



Your partner
in progress

Supplier audit solutions

Building supply chain trust and
accelerating progress





Introduction¹

Increasing transparency across your supply chain presents a powerful opportunity to build greater trust, resilience, and readiness in the face of rising third-party risks. As supplier networks continue to grow in scale and complexity, top executives – 90% of them – recognize this as a critical challenge. Yet, despite the growing number of third-party incidents, including data breaches, compliance failures, and supply chain disruptions, only 53% of companies have a clear strategy to address these risks.

In today's volatile markets, strengthening your supplier risk management practices can deliver meaningful benefits – from avoiding regulatory fines and reputational damage to minimizing operational disruptions. Our trusted supplier audit solutions are designed to help you proactively manage risk and increase visibility, using digitally enabled, collaborative tools tailored to your needs. Whether you require assessments based on pre-set criteria, public standards, industry requirements, or your own frameworks, we can help you build a robust and trusted supply chain – fit for the future.

¹ All statistics in the box above are taken from [Third-party risk for the audit committees](#), Gartner, [Gartner.com](#), August 2019

Disclaimer: Our ability to provide this comprehensive solution might be limited if you hold a certificate with BSI, please discuss your

5,000

On average, large companies contract with 5,000 suppliers

79%

79% of companies currently outsource core corporate functions or plan to do so in the future

£1.6 million

Large enterprise organizations pay, on average, \$1.6 million for incidents affecting infrastructure hosted by third parties

\$721,175

The cost to resolve data breaches increases by \$721,175 when a third party is involved



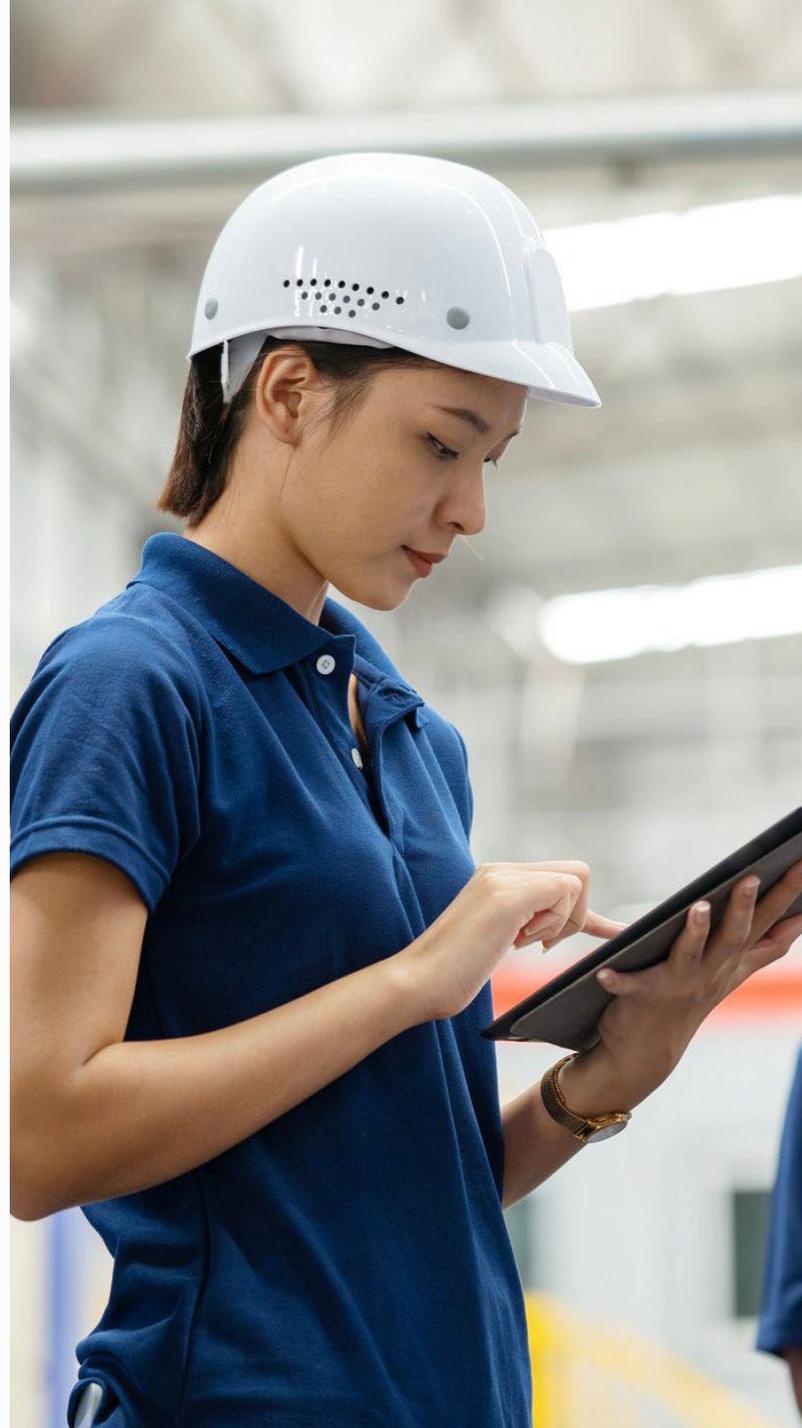
45% of organizations say their supplier risk management programmes are primarily focused on IT vendors, leaving a variety of partner relationships either unexamined or examined by siloed functions

Address the largest risks on your risk register

1. Increased focus on environmental, social and governance (ESG)

Gaining greater visibility into your supply chain offers a powerful competitive advantage – especially as sustainability and transparency become key differentiators in today's market. With conscious consumers reshaping how brands compete, businesses that can demonstrate responsible sourcing and ethical practices are better positioned to build trust and loyalty.

Governments worldwide are reinforcing this shift through legislation aimed at driving supply chain accountability. Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic alone, over 30 legislative proposals have targeted ESG issues, reporting obligations, and sanctions for non-compliance. Our supplier audits are designed to help you stay ahead – enhancing transparency and supporting compliance while strengthening the sustainability of your supply chain.



ESG snapshot statistics:

20%

Fewer than 20% of supply chain managers said they had visibility of supply chain sustainability practices²

50 million

There are 50 million people living in modern slavery with more than 56% in forced labour

£160 million

Child labour has risen to 160 million children worldwide⁴

90%

More than 90% of consumer packaged goods companies' environmental impact originates in their supply chains⁵

² [Six steps to a more ethical and sustainable supply chain](#), Supply chain brain, [supplychainbrain.com](#), March 2019

³ Global Slavery Index, Walk Free Foundation, [walkfree.org](#), 2023

⁴ [Child labour rises 160 million - first increase in two decades](#), Unicef, [unicef.org](#), June 2021

⁵ [Starting at the source: sustainability in supply chains](#), McKinsey Sustainability, [mckinsey.com](#), November 2016

2. Securing digital trust

A proactive supplier audit can be instrumental in identifying and assessing existing and required controls – empowering all stakeholders to better understand, manage, and respond to evolving digital risks. By taking action now, you can reinforce the security of your entire supply chain and safeguard your business against vulnerabilities that may otherwise go undetected.

Strengthening cybersecurity across your supply chain allows you to reduce digital risk and protect your organization from emerging threats. As cybercriminals increasingly target suppliers as a gateway to larger enterprises, both your general and digital supply chains are at risk. Nearly half of global organizations now consider cybersecurity one of the most pressing operational challenges in their supply networks.



Digital trust snapshot statistics:

98%

98% of organizations surveyed have been negatively impacted by a cybersecurity breach that occurred in their supply chain⁷

61%

61% of organizations have experienced a data breach caused by a third party⁸

40%

40% of data breaches involve data stored across multiple environments.⁹

⁶ [The next big attack vector: your supply chain](#), CSO, [csoonline.com](#), 2022

⁷ [Blue Voyant research reveals defending digital supply chains remains a business challenge](#), Blue Voyant, [bluevoyant.com](#), November 2022

⁸ [51% of organizations have experience a data breach caused by a third party](#), Security, [securitymagazine.com](#), May 2021

⁹ [51% of organizations have experience a data breach caused by a third party](#), Security, [securitymagazine.com](#), May 2021

3. Health, safety and well-being

Supplier audits foster the creation of stronger, more responsible supply chains – supporting worker well-being, fostering collaboration, and delivering greater social value. As regulatory bodies and investors place increasing focus on the health and safety of workers, audits are becoming a vital tool not only for compliance, but for ensuring that supply chain partners have the right policies, systems, and procedures in place to protect people and minimize risk.

When influential organizations adjust pricing or delivery conditions, poorer working conditions can often emerge as an unintended consequence further down the chain. While health and safety remain essential, supplier audits are about going beyond basic compliance – helping businesses proactively assess and elevate the human impact of their strategies across the supply chain.¹⁰



Health, safety and well-being snapshot statistics:

340million

Worldwide, there are around 340 million occupational accidents each year¹¹

160million

There are 160 million victims of work-related illnesses each year also¹²

2.78million

Annually, an estimated 2.78 million workers die from occupational accidents¹³

¹⁰ [How supply chains influence health and safety at work](#), IOSH, [iosh.org](#), 2009

¹¹ [The enormous burden of poor working countries](#), ILO, [ilo.org](#), 2023

¹² [The enormous burden of poor working countries](#), ILO, [ilo.org](#), 2023

¹³ [A safe and healthy working environment](#), UN Global Impact, [unglobalimpact.org](#), 2022

Take control with our supplier audit solutions

Our supplier audit solutions which span across multiple topics, enable any business to improve visibility and assurance across their supply chain regardless of their size or complexity. They also help organizations manage risk and meet contractual, regulatory and legislative requirements.

What we deliver

The unique value offered here at BSI comes as a result of our ability to partner with you to create a fully tailored solution. With meaningful, risk-based, continuous management insight and consistent global deployment, our audit processes can guide you on your journey towards better supply chain assurance:



Client programmes

We can create a supplier audit programme for you designed to meet your specific objectives and address your challenges, providing valuable insights that enable you to identify areas for improvement, pinpoint issues, and make informed decisions to drive progress.

Our greatest strength lies in our people. We bring together the experience and capabilities of experts from a vast and diverse range of areas, themes and sectors, offering a portfolio of services that encompasses every possible requirement.

Industry programmes

Each of the associations listed below plays a critical role in establishing best practices for supply chains in corporate social responsibility.

Using these industry programmes developed by groups of brands with a common purpose, interest or activity, we can provide visibility and transparency across your supply chain.

Some of the industry programs we deliver:



Convening best practice

Our extensive knowledge developing consensus-driven best practice helps to deliver a common approach across industries. We ensure compliance standards are mutually acceptable for all parties, reducing audit and operational redundancy for common supply chain stakeholders.

By creating a single, agreed-upon auditing programme, we help to reduce the number of supply chain audits conducted on global suppliers and factories. This improves audit consistency, lowers audit costs, and reduces audit frequency while maintaining confidentiality.

This allows global suppliers to benefit from a shared audit programme that provides fewer audits with more consistent standards and expectations, and one that builds upon globally recognized best practice.

Example of a convening best practice program:



How our supplier audit solutions help

As your partner, we create a risk-based and continuous assurance solution that's tailored to your organization. This provides you with meaningful management insights and business improvements that help you build trust and accelerate progress.



Data-driven insights
Our BSI Connect Screen platform infuses geographic risk data and analysis into the assessment process to provide a risk-based view of the supply chain. The enhanced visibility empowers organizations to protect brand reputation and ensure a resilient supply chain through data-driven insight.



Access your data-driven insights

The most complete publicly available resource, BSI Connect Screen measures country-level risk using our 25 proprietary country-level risk ratings, focussing on supply chain security, corporate social responsibility, food safety/ fraud, and business continuity.

BSI Connect Screen has a range of interactive, real-time dashboards, tools and reports to help you stay ahead of your supply chain risks and make intelligence-based decisions.

Our platform features allow you to:

- View data and analysis on the latest global incidents, situations and trending topics on a daily basis
- Access the largest repository of supply chain incidents
- Gain real-time insight of events and issues including cargo theft, smuggling, labor abuses, environmental violations, and business disruptions
- Visualize updates in relation to your supply chain including incidents, news and audit status
- Filter your points of interest to view key components of the supply chain
- Quickly identify country-level threat ratings and decide the action you need to take – across our risk indicators a country is assigned a rating of low, guarded, elevated, high, or severe so you can identify, categorize and respond
- Prioritize what is important to you through our 'Points of Interest' feature, where you can indicate countries, states, places, routes, or any area on a map that you want to track
- Customize assessments and scoring methodologies
- Build custom country reports to get specific country-level insight on status and changes over time
- Easily spot risk elevation and take control in the areas of most concern based on your focus areas
- Robust assessment and audit reports
- Examine holistic supplier risk ratings
- Manage and track your global programme's progress towards compliance through our Corrective and Preventative Action (CAPA) module.



Case study: how we helped to mitigate risk and meet global audit requirements

The challenge

Our client is an industry-leading global pharmaceutical company, whose mission has long been to develop, manufacture and distribute vital pharmaceutical products via responsible and transparent supply chains.

However, it was facing resourcing challenges when auditing key suppliers in specific regions. Its primary need was to tap into the resources, expertise, and independence of an additional audit body, in order to mitigate risk and enable all of its audit requirements to be globally fulfilled.

Why they chose us

Shared values: Our shared commitment to sustainability and the UN SDGs reflected a strong alignment in values with the client. As purpose-driven, mature organizations, this alignment set us apart from other potential providers.

Industry knowledge: The client recognized our specialization in the healthcare industry, where we can provide a wide range of assurance and consulting services. With 90% of pharma companies that are our clients in the Fortune 500, we're investing heavily in resources and forging co-innovation partnerships in the pharmaceutical and life sciences industry.

Global reach: With 1,300+ management systems auditors, 400+HSE consultant professionals, and 200+ labor/ethics auditors, we conduct audits in more than 100 countries and have both experts and resources available across multiple geographies.

Our solution

Client focus: We adapted our ways of working to suit the client – for example, using its PSCI audit template and report format – and matched our programme management structure to reflect the client's requirements for a risk-based approach and quality, timely reports.

Pharma expertise: Our 30-plus years of experience in pharma HSE management systems have resulted in extensive knowledge of critical areas of PSCI audit requirements. Having recently written a standard on anti-microbial resistance, we were particularly able to support the client in this area.

Team BSI approach: Our multi-skilled BSI project team was the result of collaboration between our global subject matter and sector experts. Each played key roles in helping to mitigate risk and enable the client's due diligence/EHS third-party oversight.

Skillset and mindset: Because we are immersed in standards development, assurance and consulting, we were able to customize our offering to deliver risk-based audit outputs that meet the client's requirements for quality and accuracy.



Why BSI is your trusted partner

For more than 120 years, we have helped organizations to achieve their goals and grow sustainably while balancing the need for profit with the needs of the planet and its people.

Incorporated by Royal Charter, we reinvest our own profits to foster progress and increase trust between our customers, governments, organizations and consumers, helping business and society to thrive together in a more digital and sustainable world.

We bring together leading thinkers, innovators, and practitioners to create best practice standards and regulatory frameworks. These are reinforced by audits and testing powered by our hybrid audit programme, which provides detailed planning, streamlined auditing, and seamless delivery, all while reducing CO2 emissions.





By assessing and certifying against standards, regulation, and consensus best practice, we are a catalyst for positive change, creating an enduring legacy of improvement for our clients, their customers, and society.

The experience and knowledge our people bring, acquired from thousands of audits delivered in different sectors and areas, enrich the results of our audit programmes while giving you confidence that we understand your business.

We offer the structure, expertise and innovation to deliver that same positive change across your supply chain. To discover how we can be your partner in progress, get in touch for a supplier audit solution that is tailored to the needs of your organization.

Get in touch with your local BSI team today