

# Social Responsibility Verification Under SMETA (SEDEX Members Ethical Trade Audit)

In the past, raw materials, handcrafted products and groceries were primarily sold based on quality or price. But consumer behaviors have changed: Today, critical consumers expect people and the environment to be considered and protected in the course of extraction, production or manufacture in the respective countries. Most brand manufacturers or trading companies explicitly choose suppliers based on social compliance verification. Social responsibility is becoming increasingly important and may decide your company's future success.

SEDEX (Supplier Ethical Data Exchange) is a non-profit membership organization that enables buyers and suppliers to make extensive improvements regarding responsible and ethical business practices in global supply chains. SMETA (Sedex Members' Ethical Trade Audit) was created by SEDEX members as a social audit methodology that

establishes a unified framework for conducting social audits across all sites. The SMETA methodology measures a site against the ETI Base Code, International Labour Organisation (ILO) Conventions and local law.

Our service offers a proven method for social audits and their reporting. This includes an on-site audit at the client's location, an audit and results report and final publication on the SEDEX platform.

#### Verification Target Groups

SMETA certification (verification) is suitable for all type of companies who supply members of SEDEX. The size of the organization, the geographic location or the manufacturing sector do not play a part. SMETA is extremely useful for suppliers who wish to conduct an audit for a wider customer base, as the audits are linked via the SEDEX database so they can be viewed by different customers. This means time and money are not wasted with repeating of audits.



### Verification Benefits

SMETA audits are recognized by all SEDEX members. Verification verifiably documents companies' permanent commitment to reliable and fair working conditions and to continuously improving their management system. This not only improves companies' risk management and image, but also their competitiveness on the global market. Improved social compliance also increases employee satisfaction which usually results in greater productivity.

### Verification Requirements

The supplier, who would be like to be audited acc. SMETA, is needed to complete its membership process at SEDEX portal.

There are two audit structure as defined for a SMETA audit as called 2 pillar or 4 pillar. The choice of audit structure is at the discretion of the Sedex member.

Included in a 2-pillar audit are as follows:

- Labour Standards Base Code Areas
- Health & Safety Base Code Area
- Environment Code Area

4-pillar audits additionally include:

- Environmental audits (expanded)
- Business ethics

After contractual agreement is concluded between TÜV NORD and the supplier, the supplier will be requested to complete Self-Assessment Questionnaire SAQ prior to audit. SAQ will be used as part of their preparatory documentation for the audit.

## Your route to SMETA verification in 8 steps



### Our know-how for your success

TÜV NORD CERT is an internationally recognized and reliable partner for testing and certification services. Our experts and auditors have in-depth knowledge and generally have a permanent position at TÜV NORD. This ensures independence and neutrality as well as continuity in serving our customers. The benefit to you is clear: our auditors accompany and support the development of your company and provide you with objective feedback.



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**Further information and contact form:**

