




SMETA Corrective Action Plan Report (CAPR)

Version 6.1



Audit Details			
Sedex Company Reference: <i>(only available on Sedex System)</i>	ZC: 1007495	Sedex Site Reference: <i>(only available on Sedex System)</i>	ZS: 1044229
Business name (Company name):	AGRONATIVA S.L. (VAT: B-73249328)		
Site name:	AGRONATIVA ALHAMA		
Site address: <i>(Please include full address)</i>	Crtra. Alhama Cartagena, Km 2,5, Alhama de Murcia. 30840, Murcia	Country:	SPAIN
Site contact and job title:	Marisa Ruíz - Quality manager		
Site phone:	+34 968630645/ +34 683 37 51 96	Site e-mail:	mruiz@elciruelo.com
SMETA Audit Type:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Labour Standards	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Health & Safety	<input type="checkbox"/> Environment <input type="checkbox"/> Business Ethics
Date of Audit:	12-14/06/2023		

Audit Company Name & Logo: 	Report Owner (payer): <h1>AGRONATIVA S.L</h1>
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Audit Conducted By					
Affiliate Audit Company	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Purchaser	<input type="checkbox"/>	Retailer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Brand owner	<input type="checkbox"/>	NGO	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trade Union	<input type="checkbox"/>
Multi-stakeholder	<input type="checkbox"/>	Combined Audit (select all that apply)			

Audit Content:

(1) A SMETA audit was conducted which included some or all of Labour Standards, Health & Safety, Environment and Business Ethics. The SMETA Best Practice Version 6.1 (March 2019) was applied. The scope of workers included all types at the site e.g. direct employees, agency workers, workers employed by service providers and workers provided by other contractors. Any deviations from the SMETA Methodology are stated (with reasons for deviation) in the SMETA Declaration.

(2) The audit scope was against the following reference documents

2-Pillar SMETA Audit

- ETI Base Code
- SMETA Additions
 - Universal rights covering UNGP
 - Management systems and code implementation,
 - Responsible Recruitment
 - Entitlement to Work & Immigration,
 - Sub-Contracting and Home working,

4-Pillar SMETA

- 2-Pillar requirements plus
- Additional Pillar assessment of Environment
- Additional Pillar assessment of Business Ethics
- The Customer's Supplier Code (Appendix 1)

(3) Where appropriate non-compliances were raised against the ETI code / SMETA Additions & local law and recorded as non-compliances on both the audit report, CAPR and on Sedex.

(4) Any Non-Compliance against customer code shall not be uploaded to Sedex. However, in the CAPR these 'Variances in compliance between ETI code / SMETA Additions/ local law and customer code' shall be noted in the observations section of the CAPR.

SMETA Declaration

I declare that the audit underpinning the following report was conducted in accordance with SMETA Best Practice Guidance and SMETA Measurement Criteria.

- (1) Where appropriate non-compliances were raised against the ETI code / SMETA Additions & local law and recorded as non-compliances on both the audit report, CAPR and on Sedex.
- (2) Any Non-Compliance against customer code alone shall not be uploaded to Sedex. However, in the CAPR these 'Variances in compliance between ETI code / SMETA Additions/ local law and customer code' shall be noted in the observations section of the CAPR.

Any exceptions to this must be recorded here (e.g. different sample size):

Auditor Team (s) (please list all including all interviewers):

Lead auditor: ELENA ROBLES GALLARDO

Team auditor: -

Interviewers: ELENA ROBLES GALLARDO

Report writer: ELENA ROBLES GALLARDO

Report reviewer:

Date of declaration: 14/06/2023

Note: The focus of this ethical audit is on the ETI Base Code and local law. The additional elements will not be audited in such depth or scope, but the audit process will still highlight any specific issues.

This report provides a summary of the findings and other applicable information found/gathered during the social audit conducted on the above date only and does not officially confirm or certify compliance with any legal regulations or industry standards. The social audit process requires that information be gathered and considered from records review, worker interviews, management interviews and visual observation. More information is gathered during the social audit process than is provided here. The audit process is a sampling exercise only and does not guarantee that the audited site prior, during or post-audit, are in full compliance with the Code being audited against. The provisions of this Code constitute minimum and not maximum standards and this Code should not be used to prevent companies from exceeding these standards. Companies applying this Code are expected to comply with national and other applicable laws and where the provisions of law and this Code address the same subject, to apply that provision which affords the greater protection. The ownership of this report remains with the party who has paid for the audit. Release permission must be provided by the owner prior to release to any third parties.

Audit Parameters

Audit Parameters			
A: Time in and time out	Day 1 Time in: 09:00 Day 1 Time out: 18:00	Day 2 Time in: 08:00 Day 2 Time out: 17:30	Day 3 Time in: 09:00 Day 3 Time out: 14:00
B: Number of Auditor Days Used:	1 Auditors X 3 Manday		
C: Audit type:	<input type="checkbox"/> Full Initial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Periodic <input type="checkbox"/> Full Follow-up <input type="checkbox"/> Partial Follow-Up <input type="checkbox"/> Partial Other If other, please define		
D: Was the audit announced?	<input type="checkbox"/> Announced <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Semi - announced: Window detail: 3 weeks <input type="checkbox"/> Unannounced		
E: Was the Sedex SAQ available for review?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If No, why not:		
F: Any conflicting information SAQ/Pre-Audit Info to Audit findings?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No If Yes , please capture detail in appropriate audit by clause		
G: Who signed and agreed CAPR (Name and job title)	Marisa Ruiz- Quality manager		
H: Is further information available (if Y please contact audit company for details)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		
I: Previous audit date:	14/06/2021		
J: Previous audit type:	Periodic		
K: Was any previous audit reviewed during this audit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		

Audit attendance	Management	Worker Representatives	
	Senior management	Worker Committee representatives	Union representatives
A: Present at the opening meeting?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
B: Present at the audit?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
C: Present at the closing meeting?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
D: If Worker Representatives were not present please explain reasons why (only complete if no worker reps present)	-		
E: If Union Representatives were not present please explain reasons why: (only complete if no union reps present)	-		

Guidance

The Corrective Action Plan Report summarises the site audit findings and a corrective, and preventative action plan that both the auditor and the site manager believe is reasonable to ensure conformity with the ETI Base Code, Local Laws and additional audited requirements. After the initial audit, the form is used to record actions taken and to categorise the status of the non-compliances.

N.B. observations and good practice examples should be pointed out at the closing meeting as well as discussing non-compliances and corrective actions.

To ensure that good practice examples are highlighted to the supplier and to give a more 'balanced' audit a section to record these has been provided on the CAPR document (see following pages) which will remain with the supplier. They will be further confirmed on receipt of the audit report.

Root cause (see column 4)

Root cause refers to the specific procedure or lack of procedure which caused the issue to arise. Before a corrective action can sustainably rectify the situation, it is important to find out the real cause of the non-compliance and whether a system change is necessary to ensure the issue will not arise again in the future.

See SMETA BPG Chapter 7 'Audit Execution' for more explanation of "root cause".

Next Steps:

1. The site shall request, via Sedex, that the audit body upload the audit report, non-compliances, observations and good examples. If you have not already received instructions on how to do this then please visit the web site www.sedexglobal.com.
2. Sites shall action its non-compliances and document its progress via Sedex.
3. Once the site has effectively progressed through its actions then it shall request via Sedex that the audit body verify its actions. Please visit www.sedexglobal.com web site for information on how to do this.
4. The audit body shall verify corrective actions taken by the site by either a "Desk-Top" review process via Sedex or by Follow-up Audit (see point 5).
5. Some non-compliances that cannot be closed off by "Desk-Top" review may need to be closed off via a "1 Day Follow Up Audit" charged at normal fee rates. If this is the case, then the site will be notified after its submission of documentary evidence relating to that non-compliance. Any follow-up audit must take place within twelve months of the initial audit and the information from the initial audit must be available for sign off of corrective action.
6. For changes to wages and hours to be correctly verified it will normally require a follow up site visit. Auditors will generally require to see a minimum of two months wages and hours records, showing new rates in order to confirm changes (note some clients may ask for a longer period, if in doubt please check with the client).

Corrective Action Plan

Corrective Action Plan – non-compliances									
Non-Compliance Number <i>The reference number of the non-compliance from the Audit Report, for example, Discrimination No.7</i>	New or Carried Over <i>Is this a new non-compliance identified at the follow-up or one carried over (C) that is still outstanding</i>	Details of Non-Compliance <i>Details of Non-Compliance</i>	Root cause <i>(completed by the site)</i>	Preventative and Corrective Actions <i>Details of actions to be taken to clear non-compliance, and the system change to prevent re-occurrence (agreed between site and auditor)</i>	Time scale <i>(Immediate, 30, 60, 90, 180, 365)</i>	Verification Method <i>Desktop / Follow-Up [D/F]</i>	Agreed by Management and Name of Responsible Person: <i>Note if management agree to the non-compliance, and document name of responsible person</i>	Verification Evidence and Comments <i>Details on corrective action evidence</i>	Status <i>Open/Closed or comment</i>
-		-	<input type="checkbox"/> Training <input type="checkbox"/> Systems <input type="checkbox"/> Costs <input type="checkbox"/> lack of workers <input type="checkbox"/> Other – please give details:						

Corrective Action Plan – Observations				
Observation Number <i>The reference number of the observation from the Audit Report, for example, Discrimination No.7</i>	New or Carried Over <i>Is this a new observation identified at the follow-up or one carried over (C) that is still outstanding</i>	Details of Observation <i>Details of Observation</i>	Root cause <i>(completed by the site)</i>	Any improvement actions discussed <i>(Not uploaded on to SEDEX)</i>
1 WH	N	<p>Overtime is paid 106% (according with CBA and over it, due internal agreement) and SMETA recommended to be not less than 125% of the regular rate of pay</p> <p>Las horas extras se están pagando al 106% de la hora normal (conforme con Convenio Colectivo y elevado por acuerdo interno). SMETA recomienda que no sea menos del 125%.</p>		
2 Environment	N	<p>The new annual report requirements for hazardous waste have been submitted after the deadline. It must be taken into account that each year it must be submitted before March 1st.</p> <p>Se ha presentado el nuevo requisito de memoria anual de residuos peligrosos fuera de plazo. Se debe tener en cuenta, que cada año deberá ser presentado antes del 01 de marzo.</p>		

Good examples

Good example Number <i>The reference number of the non-compliance from the Audit Report, for example, Discrimination No.7</i>	Details of good example noted	Any relevant Evidence and Comments
<p>1- 0.B.MSCI</p>	<p>Agronativa S.L. participates actively in Ethical trade forums for companies in same sector. They are coordinators of forums, some regional and international per year.</p> <p>Agronativa participa de manera activa en Foros éticos para compañías del sector. Tienen rol de coordinadores del fórum, regionales e internacionales, cada año.</p>	
<p>2- 0.B.MSCI</p>	<p>Participation and promotion of various projects and social activities such as a fruits for children in situations of exclusion, blood donation campaign or annual Christmas card contest for workers' children with 12 prizes between €250 and €150 to use in toy stores.</p> <p>Participación y promoción de varios proyectos y actividades sociales como merienda para niños en situación de exclusión, campaña de donación de sangre o concurso anual de tarjetas de navidad para niños de trabajadores con 12 premios entre 250€ y 150€ para usar en juguetería.</p>	
<p>3- Environment</p>	<p>Extensive environmental sustainability plan</p> <p>Amplio plan de sostenibilidad ambiental</p>	

Confirmation

<p>Please sign this document confirming that the above findings have been discussed with and understood by you: (site management) <i>If actual signatures are not possible in electronic versions, please state the name of the signatory in applicable boxes, as indicating the signature.</i></p>		
A: Site Representative Signature:		Title: Marisa Ruiz- Quality manager Date: 14/06/2023
B: Auditor Signature:	<p>ROBLES GALLARDO ELENA - 23276093R</p> <p>Firmado digitalmente por ROBLES GALLARDO ELENA - 23276093R</p>	Title: Elena Robles_Auditor leader Date: 14/06/2023
C: Please indicate below if you, the site management, dispute any of the findings. No need to complete D-E, if no disputes.		
D: I dispute the following numbered non-compliances:		
E: Signed: (If <u>any</u> entry in box D, please complete a signature on this line)		Title Date
F: Any other site Comments:		

Guidance on Root Cause

Explanation of the Root Cause Column

If a non-compliance is to be rectified by a corrective action which will also prevent the non-compliance re-occurring, it is necessary to consider whether a system change is required.

Understanding the root cause of the non-compliance is essential if a site is to prevent the issue re-occurring.

The root cause refers to the specific activity/ procedure or lack of activity /procedure which caused the non-compliance to arise. Before a corrective action can rectify the situation, it is important to find out the real cause of the non-compliance and whether a system change is necessary to ensure the issue will not arise again in the future.

Since this is a new addition, it is not a mandatory requirement to complete this column at this time. We hope to encourage auditors and sites to think about Root Causes and where they are able to agree, this column may be used to describe their discussion.

Some examples of finding a "root cause"

Example 1

Where excessive hours have been noted the real reason for these needs to be understood, whether due to production planning, bottle necks in the operation, insufficient training of operators, delays in receiving trims, etc.

Example 2

A non-compliance may be found where workers are not using PPE that has been provided to them. This could be the result of insufficient training for workers to understand the need for its use; a lack of follow-up by supervisors aligned to a proper set of factory rules or the fact that workers feel their productivity (and thus potential earnings) is affected by use of items such as metal gloves.

Example 3

A site uses fines to control unacceptable behaviour of workers.

International standards (and often local laws) may require that workers should not be fined for disciplinary reasons.

It may be difficult to stop fines immediately as the site rules may have been in place for some time, but to prevent the non-compliance re-occurring it will be necessary to make a system change.

The symptom is fines, but the root cause is a management system which may break the law. To prevent the problem re-occurring it will be necessary to make a system change for example the site could consider a system which rewards for good behaviour

Only by understanding the underlying cause can effective corrective actions be taken to ensure continuous compliance.

The site is encouraged to complete this section so as to indicate their understanding of the issues raised and the actions to be taken.



For more information visit: [Sedexglobal.com](https://www.sedexglobal.com)

Your feedback on your experience of the SMETA audit you have observed is extremely valuable. It will help to make improvements to future versions.

You can leave feedback by following the appropriate link to our questionnaire:

[Click here for Buyer \(A\) & Buyer/Supplier \(A/B\) members:](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=riPsbE0PQ52ehCo3lnq5Iw_3d_3d)

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=riPsbE0PQ52ehCo3lnq5Iw_3d_3d

[Click here for Supplier \(B\) members:](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=d3vYsCe48fre69DRgIY_2brg_3d_3d)

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=d3vYsCe48fre69DRgIY_2brg_3d_3d

[Click here for Auditors:](https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/BRTVCKP)

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SMETA Corrective Action Plan Report (CAPR)

Version 6.1



Audit Details			
Sedex Company Reference: <i>(only available on Sedex System)</i>	ZC: 1007495	Sedex Site Reference: <i>(only available on Sedex System)</i>	ZS: 1081221
Business name (Company name):	AGRONATIVA S.L. (VAT: B-73249328)		
Site name:	AGRONATIVA CIEZA		
Site address: <i>(Please include full address)</i>	Crtra Venta del Olivo-Calasparra, km 3 Zip Code: 30530 Cieza (Murcia).	Country:	SPAIN
Site contact and job title:	Marisa Ruíz - Quality manager		
Site phone:	+34 968630645/ +34 683 37 51 96	Site e-mail:	mruiz@elciruelo.com
SMETA Audit Type:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Labour Standards	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Health & Safety	<input type="checkbox"/> Environment <input type="checkbox"/> Business Ethics
Date of Audit:	15-16/06/2023		

Audit Company Name & Logo: 	Report Owner (payer): <h1>AGRONATIVA S.L</h1>
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Audit Conducted By					
Affiliate Audit Company	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Purchaser	<input type="checkbox"/>	Retailer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Brand owner	<input type="checkbox"/>	NGO	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trade Union	<input type="checkbox"/>
Multi-stakeholder	<input type="checkbox"/>	Combined Audit (select all that apply)			

Audit Content:

(1) A SMETA audit was conducted which included some or all of Labour Standards, Health & Safety, Environment and Business Ethics. The SMETA Best Practice Version 6.1 (March 2019) was applied. The scope of workers included all types at the site e.g. direct employees, agency workers, workers employed by service providers and workers provided by other contractors. Any deviations from the SMETA Methodology are stated (with reasons for deviation) in the SMETA Declaration.

(2) The audit scope was against the following reference documents

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4-Pillar SMETA

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SMETA Declaration

I declare that the audit underpinning the following report was conducted in accordance with SMETA Best Practice Guidance and SMETA Measurement Criteria.

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Auditor Team (s) (please list all including all interviewers):

Lead auditor: ELENA ROBLES GALLARDO

Team auditor: -

Interviewers: ELENA ROBLES GALLARDO

Report writer: ELENA ROBLES GALLARDO

Report reviewer:

Date of declaration: 16/06/2023

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D: Was the audit announced?	<input type="checkbox"/> Announced <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Semi - announced: Window detail: 3 weeks <input type="checkbox"/> Unannounced		
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I: Previous audit date:	15/06/2021		
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Audit attendance	Management	Worker Representatives	
	Senior management	Worker Committee representatives	Union representatives
A: Present at the opening meeting?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
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Guidance

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Corrective Action Plan

Corrective Action Plan – non-compliances									
Non-Compliance Number <i>The reference number of the non-compliance from the Audit Report, for example, Discrimination No.7</i>	New or Carried Over <i>Is this a new non-compliance identified at the follow-up or one carried over (C) that is still outstanding</i>	Details of Non-Compliance <i>Details of Non-Compliance</i>	Root cause <i>(completed by the site)</i>	Preventative and Corrective Actions <i>Details of actions to be taken to clear non-compliance, and the system change to prevent re-occurrence (agreed between site and auditor)</i>	Timescale <i>(Immediate, 30, 60, 90,180, 365)</i>	Verification Method <i>Desktop / Follow-Up [D/F]</i>	Agreed by Management and Name of Responsible Person: <i>Note if management agree to the non-compliance, and document name of responsible person</i>	Verification Evidence and Comments <i>Details on corrective action evidence</i>	Status <i>Open/Closed or comment</i>
1 H&S	N	<p>Inspection B of the storadge tank 500l. should have been carried out in August 2022. Pending to performed. Accepted quote is available.</p> <p>La inspección B del depósito acumulador de 500 l. debería haberse llevado a cabo en Agosto 2022. Pendiente de realizar. Se dispone de presupuesto aceptado para su realización</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Training <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Systems <input type="checkbox"/> Costs <input type="checkbox"/> lack of workers <input type="checkbox"/> Other – please give details:	<p>Control of the frequency of inspections.</p> <p>Control de las periodicidades de las inspecciones.</p>	90	D	Marisa Ruíz- Quality manager		
2H&S	N	<p>In September 2022 the workers' committee was renewed. Since then, the prevention delegates have been trained, but the new prevention committee has not been set up, so the quarterly meetings are not performed.</p> <p>En September 2022 se renovó el comité de empresa. Desde entonces, los delegados de prevención han sido formados, pero no se ha constituido el nuevo comité de prevención, por lo que, no se están realizando las reuniones trimestrales.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Training <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Systems <input type="checkbox"/> Costs <input type="checkbox"/> lack of workers <input type="checkbox"/> Other – please give details:	<p>Establish the health and safety committee and reflect the quarterly meetings.</p> <p>Constituir el comité de seguridad y salud y reflejar las reuniones trimestrales.</p>	60	D	Jesús Fernández (H&S manager)		

Corrective Action Plan – Observations				
Observation Number <i>The reference number of the observation from the Audit Report, for example, Discrimination No.7</i>	New or Carried Over <i>Is this a new observation identified at the follow-up or one carried over (C) that is still outstanding</i>	Details of Observation <i>Details of Observation</i>	Root cause <i>(completed by the site)</i>	Any improvement actions discussed <i>(Not uploaded on to SEDEX)</i>
1 H&S	N	<p>Fire Media inspection in pending to performed due renovation of the facilities. The adaptation to carry out the new inspection is being finalized.</p> <p>La inspección PCI contraincendios está pendiente de realizar debido a la renovación de las instalaciones. Se está finalizando la adecuación para realizar la nueva inspección.</p>		
2 WH	C	<p>Overtime is paid 115% (according with CBA and over it due internal agreement) and SMETA recommended to be not less than 125% of the regular rate of pay</p> <p>Las horas extras se están pagando al 115% de la hora normal (conforme con Convenio Colectivo y elevado por acuerdo interno). SMETA recomienda que no sea menos del 125%.</p>		
3 Environment	N	<p>The new annual report requirements for hazardous waste have been submitted after the deadline. It must be taken into account that each year it must be submitted before March 1st.</p> <p>Se ha presentado el nuevo requisito de memoria anual de residuos peligrosos fuera de plazo. Se debe tener en cuenta, que cada año deberá ser presentado antes del 01 de marzo.</p>		

Good examples

Good example Number <i>The reference number of the non-compliance from the Audit Report, for example, Discrimination No.7</i>	Details of good example noted	Any relevant Evidence and Comments
1- 0.B. MSCI	Agronativa S.L. participates actively in Ethical trade forums for companies in same sector. They are coordinators of forums, some regional and international per year. Agronativa participa de manera activa en Foros éticos para compañías del sector. Tienen rol de coordinadores del fórum, regionales e internacionales, cada año.	
2- 0.B.MSCI	P Participation and promotion of various projects and social activities such as a fruits for children in situations of exclusion, blood donation campaign or annual Christmas card contest for workers' children with 12 prizes between €250 and €150 to use in toy stores. Participación y promoción de varios proyectos y actividades sociales como merienda para niños en situación de exclusión, campaña de donación de sangre o concurso anual de tarjetas de navidad para niños de trabajadores con 12 premios entre 250€ y 150€ para usar en juguetería.	
3- Environment	Extensive environmental sustainability plan Amplio plan de sostenibilidad ambiental	

Confirmation

<p>Please sign this document confirming that the above findings have been discussed with and understood by you: (site management) <i>If actual signatures are not possible in electronic versions, please state the name of the signatory in applicable boxes, as indicating the signature.</i></p>		
A: Site Representative Signature:		Title: Marisa Ruiz- Quality manager Date: 16/06/2023
B: Auditor Signature:	<p>ROBLES GALLARDO ELENA - 23276093R</p> <p>Firmado digitalmente por ROBLES GALLARDO ELENA - 23276093R</p>	Title: Elena Robles_Auditor leader Date: 16/06/2023
C: Please indicate below if you, the site management, dispute any of the findings. No need to complete D-E, if no disputes.		
D: I dispute the following numbered non-compliances:		
E: Signed: (If <u>any</u> entry in box D, please complete a signature on this line)		Title Date
F: Any other site Comments:		

Guidance on Root Cause

Explanation of the Root Cause Column

If a non-compliance is to be rectified by a corrective action which will also prevent the non-compliance re-occurring, it is necessary to consider whether a system change is required.

Understanding the root cause of the non-compliance is essential if a site is to prevent the issue re-occurring.

The root cause refers to the specific activity/ procedure or lack of activity /procedure which caused the non-compliance to arise. Before a corrective action can rectify the situation, it is important to find out the real cause of the non-compliance and whether a system change is necessary to ensure the issue will not arise again in the future.

Since this is a new addition, it is not a mandatory requirement to complete this column at this time. We hope to encourage auditors and sites to think about Root Causes and where they are able to agree, this column may be used to describe their discussion.

Some examples of finding a "root cause"

Example 1

Where excessive hours have been noted the real reason for these needs to be understood, whether due to production planning, bottle necks in the operation, insufficient training of operators, delays in receiving trims, etc.

Example 2

A non-compliance may be found where workers are not using PPE that has been provided to them. This could be the result of insufficient training for workers to understand the need for its use; a lack of follow-up by supervisors aligned to a proper set of factory rules or the fact that workers feel their productivity (and thus potential earnings) is affected by use of items such as metal gloves.

Example 3

A site uses fines to control unacceptable behaviour of workers.

International standards (and often local laws) may require that workers should not be fined for disciplinary reasons.

It may be difficult to stop fines immediately as the site rules may have been in place for some time, but to prevent the non-compliance re-occurring it will be necessary to make a system change.

The symptom is fines, but the root cause is a management system which may break the law. To prevent the problem re-occurring it will be necessary to make a system change for example the site could consider a system which rewards for good behaviour

Only by understanding the underlying cause can effective corrective actions be taken to ensure continuous compliance.

The site is encouraged to complete this section so as to indicate their understanding of the issues raised and the actions to be taken.



For more information visit: [Sedexglobal.com](https://www.sedexglobal.com)

Your feedback on your experience of the SMETA audit you have observed is extremely valuable. It will help to make improvements to future versions.

You can leave feedback by following the appropriate link to our questionnaire:

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http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=riPsbE0PQ52ehCo3lnq5Iw_3d_3d

[Click here for Supplier \(B\) members:](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=d3vYsCe48fre69DRgIY_2brg_3d_3d)

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