Corporate Gifts & Entertainment: A Survey of Practices
Health Care Compliance Association & Society of Corporate Compliance and Ethics
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Objective:
The objective of this survey is to get a sense of what policies are in place at organizations regarding corporate gifts and entertainment. The researchers also wanted to evaluate whether or not these policies were changing as a result of the economic crisis.

Methodology:
This study was conducted in February and March of 2009. Over 500 responses from compliance and ethics professionals in the database of the Health Care Compliance Association and the Society of Corporate Compliance and Ethics were gathered and evaluated.

Key Findings:
- 63% of businesses either ban gifts to employees or require that they be modest and less than $50
- Gift limits for public companies tend to be higher than for private companies or the sample as a whole
- 62% of businesses ban entertainment for their employees or require that they are modest and less than $50
- Employers are more likely to restrict gift-giving than the receipt of gifts
- 63% of companies calculate gift policies on a per-gift basis, instead of cumulatively over time
- Only 27% of companies had updated their policies within the last six months, even given the poor economic conditions

Conclusion:
Organizations seem to be avoiding behaviors related to lavish entertainment or gifts that could appear to be improperly affecting business relationships. However, there is likely a need for organizations to revisit their gift and entertainment policies to reflect new social and governmental expectations as a result of the economic crisis.

Full Report