

Driving trust with SMETA 6.1



Businesses which demonstrate ethical trading and sustainable supply chains build trust with stakeholders and customers.

Food and hospitality companies are experiencing unprecedented change in their sectors, largely driven by consumers. As supply chains become more complex and consumers increasingly savvy, there is a rising need for organisations to transparently demonstrate good governance and a structured approach to ethical trading and sustainability.

What is SMETA 6.1?

The Sedex Members Ethical Trade Audit (SMETA) is a globally recognised and pioneering standard with an audit methodology that provides best practice ethical audit techniques. Developed by Sedex – one of the world's leading ethical trade service providers – audits encompass all four pillars of Sedex's responsible business practice, namely labor, health and safety, environment and business ethics. Two pillar audits are also available against labor and health and safety.

Revised in May 2019, SMETA 6.1 is now GDPR compliant and includes more emphasis on the definition of migrant workers with an option to

record worker nationalities as well as a site's GPS location. Auditors are now able to track nationalities of workers from UN sanctioned countries under 'entitlement to work' and in addition, the Worker Wellbeing Assessment has been strengthened.

LRQA is a Nestlé approved supplier able to deliver SMETA audits to any organisation worldwide through a global network of highly skilled and calibrated auditors.

Benefits of SMETA

Brand reputation and competitive advantage

Choosing SMETA can help you transparently demonstrate your ethical credentials to deliver consumer trust, improve your company's reputation and give you a competitive advantage.

Market access, new business opportunities and compliance

Once audits are complete with technical approval given, we provide a detailed report that can be uploaded into the Sedex database.

One of the largest global platforms for sharing responsible sourcing data on supply chains, it is often used by specifiers to ensure suppliers are compliant, meaning your inclusion can deliver new business opportunities.

Save time, money and reduce any disruption by sharing one audit with multiple customers

Sedex compiled the best practices used in ethical auditing, including the ETI (Ethical Trading Initiative) code along with local laws and regulations to help produce the SMETA methodology. As a result, SMETA is designed for suppliers to share one audit with multiple customers thereby reducing duplication in auditing and allowing you to save time, reduce disruption and save money.

Easily accessible and flexible to suit your own business needs

While you can choose the two or four pillar audit you don't have to be a Sedex member to use the methodology. [Guidance documents](#) are openly available to any companies that want to consult them.

How we can help

We are a leading global provider of compliance and risk services supporting over 77,000 customers across a broad range of industries worldwide.

Our audit services are suitable for organisations of all sizes and locations and can help you make the most of SMETA. Our assessors and trainers are industry experts who work with you to understand your ethical and sustainability objectives and how these could help your business operate at its optimum level.

They apply their deep technical expertise to create long-lasting value through collaboration, delivering a greater impact on your business, your people and your customers.

Our audit services

Traditional SMETA audits are structured into three distinct phases:

Guidance: We let you know what to expect from the audit process so you are well prepared.

Site visit: We meet with your senior management and interview key stakeholders – to include your workers, tour your facilities and undertake a thorough document review. We then send you a detailed report with our findings and any corrective actions that you need to undertake.

Report publication: Once any corrective actions have been completed, we send you the final report for your review followed by publication to the Sedex Advance database.

Customised assurance

We also deliver customised audits thereby enabling you to layer your own additional client-specific criteria against the robustness of the SMETA program.

About LRQA

Bringing together unrivalled expertise in certification, brand assurance and training, LRQA is one of the world's leading providers of food safety and assurance solutions. Working together with farms, fisheries, food manufacturers, restaurants, hotels and global retailers, we help manage food safety and sustainability risks throughout supply chains and have become a leading global assurance provider.

We're proud of our heritage, but it's who we are today that really matters, because that's what shapes how we partner with our clients tomorrow. By combining strong values, decades of experience in risk management and mitigation and a keen focus on the future, we're here to support our clients as they build safer, more secure, more sustainable businesses.

From independent auditing, certification and training; to technical advisory services; to real-time assurance technology; to data-driven supply chain transformation, our innovative end-to-end solutions help our clients negotiate a rapidly changing risk landscape – making sure they're shaping their own future, rather than letting it shape them.

Get in touch

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