

SAQ & Platform Updates February 2025

Enhancing supplier sustainability assessments and platform functionality.

Agenda



Introduction

SAQ 5.0 Overview

The evolving legislative landscape

The response: New SAQ & platform features

Modularity: Structural, content & scoring changes

New platform features

Preparing for the update

Q&A

Introductions



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Housekeeping



Stay on mute unless you're invited to speak to minimise background noise.



Use the Q&A feature to ask questions—our team will address these at the end of the session.



Use the chat for comments or general discussion—questions should go into the Q&A.



The session will be recorded and shared afterwards for your convenience.

SAQ 5.0 Overview



SAQ 5.0, developed by Drive Sustainability, the globally recognised standard for automotive sustainability

- Utilised by major automotive OEMs and Tier 1s.
- Focus on human rights, environmental sustainability, business conduct and compliance and responsible supplier management.
- Partnership between **SUPPLIERASSURANCE** and Drive Sustainability focused on the continuous improvement of the SAQ and platform.

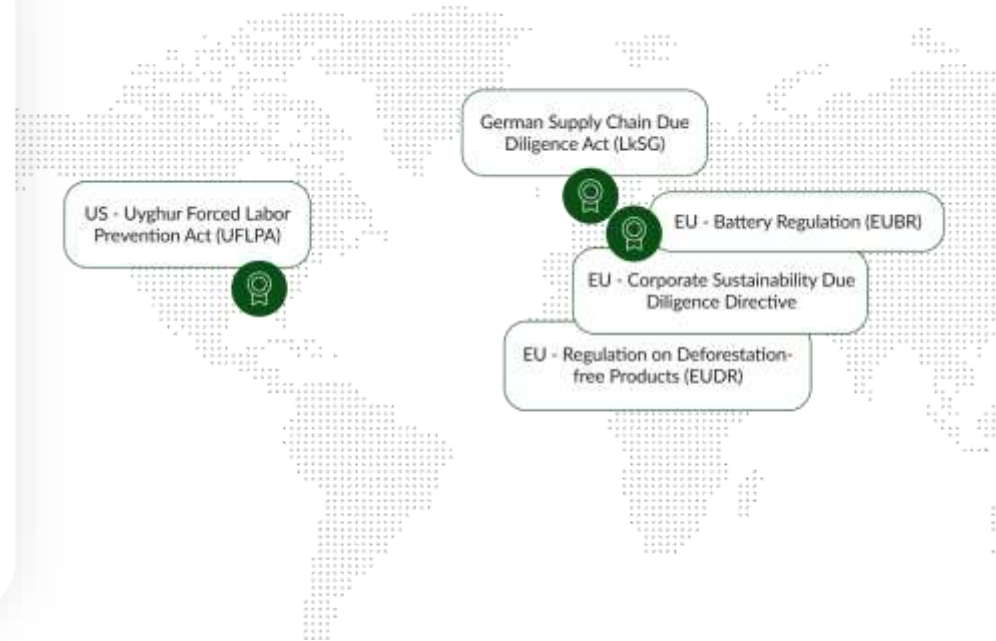


The evolving legislative landscape



Key developments driving change:

- Mandatory due diligence – Governments now require risk-based supplier assessments (CSDDD, UFLPA).
- Supplier sector expansion – New legislation extends compliance beyond manufacturers to SMEs and service providers.
- Increased supply chain scrutiny – Growing demand for accurate supplier data and corrective actions.



New SAQ & Platform updates



Introducing Modularity - NEW

- Tailors assessments based on supplier size and sector
- Removes irrelevant questions to improve accuracy
- Creates fairer scoring and benchmarking

Streamlining buyer-supplier communication

- Configurable alerts
- Direct messaging

User interface updates

- Manage account settings

Introducing Modularity



SAQ 5.0 introduces a tailored approach to sustainability assessments, enhancing fairness and relevance for all suppliers.



Modular pathways: Each supplier's NACE code and site headcount determines their tailored assessment pathway.



Focused scoring: Irrelevant questions are removed, optional questions no longer affect scores, and scoring is redistributed to prioritise relevant criteria.



Fairer benchmarks: Service sector suppliers are evaluated based on operations-specific criteria, ensuring equitable scoring and reduced assessment burden.



Who is affected?

SMEs (Sites with fewer than 250 employees)

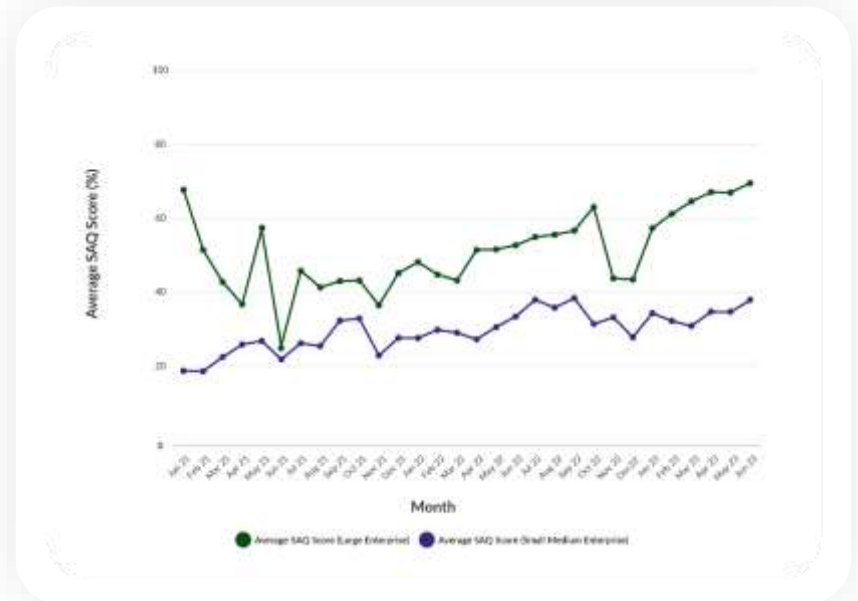
Service sector suppliers as defined by specific NACE codes

Developing modularity – A data-driven approach



- Analysis of 13,000+ SAQ responses in SAQ intelligence reports
- Findings revealed a bias favouring large manufacturers
- SMEs & service suppliers faced unintended scoring penalties
- Drive Sustainability & OEMs commissioned external consultants to create a fairer framework
- Modularity aligns SAQ with evolving legislation & industry standards

Note: The sharp decline in scores in June 2021 and November 2022 is due to updates to the SAQ scoring methodology.



How does it work?



Each SAQ 5.0 pathway will now include:



Mandatory Questions

These directly contribute to your sustainability rating.



Optional Questions and Answers

These provide additional insights but do not influence your rating.



Acceptable Evidence

Some responses require evidence that meets specific criteria. Clear guidance is provided to help you meet the criteria for each question.

How Modularity has been implemented



Optional Questions

E. Environment SAQ 5.0 **RESPONDING**

11. Does your site have an **environmental management system** in place? (optional)

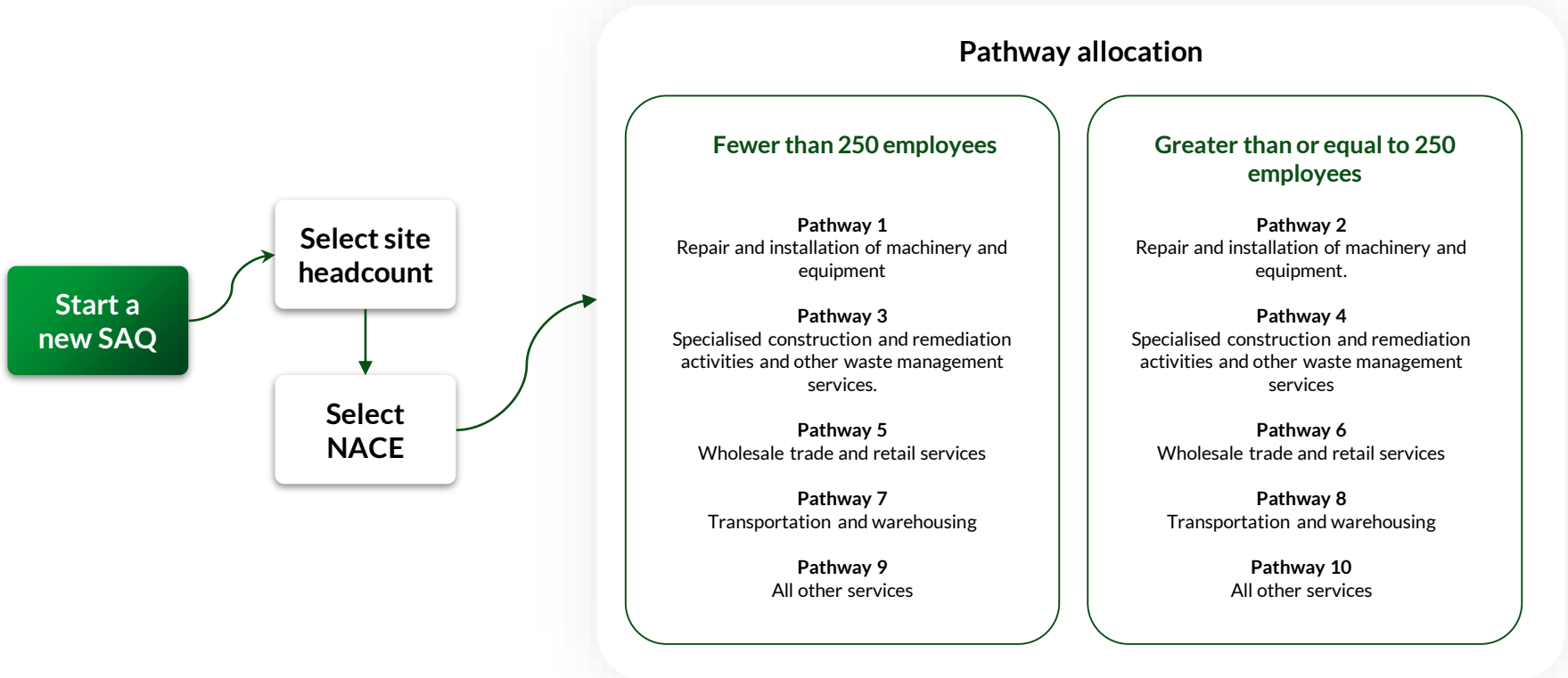
All optional questions will now receive a score of 0, and their score will be distributed across remaining mandatory questions to provide users with an SAQ Rating relevant to the supplier's size and sector.

Optional Checkboxes

i If the document you upload does not cover all the policy areas that you select below, gaps will be raised during the validation process. You will not receive a score for policy areas that are not covered in the document.

- Definitions
- Child labour and young workers
- Wages and benefits
- Working hours
- Modern slavery (i.e. slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour and human trafficking)
- Ethical recruiting
- Freedom of association and collective bargaining

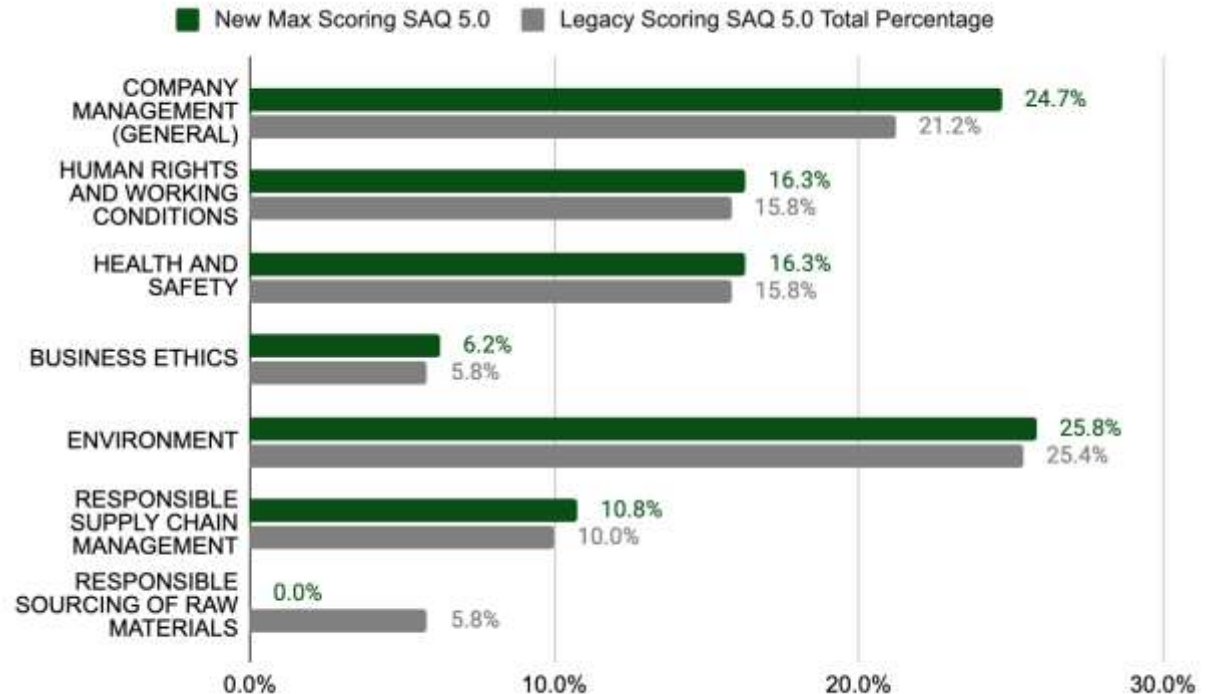
How does it work?



Pathway 1



NACE	33 - Repair and installation of machinery and equipment
Site headcount	<250
Optional questions	14
Optional checkboxes	19



Pathway 1



NACE	33 - Repair and installation of machinery and equipment
Site headcount	<250
Optional questions	14
Optional checkboxes	19

SAQ Theme	Optional Questions	Optional Checkboxes	Legacy Scoring	NEW Max Scoring	% Change
COMPANY MANAGEMENT (GENERAL)	0	0	21.2%	24.7%	16.4%
HUMAN RIGHTS AND WORKING CONDITIONS	1	3	15.8%	16.3%	3.0%
HEALTH AND SAFETY	1	0	15.8%	16.3%	3.0%
BUSINESS ETHICS	0	1	5.8%	6.2%	7.0%
ENVIRONMENT	5	5	25.4%	25.8%	1.7%
RESPONSIBLE SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT	0	10	10.0%	10.8%	7.6%
RESPONSIBLE SOURCING OF RAW MATERIALS	7	0	5.8%	0.0%	-100.0%

Complete scoring breakdown



- A detailed breakdown of scoring adjustments for each pathway is available in the **SUPPLIERASSURANCE** Help Centre.
- Learn how scoring redistributions apply to your specific NACE Code and pathway.

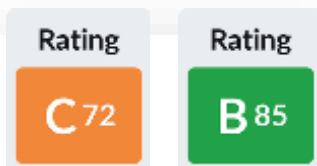
The screenshot displays the Supplier Assurance Help Centre interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Supplier Assurance logo, a search icon, and a 'Home' button. Below the navigation bar, the 'Help' section is visible, followed by a 'Popular' section. The 'Popular' section contains a grid of video thumbnails, each with a play button icon. The thumbnails are titled: 'Completing the SAG', 'Registering for the SUPPLIERASSURANCE pathway', 'Understanding the SAG & Rating', 'Working the SAG', 'What is a path?', and 'Working the SAG routes'. To the right of the video grid, there is a 'Related topics' section with a list of links: 'How to access the Supplier Assurance system', 'Find your SAG', 'Account types', 'Customer ID', 'SAG ID', 'Registration ID', 'Registration and Evidence ID', 'SAG ID ID', and 'SAG ID ID ID'. Below the 'Related topics' section, there is a 'Contact us' section with a link to 'All available Supplier Assurance is available to access the for the questions that you may have.' and a 'Contact us' button. At the bottom of the page, there is a 'FAQs' section with a link to 'View all FAQs' and a paragraph of text: 'This page reports a questionnaire to help you understand the scoring system for the SAG. Your customer may have paid you a multiple code for a gap. This could be because that needs to be completed if you have not already completed this questionnaire for another customer. But you can still submit your questionnaire to the system for the best possible score with your SAG.' Below the text is a 'Feedback' button.

SAQ Rating examples



NQC has selected suppliers at random with the NACE codes to illustrate the supplier's current score vs their new score with the redistribution.

Supplier 1 (<250)



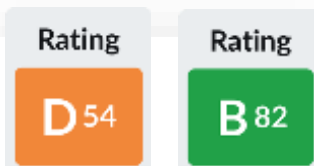
Current

New

18% increase

NACE 43
Specialised construction activities.

Supplier 2 (<250)



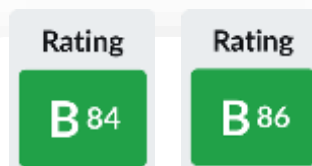
Current

New

51% increase

NACE 46
Wholesale trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles

Supplier 3 (>250)



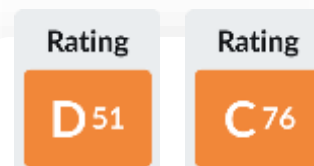
Current

New

2% increase

NACE 52
Warehousing and support activities for transportation

Supplier 4 (<250)



Current

New

49% increase

NACE 62
Computer programming, consultancy and related activities

***NOTE:** It is possible that some existing SAQ Ratings could also decrease with modularity.

Securing your updated SAQ Rating



Modularity is scheduled for release on 03/03/2025.

Your SAQ Rating will not automatically be updated.

To update your Rating, please:

- ✓ Review your SAQ to see which questions are now optional
- ✓ Ensure mandatory questions are fully completed
- ✓ Complete the SAQ to update your Rating



***NOTE:** It is possible that some existing SAQ Ratings could also decrease with modularity.

Improved communications



Alerts & direct messaging

Configurable Alerts



Users will be alerted to any changes in their own questionnaires. This includes any changes in questionnaire workflow status or score.



Users are able to configure alerts so that they are only informed about events that are relevant to them. Configuration options include allowing users to enable/disable specific alerts for any activity from their own organisation or their suppliers.

Account settings

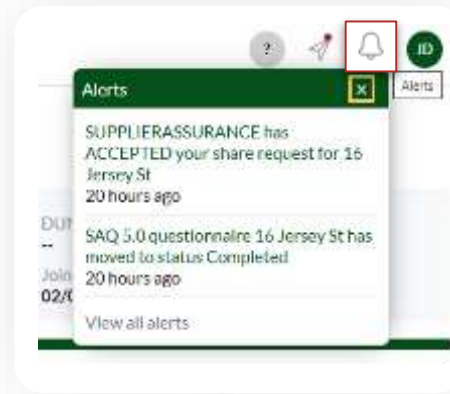
Account	Permissions	Alerts	Personalisation
Questionnaire alerts			
Supply Chain Mapper		Responding, Completed	
Carbon Footprint Assessment		Expired	
SAQ 5.0		Completed [Grey], Completed [Red], Completed [Amber], Completed [Green]	
Deforestation - SAQ		Completed [Red], Completed [Green]	

[Edit](#)

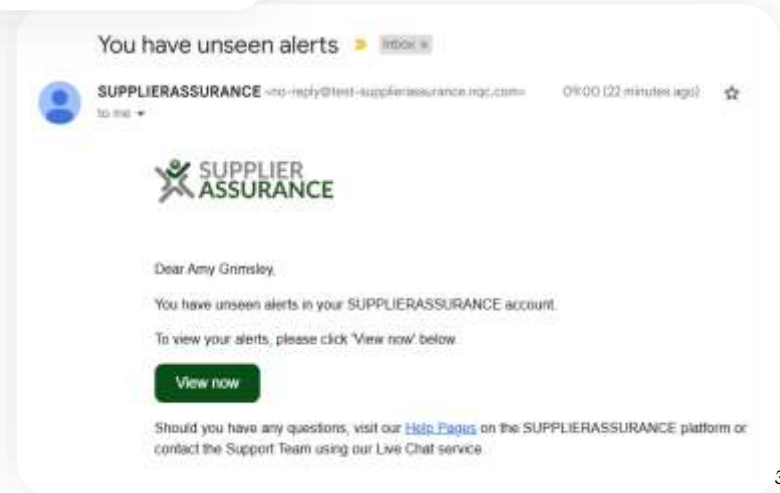
Configurable Alerts



Users can view all alerts via the 'Alerts' icon at the top of the page. 'View all alerts' provides a list of all alerts generated within 90 days. Each alert will also link to the activity directly (e.g. the supplier's questionnaire that has been completed).



If a user has missed any alerts within the past day, they will receive an email notification informing them of this.




Direct Messaging



SAQ 5.0
Yellowstone National Park
United States

Organisation	Zain Supplier
Industry	02:20 - Logging - Production
DUNS	449203123
Site/Group headcount	>50,000 / >50,000
User	...

COMPLETED Rating
Last updated 9 months ago
D 52

 Message



Suppliers and buyers can connect and securely communicate directly within the platform, making issue resolution faster and more efficient.



To initiate a direct message, users can select any shared questionnaire from their dashboard and click the 'Message' button. The system will attempt to connect you to the appropriate user from the corresponding organisation.

Name these messages

We have set a default name to reference these messages. You can change it to be something more meaningful below

NOTE: This name will be displayed to all participants

Direct Messaging



Once connected, users can securely discuss and resolve any outstanding requests or questions.

Message - SAQ Q1 campaign request

2 minutes

Hi, please update your answers as per the due date request to renew your ISO certificate.

Jane Doe/Example Supplier Jane

Hi, no problem. Sorry, I will update my SAQ this week.

Type your message

Powered by Google

Example Supplier 19:51
Jane Doe Europe/Berlin

Example Buyer 18:51
Amy Grimsley Europe/London

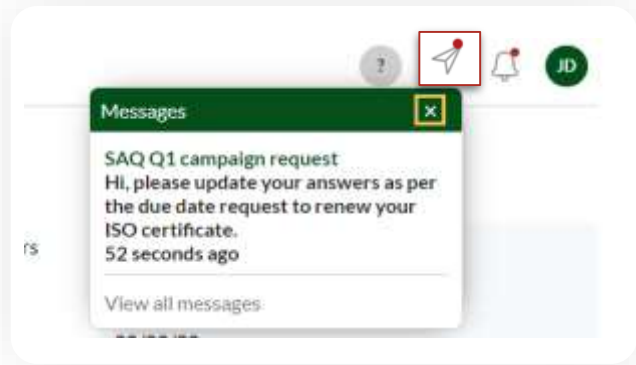
Guidance

Users are reminded of the platform's Acceptable Use Policy when using this messaging feature.

Users should always use a supplier's unique alphanumeric reference to identify a supplier in a message and not use their organisation name or the associated user's name. Each supplier in the conversation may not have visibility of all suppliers' identities and so caution must be taken.

To bridge language barriers, the messaging feature also includes the Google Translate feature, allowing users to communicate in their preferred language.

Direct Messaging



Existing messages can be accessed via the new 'Message' icon that has been added to the top of your dashboard.

Clicking this will open a menu showing your three most recently updated conversations for quick access. It also includes a link to view all open messages.

All messages can be viewed at any time via the 'View all messages' button.

Message history will not be deleted or expire, making it available for users to go back to at any time.

Messages		
Messages		2 items
Title	Last message	Date
SAQ Q1 campaign request	Hallo, kein Problem. Tut mir leid, Ich werde meinen SAQ diese Woche akt...	04/12/24 19:51
SAQ Q1 campaign request	Hi, please update your answers as per the due date request to renew yo...	04/12/24 19:47

Manage Account settings



✓ Users will be able to configure all account settings via the new tabs.

✓ User Managers will be able to manage their own organisation's users via the 'Users' option on the dashboard under 'Options'.

Account settings Jim Dot

Account	Permissions	Alerts	Personalisation
Personalisation			
Supplier map		Enabled	
Gadget ID		DUNS	
Gadget size		20	
Export separator		Comma (,)	
Measurement system		Imperial/US	
Decimal separator		Full Stop (.)	
Edit			
Time & language			
Preferred language		English (British)	
Time zone		Europe/Berlin	
Date format		DD/MM/YY e.g. 31/12/85	
Edit			

Get started

[Enter invitation code](#)

[Start a new SAQ 5.0](#)

Options

[Users](#)

[Data sharing](#)

Q & A

Responding to your questions

