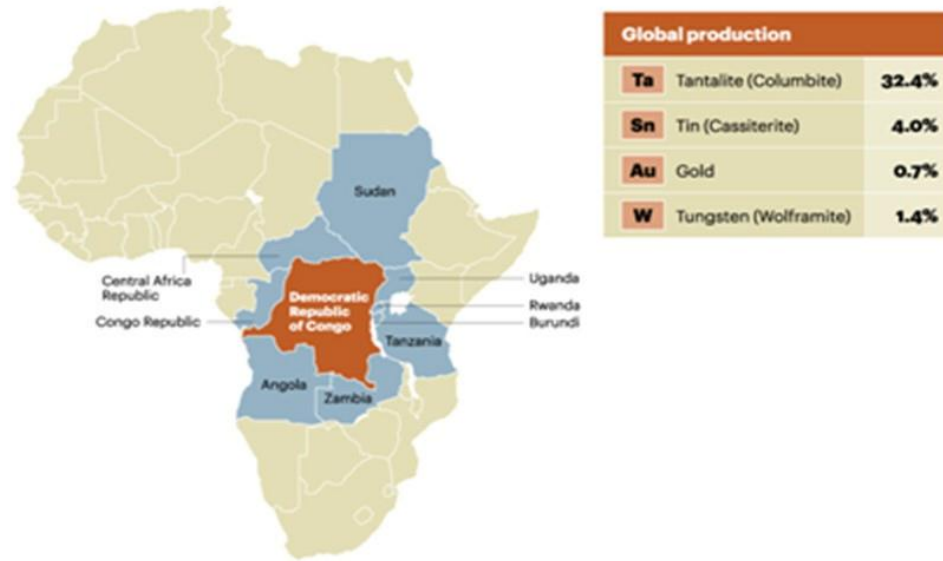


Dodd-Frank Act - Conflict Minerals What is it?



For over a decade, the trade in conflict minerals has fueled human rights abuses and promoted insecurity in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). The Dodd Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, passed by the US Congress in July 2010, includes a provision – section 1502 – aimed at stopping the national army and rebel groups in the DRC from illegally using profits from the minerals trade to fund their fight. Section 1502 is a disclosure requirement that calls on companies to determine whether their products contain conflict minerals. Apex Tool Group, LLC is asking for its suppliers to identify the source of their raw materials and to confirm that these raw materials ARE NOT coming from the identified conflict countries or regions of the world.

Section 1502 of The Act requires that companies take steps to determine if the minerals in their products originate from DRC or adjoining countries. To know with any degree of certainty the origin of the minerals they use, companies must first find out who their processors or smelters are and where the raw materials are originating from.