INFORMATION GATHERING ON THIRD PARTIES

Purpose

To establish guidelines for gathering information on third parties.

Scope

This Policy applies to all team members of McWane, Inc. and its divisions and subsidiaries ("McWane" or "Company").

Policy Statement

The Company will not tolerate any form of questionable or illegal intelligence-gathering, such as industrial espionage, burglary, wiretapping or stealing. The Company also prohibits you from hiring a competitor's employees to get confidential information. Improper solicitation of confidential data from a competitor's employees is unlawful and could subject McWane to claims for damages.

Types of Information Acquired: In the normal course of business, it is not unusual to acquire information about many other organizations, including competitors. Doing so is a normal business activity and is not, in itself, unethical. In fact, McWane quite properly gathers this kind of information for such purposes as extending credit and evaluating suppliers. McWane also collects information on competitors from a variety of legitimate sources to evaluate the relative merits of its own products, services and marketing methods. This activity is proper and necessary in a competitive system. All information collected and disseminated should clearly identify the source from which it was gathered.

Information about competitors can be generated, however, in unlawful ways. The antitrust laws absolutely prohibit the discussion or exchange of information regarding pricing, marketing and any other competitively sensitive information — directly or indirectly —with a competitor. Therefore, under no circumstances can a McWane employee discuss with a competitor subjects such as current or future pricing, costs of manufacture, profits, terms or conditions of sales, market share, promotion and advertising policies and distribution methods used or planned by McWane. Please refer to the Company's *Antitrust Policy* for further information on this subject.

In addition, there are limits to the ways that information should be acquired and used, especially information about competitors.

Trade Shows: When you attend a business or trade show, you may obtain publicly available, non-confidential information about other firms and their offerings.

McWane reserves the right to modify, amend, supplement or replace this Policy at any time with or without prior notice.