SUPPLIER TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT
IDENTIFIES THE CAPABILITIES IN MANUFACTURING SPECIFIED INDUSTRIAL COMPONENTS AND SERVICES

WHAT IS A SUPPLIER TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT (STA)?
STA is a qualification decision tool used to help suppliers receive consideration for their capabilities in manufacturing specified industrial components or provide services. This requires a high level of technical expertise and seniority to properly assess the manufacturing process and the type of products or the provided services. STA is primarily technically based, but it can encompass Quality, Health, Safety, and Environmental (QHSE) or CSR issues in the same course in order to provide a more extensive appraisal. The deliverables produced by the assessments performance is known as the Gap Assessment Report.

WHAT ARE THE KEY BENEFITS?
Not only does the client benefit from having a recognized external party present at its assessment from both a business advisor and service provider perspective, they also benefit from the following:
• Professionals are experienced both with technical and QMS audit processes
• A pre-existing environment is not a consideration when using an impartial party
• Quality issues are highlighted with clarity and transparency
• The Bureau Veritas check list repository increases efficiency
• The scope can be extended with additional expertise across a wide network
• Enhanced communication regardless of distance, culture, language, etc.
• Accountability monitoring includes the collection of independent track records

WHY CHOOSE BUREAU VERITAS
With a worldwide network of offices, Bureau Veritas can provide STA across the globe. Bureau Veritas engineers have access to advanced technology via Technical Centers, which enables them to analyze problem situations and develop appropriate solutions.
CHARACTERISTICS OF STA SERVICES

There are several types of STA services. The following are examples that clients can choose from and how they are conducted:

• **2nd Party assessments**
  STA services are mainly 2nd Party assessments. However, some STA services may also be contracted on a 3rd Party basis.

• **Voluntary basis**
  STA services are generally driven by a voluntary approach to qualify suppliers according to own criteria of Purchaser (Client). Although assessment may be performed for a part against a norm or a regulation, these services are on a voluntary basis.

• **International contract**
  Depending on the experience, STA services are contracted in the frame work of a dedicated and exclusive agreement with Bureau Veritas. The related contract generally has a complex international structure, typically but not exclusively:
  • contracted by large operators of industrial facilities
  • performed in Low Cost Countries
  • supported by a global network

STA vs Certification programs

STA activities with other certification audit programs such as ISO 9 001, ISO 14 001 or OHSAS 18 001 can be combined and to some extent recommended. Although the focus of Quality is similar in both cases, these services do not consider the same scope, methodology, or objective. STA and Certification programs are complementary in a sense that STA is connected to work execution and Certification audit programs are related to work organization.

An STA Audit looks at adherence to work specifications and execution of manufacturing. A critical part of the audit is dedicated to observation in the shop floors and to discussion with on-field people. It aims at taking a clear snapshot of current practices while providing sustainable confidence dealing with the Supplier on specified products or services.

A Certification Audit Program is related to the existence and implementation of a documented management system. It is generally based on desktop work. It requires looking after discrepancies against norms and derives conclusions from the compliance of the Supplier and delivery of certificate.

FAQ

What is the STA service typically related to and what does it address? How may they be performed?

STA services are typically related to the Supplier qualification phase, addressing the Supplier manufacturing process. STA services are not related to the identification of Suppliers (“Sourcing”). STA services may be performed either for initial qualification or for expanded scope of supply.

RELATED SERVICES

Bureau Veritas offers a wide range of related services:

• Asset Management
• HAZID
• HAZOP
• Process Safety Management
• Process System Integrity
• Quantitative Risk Assessment
• Risk Based Inspection
• Technical Training