

# The Hidden Cost of Duplicate Supply Chain Assessments

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Most organisations recognise the importance of assessing contractor competence before work begins. However, fewer consider the cumulative impact that multiple assessments can have across the wider supply chain.

For many suppliers, particularly SMEs, completing occupational health and safety assessments has become a routine part of doing business. While individual assessments may seem manageable, duplication across multiple clients can consume significant amounts of time and resource.

A contractor working for several principal contractors may be asked to provide the same information repeatedly. Policies, procedures, insurance certificates, training records and risk management documentation are often submitted multiple times to different organisations, despite covering the same requirements.

The result is a considerable administrative burden for both suppliers and buyers.

For suppliers, duplicated assessments divert valuable time away from core business activities. Management teams can find themselves repeatedly responding to similar requests rather than focusing on service delivery, workforce development and growth.

Buyers face challenges too. Reviewing identical information from hundreds of suppliers requires significant administrative effort and can slow procurement processes. In many cases, different assessment systems are evaluating the same evidence against broadly similar criteria.

The wider impact on productivity should not be underestimated. Across the construction and facilities management sectors, duplicated assessments represent a hidden cost that affects organisations of every size.

Recognising this challenge, industry stakeholders have increasingly embraced mutual recognition and standardised assessment frameworks. The aim is simple: assess once, recognise many times.

**SSIP** was established to support this principle. Through its Deem to Satisfy process, suppliers assessed by one SSIP Member Scheme can achieve recognition across numerous other member schemes without undergoing repeated occupational health and safety assessments.

This approach benefits everyone involved. Suppliers spend less time on administration, buyers gain access to independently assessed contractors and procurement processes become more efficient.

With more than 90,000 suppliers available for verification through SSIP, organisations can often confirm existing compliance quickly and efficiently, avoiding unnecessary reassessment and reducing costs throughout the supply chain.

As businesses continue to seek efficiencies while maintaining high standards of contractor competence, reducing duplication represents a significant opportunity. By embracing mutual recognition and standardised assessment processes, organisations can improve productivity, strengthen supply chain relationships and focus resources where they deliver the greatest value.