

## 2.3 STRONG SUPPLY CHAINS

The results of risk assessment in the supply chain, in terms of respect for human rights and environmental protection, the carried out in 2024 by companies which are members of the Hochland Group remain unchanged. In view of the ongoing discussions on the European level, concerning the relaxation of legal regulations (Omnibus), including the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence directive (CSDDD), the Hochland Group awaits further decisions and action directions to be determined. Hochland Polska carries out a supplier assessment once a year as one of its tools used to guarantee a strong supply chain for materials and services. The assessment of individual suppliers includes three criteria: quality

of deliveries/services (quantity and fault severity assessment, observance of hygiene conditions, certificates held), general assessment (advice-related competences, reaction times to complaints, availability), delivery reliability (conformity with the ordered quantities, punctuality).

Hochland maintains a dialogue on sustainability with its customers and suppliers. Hochland participates in **SEDEX (Supplier Ethical Data Exchange), an online platform supporting ethical supply chain operations.** SEDEX enables the storage and sharing of data on responsible business practices, helping companies to improve the ethical aspects of their operations.

The platform is based on **SMETA (SEDEX Members Ethical Trade Audit) audits**, which check the four following areas:

1. Work standards,
2. Occupational health and safety,
3. Business ethics,
4. Care for the environment.

The reports from these audits are published in the SEDEX database, increasing transparency and supporting supplier management.

Hochland underwent a SMETA audit in 2022, with a **very good result**. In 2024, the verification process for the 2025 audit began.

**Suppliers from the following 5 groups are assessed:**



**The results of the assessment of the suppliers of materials and services carried out for 2024 are presented in the graph below:**



After the assessment, each supplier receives feedback about the score it obtained and whether corrective actions should be undertaken.

### BEST PRACTICE

SEDEX ONLINE PLATFORM  
SUPPORTING ETHICAL  
SUPPLY CHAIN OPERATIONS