



# 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) or Labor Provider (e.g., labor agent or recruitment agency). The elements of the SVAP audit were carefully constructed to create a specialized assessment 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.

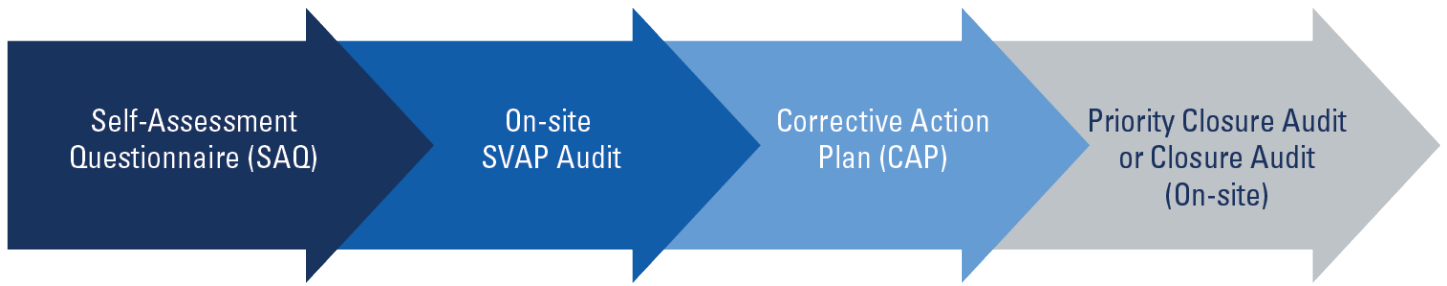
## WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF USING THE SVAP?

- ✓ 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 from employment sites to labor providers

## WHAT MAKES THE SVAP UNIQUE FROM OTHER FORCED LABOR AUDITS?

- ✓ 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
- ✓ Applicable to workplaces, labor agents or recruitment agencies
- ✓ Audit quality control to ensure the highest standards are applied
- ✓ Shareable audit reports and the option to add the SVAP onto a VAP audit to reduce audit fatigue

# SVAP PROCESS



## HOW IS THE SVAP DIFFERENT FROM AN RBA VAP AUDIT?

While a full RBA Validated Assessment Program (VAP) audit 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). The SVAP is applicable to Employment Sites and Labor Providers, while the VAP is intended only for Employment Sites:

### VAP VERSUS SVAP SCOPE

AUDIT TYPE	EMPLOYMENT SITE (e.g., factory)	LABOR AGENT	RECRUITMENT AGENCY (receiving country)	RECRUITMENT AGENCY (sending country)
VAP	X	n/a	n/a	n/a
SVAP	X (can be combined with VAP)	X	X	X

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

## HOW DO I ORDER AN SVAP?

Companies that are interested in an SVAP can contact [SVAP@responsiblebusiness.org](mailto:SVAP@responsiblebusiness.org). The RBA's Audit Program Manager (APM) will work with you to gather information, determine an acceptable schedule and provide costing and additional process information.

