



To all Buyers and Suppliers

Grandfather Rights Abuses

As part of our commitment to keeping the information on the portal current and up to date we have recently completed a review of those organisations who have received Grandfather Rights as part of the transfer from the old Link-up v.1 system to the current system.

Grandfather Rights were originally issued to provide continuity during the transfer where a suppliers new product codes were related to the previous, audited, product groups in Link-up v.1. Clearly we would have been unable to audit all suppliers under the new audit regime immediately after the move to the new system.

However certain suppliers have abused this position by their reluctance or refusal to undergo an audit in the new system. These suppliers have not paid and consequently have not even booked an audit. This is contrary to the spirit of the scheme and also causes problems for Buyers who are having to rely on information that is old and potentially out of date.

We have discussed this at the Link-up governance Group and we have received the full support of all members.

Therefore we have, following persistent requests and chasing removed the status of Grandfather Rights from 9 companies as of today. This applies to all of their product codes including Core (where applicable) and their product codes now show, "Awaiting v.2 audit" in the section "Not Met Requirements for Product Codes". We have individually informed these companies.

There are still many companies displaying the Grandfather rights status, "Qualified under V.1 audit," but these are organisations that have paid for and are undergoing the audit process. This status will gradually disappear as these audits are completed.

We will be looking at further abuses of the system over the next few weeks with a view to contacting suppliers in order to help them to use the system in a compliant manner for the benefit of all the members. We will also take appropriate action against these organisations should they continue to take advantage of all of those companies who work with us to deliver the Link-up service.

Best Wishes

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