Frequently Asked Questions about amfori QMI

Part A: General

1. What is the role of amfori QMI Participating Parties?

   **Roles of amfori QMI Participating Parties**
   
   **amfori:**
   - Standard Developer and owner;
   - amfori Sustainability Operator;
   - Quality Assurance/Integrity Programme Lead and Design
   
   **HKGAA:**
   - Industry Standard Partner;
   - Auditor’s training service provider
   - Audit Quality Assurance Programme Implementation Partner
   
   **Auditing Company:**
   - Onsite audit and reporting
   - Calibration of best practices and feedback for auditing tools and system enhancement
   
   **amfori Member (Buyer):**
   - Service user: Initiate audit and report review
   - Engagement of producers
   - Monitoring of producer’s performance
   
   **Producers (Auditee):**
   - Service user: Auditee
   - Remediation
   - Feedback for system enhancement
   
   Service available region in 2022: "Mainland China subject to extension to other regions"

2. Will amfori QMI be available in other countries besides China? If yes, in which countries will it be available next?

   amfori will review the market responses and needs 6 months after the launch and according to the analysis will decide whether to expand the service beyond China or not. If it is decided to expand, potential countries for extension may include, India, Bangladesh, Turkey, Vietnam, etc. The decision will be subject to further review.

Part B: As an amfori member:

1. How can I subscribe to the amfori QMI Service?

   Join one of the introduction sessions.
   
   The first one is on 10 March.
   
   Then, sign and return the Terms of Implementation (TOI)
   
   Access rights to the QMI section on the amfori Sustainability Platform will be created and you will be able to start creating producer profiles and start the auditing journey.

2. Do I need to pay an additional service fee as a member to subscribe to the service?

   No additional membership or service fee is foreseen.
3. If we are not an amfori member but still would like to subscribe to the amfori QMI service, it is possible?

For the first 6 months after the launch, only amfori members can subscribe. The possibility for non-members to participate will be reviewed in the second half of 2022 and will be subject to market needs.

4. What is the commitment of amfori QMI Members?

Please refer to the Terms of Implementation for Participants.

Part B: As a producer:

1. What is the commitment of our company if our factories are receiving amfori QMI audits or related activities?

Please refer to the Terms of Implementation for Producers.

2. What product types does amfori QMI cover?

The audit questionnaire is designed for Fast Moving Consumer Goods’ Non-Food sector.

3. Do producers need to pay a membership fee to amfori?

amfori doesn’t charge producers and currently producers must be invited by at least one amfori member to get onboard before any audit can be scheduled.

4. If we don’t have an invitation from an amfori member, can we still join amfori QMI?

Currently, amfori QMI is only accessible via the invitation of an amfori member. However, amfori will keep monitoring market needs and will reevaluate subscription options if needed.

5. Who are the amfori QMI recognised Auditing Service Providers and how do they charge their fees?

As of current, amfori is pleased to announce that QIMA and TUV SUD have signed the Framework Agreement are therefore the authorised parties to provide amfori QMI auditing services in China. However, amfori members and/or their producers have final say on selecting the auditing service they wish to work with. Nevertheless, audits conducted by auditors without the qualifications granted by amfori will be considered invalid.
Third-party auditing fees will be subject to their mutual agreement with amfori members and/or the producers (auditees) with respect to the following principles:

- Each QMI audit is designed for a max. of 1 man-day onsite (8 hours) and 0.5 day reporting regardless of workforce size, area, or number of processes. Fees should be based on this timeframe.
- Auditing companies should assign the QMI auditors with the nearest proximity access to the production sites without overnight travel.

Part C: For Auditors or Auditing Companies

1. **Is amfori QMI a certification system?**

No, it is not a certification system, but it does carry a scoring system that indicates the capability of the auditee (producer) in 4 aspects. Non-compliance will be subject to remediation or continuous improvement actions to be taken by the producers.

2. **What are the eligibility criteria to become an amfori QMI auditing service provider?**

During the first 6 months after the amfori QMI soft launch in China, amfori does not plan to increase auditing service providers. Subject to market needs and responses, amfori will review the resources available from partner third parties and interested parties may send their expression of interest to amfori after July 2022 and amfori will revert to interested parties in due course.

All auditing companies partnered to deliver the amfori QMI auditing service will be required to sign a Framework Agreement and have their auditors trained by amfori’s assigned trainers. They will also have to pass an examination before they can deliver QMI audits.

3. **Do auditing companies need to pay any fee to amfori as an Auditing Service Provider?**

There is a unit cost per audit conducted and the rate is the same for all as per the Agreement signed between the auditing companies and amfori.

*This FAQ is a working document and will be regularly updated by amfori. If you have any further questions not covered by this document or any feedback, please contact info@amfori.org.*