

To build strong and ethical supplier relationships while promoting sustainability, it's vital for businesses to gain a deep understanding of their suppliers' operations.

Enter SMETA, Sedex's social auditing standard. With SMETA, businesses can assess key aspects of their suppliers' working conditions, including labor practices, health and safety standards, environmental impact, and adherence to ethical business principles.

By leveraging SMETA, businesses empower themselves to conduct comprehensive evaluations of their suppliers. This fosters transparency, accountability, and the promotion of sustainable and socially responsible practices across their entire supply chains. With SMETA, businesses can make informed decisions that align with their values and drive positive change.



SMETA Pillars



Labour Standards

Assesses adherence to human rights and labour standards such as modern slavery risks and forced labour prevention, which cannot be accurately assessed via desk audit.



Health & Safety

Evaluates working conditions and adherence to health & safety policies. Can include review of prior inspection reports, if available.



Environment

Assesses site's management of environmental-related areas, such as waste management and resource efficiency. Reviews environmental policy and processes on-site (e.g. disposal of waste).



Business Ethics

Reviews management controls and policy implementation on the ground, assessing for evidence of corruption and bribery and reviewing policies to manage these risks.

2 Pillar | Illustrative time to conduct | 2 days

4 Pillar | Illustrative time to conduct | 3 days

SMETA Benefits

1. Gain insights into working conditions at supplier sites, allowing businesses to assess and address any potential concerns.
2. SMETA is globally recognized as the most widely used audit, providing businesses with a standardized approach to evaluating social compliance.
3. By aligning with SMETA, businesses can demonstrate their commitment to meeting social compliance standards and promoting responsible practices.
4. SMETA offers a comprehensive Corrective Action Plan, empowering suppliers to rectify any identified issues and improve their performance.
5. With SMETA, one audit can be shared among multiple buyers on the Sedex platform, streamlining the assessment process and reducing duplication of efforts.
6. Evaluate and monitor supplier performance, ensuring adherence to worker health and safety standards, and fostering continuous improvement in supplier practices.



If you are a current Sedex members: contact your relationship manager or email us at: helpdesk@sedex.com

If you want to learn more about SMETA and how we can help you achieve your sustainable goals [click here](#)

How the Audit Works



A SMETA audit, conducted by an independent third-party auditor, thoroughly examines a company's site, processes, documentation, and systems, ensuring compliance with the Ethical Trading Initiative (ETI) Base Code and local laws.



Businesses have the option to choose an authorized audit company, known as Affiliate Audit (AAC), approved by Sedex to conduct SMETA audits.



The purpose of the audit is to safeguard workers against unsafe conditions, excessive workload, discrimination, low wages, and forced labor.



SMETA is a comprehensive on-site audit framework built on four pillars: labor standards, health and safety, environment, and business ethics. Suppliers can choose between a 2-pillar or 4-pillar audit based on their risk assessment needs.



The audit covers various aspects, including wages, right to work, working hours, health and safety, temporary workers, provision of rest time, and fair treatment of staff.



Suppliers can opt for a 2 or 4 pillar audit depending on the breadth of risk assessment required.

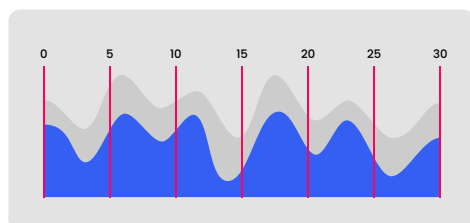
Audit Process

When a supplier receives an audit request from their buyer, the audit process becomes easily manageable through the Sedex platform.

During the audit, the auditor will collaborate with the site to:

1. Conduct an opening meeting
2. Perform a comprehensive site tour
3. Review relevant business documents
4. Conduct interviews with workers (both groups and individuals)

Conclude with a closing meeting, including a review of the Corrective Action Plan.



SMETA Advantages

The SMETA audit offers suppliers a compelling opportunity to achieve the following benefits:

1. Enhanced reputation: By demonstrating a stronger commitment to responsible and sustainable business practices, suppliers can enhance their reputation in the industry.
2. Competitive advantage: SMETA helps suppliers differentiate themselves in the market, giving them a competitive edge over their counterparts.
3. Access to new customers and markets: Compliance with SMETA allows suppliers to meet the more stringent standards required by multinational organizations, opening doors to new customers and markets.
4. Risk mitigation and resilience: By taking a proactive approach to evaluating environmental, social, and governance (ESG) related risks, SMETA helps suppliers mitigate risks and build resilience in their operations.

SMETA audits are conducted by a rich portfolio of verified and trained affiliate audit companies authorized by Sedex, ensuring consistent and reliable assessments. By engaging Sedex on-site auditors network, businesses can achieve scalability and flexibility without burdening themselves with heavy assets and resources.



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