



International
Competition
Network

ANTI-CARTEL ENFORCEMENT MANUAL

CARTEL WORKING GROUP
Subgroup 2: Enforcement Techniques

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Introduction to ICN Anti-Cartel Enforcement Manual

Secret agreements among competitors, often referred to as hard-core cartels, directed at price-fixing, customer allocation, and production output restrictions are the most egregious violations of competition law. In 2004, in clear recognition of the priority that competition agencies around the world have placed on enforcement against hard-core cartels, the ICN established the Cartel Working Group. The aim of the Enforcement Techniques Sub-group (SG2) is to enhance the effectiveness of anti-cartel enforcement through information exchange and fostering of inter-agency collaboration to help competition agencies improve their capacity to combat international cartels. SG2 provides a forum where ICN Members can share their experiences about specific investigative tools, techniques, procedures and practices.

This Manual is a compilation of the investigative approaches used by ICN Members possessing differing levels of experience. Each chapter explores measures employed at various stages of anti-cartel enforcement and identifies approaches that have proven effective and successful.

Competition enforcement systems differ across jurisdictions. In this regard, the Manual does not represent a comprehensive guide for the enforcement of laws concerning hard-core cartels. Rather, it is intended to be a reference tool for agencies to enable them to evaluate their own approaches and to benchmark their experiences against those of their counterparts around the world.

The Manual is a “living” document that may evolve as new technologies and approaches are developed and implemented.