

# Sedex Members Ethical Trade Audit (SMETA)

## IMPROVE ETHICAL TRADING AND CSR BEST PRACTICES



### WHAT IS SMETA?

A SMETA audit helps you understand and improve working conditions and environmental performance throughout your business and supply chain. SMETA has four pillars:

1. Labor standards (main element included)
2. Health and safety (main element included)
3. Environment (may be added)
4. Business ethics (may be added)

To evaluate these, a set of requirements – the Ethical Trade Initiative (ETI) Base Code – has been formed as a benchmark standard (based on ILO conventions). Sedex (the scheme owner) has enhanced this with additional elements. You will be audited against these alongside local legislation and specified customer requirements, whenever applicable.

### WHY IS SMETA IMPORTANT?

Retailers, brands and customers are increasingly concerned that their goods are manufactured in a way that ensures fair treatment for all employees involved in their production supply chain.

Sedex is home to one of the world's leading collaborative platforms for buyers and suppliers to store, share and report ethical and social audit information quickly and easily.

### WHAT WE OFFER

As a Sedex Affiliate Audit Company (AAC), we are deeply committed to correctly using SMETA, Sedex social audit methodology and auditing with quality and integrity. We also have in-depth knowledge of SMETA through our active involvement in the Sedex Community Forum (previously Sedex Stakeholder Forum) and participation in working groups.

We are a founding and full member of the Association of Professional Social Compliance Auditors (APSCA). We have a global network of more than 800 experienced APSCA auditors, in more than 80 countries, available to support your SMETA needs.

We have experience conducting thousands of audits against third-party, industry and client-specific codes and social compliance programs. Our auditors have extended tenure, resulting in robust industry expertise and consistent service delivery.

### WHO IS IT FOR?

Retailers, brands and suppliers wishing to understand and improve working conditions and environmental performance throughout their businesses and supply chains.

### KEY BENEFITS

The independent audit follows step-by-step support and enables you to:

- Gain a greater understanding of your business and suppliers' social and environmental performance
- Assess and monitor higher-risk suppliers on their performance over time
- Share data with numerous buyers, reducing the need for multiple audits
- Utilize a corrective action plan to help improve supplier performance and resolve issues raised in the audit
- Comply with existing and upcoming legislation

### WHAT IS THE AUDIT PROCESS?

The process has five steps:

1. Join [Sedex](#) (if you are not already a member)
2. Select SGS as your approved Sedex AAC to conduct SMETA audits
3. Our on-site audit evaluates your organization's ethical trade practices
4. Upload the audit report to the Sedex platform
5. Take corrective actions to resolve any identified nonconformities

### ABOUT SGS

We are SGS – the world's leading testing, inspection and certification company. We are recognized as the global benchmark for sustainability, quality and integrity.

For more information on our SMETA services, email: [RBS@sgs.com](mailto:RBS@sgs.com).