



SPECIALTY VALIDATED ASSESSMENT PROGRAM (SVAP) ON FORCED LABOR

INTRODUCTION

Companies operating international supply chains face increasing regulatory and market access requirements to conduct advanced due diligence on forced labor. Detecting the conditions that contribute to forced labor is notoriously difficult and requires specialized standards, focus and resources. The RBA has been working with stakeholders and members to create a world-class assessment program for forced labor due diligence called the Specialty Validated Assessment Program (SVAP) on Forced Labor. Whether your company is looking to evolve its existing program or is just getting started, the SVAP can accelerate your efforts to protect workers vulnerable to forced labor in your supply chain.

WHAT IS THE SVAP?

The Specialty Validated Assessment Program (SVAP) is a new assessment program based exclusively on identifying the risk of forced labor at an Employment Site (e.g., factory). The elements of the SVAP assessment were carefully constructed to create a specialized program, limited in scope to only focus on provisions related to forced labor. This unique program provides a variety of benefits to companies and their suppliers.

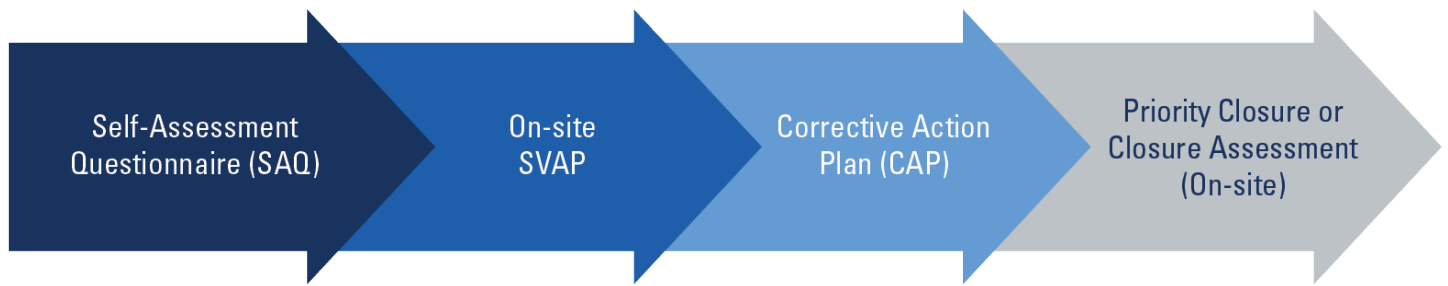
WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF USING THE SVAP?

- ✓ Provides a leading process for detecting and mitigating forced labor conditions within your supply chain
- ✓ Demonstrates due diligence through a credible, proven program to regulators, customers, investors and other stakeholders
- ✓ Accommodates multiple levels of international supply chains

WHAT MAKES THE SVAP UNIQUE FROM OTHER FORCED LABOR ASSESSMENTS?

- ✓ RBA-approved, third-party auditors to maintain quality control
- ✓ Native language interviewers to ensure trust is developed with management and the workers
- ✓ Triangulated documentation of conformances and non-conformances to create a complete picture of conditions on the ground
- ✓ Assessment quality control to ensure the highest standards are applied
- ✓ Shareable assessment reports and the option to add the SVAP onto a VAP assessment to reduce audit fatigue

SVAP PROCESS



HOW IS THE SVAP DIFFERENT FROM THE RBA VAP?

While a full RBA Validated Assessment Program (VAP) assessment focuses on all aspects of the RBA Code of Conduct, an SVAP focuses on only those related to forced labor. The SVAP protocol is based on a reduced number of overall provisions that are examined during the process, but these provisions are assessed in more depth and with additional resources (e.g., native language interviewers).

An SVAP for an Employment Site can be conducted in conjunction with a standard VAP or as a standalone assessment. In these cases, two reports will be issued at the conclusion of the process: a standard assessment report and a Forced Labor SVAP assessment report. All reports are confidential and only provided to the auditee and those the auditee specifies.

HOW DO I REQUEST AN SVAP?

Companies that are interested in an SVAP can contact **SVAP@responsiblebusiness.org**.

The RBA's Assessment Program Manager (APM) will work with you to gather information, determine an acceptable schedule and provide costing and additional process information.

