

SUSTAINABILITY REPORT ASSURANCE

Gain stakeholders' trust and enhance your company's reputation.

BUSINESS CHALLENGE

Stakeholders are demanding increased scrutiny of corporate governance and transparency on sustainability performance. They want to see intent. They want to see progress, and that organizations are operating honestly and transparently as possible to have a positive impact in their local communities. This means sustainability, or Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) issues to use investor terminology, have gained a firm place on the agenda of boards and senior management worldwide.

New legislation is emerging, notably the European Union's Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD) that goes beyond the established voluntary standards to require an even broader range of EU based companies to communicate their impact on the environment and society at large and demonstrate their stewardship of the resources which they use. Openly communicating and demonstrating accountability to stakeholders can build trust and support, but only if the stakeholders are confident the shared information is a true reflection of the company's performance.

SOLUTION



Working with an independent body provides an objective view of your sustainability/ESG reporting and reassures stakeholders that the information is accurate and free of bias. Independent assurance also ensures that the right kind of information is communicated. As each company's sustainability strategy is unique, Bureau Veritas Certification delivers personalized and robust assurance solutions that reflect each client's individual needs. The result is accurate and credible sustainability reporting, which enables internal and external stakeholders to confidently make informed judgments, decisions and actions.

FAQ

What are the benefits of reporting?

For organizations the main benefits are: identification and management of key risks and opportunities, enhanced reputation among stakeholders, improved brand value, customer attractiveness, competitiveness and market position, employee attraction and retention.

What are the standards for the Assurance of Sustainability Reports?

There are a variety of standards used to inform this work. For the development of its ASR methodology, Bureau Veritas Certification has considered and incorporated several applicable standards and best practices guidance, including:

- International Standard on Assurance Engagements 3000 (ISAE 3000, 2013)
- Global Reporting Initiative Universal Standards (and Sector Standards as available, 2021), AccountAbility's Assurance Standard (AA1000 AS, 2018)



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OUR APPROACH

Bureau Veritas Certification provides a portfolio of assurance solutions that can be tailored to its clients' unique reporting needs. We have combined our experience with leading reporting companies and best practices to develop three original levels of assurance:

Gap Analysis

The BV assurance team conducts a preliminary evaluation of your data against the particular reporting requirements

Limited Assurance

focuses on the accuracy of information reported by the client. This methodology samples the available information and helps organizations demonstrate transparency and accountability.

Reasonable Assurance

assesses the broader quality of information including its accuracy but also looking at other established parameters, such as accessibility, balance, clarity, comparability, reliability and timeliness.

CASE STUDY

Mersen

Bureau Veritas has been commissioned to provide assurance of sustainability reporting for Mersen, a world expert in specialist electrical equipment and advanced materials, for the last three years. It is already a legal requirement for a "declaration of extra-financial performance (DPEF)" and third party assurance in France where Mersen is based. Laurence Lamy, Mersen's Group Communications Manager observes: "to further challenge us, we called on Bureau Veritas, with its deep industry experience to take a fresh look at our facts and figures. The Bureau Veritas assurance practitioner goes into the field and challenges our teams, in their own technical language, about their operations and equipment."

WHY CHOOSE BUREAU VERITAS?

- **Independent assurance is part of our core business:** We are one of the largest global non-financial audit and certification bodies. Since our company's founding in 1828, we continue to uphold our reputation as a reliable, independent and trustworthy assurance partner.
- **Our Expertise:** We understand the complexity of the environmental and social issues and our teams come from engineering, science, law, and sustainability backgrounds to go beyond the data. Our experts help ensure the real life application of sustainability data enables progress and delivers the positive change required to shape a better world
- **We are recognized as a sustainability reporting assurance best-practice provider:** Organizations such as AccountAbility, Verdantix and the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) have commended our work.
- **Flexible and collaborative with strong communication:** Our approach to assurance is transparent and tailored to our clients' needs and operations. We work collaboratively to develop a customized approach adapted to your specific needs and timing, whilst supporting continual improvement in parallel. We familiarize ourselves with your operations and involve your internal stakeholders early in the process in order to determine how to best approach verification activities, as well as actively provide meaningful observations and recommendations to you throughout the engagement.
- **Our methodology incorporates recognized best practices:** We constantly review and adapt our internal protocols to align with existing regulations, standards and current best practices, including the AA1000 Assurance Standard (2018), the GRI Universal Standards (2021) and the ISAE3000 standard (2013) for auditing of non-financial information.
- **Our assignments generate innovation, learning and performance improvement:** We offer a flexible, tailored approach unique to each project and dependent on emerging standards and marketplace demands. For each assignment, we challenge our client's sustainability strategy/performance, strengthen its risk management and value creation, and help it become more strategic and visionary.



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