

## SEDEX – SMETA

Sedex Member Ethical  
Trade Audit



### TARGET ORGANISATIONS

- Companies wishing to audit ethical criteria in their supply chain using the SEDEX-SMETA methodology
- Companies seeking accreditation from socially responsible customers

### THE CONTEXT

One of the most important global challenges is sustainability: organisations are increasingly required to demonstrate proactive management of the performance and the impact of their ethical and responsible business operations. Their supply chain is also involved in all of this. Stakeholder demands are increasing and ethical performance expectations are becoming more widespread.

Organisations need to understand and monitor global supply chains and work effectively with these trading partners to drive continuous improvement.

### THE SERVICE

SEDEX (Supplier Ethical Data Exchange) is a not-for-profit organisation based in London that works to increase the **spread of ethical principles along global supply chains** and is the largest **platform** in Europe that collects and processes data on the ethical behaviour of supply chains. It is a web-based system designed to help organisations manage data on labour practices in their supply chain. The SEDEX global collaboration platform provides an effective solution for ethical data sharing between trading partners, supporting effective supply chain management and improved supply chain processes.

Sedex SMETA (Sedex Member Ethical Trade Audit) is a common audit and reporting methodology developed by Sedex members to meet the diverse needs of customers.

In addition to the principles contained in the ETI (Ethical Trade Initiative) Basic Code, integrating them with applicable national and local laws, **the SMETA service also audits performance in relation to the right to work of migrant workers, management systems, implementation, subcontracting, working from home and environmental issues.**

Data and information can then be stored, shared and reported quickly and easily between buyers, suppliers and validators/verifiers via the Sedex collaborative platform.

The **SMETA audit** can be conducted on the basis of:

✓ **2 pillars:** working conditions, health and safety

Additional Elements: Right to Work - Management Systems - Subcontracting and Homeworking - Environmental Assessment (shortened version)

✓ **4 pillars:** in addition Environmental Assessment (extended), Business Ethics.

## BENEFITS FOR RETAILERS AND THEIR SUPPLIERS

- Greater collaboration;
- Better relationships with suppliers and better management of the supply chain;
- Better social **performance** along the entire supply chain
- Protection and enhancement of reputation;
- Better competitive position;
- Demonstration of commitment to improving ethical performance;
- Obtaining greater trust from suppliers through the implementation of ethical working practices.
- Members benefit from being able to publish their SMETA audit reports directly on the SEDEX system, making them visible to all customers.

## BENEFITS FOR WORKERS

- Improved corporate climate;
- Safe and fair working environment;
- Improved working conditions;
- Continuous improvement of ethical practices;
- Culture oriented towards health and safety at work and environmental protection.

## AUDIT PROCESS

Certiquality is an IQNet Ltd representative and auditing takes place through the CISQ/IQNet Ltd network.

Prior to the audit, the organisation requests access to the SAQ (Self Assessment Questionnaire) for the audited sites on the SEDEX platform.

A SMETA Audit is based on:

- 9 elements of the ETI (Ethical Trading Initiative) Code, which constitute the assessment criteria incorporated into local law.
- Specific requirements for Management Systems, Right to Work, Subcontracting and Homework, 2-Pillars / 4-Pillars.

The audit report is reviewed by IQNET, who then uploads it to the SEDEX platform

## ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

<http://www.sedexglobal.com/>

