



Understanding business practices at a site is crucial for businesses to understand their suppliers, and ensure they are operating sustainably and complying with socially responsible principles.

SMETA is Sedex's social auditing standard that businesses can use to assess a supplier's working conditions, across the areas of labour, health and safety, environment and business ethics.

SMETA four pillars:

Labour standards

Business ethics

Health & Safety

Environment

Benefits of SMETA

- 1 Understand working conditions on a site
- 2 Most widely used audit in the world
- 3 Supports to meet social compliance
- 4 Provides a Corrective Action Plan for the supplier to resolve any issues
- 5 One audit can be shared with multiple buyers on the Sedex platform
- 6 Assess and monitor supplier performance, worker health and safety.

How the audit works

An independent third-party auditor will conduct a SMETA audit to inspect a company's site, its processes, documentation and systems, against the **Ethical Trading Initiative (ETI) Base Code** and local laws.

Businesses can select an audit company that Sedex has authorised to conduct SMETA, known as **Affiliate Audit Companies (AAC)**.

An audit is designed to help protect workers from unsafe working conditions, overwork, discrimination, low pay and forced working conditions, and is founded on the conventions of the **International Labour Organization (ILO)**.

The audit will review business areas that look at:

Wages

Right to work

Working hours

Health and safety

Temporary workers

Provision of rest time

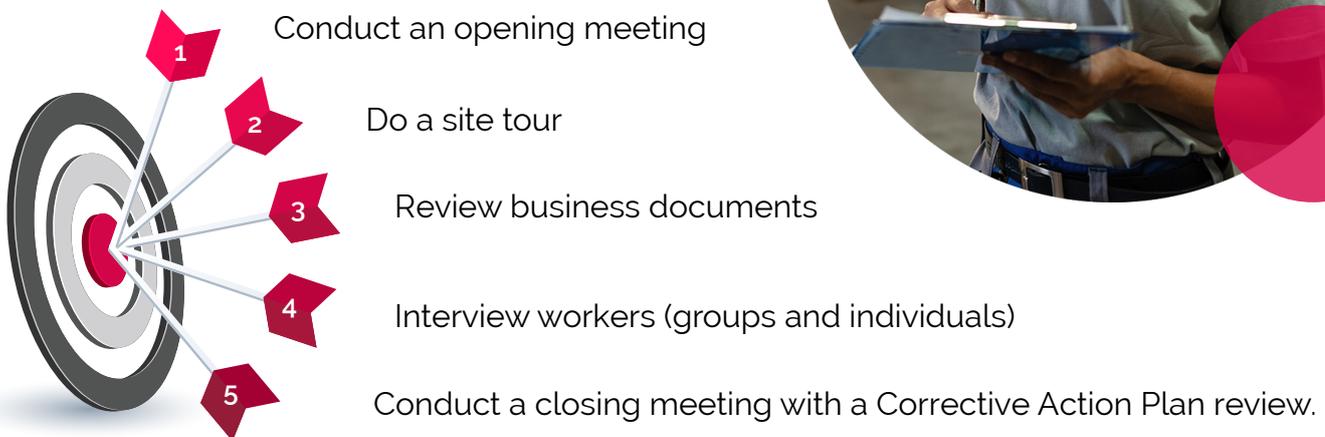
Fair treatment of staff.



Audit process

Once a supplier receives an audit request from their buyer, the audit process is simple to manage via the Sedex platform.

During an audit, the auditor will work with the site to:



Audit benefits

Audits are your essential solution for social compliance and meeting sustainable standards to:

- 1 Build supply chain transparency
- 2 Ensure decent working conditions and human rights in your supply chain
- 3 Comply with statutory requirements (e.g. Modern Slavery Act 2015)
- 4 Prevent unauthorised subcontracting
- 5 Receive an accurate picture of ethical compliance in your supply chain
- 6 Foster collaborative relationships with your suppliers and trading partners
- 7 Improve brand image and increase customer loyalty.