



Add value.  
Inspire trust.

## SA8000® Social Accountability Certification

Affirm your commitment to social  
accountability in the workplace

### Your challenges

Around the world today, there is a growing interest in the working conditions involved in manufacturing products, particularly in developing countries. As workplace conditions are an important part of a company's image and brand, consumers are becoming more aware of these social issues. The lack of a process for managing ethical breaches and risks can lead to tarnished brand reputations and poor financial results. As companies depend on increasingly complex and distributed supply chains, it is important to have an ethical monitoring protocol in place to ensure social accountability.

### What is Social Accountability 8000?

The Social Accountability 8000 (SA8000®) standard is governed by Social Accountability International (SAI) and overseen by Social Accountability Accreditation Services (SAAS). It is the first globally recognised social compliance standard available for certification. Dedicated to improving working conditions, SA8000® is applicable to all companies regardless of scale, industry and location.

SA8000® is based on the conventions of the International Labor Organization, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. The standard addresses a wide variety of issues including child labour, forced labour, health and safety, freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining, discrimination, disciplinary practices, working hours, remuneration, and management systems such as supply chain monitoring systems, external communication and other policies.

### Why is SA8000® important for your business?

SA8000® is a voluntary social compliance standard that demonstrates your commitment to a humane working environment and represents responsible production. Adhering to the standard will help to reduce risks, enhance the reputation of your factory and brand, meet customer requirements, improve supplier relationships, create better labour conditions and a safer work environment, and provide clear and credible assurance for ethical purchasing decisions.

## How can you prepare for SA8000®?

To prepare for the standard, your company has to be aware of its requirements. This includes taking control of legal requirements and comparing current practices to the SA8000® standard requirements. Once the comparison has been made, your company can close the gap and implement the standard's requirements. Compulsory procedures should be issued and integrated into the existing company management system. After you have completed the internal monitoring process, the certification process can begin.

## How can we help you?

TÜV SÜD conducts audits on companies for compliance with the SA8000® standard in three stages: the readiness review, the certification audit and the surveillance audits during the period of validity of the certificate. Renewal audits may take place once every three years.

### THREE STEPS TO SA8000® CERTIFICATION

**Readiness review audit:** Assessment of company's compliance with existing regulations and its current practices in relation to provisions of SA8000®. Recommended findings to be put into practice before the formal audit takes place.

**Certification audit:** Checking and evaluating the system's implementation and effectiveness based on prior agreed standards. Upon successful compliance, the auditor recommends to the Approval Committee the issue of the SA8000® certificate.

**Surveillance audit:** The SA8000® certificate is valid for three years. Surveillance is carried out every six months during this period to ensure stability and progress of the standard.

## Your business benefits

- **Save money** – through greater productivity and lower turnover. Rework is reduced and efficiency is increased.
- **Save time** – in your supply chain work processes through improved communications between management and employees.
- **Minimise risks** – with safer working conditions, eliminating the chance of harm to employees and damage to your business reputation.
- **Gain a competitive edge** – through improved working conditions, leading to a highly motivated workforce and superior quality products.

- **Demonstrate full transparency** – to external parties with regard to your working conditions, safety and remuneration. This helps to assure stakeholders about the quality of your company.

## Why choose TÜV SÜD?

TÜV SÜD's global network provides multidisciplinary expertise for a wide range of auditing and certification services in key markets. We act as a one-stop service provider for companies requiring social compliance programmes and management systems standards, integrating SA8000® with other management systems such as ISO 9001, ISO 14001 and OHSAS 18001 as well other social compliance initiatives such as WRAP, ETI and BSCI. TÜV SÜD operates worldwide with competent local auditors recognised by SAI.

As part of our commitment to unparalleled service quality, our inspectors and auditors are required to adhere to our strict Code of Conduct. This ensures the expert opinions they provide are professional, independent and impartial.

## Add value. Inspire trust.

TÜV SÜD is a trusted partner of choice for safety, security and sustainability solutions. It specialises in testing, certification, auditing and advisory services. Through more than 24,000 employees across over 1,000 locations, the company adds value to customers and partners by enabling market access and managing risks. By anticipating technological developments and facilitating change, TÜV SÜD inspires trust in a physical and digital world to create a safer and more sustainable future.

## Related services

TÜV SÜD provides the following related services:

- Business Social Compliance Initiative (BSCI) audit
- Ethical Trading Initiative (ETI) audit
- Code of Conduct (CoC) social compliance audit
- Worldwide Responsible Accredited Production (WRAP) certification
- Fire safety scan service