

SLCP Full Alignment with APSCA – Technical Bulletin – Requirements for eligibility and status maintenance – released February 16, 2024

These APSCA related requirements supersede any other lesser requirements contained in other SLCP documents, including but not limited to QA Manual, VB Requirements, Helpdesk. SLCP is updating its documents and public information to align with the below information related to APSCA.

The below focuses on APSCA related information to maintain SLCP approval status. Alongside any APSCA related parameters, any applicant or already approved Verifier Body and Verifier must still maintain existing SLCP requirements to maintain their approval status. Becoming an APSCA member or maintaining good standing with APSCA does not guarantee approval or continued approval by SLCP.

Key points**Existing Verifier Bodies – Non-APSCA Members**

- Apply to APSCA and pay \$6,000 non-refundable APSCA application fee by June 30, 2024, to maintain Verifier Body status with SLCP.
- Become at minimum a Provisional APSCA Member Firm by March 1, 2025, to maintain Verifier Body status with SLCP.

Applicant Verifier Bodies – New Applications

- Since January 1, 2024, only Full APSCA Member Firms are eligible to apply to become an SLCP approved Verifier Body.
- SLCP's application is still reviewed according to SLCP requirements to achieve approval. Full APSCA Member Firm status is not the only SLCP requirement. Other factors like in country experience and 3 years' track record in auditing of social and labor conditions are considered.

Existing Verifiers of non-APSCA Verifier Body

- Before June 30, 2024: SLCP approved Verifiers who continue to meet SLCP status maintenance requirements are permitted to remain in SLCP and permitted to conduct verifications in countries they are already approved for. You must have APSCA ASCA or CSCA Member Auditor status to be able to apply for any new country you want to conduct verifications in.
- After June 30, 2024: To continue to do verifications for SLCP, you must have ASCA or CSCA status and be linked to an SLCP approved Verifier Body who meets any of the following:
 - APSCA Provisional Member Firm,
 - APSCA Full Member Firm,
 - SLCP approved Verifier Body who was active prior to June 30, 2024, and is applying to become an APSCA Member Firm.
- Any approved Verifier not meeting the aforementioned requirements after June 30, 2024, will be removed from SLCP.
- On March 1, 2025: If your associated Verifier Body is an APSCA Member Firm applicant and does not reach APSCA Provisional Member Firm status by March 1, 2025, the Verifier Body will be removed from SLCP. You must transition to an approved Verifier Body to continue in SLCP.

- In summary, you must be associated with an existing Verifier Body that meets the requirements as listed above for non-APSCA Verifier Bodies by June 30, 2024, and March 1, 2025, to maintain Verifier approval status.

New Verifiers

- Before June 30, 2024: Only applicants associated with an approved Verifier Body and with APSCA ASCA or CSCA status are eligible to apply to become an SLCP approved Verifier.
- After June 30, 2024, applicants must be linked to an active SLCP Verifier Body who is still an SLCP approved Verifier Body because they have started the APSCA application process, or they are an APSCA Provisional Member Firm, or they are an APSCA Full Member Firm.

Details on transition to APSCA full alignment

NON-APSCA MEMBER VERIFIER BODIES and ASSOCIATED VERIFIERS

I am an approved SLCP Verifier Body. How can I continue my SLCP approval?

1. Immediately start your application with APSCA.
 - a. It takes at minimum 6-8 months to achieve Provisional Member status with APSCA after start of application. There may be multiple Verifier Bodies who start their application with APSCA, and this may cause a bottleneck if you apply late. Apply now, so that you can achieve the Provisional Member status by March 1, 2025.
2. Inform APSCA at the beginning of your application that you are associated with SLCP and want SLCP to be informed about application status, including payment of application fee, progress of application, and approval as Provisional APSCA Member Firm.
3. Inform SLCP about your APSCA application progress [here](#).
4. If you have not paid the non-refundable APSCA application fee of \$6,000 by June 30, 2024, you will be removed from SLCP. To apply to SLCP again after June 30, 2024, you will have to be a Full APSCA Member Firm and SLCP application fees may apply.

More info

- APSCA website on how to become a member:
<https://www.theapsca.org/become-a-member-firm>
- APSCA website on their schedule of fees:
<https://www.theapsca.org/schedule-of-fees/>

I am an approved SLCP Verifier Body. I want to apply for supplemental country approval. Is this possible?

We are no longer allowing non-APSCA Verifier Bodies who want to maintain non-APSCA status to apply for additional countries.

Only the following approved Verifier Bodies can apply for additional countries:

- APSCA Full Member Firm
- APSCA Provisional Member Firm
- Non-APSCA Verifier Body who has proven payment of APSCA application fee of \$6,000.

I am an approved SLCP Verifier Body. Can auditors associated with my firm apply to become SLCP Verifiers?

This is possible until June 30, 2024, but applicants must be ASCA or CSCA APSCA members.

If you are not maintaining your SLCP Verifier Body approval status after June 30, 2024, as per above requirements, you may no longer add Verifier applicants, because you will be removed from SLCP. All your Verifiers will be removed from SLCP until they are associated with an approved SLCP Verifier Body again. Any new Verifier applicants who are interested in becoming APSCA Member Auditors can only be nominated by an existing APSCA Member Firm.

I am an approved SLCP Verifier Body. I want already approved SLCP Verifiers to apply for verification in new countries. Is this possible?

This is possible until June 30, 2024, but applicants must be ASCA or CSCA APSCA members.

If you are not maintaining your SLCP Verifier Body approval status after June 30, 2024, as per above requirements, you may no longer have Verifiers apply for new countries, because you will be removed from SLCP. All your Verifiers will be removed from SLCP until they are associated with an approved SLCP Verifier Body again. Any new Verifier applicants who are interested in becoming APSCA Member Auditors can only be nominated by an existing APSCA Member Firm.

APSCA MEMBER VERIFIER BODIES and ASSOCIATED VERIFIERS**I am an approved SLCP Verifier Body. Does this full alignment affect me?**

Provisional Member firms: Continue with your process to become Full Member firms.

All APSCA Member firms:

- Any new Verifier applicants and Verifier applicants for additional countries must be ASCA or CSCA.
- All Verifier Bodies and Verifiers must continue to abide by the SLCP requirements for reporting violations against the APSCA Code as previously communicated by SLCP.

VERIFIERS CURRENTLY ASSOCIATED WITH A NON-APSCA MEMBER VERIFIER BODY**I am an approved SLCP Verifier. Does this full alignment affect me?**

To continue to be part of SLCP, the firm you are associated with has to pay the non-refundable APSCA application fee by June 30, 2024, and then become an APSCA Provisional Member Firm by March 1, 2025.

Prior to June 30, 2024, you must already have APSCA ASCA or CSCA Member Auditor status to be able to apply for any new country you want to conduct verifications in.

You may move to another firm that wants to continue its SLCP Verifier Body status after June 30, 2024. Since that firm will either be an APSCA Provisional Member Firm, APSCA Full Member Firm or active APSCA applicant firm, you will have to at minimum become an APSCA ASCA Member Auditor to continue to do verifications.

- To transfer to an APSCA Provisional/Full Member or active APSCA applicant Verifier Body prior to June 30, 2024, you can complete this [transfer request form](#).

If you want to continue to be part of SLCP, we encourage you to become an APSCA Member Auditor now and ultimately reach CSCA status.

More info

- <https://www.theapsca.org/join-apsca/>

VERIFIERS CURRENTLY ASSOCIATED WITH A PROVISIONAL OR FULL APSCA MEMBER VERIFIER BODY

I am an approved SLCP Verifier. I have ASCA or CSCA Member Auditor status. Does this full alignment affect me?

You are not affected by this transition as long as you continue to be associated with an APSCA Member Verifier Body. You are already ASCA or CSCA Member Auditors so you can apply to do verifications in new countries. SLCP strongly encourages you to become CSCA if you have not already reached this status.

I am an approved SLCP Verifier. I have ASCA or CSCA Member Auditor status. The Verifier Body I am associated with has been temporarily suspended and/or verification work has been put on hold. What can I do?

If verification work at the Verifier Body is suspended for a significant period of time, you can seek to be associated with a currently active Verifier Body. After you have been accepted by the new Verifier Body, who is an APSCA Provisional or Full Member Firm, you can complete this [transfer request form](#)

NON-APSCA MEMBER FIRM

I want to apply to become an approved SLCP Verifier Body. Is this possible?

No, you are not eligible to apply to become an SLCP approved Verifier Body.

APSCA MEMBER FIRM

I want to apply to become an approved SLCP Verifier Body. Is this possible?

To be eligible to apply to become an SLCP approved Verifier Body you must be a Full APSCA Member Firm. In addition, other SLCP requirements like in country experience and 3 years' track record in auditing of social and labor conditions will be considered for approval.