



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Regarding the VAP Audit Recognition Program

Question 1: What is the VAP Audit Recognition Program?

RBA aims to drive continuous improvement – in an effort to expand on the current VAP Recognition Program, and to encourage the closure of findings in a VAP, we are offering three levels of recognition for a VAP audit, when a corrective action plan (CAP) is submitted, completed, and verified during a VAP Closure Audit. The RBA Site Recognition is **NOT** an RBA certification or a guarantee that a site is without issues. The site is responsible for being and remaining in conformance.

Question 2: What are the levels of recognition?

There are three levels of recognition: Platinum, Gold and Silver.

Question 3: What is required for Platinum level recognition for my audit?

Platinum is the highest level of recognition for an audit. Platinum is given when a VAP Initial Audit is conducted, a complete CAP is submitted to the RBA via EICC-ON, and a VAP Closure Audit is conducted to verify all findings are closed: Priority, Major and Minor. The VAP Closure Audit shall obtain full score of 200.

Question 4: Doesn't RBA have a recognition program for audits with a score of 200?

Yes. RBA currently has a program that offers a recognition plaque for VAP Initial Audit that has obtained full score of 200 on the VAP closure audit with APM Managed CAP where all findings are verified and closed by third party audit firm for the first closure audit. This Program is being rolled into the new VAP Audit Recognition Program and will become the Platinum Level Recognition. An APM Managed CAP is no longer required, but a VAP Initial and Closure Audit are required.

Question 5: What is required for Gold level recognition for my audit?

Gold is the next highest level, given when a VAP Initial Audit is conducted, a complete CAP is submitted to RBA via EICC-ON, and a VAP Closure audit is conducted to verify and close all Priority and Major findings and achieve a minimum score of 180 on the VAP Closure Audit.

Question 6: What is required for Silver level recognition for my audit?

Silver is the final level of recognition in the program given when a VAP Initial Audit is conducted, a complete CAP is submitted to RBA via EICC-ON, and a VAP Closure audit is conducted to verify and close all Priority findings and achieve a minimum score of 160 on the VAP Closure Audit.

Question 7: How long is the recognition good for?

The audit recognition expires when the initial audit report expires, two years from the closing meeting of the initial audit.

Question 8: Where can RBA site recognition be posted and for how long?

RBA Site Recognition can only be posted at the recognition site until its expiration date.

Question 9: What is the form of recognition?

Each recipient will receive a package from the RBA which includes a letter from the Executive Director, a digital copy of the recognition and a plaque sent to the factory, acknowledging the achievement of this factory.

Question 10: Is a factory with Priority findings in child labor or forced labor eligible for the recognition program?

Yes, if the factory closes the Priority finding in child labor or forced labor and this is verified by a VAP Closure audit (or Priority Closure Audit). Factories with Priority findings in child or forced labor are subject to an unannounced audit in the next 12 months. If evidence of forced or child labor are found the recognition will be revoked.

Question 11: When is the program effective? I had a VAP earlier this year, am I eligible for the recognition?

If you have a VAP Initial Audit that meets the criteria for the program, you can submit a request via the RBA Retroactive VAP Recognition Form. It is the factories responsibility to submit the form, the Initial Audit VAR #, the CAP in EICC-ON and the VAP Closure Audit VAR # to receive recognition. Once verified by RBA, the site recognition will be sent out within 90 days.

Question 12: Are Forced Labor Audits, CMAs or AMAs eligible for the VAP Audit Recognition?

Only full VAP Initial Audits, with a submitted CAP in EICC-ON and VAP Closure Audit are eligible for recognition

Question 13: Is an APM Managed CAP required?

An APM Managed CAP is not mandatory. The CAP may be managed by the auditee, the customer or the APM but must be verified with a VAP Closure Audit.

Question 14: Can I announce the recognition to my customers?

Yes. The recognition demonstrates the commitment to the RBA Code of Conduct. The recognition can be shared with customers, investors, employees or anyone you like. It is important to remember that the recognition is for a single audit, for a specific site, and has an expiration date.

Question 15: Why is RBA implementing this VAP Audit Recognition Program?

RBA aims to drive continuous improvement and recognizes the value of factories closing the findings in an audit, this helps the workers, the environment and the industry. The VAP, with 3rd party audits and its unique 4th party global quality check, ensures consistency to the RBA Code across audit firms, auditors and across regions of the world. We want to reward those sites who provide this level of leadership to the industry.

Question 16: Can Site Recognition be taken away?

If the APM discovers any falsification of audit information or deception which will result in an invalid audit, the Site Recognition will become null and void. Otherwise, the recognition will expire 2 years from the initial VAP audit date.

Question 17: Where is a list of RBA recognized sites located?

This is available to members only by contacting VAP@responsiblebusiness.org.

Note: All RBA member companies must have a signed AECL on file for this request.

For more information about the program, please contact VAP@responsiblebusiness.org