



leaders in sustainable procurement  
**global** resource. **local** skills.



## Overview

Achilles specialises in the auditing of suppliers for pre-qualification, focusing upon health & safety, environment and quality issues. It also offers social and ethical supplier audits that support corporate social responsibility related requirements.

The information generated as a result of an audit enables both procurement and compliance teams to manage their resources and supply chains more effectively because they can be confident the information provided by Achilles has been rigorously assessed against industry best practice.

Assessment services address the physical validation of evidence regarding a supplier's capability, competence and compliance within agreed parameters. These can include industry standards, recognised best practice or country-specific laws. The audit and assessment services are a natural extension to the assurance process provided by the existing supply chain management services provided by Achilles.

## Key benefits

### For Buyers

- Assurance that Achilles provides the appropriate level of rigor and scrutiny
- Trusted 3<sup>rd</sup> party verification of supplier capabilities
- Improvement plans agreed with suppliers for corrective actions
- Performance in audits over time can be monitored
- Achievement of continuous improvement

### For Suppliers

- Suppliers are treated equally
- A transparent and ordered approach to audit
- Provides a learning opportunity for the supplier to plan continuous improvement actions
- Audits may support reduced insurance premiums

## Background

An audit is a formal inspection that is long established as a reliable method of validating the current status of an organisation. Procurement and Compliance teams need to be able to manage their risk when procuring services from suppliers, and knowing that suppliers they use are regularly audited providing them with a greater level of assurance.

## Key features

- Tailored to meet the needs of individual business sectors our current auditing schemes include aspects of the following: Corporate Social Responsibility, Health & Safety, Environment, Sustainability, Quality, and discipline specific product groups that allow the auditor to assess specific high risk activities or services. Our audit programmes are constructive, providing insight and guidance.
- Audits are carried out on-site by Achilles, and the resulting data is then assessed and verified, this includes supplier review
- Achilles audit staff are highly qualified and are selected based upon their professional competence and audit experience obtained from the relevant sector. Another unique aspect of all Achilles audit personnel is that they must be licensed to deliver audits which is an accreditation of the individual defined by examination
- The audit service is tailored to specific industry best practice
- The scope of each audit is continually reviewed and improved with the input of particular industry stakeholder groups

## Audit & Assessment – Positioning



Audit & Assessment services provide a natural extension to the existing supplier management services offered by Achilles to help organisations manage risk in the supply chain.

Achilles' stated position and branding is one of a provider of services for sustainable procurement, and our audit & assessment services support this goal. All our auditors are lead assessor qualified and registered through the International Register of Certificated Auditors (<http://www.irca.org>) and are licensed to conduct audits on our behalf, having passed an Achilles examination. The newly established Achilles Assessment Services business is working towards accreditation with IRCA as a global audit business.



### Who is Audit & Assessment for?

#### Buyers

- Procurement and compliance teams
- Chief Procurement Officers and Senior Buyers
- Senior HSEQ Managers (Health, Safety, Environment, & Quality)
- Senior Compliance Managers
- Corporate & Social Responsibility Teams

#### Examples

- Qualification audits determine whether a buyer should commit to doing business with a specific supplier
- Advisory audits provide information to support ongoing improvement via industry or government initiatives - focusing on social and ethical issues (e.g. NJQS Oil & Gas sector scheme in Nigeria)
- Product-specific audits are conducted within the Spanish utility sector (RePro utility sector, Spain)
- HSEQ audits in the UK utility sector (UVDB) and the construction sector (BuildingConfidence)

#### Suppliers

- Suppliers wishing to qualify as potential sources of goods / services for buyers

*"South West Trains uses Achilles' Link-up for tender pre-qualification and as our preferred supplier list. Its audit programme minimises our exposure to risk on safety/business critical goods and services. We trust these results and the rail industry uses this as a common platform for audits. This avoids unnecessary duplication of audits for both customers and suppliers."*

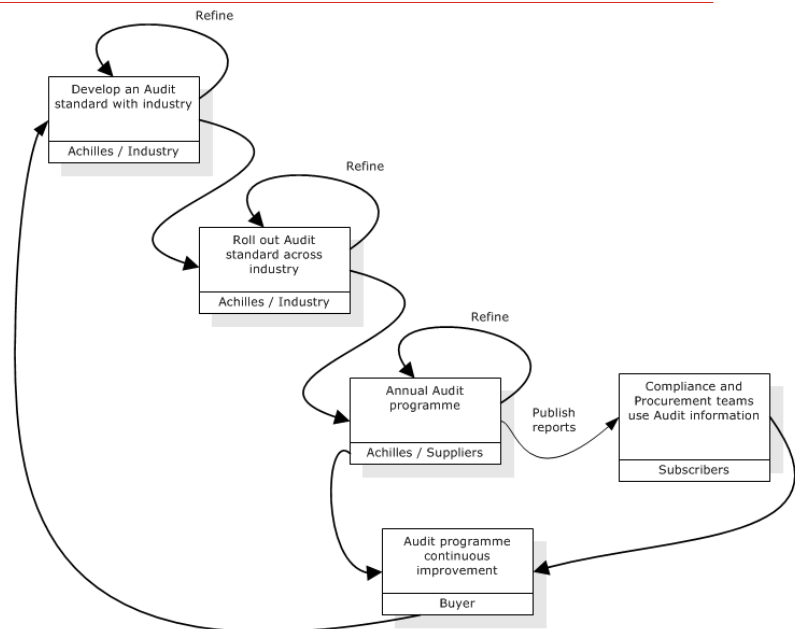
*"The scheme is both easy to use and with version 2, a vendor management scheme for the 21st century."*

*"South West Trains plays an active role in Achilles' Link-up and our partnership will continue for many years to come."*

Jim Goodhead  
Head of Procurement and Contracts  
South West Trains, UK

### How does Audit work?

Achilles works with each industry sector to establish an audit programme and once agreed, will run the programme with the appropriate suppliers. The resulting audit reports, once approved for publication, are made available through the internet for subscribers of the service. This flow diagram provides an overview of the Achilles Audit process



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