BENEFITS FOR SUPPLIERS

- A single online process to submit assurance and compliance data with the objective of reducing duplicate requests from NFU Mutual and other financial services customers who you provide services to.
- An online supplier profile which can be updated throughout the year to demonstrate your ongoing compliance.
- Qualification means you won't have to provide assurance information each time you bid for business with NFU Mutual.

nfumutual.co.uk

NFU Mutual

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NFU MUTUAL SUPPLIER QUALIFICATION SYSTEM GUIDE

NFU Mutual
INSURANCE | PENSIONS | INVESTMENTS

NFU Mutual is committed to introducing responsible business practices that make it easier for our suppliers to do business with us.

To support this commitment, we've introduced the Financial Services Supplier Qualification System (FSQS). It is designed to standardise and manage NFU Mutual's requests for assurance and compliance data along with other major financial services organisations that have also adopted FSQS.

As the regulatory environment becomes more complex, it's important that we can demonstrate to our stakeholders that we're working responsibly with our suppliers to minimise risk and protect customers. The introduction of FSQS provides a standard and simple mechanism for collecting and managing assurance and compliance data across NFU Mutual. FSQS is also integral to sourcing. Our Procurement Team will use the system to find pre-qualified suppliers to be considered for new business.

HOW TO GAIN QUALIFICATION

There are two levels of qualification. Stage 1 Qualification will be sufficient to cover some suppliers.

However, some products and services are subject to additional compliance and policy requirements. For example, if a supplier deals directly with NFU Mutual's customer data, then they will be asked to demonstrate how they comply with relevant regulatory requirements.

Stage 1 – Qualification
Suppliers will receive an email invitation to complete an online questionnaire. The invitation will come from Hellios, an external partner, who has been appointed to collect and administer the data on behalf of NFU Mutual. The questionnaire should take around one hour to complete. This information will allow us to determine whether your organisation only requires Stage 1 Qualification, or is required to also complete Stage 2 Qualification.

Stage 2 – Qualification
Stage 2 requires the completion of a more detailed online assessment and the provision of evidence to support your application. This stage typically covers your policies and practice in areas such as:

- Anti-Bribery
- Operational Risk
- Anti-Money Laundering
- Health & Safety
- Whistle blowing
- Security
- Fraud
- Modern Slavery
- Business Continuity & Disaster Recovery
- Information Security
- Cyber Security
- Data Protection
- Diversity & Inclusion
- Responsible Business Governance
- Financial & Legal
- Tax Compliance

Timelines for Qualification
Based on the thousands of suppliers that have already completed the FSQS process, it typically takes between four to eight weeks to attain qualification for the first time. For exact timelines, existing suppliers should refer and adhere to the deadline dates in the FSQS email communications issued by Hellios. If you are being asked to apply as part of a tender process then please refer to the Category Buyer, who will confirm completion deadlines.

Fees for Qualification
Application for Stage 2 incurs an annua which is payable directly to Hellios, to help fund the operational costs of administering the system.

NFU Mutual and other financial services organisations using FSQS also contribute annually to the funding of the system.

If your organisation is an autonomous small or micro-sized enterprise, then no fee will be charged to apply for Stage 2 Qualification. Medium sized organisations are partially subsidised. Click here for more information.

Following Stage 2 qualification, NFU Mutual may wish to conduct further assurance activities including an on-site audit. This will be conducted by NFU Mutual and will incur no further fees.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why has NFU Mutual introduced a Supplier Qualification System?
Suppliers have told us that current processes for collecting compliance and assurance information is time-consuming and complex. The introduction of an online system simplifies the process for suppliers to submit information and prevents suppliers receiving multiple requests from NFU Mutual for qualification data.

It is also important that we (your organisation and NFU Mutual) can demonstrate to our stakeholders that we are working together responsibly to minimise risk across our supply chain to protect our customers. As the regulatory environment we operate in becomes more complex, it is vital that we have a robust system in place to support the collection and maintenance of Supplier Assurance data and respond to regulatory changes.

Who is Hellios?
Hellios Information Ltd is a UK-based company. The team has extensive experience in collecting and maintaining supplier data on behalf of a number of global and UK companies.

What is the role of Hellios?
NFU Mutual has appointed Hellios to collect and administer supplier assurance related data on behalf of the NFU Mutual. Hellios will collect and check the data provided by suppliers and ensure the data is maintained on FSQS.

Hellios is an approved supplier of NFU Mutual and both they and the FSQS system have been subjected to our due diligence controls. Hellios does not assess a supplier's suitability for qualification or approval. That decision rests with NFU Mutual.

Do we have to register each of our legal entities separately?
Yes, your organisation is required to register any legal entity that submits an invoice to NFU Mutual.

Can any supplier apply for qualification?
No, qualification is by invitation only.

Will other suppliers have access to the information we provide?
No, other suppliers will not have access to the information you provide.

Will assurance information be available to anyone else?
Yes, one of the benefits of the FSQS is that suppliers' assurance information will be available to other financial services organisations that have also adopted FSQS. This will reduce requests for duplicate information from the different customers you may provide services to. Hellios will not share any information you provide with any other party or use your information for any other purpose.

Will I be asked to provide pricing information on my company's products and services?
No, your organisation will not be asked to provide any commercial information of this nature.

If I'm required to apply for Stage 2 Qualification, how do I pay the fee to Hellios?
Hellios will provide full details of the payment options available however we recommend suppliers make an online payment to Hellios for the fastest access to the Stage 2 Qualification process.

How long is qualification valid for?
Annually. The renewal date is set at one year after Stage 1 Qualification has been granted. Or in the case of Stage 2 Qualification, one year after your Stage 2 questionnaire has been issued. Hellios will issue reminders to suppliers well in advance of their qualification expiry deadline.

How long does it take to complete qualification?
Typically, it takes less than one business day to enter the information in the system (if you're asked to complete both stages). However, the time required to collate the information varies depending on the size of an organisation. Larger organisations often have to source the data from a number of internal departments and therefore we're giving existing suppliers approximately eight weeks to complete qualification.

As an existing supplier, what happens if I fail to complete FSQS within the assigned timelines?
Suppliers will be fully supported by Hellios throughout the qualification process. However, failure to complete FSQS will result in a supplier being classified as non-compliant in our internal systems. This will affect future business with NFU Mutual since FSQS is now our standard qualification and compliance process for suppliers.