

Accreditation Path for Mining Producers

Beginning of the process

SBG introduction



Mining producers may begin the SBG accreditation process by applying directly, through a partner recommendation, or by invitation from SBG.

Compliance with eligibility criteria



If a mining producer is interested in joining SBG, it must meet certain eligibility criteria (legal, environmental, volume and reputational), which are assessed by the SBG technical team.

YES

NO

Diagnostic visit, gap analysis and initial report



The incorporation of the producer into SBG begin with a document review and an in-person visit. From this point on, the supply chain is planned (refiner and end buyer).

Signing of the CIP and cooperation agreement



The Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP) sets out the pending activities to fully meet the SBG criteria. Once the CIP is in place, the refiner can begin its due diligence process.

Technical assistance activities to close gaps



Producers receive assistance to meet criteria and, in some cases, resources for specific projects.

Closing Step 1 gaps



Once the Step 1 gaps are closed, the Accreditation Committee confirms the producer as a Swiss Better Gold Participant, allowing them to start exporting to the refiner.

Closing Step 2 gaps



Once the Step 2 gaps are closed, the Accreditation Committee confirms the producer as a Swiss Better Gold Supplier. At this stage, the accumulation of the premium begins.

Monitoring & Continuous improvement



In Step 3, the accredited producer maintains compliance with the criteria, receives assistance to advance in social, environmental and governance aspects, and accumulates premium to implement socio-environmental projects.

Verification process



No later than two years after accreditation, the mining producer will undergo an independent verification or third-party assessment to confirm compliance with the criteria.

Renewal of accreditation.



Every two years from the date of accreditation, the mining producer may renew their accreditation, subject to monitoring by the SBG technical team.

End of the process

Overview

The accreditation process begins when the Swiss Better Gold (SBG) team identifies mining producers with the potential and motivation to join the programme. Producers enter the **Continuous Improvement Escalator**, a progressive path designed to encourage continuous improvement and gradual compliance with responsible sourcing criteria.

In **Step 1**, producers are assessed against ten (10) basic criteria and commit to a structured Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP). Once these criteria are met and the CIP is agreed, the Accreditation Committee confirms the producers as Swiss Better Gold Participants. At this stage, they receive technical assistance and can sell gold to SBG members under the guarantee of legitimacy and formal commitment to continuous improvement. The establishment of a Swiss Better Gold supply chain is subject to a commercial agreement between the mining producer and the refiner. SBG does not act as a commercial agent, nor does it participate in the commercial terms of the purchase and sale of gold.

Within 12 months, producers aim to reach **Step 2**, which requires full compliance with all 27 SBG criteria. Once full compliance has been confirmed, the Accreditation Committee grants accreditation, officially making the producer a Swiss Better Gold Supplier. Accreditation at this level opens access to co-financing for socio-environmental projects agreed upon with the Swiss Better Gold Association.

After reaching Step 2, producers must maintain compliance and continue implementing improvements under **Step 3**, ensuring consistent performance. The SBG team monitors progress, provides technical assistance, facilitates independent verification, and promotes the use of the SBG Fund for social/environmental projects.

Timeline

	Maximum Duration	Producer category	Incentives	Export Status
Onboarding	12 months	Under incorporation	Technical assistance	Not permitted as SBG
Meets Step 1 criteria	12 months	Participant	Technical assistance + connection to the supply chain	Permitted, without premium
Meets Step 2 criteria	Continuous	Supplier	Technical assistance + connection to the supply chain + premium	Permitted, with premium
Begins Step 3	Continuous	Supplier	Technical assistance + connection to the supply chain + premium + independent verification	Continues, with premium

Contact us:

For more information on how to become an SBG-accredited producer, please contact us at: info@sbga.ch.

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