

Environmental services

Creation of codes, expectations and program elements

Environmental policy and strategy development

A code of conduct serves as the foundation of an effective environmental program as it embodies a company's core values and vision for environmental responsibility. UL Solutions responsible sourcing group offers a variety of environmental policy services to help companies effectively establish and communicate their responsible sourcing (RS) program standards. Our subject matter experts work closely with your staff to assess your needs and expectations and clarify the purpose of the envisioned code. You may request alignment of your code with current and forthcoming supply chain compliance regulations, industry best practices, international standards and peer or customer standards. Our offerings are designed to meet individualized needs and maximize program results, and we offer a range of options that meet your needs, including benchmarking, comparing, developing and enhancing environmental policies.

Environmental policy benchmarking

Our environmental policy benchmarking service helps evaluate your environmental policy against your peers, customers, competitors or industry initiatives across a number of criteria. Benchmarking reports include a visual gap assessment involving a comparison chart, a narrative analysis and a summary of recommendations to enhance your environmental policy.

Environmental policy comparison

Our environmental policy comparison service is a study of your peers', customers' and competitors' initiatives and best-practice environmental policies to reveal common standards and language. This service helps you identify target code standards. The comparison can serve as a basis for the development of your environmental policy.

Environmental policy enhancement

Our environmental policy enhancement service can help you analyze and improve an existing code within the context in which you operate. Our subject matter experts identify gaps and offer recommendations to better set and communicate standards. Policy enhancement services are only available for existing policies.

Environmental strategy consulting

Our Responsible Sourcing group offers environmental strategy advisory services to help you design a practical tool for the implementation of your environmental programs throughout your supply chain.

Benchmarking

The creation of policies, expectations and program components requires a well-informed approach that takes into account industry trends and efforts. While environmental programs fall on a continuum, from minimum to leading practice, all companies seek to evaluate the progress they have made within their industry and identify opportunities for enhancement. If you are looking to develop or enhance your environmental policies, our Responsible Sourcing group offers two complementary services: program benchmarking and program element benchmarking.

Program benchmarking

Our program benchmarking services help analyze environmental efforts in the supply chain and environmental programs through comparisons with peers, competitors or best-in-class corporations. Benchmarking evaluates your company's practices against industry norms and leading practices across a number of criteria agreed by the customer and UL Solutions. Depending on the type of benchmarking, we use two types of data: publicly available information and private information.

Program element benchmarking

Our program element benchmarking services help evaluate your environmental program documents through comparisons with peers, competitors and best-in-class corporations or initiatives. Examples of program element benchmarking include code of conduct requirements, grading matrices and scorecards, audit reports and audit question sets. Depending on your choice of comparative entities, we may refer to publicly available or private information.

Supply chain education

Our Responsible Sourcing group offers a spectrum of supply chain education services for all steps in the supply chain. Our experts across the globe have the capacity to design and deliver training in multiple languages and formats, including in-person training, live or recorded webinars, and training for learning management systems (LMS). Training duration is adjusted according to the content to be delivered and the needs of your target audience. Training is interactive with case studies, exercises and knowledge checks where possible and includes:

- Zero Discharge of Hazardous Chemicals (ZDHC) “Introduction to Chemical Management” and “Top 10 issues and best practices”
- Higg FEM Training
- Identification of environment laws, regulations and policies explanation
- Introduction of the environmental audit program

Auditing

UL Solutions environmental assessments based on GSCP guidelines

As compliance with environmental and sustainability policies and regulations becomes more important to businesses, their stakeholders need to see transparent results of supply chain environmental performance. UL Solutions responsible sourcing group’s environmental responsibility audits, based on the Global Social Compliance Programme (GSCP) guidelines, provide overviews of impacts to production from the management systems of your supply chain manufacturing sites and allow you to build your environmental baseline information and capture supply chain progress.

Environmental responsibility audit

Our environmental responsibility audit service assesses:

- Environmental management systems (EMS)
- Air, water, energy, and greenhouse gas (GHG) management
- Wastewater management
- Industrial and hazardous waste disposal
- Contaminated land or soil and groundwater pollution
- Land use and biodiversity
- Environmental emergency response

UL Solutions chemical management audit based on ZDHC guidelines

Our chemical management audit is designed to evaluate a factory’s performance regarding chemical management concerning the wetting process in the textile and footwear industry. It provides insight into facility practices by assessing both chemical and environmental areas informed by the Zero Discharge of Hazardous Chemical (ZDHC) Program, industry standards and other best practices. We are a member of the ZDHC. All chemical management audits are performed by trained chemical auditors.

The service assesses:

- EMS
- Restricted substance management
- Chemical safety management
- Pollution control
- Effluent treatment plants

UL Solutions chemical management mini-audit

Our chemical management mini-audit reviews a facility’s chemical management system and provides you with an understanding of the processes and features in place as well as those that are missing. The mini-audit is based on the inventory supplied by the facility and spot checks conducted by the auditor.

Business Environmental Performance Initiative (BEPI)

We are an approved provider of amfori BEPI’s Environmental and Chemical Management Audits. BEPI supports retailers, importers and brands to improve environmental performance in supplying factories worldwide. BEPI offers a single system that enables all companies sourcing all product types to address the environmental performance of their supply chain.

The BEPI Environmental Audit assesses the most relevant environmental areas for the producer site, plus environmental management system, including:

- Energy use, transport and GHG
- Water use
- Wastewater and effluent
- Emissions to air
- Waste management
- Pollution prevention and chemicals
- Major Incident prevention and management
- Contaminated land or soil and groundwater
- Pollution prevention
- Land use and biodiversity
- Environmental nuisances

The BEPI Chemical Management Audit assesses the following areas:

- Audit information
- Permits
- Waste
- Wastewater and effluent
- Emissions to air
- Health and safety
- Chemical management

Higg Facility Environmental Module (FEM)

We are an approved verifier for the Higg FEM Module 3.0 for facilities that supply to members of the Sustainable Apparel Coalition (SAC). The Higg FEM is a sustainability assessment tool that standardizes how facilities measure and evaluate their environmental performance. It is based on self-assessments and verification of completed self-assessments by third-party verifiers.

The Higg FEM Module assesses the following areas:

- Environmental management systems or programs
- Energy use and GHG emissions
- Water use
- Wastewater effluents (using ZDHC guidelines)
- Emissions to air
- Waste management
- Chemicals management

The Higg FEM Chemicals Management section is a joint effort among the Sustainable Apparel Coalition (SAC), ICS Environmental Audits, the Outdoor Industry Association (OIA) and the ZDHC Program to converge their respective chemicals tools into one assessment questionnaire.

ICS Environmental Audits

The ICS Environment Audit launched its environmental tools and audit questionnaire to assess environmental compliance and the production sites approach since 2018. We are one of the qualified audit firms for the environmental ICS audit service. The objective is to promote and support continuous improvement of the environmental performance of the facilities supplying ICS members.

ICS Environmental Audit consists of the following criteria:

- EMS
- Energy use, transport and GHG
- Water use
- Wastewater and effluent
- Emissions to air
- Waste management
- Pollution prevention and hazardous and potentially hazardous substances
- Emergency response management.

For additional information on UL Solutions responsible sourcing services, please visit [UL.com/RS](https://www.ul.com/RS)



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