

Appendix 3 – Email Used to Contact Companies

Translated from Norwegian to English by ChatGPT.

Hello!

My name is E. Samuel C. Braaten, and I am a double degree student at NHH in Bergen and UCL/LSM in Belgium, writing my master's thesis on how digital tools and systems can strengthen risk management in supply chains (supply chain risk management/SCRM). [Company name] is interesting due to [customized message/reason]. My question is whether you have the opportunity to have a conversation in the next 2-3 weeks, preferably as soon as possible.

The questions will revolve around SCRM at your company and what kind of digital systems and tools you use for risk management, how you use them, and why you have chosen these tools/systems, the positive and negative effects of using them, challenges, etc. If desired, I can also send over the questions in advance, but with the understanding that they may change depending on how the thesis develops.

To elaborate on the thesis, it is qualitative, exploratory, inductive, and utilizes semi-structured interviews as a method. The literature on supply chains uses a tripartite division of upstream, own production, and downstream since various risk factors tend to influence each other. The value chain, both upstream and downstream, would be interesting, but any information would help. There is almost no research in the area, so the study is exploratory regarding the drivers behind and effects of using digital tools/systems in SCRM, both positive and negative. The goal is to build a kind of framework that can explain relationships and provide a basis for further research in the area.

An interview with you on these topics would greatly assist me with my master's thesis.

Best regards,

E. Samuel C. Braaten