

HIGG FEM VERIFICATION UPDATES

Verification improves the consistency, comparability and credibility of Higg Index data. It also reduces the need for multiple, proprietary audits for facilities so that resources can be used in other areas, such as performance improvement.

Since launching the verification program in CY2018, Higg FEM verifications grew at a compounded annual growth rate of 60 percent. While this growth has helped the industry to embrace a unified environmental assessment tool for their supply chains, it has also brought challenges. Verifications are conducted in more than 80 countries worldwide, and the rapid growth rate has underscored the imperative need for improvement in data quality. Based on member feedback, Cascale evolved the verification process for CY2024.

CORE VERIFICATION

For FEM2023, Higg FEM verification will be narrowed to a core set of questions covering Foundational Environmental Performance and Essential Quantitative Metrics. Facility users will still complete the full Higg FEM 2024 self-assessment, but only the core questions will be verified.

- **Foundational Environmental Performance** refers to the essential good practices that a business must demonstrate in order to operate responsibly and
- **Essential Quantitative Metrics** are questions or REFIDs which provide data points that help to calculate a facility's total GHG emissions and water consumption.

SCORING

With Higg FEM verification now covering only a subset of the full Higg FEM assessment, verified Higg FEM scores will become only partially verified scores. Cascale is assessing alternative metrics which align with the proposed core verification approach that could potentially support a brand's internal processes. Please stay tuned for more details.

VERIFICATION FEES

Prior to May 2023, the Higg FEM verification fee was collected on Worldly and then passed to Cascale, which manages the program. In order to streamline the process, provide more transparency, and better align with common industry practice, this fee will now be collected by the verifying body and then passed to Cascale. The amount of the Higg FEM verification fee remains unchanged at 300 USD.

VERIFIER BODY TRAINING

Verifiers will be required to train on:

- Understanding the Higg FEM core question set and verification approach for CY2024.
- Verification program updates (e.g., updated protocol requirements).

Key Verification Resources

To help support our members and community, we invite you to access key resources to help guide you through these important changes.

Verification Protocol



VB Requirements Protocol



Verification Fee Schedule



Verification Webinar Recording

Passcode: @=rp!w77



Questions?

Please contact Cascale with any questions at verification@cascale.org.

For more information, visit:

<https://cascale.org/tools-programs/higg-index-tools/facility-tools/higg-fem-verification/>



FEM2023 VERIFICATION FEES

What is changing for the FEM2023 verification process?

Prior to May 2023, the Higg FEM verification fee was collected on Worldly’s platform as vFEM module fee, and then passed to Cascale, who manages the program. In order to streamline the process, provide more transparency, and better align with common industry practices, this fee will now be collected by the verifying body and then passed to Cascale. The selected verification body will add this fee to the amount charged for the verification services. The amount of the Higg FEM verification fee remains unchanged at 300 USD.

It is important to note that this change also affects the equivalent vFSLM module fee, which will no longer be charged on the Worldly platform, resulting in a net savings for facilities undergoing Higg FSLM verification.

Service	Service Owner	Payment Occurs	Fee
Self-assessment subscription packages	Worldly	On Worldly	Pricing available on Worldly
Verification Access Fee	Cascale	Facility pays fee directly to verification body	\$300 USD/Verification
Higg FEM Verification	Verifier Bodies	Can be paid to verification body by facility or brand depending on the business relationship.	Set by Verifier Body (based on Verification Protocols).

Verification bodies can learn more about their fee schedule on [HowtoHigg.com](https://www.howtohigg.com).

Why are these changes being made?

Since launching the verification program in CY2018, Higg FEM verifications grew at a compounded annual growth rate of 60 percent. While this growth has helped the industry to embrace a unified environmental assessment tool for their supply chains, it has also brought challenges. Verifications are conducted in more than 80 countries worldwide, and the rapid growth rate has underscored the imperative need for improvement in data quality, and to align with common industry practices.

We are continuously evolving our tools and verification programs to better meet the needs of our members. The core verification approach helps to address the needs of brands and retailers, while contributing to improving data quality.

How are verification fees used?

Verification access fees support the ongoing content and methodology development of the Higg Index, associated programs, and verification protocols, which are essential to drive collective industry action.

Where can I access more information?

Please utilize the key resources linked within this document to learn more about verification updates, fees, and educational resources.

To learn more about self-assessment subscription packages, login to Worldly for pricing.

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