Technical Bulletin: Opening of New SLCP Verification Countries.

Date of issuance: May 20, 2025

We're pleased to announce that with the launch of CAF v1.7, 44 new countries/regions have been added to the list of those open for applications and verifications. Check the <u>Gateway</u> for the full list of countries available.

We are exploring openings in an additional 3 countries: Egypt, Jordan, and Nicaragua. We invite VBs to express their interest in these countries by applying at the VB and Verifier level, currently free of charge. At this time, only applications for these three countries and not verification activity will be open. This will facilitate a smooth country opening once the final decision on opening for verification activity has been made.

Which countries can I select during the application?

SLCP approved VBs with APSCA Full or Provisional Member Firm status can select all available countries on the <u>Gateway</u>.

When submitting the application payment form, you are requested to select all the countries you would like to apply for at once. Please only apply for countries where your VB has prior social audit experience as a VB entity; applications with no listed prior experience will be denied.

The countries available are divided into 2 types:

- 1. Countries/regions open for applications and verifications.
- 2. Countries/regions with fee waiver: countries that are granted a fee waiver due to low Verifier/VB availability. The fee waiver countries are subject to change at any time due to changes in SLCP operations. SLCP will notify VBs at least two weeks in advance of any changes. The countries with a fee waiver are Austria, Egypt, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Nicaragua, Sweden, and Ukraine.

Three of the fee waiver countries - Egypt, Jordan, Nicaragua - are currently open for application only.

To complete your application, please ensure you complete <u>the payment form</u> Payment codes generated after completion of this form, and a review by SLCP will be required to submit your application via the Sumerra site (<u>VB Application</u>, <u>Verifier Application</u>).

REMEMBER: If you are applying for the fee waiver countries, you still need to get a payment code from SLCP to ensure Sumerra can process your application.

Please let us know through our <u>Helpdesk</u> if you have any further questions or experience any technical problems with the applications.

To know more about the application process and related fees, check the Technical Bulletin "250520 VB Application Fee and Process".

