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# Questions and answers on our amfori BSCI audit services

Our experts have answered key questions regarding the 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. They bring together more than 2000 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** and **amfori BEPI** are integrated under this brand.

**amfori** @  
Trade with purpose

## 2. WHAT DOES AMFORI BSCI STAND FOR?

The abbreviation BSCI stands for Business Social Compliance Initiative. It was established in 2003 by the Foreign Trade Association (FTA, named amfori since 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. FOR WHICH COMPANIES DO BSCI AUDITS MAKE SENSE?

The amfori BSCI is aimed at companies operating on 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.

## 4. HOW IS A BSCI AUDIT CARRIED OUT?

### 1. Applying for the audit

Only companies that are actively supplying amfori BSCI members can be audited according to the amfori BSCI Code of Conduct. The audit must be applied for via the amfori BSCI platform and approved by the amfori BSCI member responsible for the supplier.

### 2. Preparing for the audit

Before the first amfori BSCI audit the supplier must sign the "Terms of Implementation". The supplier thus acknowledges the values and principles of the amfori BSCI Code of Conduct and commits itself to taking suitable measures to comply with the principles of the amfori BSCI Code of Conduct. The supplier also agrees to audits by approved auditing firms and permits these auditors to conduct confidential interviews with employees, make copies of documents, take photographs of the production facilities and document

the results of the audit in the amfori BSCI platform.

Before the audit each producer is asked to fill out the the BSCI self-assessment questionnaire. This gives our auditors a first impression and supports them in their audit planning. The supplier then receives an audit plan with a list of documents needed for the audit.

### 3. Supplier audit on site

When an audit is carried out on site, our auditors examine whether the supplier adheres to the guidelines of the amfori BSCI Code of Conduct. Audits can be announced, semi-announced or unannounced. Semi-announced audits are the most common type and are carried out within a time window of one month without the exact date of the audit being disclosed to the producer. The audit begins with an opening meeting, in which the aim and process of the audit are explained. After that our auditors inspect the production facilities, interview managers and employees, and examine the documents. The supplier audit ends with a closing meeting.

### 4. The result of the audit and the audit report

Any deviations from the requirements of the amfori BSCI Code of Conduct are documented by our auditors and countersigned by the supplier. Depending on the degree of fulfillment, the result of the audit may lie between "A = Outstanding" and "E = Unacceptable". We document the results of the audit (including photographs of the situation on site) in the amfori BSCI platform, where they can be viewed by the supplier and its customers with amfori BSCI membership.

### 5. Follow-up audit – if necessary

If our auditors find during an amfori BSCI audit that some requirements of the amfori BSCI Code of Conduct are not fulfilled, the supplier must make the required adjustments as quickly as possible. We verify the effectiveness of your measures in a further audit on site. The results of this follow-up audit are also documented by us in the amfori BSCI platform.

### 6. Renewal audit

A full amfori BSCI audit is valid for two years. After a further audit the validity is extended by a further two years.

## 5. WHAT EVALUATION RATINGS ARE THERE?

A = Outstanding

B = Good  
 C = Acceptable  
 D = Insufficient  
 E = Unacceptable

## 6. REQUIREMENTS OF THE AMFORI BSCI CODE OF CONDUCT

- Compliance with nationally applicable laws.
- Freedom of assembly and collective bargaining rights.
- Prohibition of any discrimination.
- Compliance with legal minimum wages and basic means of subsistence.
- Setting the maximum working hours at 48 hours per week and limiting overtime.
- Clear rules and procedures for health and safety in the workplace.
- Prohibition of child labor.
- Prohibition of forced labor and disciplinary measures.
- Compliance with minimum requirements for waste management, emissions and wastewater treatment.
- Compliance with minimum requirements for handling chemicals and other hazardous substances.

## 7. WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES OF THE AMFORI BSCI SUPPLIER AUDIT?

- You open up new marketing possibilities and strengthen the trust of customers and consumers as well as business partners and employees.
- You lay a foundation for future business relationships and thereby gain advantages in tender procedures.
- You show your sense of responsibility for fair and safe production and working conditions.
- You save costs and time by avoiding multiple audits.
- You are able to provide proof of improved working conditions and your overall social commitment.
- You improve the management of your value chain.
- You create the perfect basis for SA8000 certification.

## 8. WHAT IS THE SA8000 STANDARD?

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.

**DO YOU HAVE FURTHER QUESTIONS FOR OUR EXPERTS? WOULD YOU LIKE MORE INFORMATION ON THE AMFORI BSCI AUDIT? FEEL FREE TO CONTACT US!**

[ONLINE CONTACT](#)