



Photograph: TÜV

Questions and answers on our supply chain audit services

Our experts have answered key questions regarding our supply chain audits and common international standards in a FAQ. Would you like to learn more? **Contact us!**

1. WHY DOES A SUPPLY CHAIN AUDIT ACCORDING TO SOCIAL STANDARDS PAY?

A supply chain audit enables you to take responsibility for work safety within your supply chain. It also opens up new marketing possibilities. By adhering to the Code of Conduct you strengthen your stakeholders' trust in your company. You also gain a key competitive advantage in tender procedures by using social standards to prove that issues like social and ethical sustainability are important for you. You create a way of proving your social commitment by taking responsibility for fair production and working conditions. And: With a high social standard like amfori BSCI (Business Social Compliance Initiative) you save time and money. The amfori BSCI audit supersedes costly multiple audits for different clients.

2. WHAT ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT STANDARDS?

The most common social standards are established by initiatives, for example the amfori BSCI (Business Social Compliance Initiative). Other important and globally recognized standards are ICS (Initiative for Compliance and Sustainability or Initiative Clause Social), RBA (Responsible Business Alliance), SA8000 (Social Accountability), WRAP (Worldwide Responsible Accredited Production), PSCI (Pharmaceutical Supply Chain Initiative) and SMETA (Sedex Members Ethical Trade Audit). There are also customer-specific programs for a code of conduct. These include independent and impartial code of conduct audit services which can be aligned with local legislation, international norms or clients' own codes.

In addition to these, ISO standards like QMS (Quality Management System), EMS (Environmental Management System) and ISO 45001 for occupational health and safety can be added.

3. WHICH IS THE RIGHT STANDARD FOR MY COMPANY?

This depends on the company's branch, size and individual priorities. For example, the traditional fields of CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) and HSE (Health Safety Environment) can be supplemented with other focus areas. These might include specific risk areas, such as fire protection in textile factories. Other companies might concentrate on the areas of employment law, the handling of structural materials or data protection. On request, we also offer an individualized list of priorities based on our many years of experience and an individual analysis. We also support companies in formulating their own code of conduct.

4. HOW DO THE AUDITORS OF TÜV RHEINLAND ACQUIRE THEIR EXPERTISE?

Our auditors continuously update their skills, operate worldwide, and share their experiences every year. They are authorized to audit according to all of the current international social standards, and they can also conduct audits focussing on other areas during an appointment with the customer — for example, environmental protection or the handling of chemicals. We can demonstrate that our auditors in the social audit sector, which has existed for 20 years, have ten years of experience on average. That makes them the most experienced auditors in the sector.

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