



RBA Risk-Based Due Diligence Model

The Responsible Business Alliance (RBA) provides essential tools to help companies assess and mitigate supply chain risks through a comprehensive due diligence model. Central to this approach are the Risk Assessment Platform, the Facility Risk SAQ, and the Validated Assessment Program (VAP) which work together to identify risks, implement corrective actions, and validate compliance with RBA standards.

Identify Risks (Levels 1-3)

Level 1 - Risk Assessment Platform:

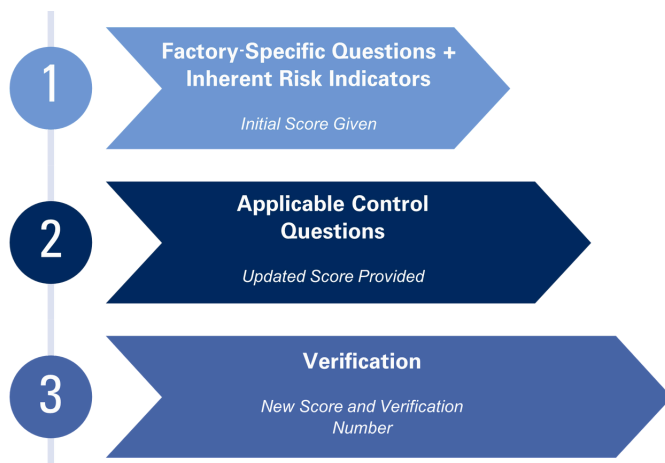
The Risk Assessment serves as the starting point for companies to evaluate potential risks within their supply chains.

Key Features & Benefits:

- **Proactive Risk Identification:** Analyzes various risk factors such as location, industry type, and supplier history.
- **Data-Driven Insights:** Helps companies prioritize areas requiring due diligence and mitigation strategies.
- **Strategic Decision-Making:** Supports corporate social responsibility and compliance teams in making informed choices about supplier engagement.

Level 2 - Facility Risk SAQ:

The Facility Risk SAQ builds upon the insights gained from the Risk Assessment Platform, allowing companies to assess their supply chain partners more thoroughly. It operates in multiple steps to cater to various validation needs:



Level 3 - Validated Assessment Program (VAP)

The VAP supports the Risk-Based Due Diligence Model by providing a standardized approach to evaluating social, environmental, and ethical practices within global supply chains.

Key Functions:

- **Independent Onsite Verification:** VAP assessments are conducted by RBA-approved third-party firms that evaluate facilities against the RBA Code of Conduct. These assessments include document reviews, worker and management interviews, and visual inspections to identify areas of non-conformance.
- **Corrective Action and Improvement:** Facilities with identified non-conformances must develop and implement Corrective Action Plans (CAPs) within designated timeframes. This process encourages facilities to address issues and make practical changes to avoid recurrence.
- **Risk Prioritization and Resource Planning:** When combined with tools like the SAQ and Risk Assessment Platform, VAP results help companies identify where to focus their due diligence efforts and how to allocate resources.
- **Shared Assessments and Efficiency:** Through programs such as the Assessment Cooperation Program (ACP), VAP results can be shared among RBA members.
- **Recognition of Responsible Practices:** The VAP Recognition Program identifies facilities that have addressed findings and met program criteria. Recognition levels—Platinum, Gold, and Silver—acknowledge demonstrated progress.

Address Identified Risks (Levels 4 and 5)

Level 4 - Issue Remediation

Once risks are identified through assessments like the Validated Assessment Program, the RBA emphasizes a structured approach to remediation. This process encompasses corrective actions, training, and capacity building to address and mitigate identified issues effectively.

Corrective Action Plans (CAPs):

Facilities found with non-conformances during assessments are required to develop and implement Corrective Action Plans. These plans outline specific steps to rectify identified issues within designated timeframes, ensuring that problems are addressed systematically. The RBA monitors the closure of these findings, promoting accountability and continuous improvement.

Training and Capacity Building:

To support continuous improvement, the RBA offers various training opportunities:

- **Code of Conduct Training:** A course beneficial to those who are new to the RBA Code. Participants learn about Code requirements and how to implement them across their organizations.
- **Virtual Training:** Courses such as VAP Preparation Workshops and Code training are conducted multiple times a year, assisting participants in understanding requirements and preparing for assessments.
- **Responsible Factory Initiative (RFI):** The RFI is a supplier capability-building program that helps guide factories and suppliers to implement the RBA Code of Conduct and improve labor conditions and environmental practices.

- **Factory Lead Certification Program:** A program intended for individuals responsible for implementing the Code at their factory, increasing knowledge of social and environmental standards.
- **Advisory Services:** A comprehensive full-service plan that is customized to meet the specific needs of the factory. An RBA specialist is assigned and works closely with the factory to implement actions that are consistent with the RBA Code of Conduct.

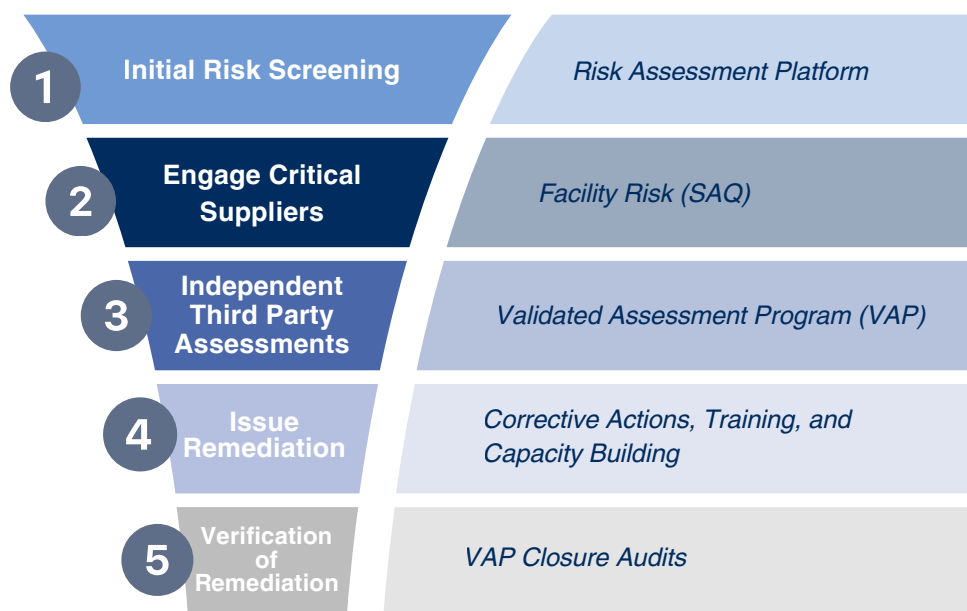
Level 5 - VAP Closure Audits

After implementing Corrective Action Plans to address non-conformances identified during the initial Validated Assessment Program audit, facilities undergo Closure Audits to verify the effectiveness of these actions.

Types of Closure Audits:

- **Priority Audit:** Mandatory for closing Priority non-conformances. These audits are typically scheduled within 30 days of identifying the issue, though timelines may vary based on the specific nature of the finding.
- **Closure Audit:** Conducted to close Major, Minor, and Risk of Non-conformance findings. The timing for these audits is determined by the facility or its customers, ensuring that corrective actions have been effectively implemented.

For more information, contact helpdesk@responsiblebusiness.org



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