

Interpretation Question:

If an auditor meets the criteria for social auditors, as outlined in the ASC Farm Certification and Accreditation Requirements (CAR), do they also meet the ASC-MSC Seaweed Standard criteria for social auditors?

Requirements

Table A.4 – Social auditor qualification and competencies

A.4 Social auditors conducting audits of social requirements in ASC-MSC seaweed production units shall possess the following qualifications and competencies:

Qualification/competency	Requirement
A4.1 Social auditing qualification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The individual shall have one or more of the following qualifications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Has completed an SA8000 four- or five-day auditor course that is formally approved by SAAS plus continuing professional development courses as required by SAAS and has successfully completed a three-day SAAS approved course within two years of having taken the four- or five-day basic course. ii. Has completed the Verité five day “EICC Labor & Ethics Lead Auditor Course” or the “Lead Auditor Accreditation Training: Investigative Skills Workshop” or the five days “Agricultural Labor Practices Social Auditor Training (APL). iii. Is recognised as a lead auditor for FI (Fairtrade International) audits for Trade and Hired Labour Standards by FLOCERT. iv. Has completed the Worldwide Responsible Apparel Producers (WRAP) five-day “Auditor/Lead Auditor Social System Training Course”. v. Has been trained and approved for auditing GSCP-benchmarked schemes.
A4.2 Social auditing experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The individual shall have participated in at least two audits in agriculture or aquaculture. b. The individual has participated in at least two audits for one or more of the following schemes within the past 12 months: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Business Social Compliance Initiative (BSCI). ii. Electronic Industry Citizenship Coalition (EICC) Electronic Industry Code of Conduct. iii. Ethical Trading Initiative (ETI) Base Code. iv. Fair Trade USA. v. Fairtrade International (FI). vi. Goodweave (Rugmark). vii. International Council of Toy Industries (ICTI) – Code of Business Practice. viii. Social Accountability International (SAI) SA 8000. ix. Worldwide Responsible Apparel Producers (WRAP) – Code of Conduct. x. Any schemes that are GSCP-benchmarked (publicly available on GSCP website) for reference code, auditing process and methodology and audit competence. xi. The individual shall conduct at least two ASC social audits per year to maintain his/her qualification.
A4.3 ASC-MSC auditor training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The individual shall have knowledge of the Standard and CAR through passing the ASC-MSC training course every three years. b. The individual shall undertake additional training on changes to the Standard as appropriate.
A4.4 Competencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The individual shall have knowledge of local labour and human rights legislation. b. The individual shall have familiarity with local customs. c. The individual shall speak and read the primary local language. d. The individual shall be able to manage relationships with workers and managers.

Response:

Yes, the ASC social auditor requirements are considered equivalent to the ASC-MSC Seaweed Standard social auditor requirements. If an auditor meets the criteria for ASC social auditors, they are considered to also meet the competencies for seaweed social audits.