

## SIZA AND WIETA COMBINED AUDITS

*The following operational rules are only applicable to producers who do*

### *SIZA/WIETA Combined Audits*

In a collaborative effort initiated in 2017, the SIZA Social and WIETA standards, recognising their shared objectives, have synergised their approaches to offer South African producers a streamlined and efficient means to fulfil market demands necessitating certification against both standards. This strategic alignment entails a consolidated audit process, enabling dual members of SIZA and WIETA to undergo a singular social audit while retaining the flexibility to obtain separate audit reports and certificates, facilitating accreditation by both programmes.

#### How does the combined agreement work?

- Agricultural businesses seeking a combined SIZA/WIETA audit will commence the registration process for membership online via both the MySIZA platform and the WIETA platform.
- Upon registration, members must remit their membership fees to the corresponding programme to activate their membership, subject to annual renewal.
- Subsequently, members must complete the Self-Assessment Questionnaire (SAQ) on both the MySIZA Platform and the WIETA SAQ. However, they have the option to only complete the SAQ information on the SIZA Platform and request that SIZA transfer the information to the WIETA SAQ.
- Once the SAQ is completed and approved, a combined audit request must be made on both the SIZA and the WIETA platforms. This is done by selecting an accredited audit firm endorsed by SIZA and WIETA from the respective platforms, such as NSF, Partner Africa, BSI, or Control Union.
- The chosen audit firm will then appoint an approved auditor for the combined SIZA/WIETA audit. The audit date and designated auditor will be recorded on both platforms before the audit can take place.
- The combined audit is conducted as one audit (the same day or days), after which the auditor generates two distinct Audit- and Corrective Action Plan (CAP) reports.
- Members are responsible for addressing the corrective actions identified during the audit on the SIZA and WIETA platforms. This duplication is unavoidable at this point as the two platforms and programmes are not integrated. WIETA has a direct link to SAWIS to ensure compatibility with registered SAWIS sites for product traceability purposes, and SIZA has direct links to Sedex and GLOBALG.A.P. for visibility and traceability purposes.
- Upon completion of corrective actions, the auditor reviews the documents submitted on both platforms. If deemed satisfactory, the auditor approves the corrections, thereby concluding the audit process. Subsequently, each platform issues a separate certificate according to its respective Audit Process and Methodology Policy.
- Note that a member cannot “add” a combined audit after only doing a SIZA or WIETA standalone audit. If a combined audit is booked or needed, it must occur before the audit date.

#### Audit Validity Period:

The SIZA and WIETA Audit Process and Methodology allow for a one-, two- or three-year audit validity period based on the risk outcome following an audit. The two companies will issue two separate certificates *with company-specific validity periods and risk ratings*.

### What's new from June 1<sup>st</sup> 2024?

To streamline processes even further and reduce some of the duplication, SIZA and WIETA investigated the compatibility of the respective Self-Assessment Questionnaires (SAQs) on both platforms. There are currently differences in SAQs, largely dictated by standards and market requirements. The team agreed to provide an option from **June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024**, where SIZA can transfer the required SAQ data onto the WIETA platform on behalf of the producer, thus saving the member additional time and avoiding duplication. This would mean that producers would only be required to complete the Self-Assessment Questionnaire (SAQ) on the SIZA platform and respond to additional WIETA questions as indicated on the SIZA SAQ on the MySIZA platform. The SIZA staff would then upload the necessary data onto the SAQ tab on the WIETA platform. This could be done at the producer's request and would require that the producer provide WIETA with permission to allow the SIZA team access to the WIETA member's online profile as an authorised user.

### Why are two separate audit reports and certificates necessary?

This distinction arises from SIZA and WIETA's unique nature as separate entities, each with distinct processes and procedures. Given their inherent differences, which are linked to specific market/trade requirements, integrating risk ratings for audits is not possible.

Members must agree to the Terms and Conditions of both organisations, constituting a legally binding contract between the respective entity and the producer. This disparity is a natural consequence of the separate management structures and boards governing each organisation. This is also in line with the POPI Act on data protection and sharing data on international platforms.

These variations also stem from market demands, given that wine and fruit industries may cater to different buyers and different markets in different countries, necessitating distinct standards. Additionally, different markets may mandate either SIZA or WIETA audits, contributing to the need for separate processes.

<p><b>About SIZA</b></p> <p>SIZA, the Sustainability Initiative of South Africa, provides a platform for agricultural stakeholders to ensure ethical and environmentally sustainable trade. SIZA is governed by a multi-stakeholder independent board. This platform monitors care for the environment and compliance with labour legislation.</p> <p>To date the SIZA membership exceeds 4 000 users which includes primary, secondary and tertiary members of the programme. The SIZA aim is to encourage continuous improvement in practices over time in excess of the minimum legal requirements, but the standard is based on South African legislation and legal compliance.</p> <p>We engage directly with our stakeholders throughout the value chain in order to identify needs and issues. Interventions and support tools are created by measuring member</p>	<p><b>About WIETA</b></p> <p>WIETA, the Wine and Agricultural Ethical Trade Association, is a pivotal multi-stakeholder organisation within the Wine Industry, dedicated to promoting ethical business practices, social sustainability and human rights. As a leading social standards scheme owner, WIETA supports its members in upholding fair labour practices, in ensuring ethical treatment of workers and encourages sustainable farming methods. BY setting and upholding a stringent standard, WIETA plays a crucial role in showcasing best practice ethical working conditions on wine farms and in cellars. WIETA works tirelessly to educate producers and workers alike through training and support programmes, monitor legal and ethical compliance through third party audits, and provide social site and product certification and traceability for those who meet the required criteria. Through these efforts, WIETA helps improve responsible business</p>
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compliance over time. For more information about SIZA, visit our website: [www.siza.co.za](http://www.siza.co.za)

practices, enhance the reputation of South African Wines in global markets and impact positively on workers and their communities. To find out more about WIETA, visit our website: <https://wieta.org.za/>

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