



Photograph: TÜV Rheinland

Questions and answers on our amfori BSCI audit services

Our experts have answered key questions regarding our amfori BSCI supplier audit in a FAQ. Would you like to learn more? **Contact us!**

1. WHAT IS AMFORI?

As a leading global trade association, amfori is committed to open and sustainable trade. It brings together more than 2,000 primarily European retailers, importers, brands and associations from over 40 countries with the aim of systematically overseeing and improving the working conditions of their suppliers around the world. Amfori is considered to be a comprehensive brand throughout the company. The names amfori BSCI (Business Social Compliance Initiative) and amfori BEPI (Business Environmental Performance Initiative) are integrated under this brand.

2. WHAT IS AMFORI BSCI?

The abbreviation BSCI stands for Business Social Compliance Initiative. It was established in 2003 by the Foreign Trade Association (FTA, renamed amfori in 2018). The amfori BSCI members have developed the amfori BSCI Code of Conduct, whose provisions are based, among other things, on the standards of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the UN Charter of Human Rights and national laws and regulations.

Through membership in the amfori BSCI, companies commit themselves to acknowledging the provisions of the Code of Conduct in their corporate environment and to implementing them in their corporate policy with suitable measures. Suppliers must also ensure that sub-contractors adhere to the amfori BSCI Code of Conduct. Compliance with the Code of Conduct is supervised through audits by independent auditing firms.

3. WHAT IS SA8000?

The amfori BSCI encourages suppliers to go beyond the minimum requirements of the amfori BSCI Code of Conduct and obtain certification according to the international social management standard SA8000. In doing so, you automatically qualify for the amfori BSCI system, as the SA8000 standard includes all the requirements of the amfori BSCI Code of Conduct and is recognized by the amfori BSCI. The SA8000 certificate is valid for three years. During that period we check for regulatory compliance in semi-annual surveillance audits.

4. FOR WHICH COMPANIES DOES THE AMFORI BSCI AUDIT MAKE SENSE?

The amfori BSCI is aimed at companies operating in the international market and cooperating with supplier companies abroad. The supplier audits make sense for companies looking to strengthen their responsible corporate action, both internally and in the supply chain.

5. WHAT BENEFITS DOES A COMPANY HAVE THROUGH THE AMFORI BSCI AUDIT?

The amfori BSCI audit enables companies to take responsibility for their supply chain and to show their sense of responsibility for fair and safe production and working conditions. This opens up new marketing possibilities and strengthens the trust of customers and consumers as well as business partners and employees. Since the amfori BSCI audit includes many other high standards, companies save costs and time by avoiding multiple audits. Furthermore, the improvements according to an audit are often accompanied by more efficient management of the company's value chain.

6. BESIDES AMFORI BSCI, WHAT ARE THE OTHER MOST COMMON STANDARDS?

Other important and globally recognized standards are ICS (Initiative for Compliance and Sustainability or Initiative Clause Social), RBA (Responsible Business Alliance), SA8000 (Social Accountability), WRAP (Worldwide Responsible Accredited Production), PSCI (Pharmaceutical Supply Chain Initiative) and SMETA (Sedex Members Ethical Trade Audit). There are also customer-specific programs for a code of conduct. These include independent

and impartial code of conduct audit services which can be aligned to local legislation, international norms or clients' own codes.

In addition to these, ISO standards like QMS (Quality Management System), EMS (Environmental Management System) and ISO 45001 for occupational health and safety can be added.

6. WHY SHOULD COMPANIES COMMISSION TÜV RHEINLAND TO CONDUCT AUDITS?

Our auditors continuously update their skills, operate all over the world, and share their experiences every year. They are authorized to audit according to all of the current international social standards, and they can also conduct audits focussing on other areas during an appointment with the customer – for example, environmental protection or the handling of chemicals. That saves time and money. We can demonstrate that our auditors in the social audit sector, which has existed for 20 years, have ten years of experience on average. That makes them the most experienced auditors in the sector.

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