



## Important Update: Price Increase for SMETA Audits and Enhancements from Sedex

Dear member,

We hope this email finds you well. We are writing to inform you about an upcoming change regarding the fees for SMETA audits. Effective from 1 July 2024, the fees for SMETA audits will be increasing from £80 to £150 per audit, charged directly to Affiliate Audit Companies.

This fee increase reflects the substantial investments we have made, and continue to make, in SMETA and the Sedex Platform. Sedex has been hard at work improving the SMETA methodology, elevating the audit experience to undergo the most substantial update in its history. Ultimately, this is about delivering more value to you, our members.

## Here are the key changes you can expect within SMETA 7:

- **Introduction of the 'Workplace Requirements':** We are introducing a clear step-by-step standard clarifying the ETI Base Code for the audit. The Workplace Requirements provide clarity to suppliers on exactly what they need to do to be compliant with a SMETA audit and gives assurance to buyer members that their supply chain is being consistently assessed.
- **Elevating standards with 'Management Systems Assessments':** These assessments will evaluate each Base Code area against global and industry-relevant criteria. This enhancement is tailored to suit businesses of all complexities, offering clear paths for improvement.
- **Improvements to the Digital Audit Tool:** Our new platform, launched in 2023, has revolutionised the way SMETA audits are conducted, with great results. The digital tool has significantly decreased the average time taken for auditors to complete and submit audits by 10 days, whilst also reducing the time to publish audits by an average of 2 months, thanks to the recent auto-publish feature. Furthermore, the platform has achieved a remarkable feat: 100% of SMETA audits are now completed in full, marking a staggering 38% increase in audit completion rate. Building on these successes, we continue to invest significantly in our digital audit tool. Our forthcoming integration of SMETA 7 will further streamline the audit process, while ensuring the quality and accuracy of audit data.
- **Improved data points:** SMETA 7.0 will collect additional data points, identified to help businesses prioritise activities, track progression, and report on impact.

In addition to these enhancements, we have also invested in several initiatives to further improve the quality and effectiveness of SMETA audits:

- **Audit Quality Programme (AQP):** Since January 2021, Sedex has been actively monitoring the performance of approved Audit Partners through our Audit Quality Programme. This programme ensures that the SMETA standards are consistently followed, maintaining the integrity and reliability of the audit process. AQP analysis, updates and progress is shared with members twice a year through a PDF report.
- **SMETA Auditor Academy:** We are excited to introduce the SMETA Auditor Academy, a comprehensive e-Learning course which will be made available to all Buyer members later this year. This course is designed to equip your teams with the knowledge and skills needed to conduct SMETA audits in line with the upcoming update to the SMETA methodology. It will empower your organisation to take a more active role in the audit process.
- **Supplier Workbook:** To support suppliers in understanding what robust management systems look like for each of the SMETA pillars, we have developed a Supplier Workbook. This resource will guide suppliers in building on a compliance approach to develop robust systems that can be showcased through the new Management Systems Assessment. It will serve as a foundation for improvement and sustainable compliance.

We remain committed to supporting your sustainability goals and helping you to ensure the highest standards of environmental and ethical practices throughout your supply chain. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the price increase or the new SMETA updates, please do not hesitate to reach out to our dedicated support team.

Thank you for your continued partnership with Sedex. We look forward to embarking on this exciting journey together as we drive positive change in supply chain sustainability.

Best Regards,  
Sedex Executive Team