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SIZA SOCIAL: BENCHMARK AGAINST OTHER STANDARDS



SIZA has recently followed several benchmarking and review processes to ensure the standard remains relevant, both locally and internationally. Some of the standards that we have benchmarked against include the GSCP reference code, GRASP, Walmart and SMETA 6.0 (Sedex). Earlier this year, SIZA also released the SIZA Standard V5.0, which resulted in an **updated social self-assessment questionnaire on the Platform** (SIZA Social SAQ) with some new questions and sections.

From 13 July 2017, all new members and existing members that renew their subscriptions will have to complete the new 2017 version of the SIZA SAQ.

Note: Even if you copy a previous SAQ you will still have to answer all the 'new' questions. Therefore, please make sure that you review the previous SAQ thoroughly before you submit it for review. SAQs that were completed before 13 July will remain static until the next renewal date.

SIZA vs SMETA 6.0

SMETA 6.0 was recently released and as we have seen through our benchmarking processes, ethical trade standards currently emphasise the aspect of human impact (e.g., human rights, modern day slavery, etc.) which may lead to some additional control points in the SIZA standard and audit checklist in future.

It is critically important for the SIZA programme to stay relevant, not only in terms of South African legal requirements, but also internationally. This has produced great rewards in recent months through major brands and retailers such as Walmart, Kaufland and GLOBALG.A.P providing their support for and recognition of the SIZA programme and third party audits.

If you have any questions or need help with the "updated" social SAQ, please contact the SIZA office (info@siza.co.za / 086 1111 568).



SIZA ENVIRONMENTAL

SIZA has been working on the Environmental Assessment Tool for the past three years in partnership with WWF. In recent months, it came to our attention via several South African growers, pack houses and exporters that the EU and UK markets are setting new requirements for environmental compliance. The UK market required its global supply base to complete the SAQ on Sedex or via SAI FSA. In the EU, avocado growers were asked for a full audit on the Rainforest Alliance Standard.

Recognizing these increasing market requirements and the present and future environmental pressures facing the South African producers, SIZA, in conjunction with WWF SA, has developed a comprehensive environmental standard which has been benchmarked against several prominent international environmental standards to ensure a compatible level of assurance, while taking into consideration locally relevant environmental issues.

SIZA recognises the importance of ensuring that the Environmental SAQ is detailed, comprehensive and benchmarked against other similar codes internationally to gain the relevant recognition. In line with SIZA's mission, we also hope to avoid any form of duplication in audits going forward by gaining recognition across standards.

An additional SAQ based on the SIZA environmental standard will be available on the SIZA Platform as of mid August 2017. This will allow SIZA, on behalf of its members, to complete the SAQ on Sedex as required. Further development will take place and a full SIZA environmental module will be available on the SIZA platform over the next year, which will be ready and launched by 1 April 2018. Upon logging in to the Platform, members will have the option to do only the SIZA Social SAQ or a combination of the SIZA Social and SIZA Environmental SAQs.



WALMART ACCEPTANCE



Walmart decided that from 1 August 2017, suppliers will be required to submit a valid audit report from an approved third party audit programme when a current audit is due to expire for their facility. SIZA, the Sustainability Initiative of South Africa, is one of the programmes accepted by Walmart for a probation period. During this period, Walmart will be evaluating the programme for final acceptance during the year.

For more information and details about this new approach, please refer to https://content.interactiveservices.com/RSAPortal/CoursesData/Responsible_Sourcing/



GUIDE TO THE LAW AND BEST PRACTICE IN FIRE SAFETY ON FARMS IN SOUTH AFRICA

SIZA has developed a “Guide to the Law and Best Practice in Fire Safety on Farms in South Africa”. The need for this resource arose from an increased focus on and perceived higher risk of fires on farms, as well as all the recent veld fires that have been causing damage across the country. The document summarises the legal requirements concerning fire prevention and emergency procedures.

Note that the document only aims to provide guidance on some of the risk areas on farms and should not be a replacement for any legal requirements or advice from local authorities.

To view this document, please visit the SIZA website (www.siza.co.za) or click on the following link:

<https://siza.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Fire-Safety-Guide-May-2017finalenglish.pdf>

TEMPORARY EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

In light of various efforts to prohibit temporary employment service (labour broker) practices, we wish to bring certain facts to the attention of the growers so that they can make informed decisions about using temporary employment services.

Please click on the link below to access the information piece that SIZA compiled for producers in conjunction with WIETA and other industry organisations.

<https://siza.co.za/document-library/labour-service-providers/>

For help and assistance on the SIZA Platform:

SIZA helpline: Logan Terhoeven, Tel 086 1111 568

Email: info@siza.co.za

