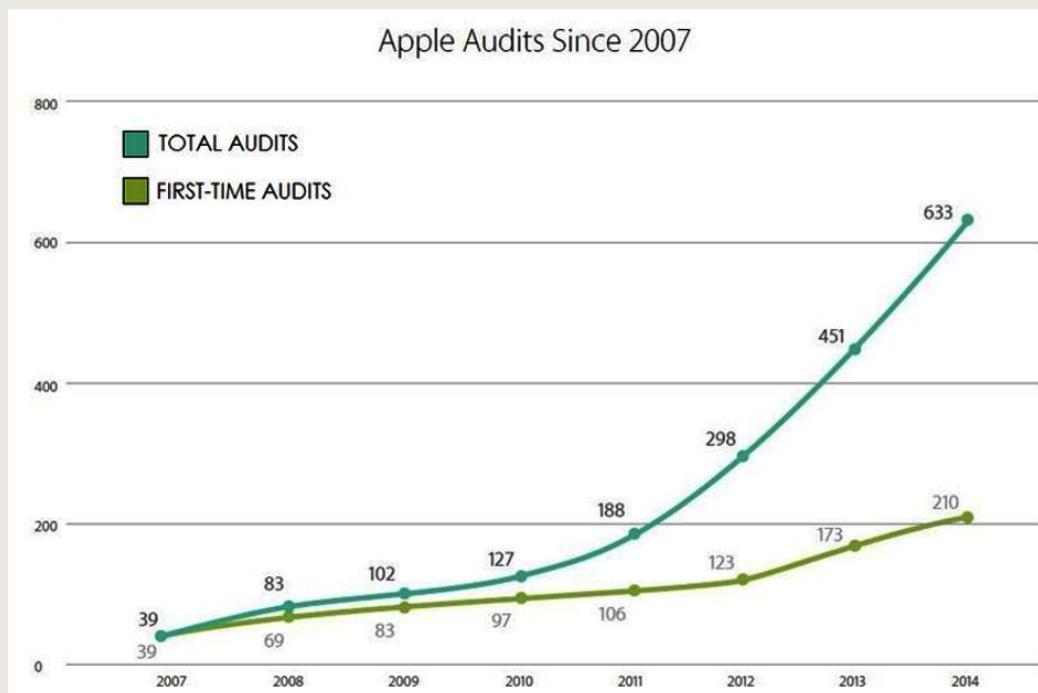
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- Apple's 2015 *Supplier Responsibility Report* compares favourably to previous years¹; vast majority of suppliers are now engaged in the *audit process*²



Left: A graph, over time, of suppliers compliant with Apple's *Conflict Free Smelter Program*.

Source: http://images.apple.com/supplier-responsibility/pdf/Apple_Progress_Report_2015.pdf

1: Apple, Inc. (2014) *Quarterly Smelter List: February*. Available at http://images.apple.com/supplier-responsibility/pdf/Apple_smelter_list.pdf

2: Apple, Inc. (2015) *Quarterly Smelter List: February*. Available at http://images.apple.com/supplier-responsibility/pdf/Apple_smelter_list_2015.pdf

Key Consideration: *Suppliers*

- It is the **suppliers** that are, unarguably, *directly accountable* for working conditions



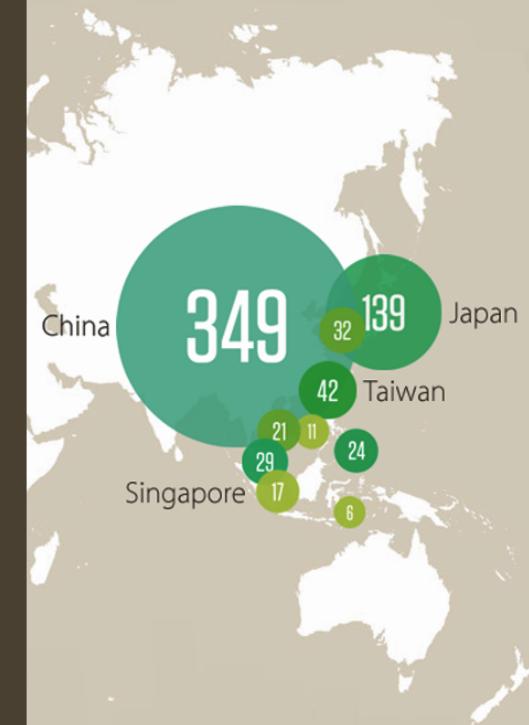
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- The enforcing of internal policy is more appropriately applicable to suppliers
- Apple employs suppliers under the *inherent provision* that workers will be treated fairly



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- An *archetypal government* ensures the wellbeing of its people, by way of executive authority
- Ensuring the absence of ethical injustices **should** therefore be extrapolatable to government
- Apple's independence from governments in impoverished countries renders them unaccountable

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- Miners are working of their *own volition*; they are free to dissociate themselves from the supplier
- Dissociation may generate **less desirable** consequences for workers:

"Child workers in Bangladesh were found to be producing clothing for Wal-Mart [and the] direct result was that Bangladeshi textile factories **stopped employing children**. But did the children go back to school? [...] Not according to Oxfam, which found that the displaced child workers **ended up in even worse jobs**, or on the streets."

-- Paul Krugman, '*Reckonings; Hearts And Heads*'



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-- M. A. Pagnattaro, '*Is Labor Really 'Cheap' in China?*', p. 15

- Less 'liberal' attitude towards undertaking industrial labour work

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Accepting these premises, one can ascertain that Apple is *not obligated* to ensure the ethical sourcing of their materials



Any questions?