

RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS ALLIANCE (RBA)

Q-Inspect is one of only 16 approved RBA independent audit firms globally. What is noteworthy is that we are a European RBA-approved audit firm, founded in the Czech Republic. As such, we have local RBA-approved auditors for many European countries, including but not limited to Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Italy, Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Serbia. Would you like to request support for RBA-related activities in these countries in the local language? We can offer that.

As a European RBA-approved third-party firm, we can help you understand and guide you through the whole RBA process and RBA terminology, as well as explain to you the RBA requirements in detail.

We may help you or your suppliers by:

- Preparing you for upcoming RBA audits
- Performing a GAP analysis
- Conducting a mock assessment/test audit
- Performing actual external RBA VAP assessments
- Performing actual internal RBA VAP assessments
- Implementing the corrective actions process after an RBA VAP assessment
- Training your staff as internal RBA auditors
- Training your staff as external RBA auditors for your supplier audits (based on the section E requirements in the RBA VAP program)

About RBA

The Responsible Business Alliance is the world's largest industry coalition dedicated to responsible business conduct in global supply chains.

Established in 2004 by a coalition of leading electronics companies, the Responsible Business Alliance (RBA), formerly Electronic Industry Citizenship Coalition (EICC), is a nonprofit organization comprised of companies from the electronics, retail, automotive, and toy sectors.

The RBA is committed to advancing the rights and well-being of workers and communities impacted by global supply chains. Members of the RBA pledge to uphold a shared Code of Conduct and drive ongoing improvements in social, environmental, and ethical standards across their supply chains.

In addition to its members, thousands of Tier 1 suppliers are required to implement the RBA Code of Conduct, ensuring widespread adherence.

The EICC rebranded to the RBA in October 2017 to reflect its expanded mission and influence. Today, the RBA, along with its Responsible Minerals, Labor, and Factory Initiatives, represents more than 600 members with combined annual revenues exceeding \$8 trillion. These companies collectively employ over 21.5 million people and produce goods in more than 120 countries.

There are several RBA programs, like the Validated Assessment Program (VAP), Specialty Validated Assessment Program (SVAP) on Forced Labor, and SVAP on Chemical Management. The most comprehensive is the Validated Assessment Program (VAP).

Validated Assessment Program (VAP)

The RBA Validated Assessment Program (VAP) is the leading standard for onsite compliance verification and effective, shareable assessments conducted by independent, third-party firms. It includes requirements with regard to Labor, Health & Safety, Environment, Ethics, and Supplier management. As such, it covers the following sections:

A. Labor

- A1. Prohibition of Forced Labor
- A2. Young Workers
- A3. Working Hours
- A4. Wages and Benefits
- A5. Non-Discrimination / Non-Harassment / Humane Treatment
- A6. Freedom of Association and Collective Bargaining
- A.M. Labor Management System

B. Health and Safety

- B1. Occupational Health and Safety
- B2. Emergency Preparedness
- B3. Occupational Injury and Illness
- B4. Industrial Hygiene
- B5. Physically Demanding Work
- B6. Machine Safeguarding
- B7. Food, Sanitation and Housing
- B.M. Health and Safety Management System

C. Environment

- C1. Environmental Permits and Reporting
- C2. Hazardous Substances
- C3. Solid Waste
- C4. Air Emissions
- C5. Water Management
- C6. Energy Consumption and Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- C.M. Environmental Management System

D. Ethics

- D1. Business Integrity and No Improper Advantage
- D2. Disclosure of Information
- D3. Intellectual Property
- D4. Fair Business, Advertising and Competition
- D5. Protection of Identity and Non-Retaliation
- D6. Privacy
- D.M. Ethics Management System

E. Supply Chain Management

- E1. Company Commitment
- E2. Materials Restrictions
- E3. Responsible Sourcing of Minerals
- E4. Supplier Responsibility

VAP Recognition Program

RBA offers three levels of recognition:

- **Platinum:** for factories with a minimum VAP score of 200 and all Priority, Major, and Minor findings closed
- **Gold:** for factories with a minimum VAP score of 180 and all Priority and Major findings closed
- **Silver:** for factories with a minimum VAP score of 160 and all Priority findings closed

Only full VAP assessments for manufacturing facilities are eligible for recognition.