

GEAPS Exchange Trade Show “Suitcasing”

Volunteers and GEAPS Staff are making preparations for the upcoming GEAPS Exchange and doing our best to help your company have a successful show. With support from the Exchange Futures Committee, the International Board of Directors has mandated increased measures to protect exhibitors from "suitcasing" at the Exchange. This is the Exchange "Suitcasing" Policy, which will be posted using signage around the exhibit hall and included where GEAPS Exchange policies are documented.

“Suitcasing” is not permitted...

If an attendee who is not officially representing any company showcasing in the Exchange exposition [a company registered as a trade-show exhibitor] is observed to be soliciting business from an attendee who is not registered as a trade-show exhibitor or a registered trade-show exhibitor, in the exposition hall or any other public space or facility under GEAPS' Exchange show management, or in violation of any provision of this policy, that person will be asked to leave facility or space immediately. Penalties may also be applied. Observed violations should be reported to GEAPS' Exposition Services Manager.

GEAPS recognizes that “suitcasing” may also take the form of commercial activity conducted from a hotel guest room; a restaurant, club, or other public place of assembly over which GEAPS has no management control. This policy applies to only GEAPS' events at venues including sites, facilities or portions of facilities under GEAPS show management to include any event, facility or space reserved by or for GEAPS.

What Show Management Will Do...

The GEAPS Exchange Expo On-Site Committee will be in place each day of the conference and trade show. The committee will respond to all complaints regarding “suitcasing.” Committee members will be trained on what to look for and the appropriate factors to determine if there is an issue.

The Expo On-Site Committee will have the following responsibilities:

- Review complaints concerning “suitcasing.”
- Review each complaint off the Show floor and take appropriate action, including removal from the Show floor.
- Levy penalties for violations, up to and including, suspension from participation in future Shows.

Resolution Procedures...

The Expo On-Site Committee will investigate the complaint and determine what action may be taken, including meeting with the company that is accused of “suitcasing”. This will include:

- Remove anyone found violating the “suitcasing” policy; or
- If deemed advisable, the Expo On-Site Committee will attempt to bring the accuser and alleged violating party together to attempt to resolve the matter; or
- Take no action if it is determined there is no action necessary.

If the Expo On-Site Committee determines that a complaint is valid but the violator will not leave the event, then that person/company will be referred to event or facility security for removal.