MODERN SLAVERY ASSESSMENT TOOL

MSAT: the 31 questions

A plain-English guide to what the government's assessment asks, and what to have ready.

ebida · Supplier Development Programme · Modern Slavery Compliance webinar

MSAT is the government's Modern Slavery Assessment Tool. Public sector buyers use it to see how well a supplier manages modern slavery risk.

It has 31 questions. Anyone can register and complete it, invited or not. This guide sets out, in our own words, what each question asks, so that you can gather the evidence before you start.

How to score well

1. Read the questions before you start, and do not answer them cold.
2. Answer from evidence. Every "yes" needs something behind it: the policy, the supplier checks, the training record.
3. Bring in the people who know: HR, purchasing and operations. The tool lets you pass a question to a colleague.
4. Be honest about what you found. MSAT asks whether you dropped a high-risk supplier or worked with them to put it right.
5. Respond to every recommendation at the end. The assessment is not complete until you have.

The official question set is free to download, and you complete the assessment, at supplierregistration.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/msat. This guide is ebida's summary and does not reproduce the official wording. Based on Modern Slavery Assessment V.2, read 10 October 2026.

Your organisation

Have ready: Company details, your latest accounts and a named contact.

1	Whether to reuse answers from an earlier assessment. Then your company details, whether you are answering for the whole organisation or one contract, your sector, and whether you are an SME.
2	Which part of your group you are answering for.
3	Who the main contact is for the assessment.

Governance

Have ready: Your published statement, the board approval, and your supply chain map.

4	Your turnover, from your most recent annual accounts.
5	Whether the Modern Slavery Act requires you to publish a statement.
6	Whether your statement meets the legal requirements: board approval, a director's signature and a link on your homepage.
7	Which of the six areas your latest statement covers.
8	Whether it was published within six months of your financial year end.
9	Whether any incident of modern slavery has been found in your organisation or supply chain in the past 12 months.
10	Whether you have mapped your supply chain, how many tiers down, and which locations you consider higher risk.

Policies and procedures

Have ready: The policy itself, your supplier code, and proof both were communicated.

11	Whether you have policies relevant to preventing modern slavery.
12	Which worker protections those policies include, such as freedom to leave a job, freedom of movement and no recruitment fees charged to workers.
13	Which good practices you meet: further prohibitions (child labour, keeping identity documents), sign-off by senior management, communication to workers and to your supply chain, staff training, and contract conditions for high-risk suppliers.

Assessing and managing risk

Have ready: Your risk assessment: categories, countries, worker groups and suppliers.

14 Whether you have assessed how your own buying could put pressure on suppliers: pricing, lead times and late orders.

15 The stages of your procurement process at which you consider modern slavery risk.

16 Whether anything you supply appears on the US Department of Labor list of goods linked to child or forced labour.

17 Where you see the highest risk: categories of goods and services, vulnerable groups of workers, types of work and sectors.

18 Whether you identified any high-risk suppliers in the past 12 months, and whether you ended the contract or worked with them to reduce the risk.

Due diligence

Have ready: Supplier checks and audits, your grievance route, and how you respond to a report.

19 Whether you support access to trade unions or other worker representation in your supply chain.

20 Whether you work with charities or other businesses on preventing modern slavery.

21 Whether you have checked that workers in your supply chain are not in debt because of how they were recruited.

22 Whether workers can report a concern, and in which tiers of the supply chain they know their rights, can report in their own language, have more than one route, and the route is reviewed.

23 Whether you have a set process and timescale for responding to a report, what happens to the supplier, and whether suppliers must produce a corrective action plan.

24 Whether your own organisation has had a social or labour audit in the past 12 months.

25 Whether you audit your suppliers or otherwise check working conditions, what the audits found, and how often they happen.

26 Anything further on your due diligence.

Training

Have ready: Training content, attendance records and how often it is repeated.

27 Whether you train workers on modern slavery. Then whether it covers the ILO's 11 indicators of forced labour, the outcomes expected, the format, whether it is mandatory, how often, who wrote and delivers it, and whether suppliers receive it.

Key performance indicators

Have ready: The measures you track and the minutes of the annual review.

28	Whether you have indicators for how you manage modern slavery risk, in which areas, and whether senior management reviews them every year.

Sign off

Have ready: Your plan for the year ahead.

29	Your objectives and plans to improve over the next 12 months.
30	Anything else about your commitment to tackling modern slavery.
31	Feedback on the assessment itself.

Want the evidence before you answer?

Supply Comply audits your own organisation and your suppliers on 52 questions, builds your risk profile as the audits return, and produces a risk remedy plan and a Modern Slavery Statement with the evidence behind it. It does not replace MSAT. It gives you what you need to answer it well.

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