

An aerial photograph of a winding asphalt road that curves through a dense forest. The trees are in various stages of autumn, with colors ranging from vibrant green to bright yellow and orange. The road has a white line marking and is set against a backdrop of a thick canopy of trees.

SUSTAINABILITY CERTIFICATION BOOK

BUREAU VERITAS CERTIFICATION

2023

PREFACE

This summary has been prepared for management to get an overview of all sustainability certification schemes (Accredited, Unaccredited, Customized audits) to be able to increase your existing capabilities.

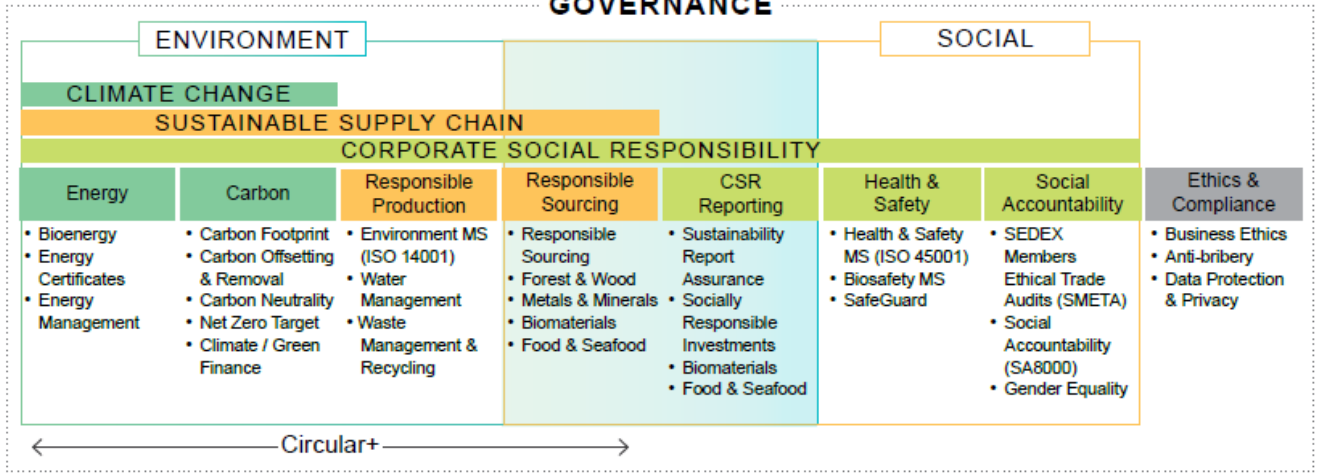


OUR GREEN LINE OF SERVICES AND SOLUTIONS



BUREAU
VERITAS

GOVERNANCE



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ENERGY

INTRODUCTION

- | Climate change is the defining challenge of this decade.
- | The need to address climate change is profoundly changing energy use
- | Bureau Veritas has a strong presence in the food and agricultural sector, which has led to strength in emerging biofuels certification schemes

- | Energy Management Systems are a key enabler for clients seeking to reduce their emissions and climate change impact
- | Since the early 2000s Bureau Veritas has been a leader in providing third part verification services for emerging carbon markets, national and regional carbon emissions schemes



BIOENERGY (FUELS) & BIOMATERIALS CERTIFICATION SCHEMES



ISCC



REDcert



KZR INiG



2BSvs



SURE BIOMASS

ENERGY MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS



ISO 50001



BUREAU VERITAS



BIOENERGY / BIOFUELS & BIOMATERIALS CERTIFICATION

CONTEXT

- | Biofuel sustainability certification is primarily being driven by the requirements for low carbon land and, more recently, air transportation fuels.
- | To improve circularity, reduce carbon footprint & limit environmental impact, companies are turning towards non-fossil-based materials & energy sources. As alternative materials containing recycled content & biofuels become increasingly available, organizations must carefully monitor their supply chains for quality, reliability & sustainability.
- | In the new economy, recycled content in new products & their packaging is vital to prove improved sustainability. Low-carbon sources of energy such as biofuels & biomass are key to slowing climate change. Governments worldwide are setting ambitious targets for recycling, use of non-virgin materials, renewable energy & offering tax incentives to companies that meet or exceed sustainability goals.
- | Using the right bioenergy technology can help achieve greater cost savings than using fossil fuels. Production of bioenergy does not contribute extra CO₂ to the atmosphere like fossil fuels. Using waste streams to generate bioenergy saves the environmental, economic costs of disposal in landfills & reduces contamination risks.

SCOPE / CLIENT SECTORS

- | Farmers, biomass collection agencies, processors and traders of biomass and biofuels throughout the supply chain
- | All types of agricultural & forestry raw materials including waste & residues, biogas & algae, renewable feedstock's of non-biological origin, bacteria

BENEFITS

- | Demonstrate sustainable business practices via verification of your biomaterials value chain
- | Qualify for financial incentives by meeting EU sustainability criteria for biofuels targets
- | Access European markets with certification of your biomass and biofuels production process
- | Prove your commitment to the circular economy to consumers, suppliers and stockholders



1. INTERNATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY & CARBON CERTIFICATION (ISCC)



CONTEXT

- | ISCC is a leading global certification system, which offers solutions to address sustainability requirements for all feedstocks & markets. The ISCC System contributes to the implementation of environmentally, socially & economically sustainable production & the use of all kinds of biomass in global supply chains.
- | ISCC operates different certification systems for different markets.

ISCC EU

- | To demonstrate compliance with the legal requirements of the Renewable Energy Directive (RED) & Fuel Quality Directive (FQD) for all Member States of the EU

ISCC PLUS

- | Voluntary certification for non-regulated markets. Covers food, feed and industrial applications on a global scale, as well as biofuels for the Non-European markets. It can be applied in food, feed, energy & industrial applications

ISCC CORSIA

- | To demonstrate compliance with the sustainability requirements for Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAFs) under the global ICAO CORSIA scheme.

SCOPE / CLIENT SECTORS

- | ISCC EU (Biofuels in EU) & ISCC PLUS (outside EU) covers all types of material as mentioned on [Page 6](#) including carbon capture and utilisation for transport purposes
- | ISCC CORSIA covers simultaneous co-processing of fossil fuels and sustainable aviation fuels

FEATURES

- | Robust multi-stakeholder system
- | Global scheme with high level sustainability standard covering all kinds of biomass
- | Based on EU requirements
- | Market leading recognition
- | Broad raw material & product coverage
- | Clear chain of custody rules
- | Supports credible verified claims





2. REDcert



CONTEXT

REDcert was founded in 2010, by German agricultural & biofuel sectors, encouraging a joint responsibility among the economic operators to promote certified sustainable biofuels and liquid biomass.

The REDcert scheme is a "voluntary scheme" approved by the European Commission & by the competent authorities at national level in the various member states. It can be used in all EU member states & selected 3rd countries that fulfil the respective prerequisites.

REDcert's activities related to the implementation of sustainability requirements mainly focus on Germany & Europe. They are applicable to all economic operators in the respective value chain. It comprises of three certification schemes, REDcert-EU & REDcert-DE (with a focus on the certification of sustainable biomass, biofuels and bioliquids) & REDcert2 (which provides requirements for sustainable biomass to be used in the food and animal feed industry and chemical industry)

SCOPE / CLIENT SECTORS

- | Biofuels & Bioliquids that were produced from different kinds of biomass as mentioned on [Page 6](#)

FEATURES

- | International recognition – approved by Federal Agency for Agriculture & Food and European Commission
- | Consistent 100% legal compliance in biofuel sector
- | Ensures the scheme structure is aligned with practical needs
- | Greater competitiveness





3. BIOMASS & BIOFUEL SUSTAINABILITY VOLUNTARY SCHEME (2BSvs)



CONTEXT

- | The 2BSvs certification scheme is recognised by the European Commission and was developed by a working group composed of representatives of the biofuel sector in France.
- | 2BSvs is a voluntary scheme developed to allow biomass producers, 1st gathering entities and economic operators along the biofuels supply chain to demonstrate the sustainability of their products in conformity with the European Union Directive 2009/28/EC.
- | The 2BS voluntary scheme has been designed to cover all the requirements of the EU Directive 2009/28/EC modified by the Directive 2015/1513. 2BSvs consists of 2 standards: one to cover the production of biomass and the second to cover the supply chain.
- | 2BSvs certification allows the sale of sustainable biomass or biofuel from cereals, oilseeds, protein crops, other crops or waste and residues.

SCOPE / CLIENT SECTORS

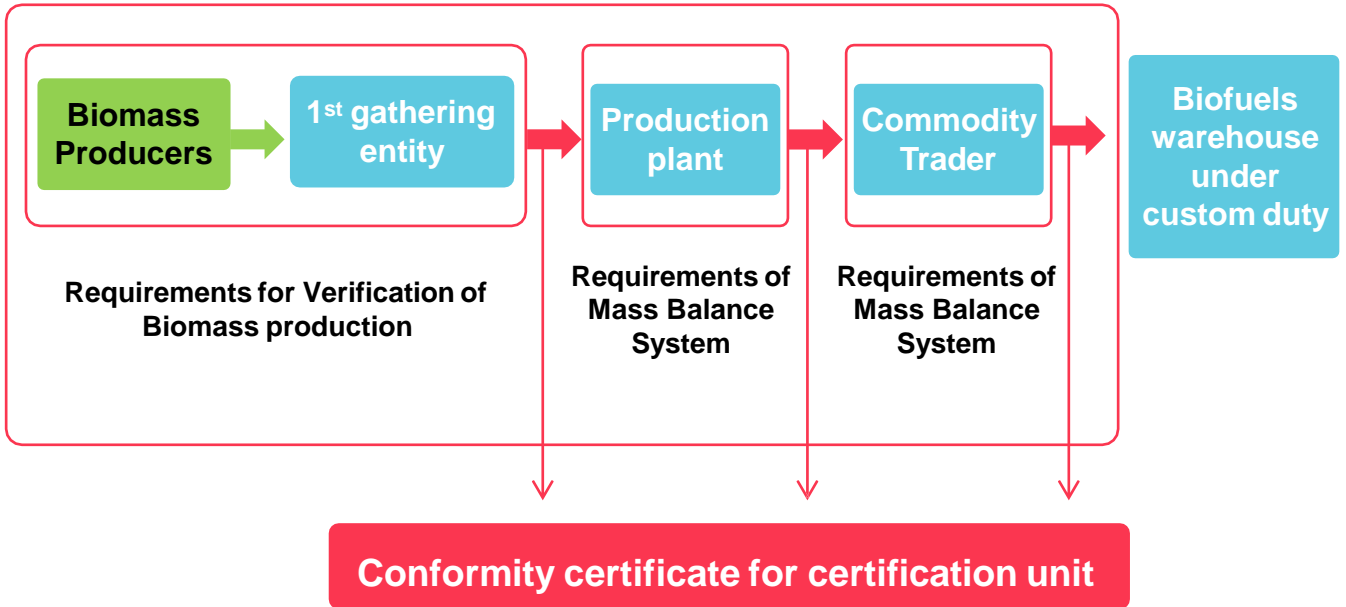
- | As mentioned on [Page 6](#)

FEATURES

- | Covers all the sustainability requirements of the European Directive & Communications.
- | Less expensive & better aligned for first gathering points (agricultural sector operators) than comparable schemes.
- | Emission Savings for Soil Carbon (ESCA) methodology support further carbon reduction claims
- | Ensures the implementation of a mass balance system.
- | Guarantee that the information on the origin of the biomass is reliable
- | It allows the sale of sustainable biomass or biofuel



SCOPE





4. SURE BIOMASS CERTIFICATION



CONTEXT

- | **SUSTAINABLE RESOURCES Verification Scheme (SURE)**, is a new and growing scheme that launched in November 2020. SURE gives all economic operators in the bioenergy sector a viable solution to demonstrate the sustainability of electricity & heat production from biomass and thus to comply with the legal requirements of RED II.
- | Until SURE is recognised by the EU Commission as a voluntary certification scheme for demonstrating compliance with RED II, SURE gives companies in the bioenergy sector the opportunity to voluntarily provide proof of sustainability & thus get ready for the implementation of RED II.
- | It ensure that biomass is produced sustainably. EU Member States have agreed on criteria that must be observed & documented by operators for the production of electricity & heat from biomass or biogas. Certifying the sustainability of biomass guarantees high quality & transparency.

SCOPE / CLIENT SECTORS

- | Producers or agricultural biomass, forest biomass, waste & residues, biomass fuel, heat & electricity
- | Trade & logistics operators of biomass (producers or sources of energy, crops, straw, manure crop residues, sawdust, woodchips, wood pellets, and wood briquettes)
- | Applies to companies with activities in process or trade the biomass or fuels for the generation of electricity / heating / cooling, or trade electricity / heating / cooling as mentioned in [Page 6](#)

FEATURES

- | Applicable in all EU member states.
- | It can be used in 3rd countries that fulfil the respective prerequisites (i.e. Information such as land classification, production, farming & social issues)
- | Demonstrates compliance with the requirements of RED II in a transparent, reliable and legally secure manner.





5. KZR INiG



CONTEXT

- | The KZR INiG System is a Polish biomass & biofuels certification, operating globally. It is based on the requirements of the RED II Directive on renewable energy sources (2018/2001 / EU). It was developed at the Oil and Gas Institute – NRI, a company with more than 70 years experience in the field of biofuels, closely cooperating with the industry all over the world.
- | The KZR INiG System accepts schemes that are recognized by the European Commission. The KZR INiG System is used to certify the sustainable production of biofuels, bioliquids and raw materials. The KZR INiG System has no territorial restrictions. This means that any supplier associated with the supply chain may be subject to certification, regardless of the place of business.

SCOPE / CLIENT SECTORS

- | Producers of biomass (rapeseed, corn, wheat, others)
- | Waste and residue
- | Feedstocks for the production of biofuels (e.g. rapeseed oil, molasses, distillate and others)
- | Biofuels
- | Bioliquids (other renewable energy)
- | Motor fuels

FEATURES

- | User-friendly, comprehensive & recognized scheme by European Commission
- | Flexible and responsive
- | Allows for co-processing of bio & fossil fractions
- | Minimization of administrative burden by adjusting the requirements of KZR INiG to existing management systems
- | Enables the use of actual & standard GHG emissions
- | Competitively priced





ISO 50001 ENERGY MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS



CONTEXT

- | Globally energy consumption represents the largest source of GHG emissions leading to the continuous deterioration of the environment. The International Energy Agency (IEA) estimates that almost one-half of the necessary climate mitigation will need to come from improved energy efficiency.
- | Energy management has an important role in accelerating climate action to support of the first international climate agreement. Effective energy management is a crucial issue for the success of any business.
- | In Europe the Energy Efficiency Directive is driving adoption with tax breaks available for certified companies in some countries.

- | ISO 50001 Energy Management System (EnMS) is a framework for energy management, relevant in energy intensive industries & those facing GHG emissions limits. It establishes an energy policy with concrete objectives & processes to achieve them. Implementing a comprehensive Energy Management System helps to monitor, manage, predict and reduce energy use impacting in climate change, to improve energy efficiency, supply security and cost reductions to achieve sustainability objectives.

SCOPE / CLIENT SECTORS

- | All, any organization regardless of its type, size, complexity, geographical location, organizational culture or the products and services it provides
- | Applicable to activities affecting energy performance that are managed and controlled by the organization
- | Applicable irrespective of the quantity, use, or types of energy consumed
- | Can be used independently, or be aligned or integrated with other management systems



SCHEME BENEFITS

- | Reduces costs with a structured approach to identifying, measuring and managing energy consumption
- | Improves business performance by affecting behaviour and identifying opportunities to reduce energy consumption.
- | Engages top management, make energy management a boardroom issue
- | Enables compliance with legislation to meet current and future energy efficiency & GHG reduction targets.
- | Formalises energy policy and objectives
- | Embeds energy efficient

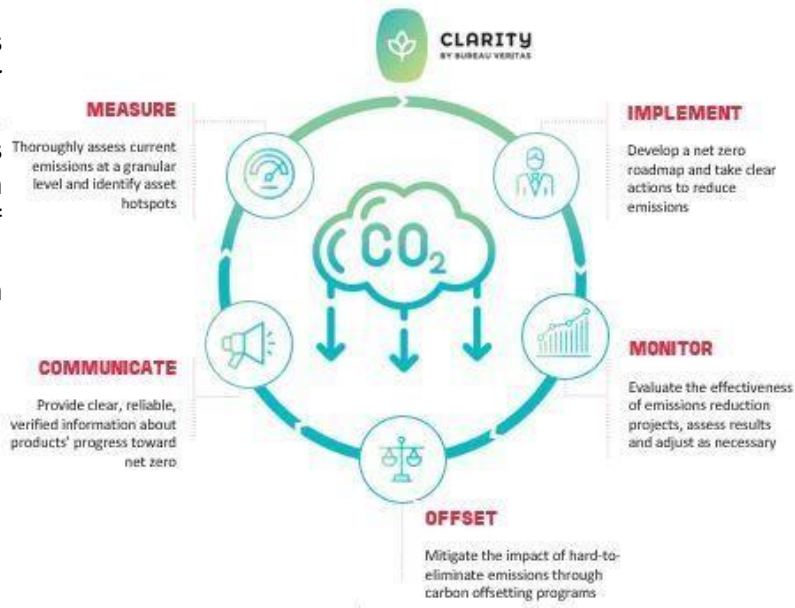
TRANSITION TO 2018 VERSION

- | Strong focus on “Leadership and Commitment” as a driver for achieving performance and results.
- | Emphasises “Stakeholder centric approach” in energy management
- | “Risk Based Thinking” as a determinant of evolving business strategies for improved energy performance
- | Underlines the importance of “Communication and Awareness” in targeting and achieving energy saving.
- | Introduces the need for the normalization of “energy performance indicators (EnPI)” and associated “energy baselines (EnB)” and clarifies the definitions of these terms
- | Facilitates alignment with parallel management standards due to the High Level Structure

CARBON

INTRODUCTION

- Climate change is the defining challenge of this decade.
- Data verification & reporting systems can help companies to realize their carbon goals.
- Bureau Veritas Certification helps companies to minimize their carbon footprint with training for a range of standardized industry approaches. From carbon footprinting to green finance, Bureau Veritas Certification provides audits, independent certification and verification of businesses efforts to mitigate their climate change impact.



VOLUNTARY CARBON FOOTPRINT VERIFICATION SCHEMES

	GREENHOUSE GAS PROTOCOL	Organization al CFV (GHG Protocol & ISO 14064-1)
	ISO 14064 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS	
	ISO 14067	Product & Service (PCFV) ISO 14067


CARBON OFFSETTING – VALIDATION & VERIFICATION SCHEMES

	ISO 14064 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS	Gold Standard <small>Climate Security & Sustainable Development</small>
	ISO 14064-2	Gold Standard
	CDM	 Verified Carbon Standard
		VCS

REGULATORY EMISSIONS VERIFICATION SCHEMES

	EU ETS
	CORSIA

SUSTAINABLE FINANCE

	The Green Bond Principles
Climate Bonds Certification	Green Bonds Certification





CARBON FOOTPRINT VERIFICATION

CONTEXT

Climate change is a defining concern of the modern era, governments, businesses & individuals are seeking ways to reduce their impact on the environment. Companies are increasingly setting carbon neutral & net zero targets to demonstrate their contributions to limiting global temperature increases to within 1.5°C of 1990 levels. Stakeholders expect companies to publicly reveal their performance concerning climate change & other sustainability issues.

The World Resources Institute (WRI) & World Business Council for Sustainable Development's (WBCSD) GHG Protocol is the original standard for GHG inventories, supplying a framework for measuring & reporting emissions.

Carbon footprinting is an assessment & reporting methodology that enables the calculation of carbon emissions for an *organization* to the scope required in order to identify areas for improvement.

Carbon Footprint Verification (CFV) by an independent third party is a recognized best practice for companies seeking to track their carbon output in an effort to reduce it.

Accurate monitoring & reporting shows companies where changes can be made & impact minimized, helping them achieve net zero targets.

CFV provides credibility which reassures regulators, customers, employees & stakeholders the integrity, completeness & transparency of carbon footprint calculations.

(See the next section for *product / service carbon footprint (PCF)* verification services)

BENEFITS

- | Satisfy client demands for accurate carbon reporting
- | Prove your commitment to sustainability & demonstrate transparency in communications
- | 1st steps toward identifying improvements to limit carbon emissions from operations
- | Build trust among stakeholders with open reporting & third party-verified information
- | Boost the reputation of company & products by sharing accurate carbon footprint information





VOLUNTARY CARBON EMISSIONS VERIFICATION

- | Voluntary market functions outside of compliance market & enables companies & individuals to account for their GHG emissions on voluntary basis with no intended use for compliance purposes.
- | International standards like ISO 14064-1 and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) and the World Resources Institute (WRI) jointly produced GHG Protocol are voluntary market relevant standards that support & provide solution to GHG emissions reduction. They are used for determining the GHG emissions of organizations. ISO 14064-1 offers organizational users opportunities for improved consistency, increased flexibility and decreased efforts associated with voluntary GHG inventories.
- | Credible Net Zero trajectory and Science Based Targets claims depend upon credible baseline data, such as CFV provides.
- | For government entities, these voluntary standards have often provided a base technical structure for conducting GHG emission verification and accreditation to ISO 14065 has formed the foundation of major regulatory programs (which may have additional requirements). Many are now migrating to the new more generic accreditation standard ISO 17029 for validation and verification of claims.

REGULATORY EMISSIONS VERIFICATION SCHEMES

- | Otherwise known as compliance schemes, are used by companies & governments that by law have to quantify and report their GHG emissions at national, regional or international levels.
- | Two well-known examples are:
 1. The European Emission Trading System (EU ETS) is a mandatory cap and trade scheme for large emitters in countries under the agreement on the European Economic Area. EU ETS is an effective tool in driving emission reductions cost effectively.
 2. Carbon offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA), is one of the scheme in which participation will be mandatory from 2027 (after pilot phase from 2021-2023 & voluntary phase from 2024-2026 for all states covering international routes





1. ORGANIZATIONAL CARBON FOOTPRINT VERIFICATION (ISO 14064-1 & GHG PROTOCOL)



CONTEXT

- | The GHG Protocol arose out of the need to help countries & companies account, report & mitigate emissions based on a report that identified an action agenda to address climate change that included the need for standardized measurement of GHG emissions.
- | The GHG Protocol provides accounting & reporting standards, sector guidance, calculation tools and trainings for businesses and local and national governments. It has created a comprehensive, global, standardized framework for measuring and managing emissions from private and public sector operations, value chains, products, cities and policies to enable greenhouse gas reductions across the board. Its Corporate Accounting & Reporting Standard is the most well established. Published in 2002 it remains the go-to standard, providing requirements & guidance for companies & other organizations preparing a corporate-level GHG emissions inventory. ISO 14064-1 specifies principles & requirements at the organization level for quantification & reporting of GHG emissions & removals.

- | It includes requirements for design, development, management, reporting & verification of an organization's GHG inventory.
- | GHG Protocol & ISO 14064 reinforce disclosure mechanisms that are becoming increasingly prevalent among leading companies to communicate their environmental, social & governance activities.

SCOPE / CLIENT SECTOR

- | Private & Public sector in developing GHG inventories for their organization, foundation for policy makers and program developers for initiatives to address the global environmental challenge of climate change.

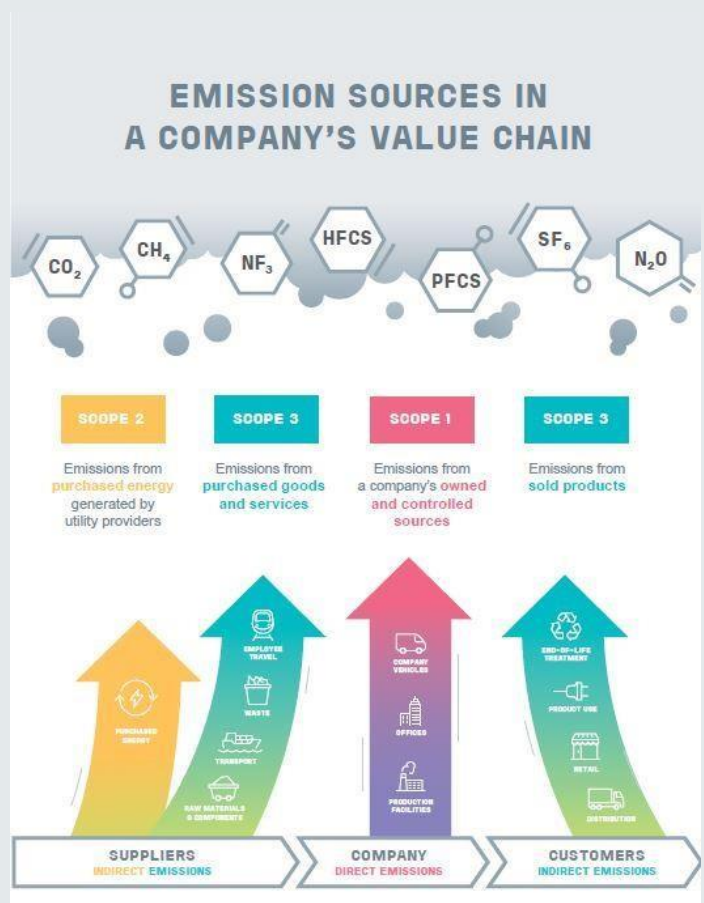
FEATURES

- | Standardized approaches & principles to prepares a GHG inventory
- | Simplifies & reduces the costs of compiling a GHG inventory
- | Internationally accepted & comparable



SOURCES OF EMISSION

- According to the GHG Protocol Corporate Standard developed by the WBCSD & WRI, a company's greenhouse gas emissions are classified in three scopes;
 - Scope-1: GHG emission from GHG sources owned or controlled by the organization.
 - Scope-2: GHG emission from the generation of imported electricity, heat or steam consumed by the organization
 - Scope-3: GHG emission, other than energy indirect GHG emissions, which is a consequence of an organization's activities, but arises from greenhouse gas sources that are owned or controlled by other organizations.
- ISO 14064-1 uses "direct" and "indirect" emissions and subcategories. Both are illustrated here





2. PRODUCT & SERVICE CARBON FOOTPRINT VERIFICATION (PCFV)

GREENHOUSE
GAS PROTOCOL

Product Life Cycle
Accounting and
Reporting Standard



CONTEXT

GHGs can be emitted & removed throughout the life cycle of a product which includes acquisition of raw material, design, production, transportation/delivery, use & end-of-life treatment.

ISO 14067, and the [Product GHG Standard](#) can be used to quantify the carbon footprint of a product (PCF) will assist in the understanding and action to increase GHG removals and reduce GHG emissions throughout the life cycle of a product. It sets the principles, requirements and guidelines for the quantification of PCFs, i.e. goods & services, based on GHG emissions & removals over their life cycle. It also offers guidelines for the quantification & communication of carbon footprint declarations to give credibility to carbon labelling on products or at point of sale.

Built upon Publicly Available Specification (PAS) 2050 and ISO 14040's lifecycle assessment methodology product carbon footprinting has been slow to develop, however the levels of interest are growing.

Recently, sales are showing encouraging growth, supporting BV client carbon survey analysis that small and medium sized clients were more likely to need PCFV than organizational level CFV.

SCOPE

Includes the provision of information for research and development of products, improvement of technologies, PCF performance tracking and communication

FEATURES

- | Facilitating performance tracking in Product Carbon Footprinting
- | Helps identify emissions hotspots in the value chain
- | Evaluation of alternative product design & sourcing options, manufacturing methods, transportation, recycling & other end-of-life processes
- | Avoiding burden-shifting between product life cycles



BUREAU
VERITAS



3. REGULATORY EMISSIONS VERIFICATION SERVICES



CONTEXT

Emissions trading is a market-based instrument for climate change mitigation. In an ETS a regulator defines an upper limit (cap) of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that may be emitted in clearly defined sectors of an economy. The EU ETS determines how many GHG's & emissions from installations subject to emissions trading may be emitted per trading period. Through its "cap & trade" system, a limit is set on the total amount of certain GHG's that can be emitted by installations. For European industrial installations over a certain size in carbon intense sectors, EU ETS reporting is mandatory.

EU ETS verification is a process by which a recognised & authorised, accredited independent third party assures that the reported annual emission levels or indicators have been correctly reported & prepared in accordance with an approved monitoring plan (usually to a combination of overarching and member state specific requirements). The Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism, which starts phasing in from 2023 will tackle "carbon leakage" by taxing high carbon imports to price them more fairly against European produced equivalents.

SCOPE

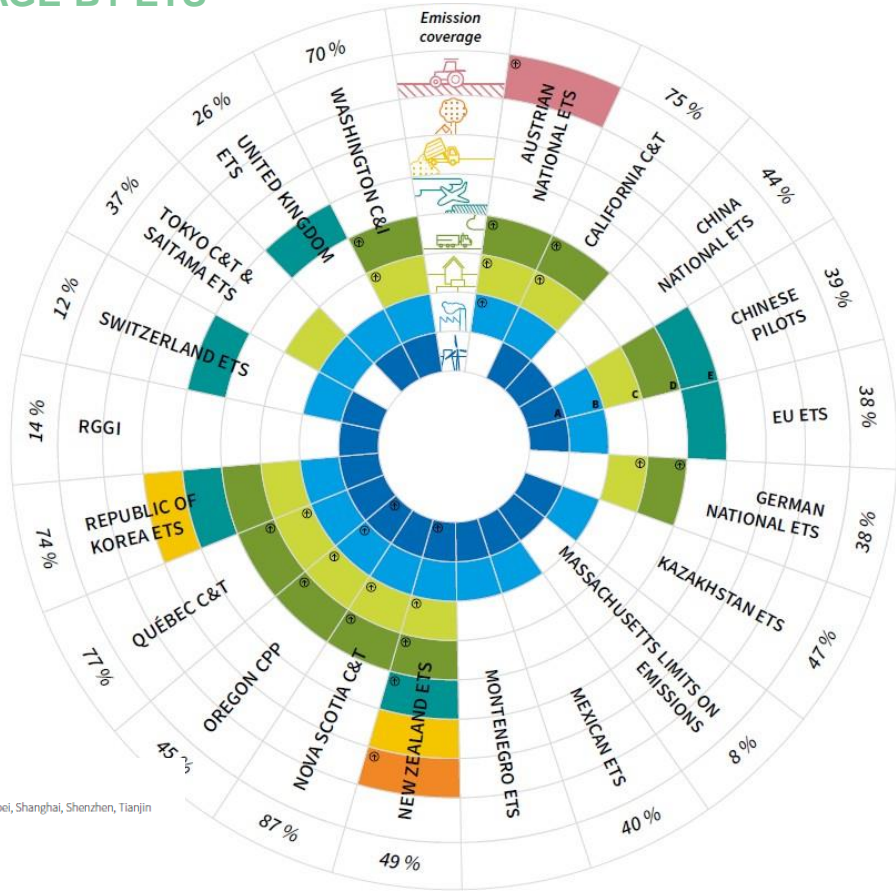
- | Electricity & heat generation,
- | Energy-intensive industry sectors including oil refineries, steel works, production of iron, aluminium, metals, cement, lime, glass, ceramics, pulp, paper, cardboard, acids & bulk organic chemicals
- | Commercial aviation within the European Economic Area
- | Emissions from ships/ maritime emissions have been included in the EU ETS from 1st January 2023

FEATURES

- | National level scheme, managed by governments and not normally open for verification bodies located outside the member state
- | It promotes reductions of emissions in a cost-effective & economically efficient manner
- | Emission cap guarantees that total emissions are kept to a pre-defined level & does not rise above it in the period for which the cap applies
- | It covers installations that have to submit an EU emission allowances for each tonne of CO₂ they emitted during a year.



SECTOR COVERAGE BY ETS

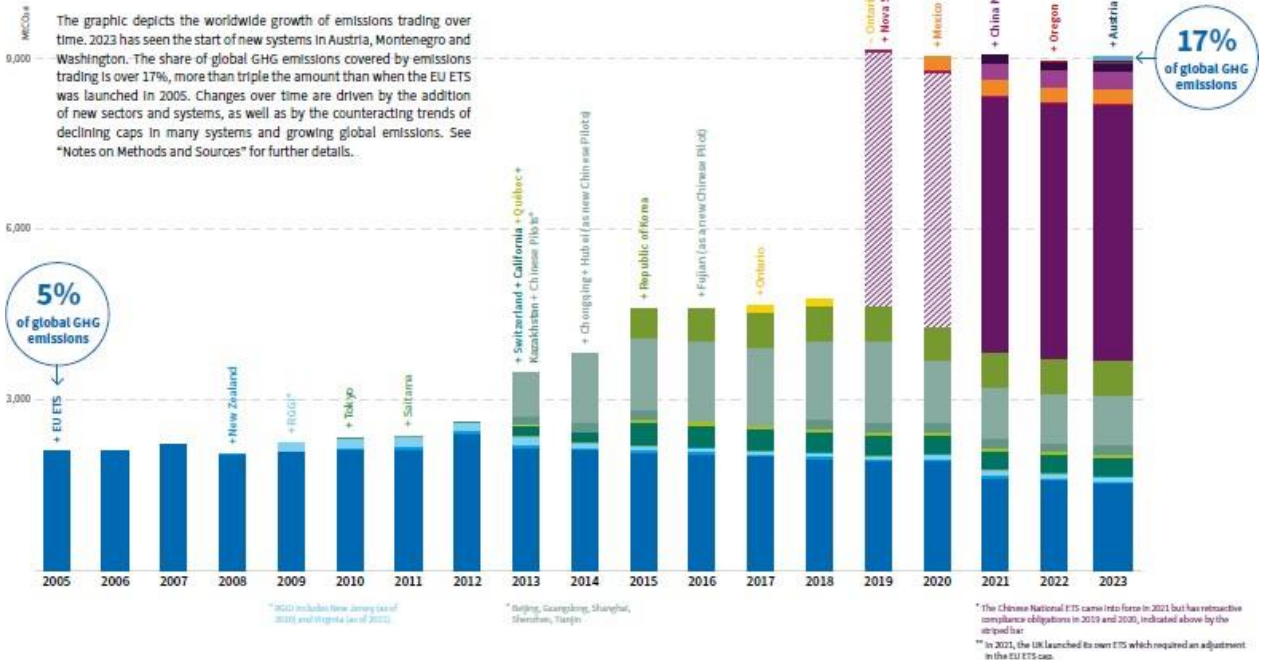


- A The Fujian ETS covers the electricity grid
- B Beijing, Chongqing, Fujian, Guangdong, Hubei, Shanghai, Shenzhen, Tianjin
- C Beijing, Shanghai
- D Beijing, Shanghai, Shenzhen
- E Fujian, Guangdong, Shanghai

*indicates which sector represents upstream coverage
Emissions coverage based on the most recent data available.
Source: ICAP Status Report 2023

GLOBAL EXPANSION OF ETS

THE SHARE OF GLOBAL GHG EMISSIONS UNDER AN ETS TRIPLED SINCE 2005





4. CARBON OFFSETTING AND REDUCTION SCHEME FOR INTERNATIONAL AVIATION (CORSA)



CONTEXT

Aviation accounts for over 2% of global CO₂ emissions & this figure is on the rise. Compliance with CORSIA enables international airlines to reduce their environmental impact and meet regulatory requirements.

With air travel on the rise globally, there is growing pressure on aircraft operators to reduce their carbon footprint. Consumers are increasingly vigilant about the consequences of their travel choices & authorities are introducing regulatory measures to curb airline GHG emissions.

CORSIA

CORSIA, launched in 2016 by ICAO (the United Nations' International Civil Aviation Organization) to address international aviation emissions, is the first reporting & offsetting scheme created for aviation industry to reduce its impact on CO₂ emissions enable carbon neutral growth from 2020.

CORSIA, designed to be a short to medium term strategy (2021-2035) to achieve carbon neutral growth in international aviation until low-emission technology such as Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) can be scaled up & electric and hydrogen-powered technology fully developed in the coming decades.

It requires data verification by an accredited 3rd party in order to assure the robustness of the underlying data & calculations before submitting emissions reports to the relevant ICAO member state

SCOPE

- | In 2020, compliance with CORSIA requirements became mandatory for international airlines, cargo operations & fuels having emissions >10,000 tCO₂ for international flights – to ensure they do not exceed baseline levels.
- | From 2021 onwards airline emissions that exceed the baseline need to be offset with certified / verified carbon credits.

FEATURES

- | It operates on a route-based approach & applies to international flights, i.e. flights between two ICAO States.
- | It ensure that the emissions from international aviation do not exceed the 2020 levels.
- | Cost-effective solution for the aviation industry as emissions reductions that cannot be achieved in the aviation sector can be compensated through emission reductions in other sectors where the potential for quicker reductions is greater





CARBON OFFSETTING PROJECT - VALIDATION & VERIFICATION SERVICES

CONTEXT

To reduce carbon footprint, organizations need to find ways to limit or reduce their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Carbon Offsetting is reduction in tons of GHG emissions made in order to compensate for emissions made elsewhere .

Companies can offset unavoidable emissions by buying or investing in carbon credits. Bureau Veritas offers validation & verification of such carbon offsetting & removal initiatives. Some organizations are turning to carbon offsetting schemes to hit their emissions reductions targets and meet other sustainability goals.

It enables companies to buy offset credits that contribute to projects that reduce or avoid GHG emissions. Some businesses go as far as to “cancel out” all their residual emissions in order to credibly claim they are carbon neutral. The market for carbon offsets and the related emerging carbon emissions removals markets are expected to grow considerably in the coming years as companies and countries target net zero emissions.

SCOPE/ CLIENT SECTOR

GHG projects/ project-based activities such as

- | Energy (renewable/non-renewable)
- | Energy distribution & Energy demand
- | Manufacturing & Chemical industry
- | Construction & Transport
- | Mining/Mineral & Metal production
- | Fugitive emissions from fuels (solid, oil & gas)
- | Fugitive emissions from Industrial gases (halocarbons & sulphur hexafluoride)
- | Solvents use
- | Waste handling & disposal
- | Agriculture
- | Afforestation and reforestation

FEATURES

- | V&V are required for both voluntary and compliance carbon offset schemes.





COMPLIANCE MARKETS

A Compliance Market is a market for carbon offsets created by the need to comply with a regulatory act. These are marketplaces through which regulated entities obtain and surrender emissions permits (allowances) or offsets in order to meet predetermined regulatory targets.

They are created & regulated by mandatory national, regional or international carbon reduction regimes. Credits may in some instances be purchased by voluntary, non-regulated entities. Demand for compliance offset credits is driven by regulatory obligations, Its prices tend to be higher than offset credits issued for the voluntary market.

In compliance market, companies, governments, or other entities buy carbon offsets in order to comply with caps on the total amount of carbon dioxide they are allowed to emit. This market exists in order to achieve compliance with obligations of the Kyoto Protocol, and of liable entities under the EU Emission Trading Scheme.

Schemes: CDM, Art 6.4 scheme

VOLUNTARY MARKETS

It functions outside of compliance markets, enable companies & individuals to purchase carbon offsets on a voluntary basis with no intended use for compliance purposes.

It serve as a niche for micro-scale projects. Credits unless explicitly accepted into the compliance regime, are not allowed to fulfil compliance market demand. Demand in the voluntary market is created only by voluntary buyers (corporations, institutions, individuals). As voluntary offset credits cannot be used in compliance markets they tend to be cheaper, with the possible exception of Gold Standard CERs which come with the premium of significant additional sustainable development benefits.

Schemes: ISO 14064-2, Verified Carbon Standard (VCS), Gold Standard (GS), Global Carbon Council (GCC), Canopee, etc.





1. CLEAN DEVELOPMENT MECHANISM (CDM)



CONTEXT

The CDM and its sister scheme JI, are project-based mechanisms under the Kyoto Protocol. The former is focused on developing countries, the latter on economies in transition (from the former Soviet Union and eastern bloc).

The goal of the programs were to increase market efficiency by allowing project developers and industrialized countries to invest in GHG abatement projects in third countries. CDM allowed emission-reduction projects in developing countries to earn certified emission reduction (CER) credits, each equivalent to 1 tonne of CO₂. These CERs can be traded & sold & used by industrialized countries to meet a part of their emission reduction targets under the Kyoto Protocol.

The future of CDM now seems for it to become the “Article 6.4” scheme (referring to the Paris Accord, 2015). This is due to become operational, with the supporting documentation and review apparatus in place from Q1 2024.

SCOPE

- | The CDM sectoral scopes are based on Sectors and sources contained in Annex A of the Kyoto Protocol. It includes industrial sectors and sectors based on sources of GHG emissions as mentioned on [page 34](#). (more details available on [List of sectoral scopes - CDM](#))

FEATURES

- | Attract capital for projects
- | Encourage & permit the active participation of both private & public sectors
- | Help to define investment priorities in projects that meet sustainable development goals.
- | Provide a tool of technology transfer or creates new industries in environmentally sustainable technologies





2. ISO 14064-2



CONTEXT

ISO 14064-2 is an independent, voluntary GHG project accounting standard. It provides industry & government with a set of tools to develop programs aimed at reducing GHG emissions.

It specifies principles & requirements, provides guidance at the project level for the quantification, monitoring & reporting of activities intended to cause GHG emission reductions or removal enhancements.

It includes requirements for planning a GHG project, identifying & selecting GHG sources, sinks & reservoirs relevant to the project & baseline scenario, monitoring, quantifying, documenting & reporting GHG project performance & managing data quality.

FEATURES

- | This is an offsetting scheme standard for validation and verification bodies, but as there is no associated registry of projects and their credits it is not much used at the moment. (Gold Standard and VCS both have registries and are therefore more popular.)
- | It offers robust internal mechanisms for quantifying, managing & reporting GHG emissions
- | Develops & implement GHG management strategies & plans
- | Provides ability to track performance & progress in the reduction of GHG emissions and/or the increase in GHG removals





3. VERIFIED CARBON STANDARD (VCS)



CONTEXT

The VCS Program is the world's most widely used voluntary GHG program, an international Voluntary GHG offset program which is developed and run by the VERRA. (more details available here on [The VCS Program](#).)

The VCS Standard provides a global standard for GHG emissions reductions and removal projects and programs. Its core build on those established in ISO 14064-2:2006, ISO 14064-3:2006 and ISO 14065:2013. The three principal documents of the program are the VCS Program Guide, the VCS Standard, and the VCS Methodology Requirements. Nearly 1,700 certified VCS projects have collectively reduced or removed more than 630 million tonnes of carbon and other GHG emissions from the atmosphere.

SCOPE/ CLIENT SECTOR

VCS projects are categorized by their sectoral scope, ranges from renewable energy projects (such as wind projects) to land use projects (such as improved forest management projects) as mentioned on [page 34](#).

(more details available [List of sectoral scopes - VCS](#).)

FEATURES

- | Ensure the credibility of emission reduction projects.
- | Project developers can be issued tradable GHG credits i.e. Verified Carbon Units (VCUs).
- | VCUs can be sold on open market & retired by individuals and companies as a means to offset their own emissions. (Registry - <https://registry.terra.org/>)





4. GOLD STANDARD (GS)

Gold Standard[®]
Climate Security & Sustainable Development

CONTEXT

The GS is a voluntary carbon offset program focused on progressing the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals & ensuring that project's benefit their neighbouring communities. It can be applied to voluntary offset projects and to CDM projects.,

GS for the Global Goals is a standard that sets requirements to design projects for maximum positive impact in climate & development, to measure & report outcomes in the most credible and efficient way. It provides additional social & community benefits in addition to high quality carbon offsetting. To support individuals and businesses wanting to go further than just offsetting.

SCOPE/ CLIENT SECTOR

GS includes projects ranges from renewable energy to Agriculture as mentioned on [page 34](#) along with COMMUNITY SERVICES PROJECTS such as Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)
(more details available [GS sectoral scopes](#).)

FEATURES

- | Certification is facilitated by the SustainCERT application for digitising certification to lower costs & complexity
- | Digital project design customizes relevant requirements & methodologies
- | Remote sensors & satellite imagery technologies streamlines project monitoring
- | A transparent impact registry enables dynamic impact reporting & to connect projects directly with funders
- | ISEAL (International Social & Environmental Accreditation & Labelling) approved scheme



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SUSTAINABLE FINANCE

CONTEXT

The world needs an expansion of green energy and infrastructure to provide energy security & meet climate & clean air goals. Green Finance is important as it promotes & supports the flow of financial instruments & related services towards the development & implementation of sustainable business models, investments, trade, economic, environmental, social projects & policies. Organizations must meet high standards for project verification & ensure complete transparency to benefit from their green investments. Many financial actors, including banks, investors, local & national governments now issue green bonds for sustainably developed projects. Developers, utilities companies, equipment manufacturers, aggregators & other industry players can win financial support for their projects by meeting reliable standards for green initiatives.

- | They also finance the cultivation of environmentally friendly technologies and the mitigation of climate change.

BENEFITS

- | Proves that green investments are responsible, effective & making a real contribution to sustainable development
- | Offers transparency to investors commitment to environmental best practices
- | Avoids accusations of greenwashing by backing up environmental claims with voluntary verification
- | Demonstrates the integrity of green/ climate bonds & shows their value

SCOPE/ CLIENT SECTOR

- | Energy efficiency, pollution prevention, sustainable agriculture, fishery and forestry, the protection of aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems, clean transportation, clean water, and sustainable water management.





1. GREEN BONDS CERTIFICATION (ASSURANCE)



CONTEXT

The Green Bond Principles do not represent a specific scheme, but lay down guidance for a category of financial instruments.

A green bond is a debt security that is issued to raise capital specifically to fund projects that have positive environmental benefits. They can be issued by government agencies, corporates, banks or development agencies. Mobilising funds for green projects like Wind Power, Solar Power, Biomass Power, Small Hydro Power, Waste-to-Power, constructing 'green' buildings, for low emissions vehicles, or retrofitting etc.

Green bonds allow issuers to reach different investors & promote their environmental credentials. Green Bond Principles, GBP (by ICMA, International Capital Market Association) provide issuers with guidance on launching credible green bonds and help investors evaluate the environmental impact of their green bond investments.

Prospective issuers wishing to have their bonds certified must appoint an approved third-party verifier to review whether the bond meets the Climate Bonds Standard's requirements and issue an assurance statement.

FEATURES

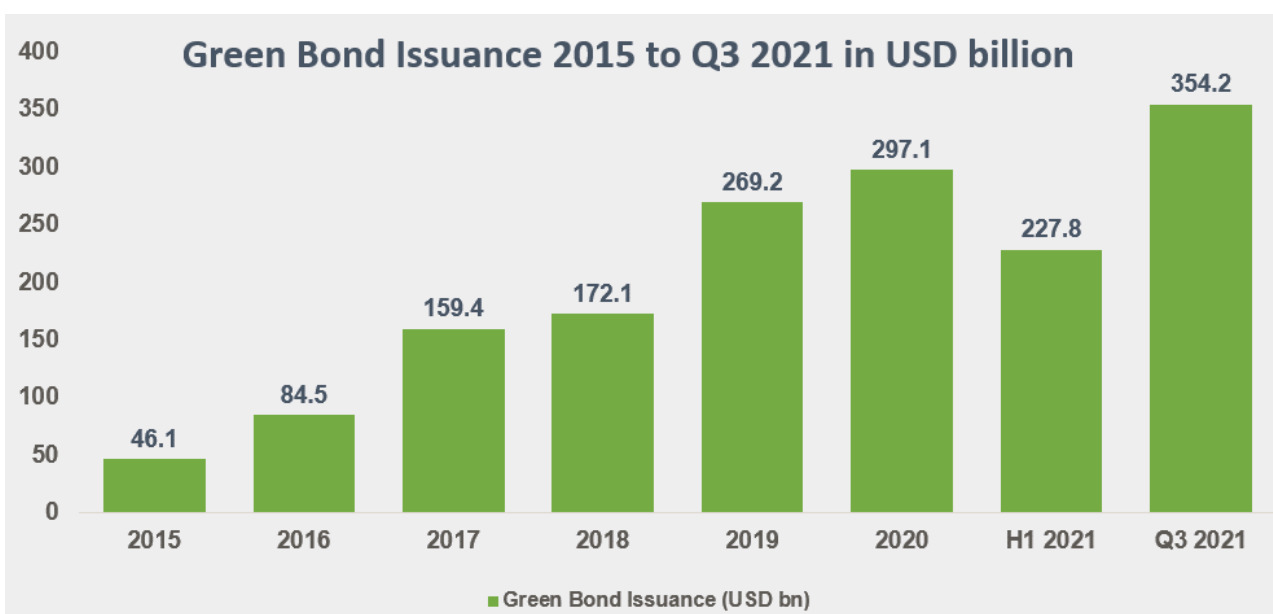
- | Greater transparency in the use of proceeds from a bond
- | Systematic process for Project evaluation & selection
- | Facilitate the establishment of public-private partnerships and leads to the adoption of new technologies
- | It offer a vehicle to both access finance from the capital markets & deliver green impacts that can be verified



TYPES OF GREEN BONDS (General Guidance from GBP)

TYPE	EXAMPLE
"Use of Proceeds" Bond	EIB "Climate Awareness Bond" (backed by EIB); Barclays Green Bond
"Use of Proceeds" Revenue Bond or ABS	Hawaii State (backed by fee on electricity bills of the state utilities)
Project Bond	Invenergy Wind Farm (backed by Invenergy Campo Palomas wind farm)
Securitisation (ABS) Bond	Tesla Energy (backed by residential solar leases); Obvion (backed by green mortgages)
Covered Bond	Berlin Hyp green Pfandbrief; Sparebank 1 Bolligkredit green covered bond
Loan	MEP Werke, Ivanhoe Cambridge and Natixis Assurances (DUO), OVG
Other debt instruments	Convertible Bonds or Notes, Schuldschein, Commercial Paper, Sukuk, Debentures

ANNUAL GREEN BOND ISSUANCE





2. CLIMATE BONDS CERTIFICATION

Climate Bonds INITIATIVE

CLIMATE BOND INITIATIVE

The Climate Bonds Initiative, founded in 2010 is an international investor-focused not-for-profit organisation, working to mobilise the USD100tn bond market for climate change solutions. CBI is designed to increase investments that contribute to the transition to a low-carbon future. It promotes investment in projects and assets necessary for a rapid transition to a low carbon and climate resilient economy.

CLIMATE BONDS STANDARD & CERTIFICATION SCHEME

The Climate Bonds Standard provides clear, sector-specific eligibility criteria for assets and projects that can be used for Climate Bonds & Green Bonds. Certification under the Climate Bond Standard relates exclusively to the climate attributes of the bond, loan or other debt instrument. It sets out the requirements to be met for Issuers seeking Certification of a bond, loan or other debt instrument

Certification under the Climate Bonds Standard confirms that the bond, loan or other debt instrument are fully aligned with the Green Bond Principles, using best practice for internal controls, tracking, reporting & verification

CLIMATE BOND TAXONOMY

The CBI uses the Climate Bonds Taxonomy which features energy, buildings, transport, water, waste, land use, industry & ICT sectors. It can be used by issuers to assess whether they have green assets, prior to issuing a green bond.

The Climate Bonds Standard builds on the Taxonomy & sets out specific criteria so that bonds labelled as green can be assessed in terms of their alignment with the Paris Agreement goals. It provides an overview of the mitigation & adaptation investment opportunities across the major sectors of the global economy.

FEATURES




- | Aligned with Green Bond Principles, Green Loan Principles, ASEAN Green Bonds Standards, Japan's Green Bond Guidelines & India's Disclosure & Listing requirements for Green Bonds
- | Clear mandatory requirements for use of proceeds, selection of projects & assets
- | Selection criteria for determining the low-carbon & carbon resilient credentials of projects & assets
- | Climate Bonds database - <https://www.climatebonds.net/market/data/>



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ELIGIBLE SECTORS UNDER CLIMATE BOND TAXONOMY

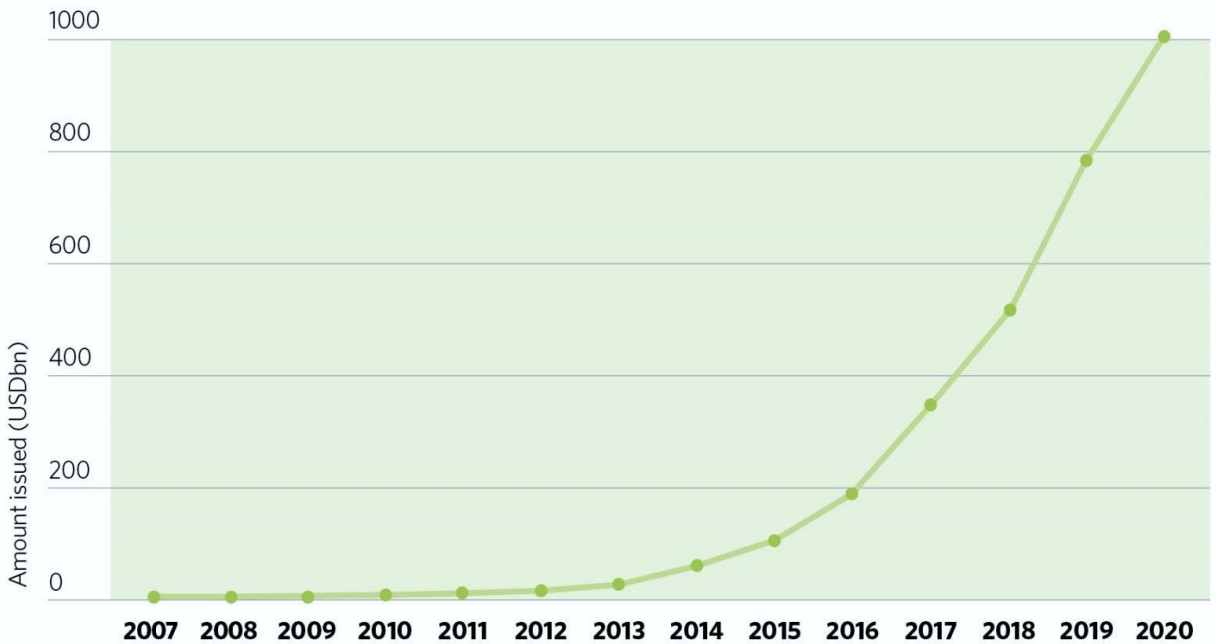
ENERGY	TRANSPORT	WATER	BUILDINGS	LAND USE & MARINE RESOURCES	INDUSTRY	WASTE	ICT
Solar	Private transport	Water monitoring	Residential	Agriculture	Cement production	Preparation	Broadband networks
Wind	Public passenger transport	Water storage	Commercial	Commercial Forestry	Steel production	Reuse	Telecommuting software and service
Geothermal	Freight rail	Water treatment	Products & systems for efficiency	Ecosystem conservation & restoration	Glass production	Recycling	Data hubs
Bioenergy	Aviation	Water distribution	Urban development	Fisheries & aquaculture	Basic Chemical production	Biological treatment	Power management
Hydropower	Water-borne	Flood defence		Supply chain management	Fuel production	Waste to energy	
Marine Renewables		Nature-based solutions				Landfill	
Electrical Grids						Radioactive waste management	
Nuclear							

 Certification Criteria approved
 Criteria under development
 Due to commence

GROWTH IN CERTIFIED CLIMATE BONDS

The \$1 trillion: cumulative progression

Climate Bonds



© Climate Bonds Initiative 2020



RESPONSIBLE PRODUCTION

Bureau Veritas provides certification and customized audits to a wide range of sustainability standards, enabling businesses to achieve responsible production.

We certify companies to ISO 14001, enabling them to boost sustainability, reduce environmental impact and integrate life cycle thinking and circular economy principles into everyday operations

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM



ISO 14001:2015

ISO 14001

WATER MANAGEMENT



ISO 14046



ISO 46001



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1. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS (ISO 14001)



CONTEXT

Companies are increasingly required to demonstrate that they take a proactive approach to environmental management. ISO 14001 certification supports clients in managing their environmental impacts. Public pressure & regulatory requirements are mounting for organizations to proactively promote sustainability. A systematic approach to environmental management is vital to respond to rapidly changing requirements, while ensuring complete transparency and accountability.

ISO 14001 ensures all requirements are integrated into business processes & all environmental management risks are identified throughout the product & service lifecycle. It emphasizes proactive initiatives to boost environmental management performance, starting with a business-wide analysis of social & environmental impacts. Certification to the latest version of the standard encourages a lifecycle view of products and services. This helps to identify demand for new products, integrate circular economy principles into design and development, and assess the environmental impact of those products.

SCOPE/ CLIENT SECTOR

- | Any organization, regardless of size, type, nature & applies to the environmental aspects of its activities, products & services that the organization determines it can either control or influence considering a life cycle perspective.

BENEFITS

- | Reduce environmental impact by creating a culture of continual improvement
- | Increase operational control over the environmental aspects of business
- | Enhance customer satisfaction & decision-making by understanding environmental management risks & opportunities
- | Integrate environmental considerations into business strategy
- | Optimize environmental management system performance
- | Seamlessly integrate with complementary management systems with the high-level structure





2. WATER MANAGEMENT

CONTEXT

Companies are under growing pressure to follow environmental best practices and demonstrate sustainable management of resources like water. Bureau Veritas has started offering certification to the Alliance for Water Stewardship (AWS) which helps organizations assess, improve, track and report on their water management activities.

Water is a precious resource used by organizations of all kinds around the world. As businesses face increasing scrutiny of their resource management and environmental impact, water management has become a central question. Companies need to prove their commitment to sustainable use of water, implementing actionable, traceable policies and providing transparent communication.

As a relatively new area there have only been a handful of clients certified by BV. This section serves to highlight the schemes that exist in this area, though not all are yet active at BV.

1. WATER FOOTPRINTING (ISO 14046)



ISO 14046 is the standard for water footprinting that will provide consistency and give water footprint results credibility. It specifies principles, requirements and guidelines related to water footprint assessment of products, processes and organizations based on life cycle assessment (LCA). It provides principles, requirements and guidelines for conducting and reporting a water footprint assessment as a stand-alone assessment, or as part of a more comprehensive environmental assessment.

2. WATER EFFICIENCY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (ISO 46001)



ISO 46001 specifies requirements and contains guidance for its use regarding organisational water use. It includes monitoring, measurement, documentation, reporting, design and procurement practices for equipment, systems, processes and personnel training that contribute to water efficiency management. It is applicable to organisations of all types and sizes that use water and is focused on end-use consumers.



RESPONSIBLE SOURCING

Bureau Veritas has a solid history in Responsible / Sustainable Sourcing / Chain of Custody schemes in many industry vertical sectors.

Those listed here are either those not already covered by the Food Audit Book (i.e.: they are just the non-food responsible sourcing schemes).



SUSTAINABLE FOREST PRODUCT CERTIFICATION SCHEMES



FSC



PEFC



EUTR



European Flax



RSPO

BIOFUELS AND BIOMATERIALS
(See the energy section at start of document)

METALS & MINERALS SCHEMES



ASI



RJC



LBMA

CROSSOVER SCHEMES (Food and non-food applications)



RTRS



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SUSTAINABLE FOREST CERTIFICATION

CONTEXT

Preserving forests is an environmental must: trees absorb CO₂, reduce flooding, minimize soil erosion and provide crucial, biodiverse habitats for innumerable species. Preventing deforestation by adopting responsible timber sourcing practices is key to preserving land, wildlife & the water cycle.

Bureau Veritas provides independent third-party certification to several dedicated forest and timber standards. The process helps you achieve legal compliance, mitigate risk, and contribute to global efforts to protect forests.

SCOPE / CLIENT SECTORS

- | Companies using wood products, such as paper, furniture and timber

BENEFITS

- | Achieve compliance with legal requirements for sustainable forestry product and timber sourcing
- | Ensure the traceability & sustainability of timber and forest products
- | Mitigate risk throughout your supply chain with internationally recognized certification
- | Demonstrate your commitment to sustainable business practices to clients, stakeholders and suppliers
- | Fight global deforestation, maintain biodiversity and help protect the environment





1. FOREST STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL (FSC)



CONTEXT

The FSC promotes environmentally sound, socially beneficial & economically prosperous management of the world's forests

Forest Management (FM) certification confirms that the forest or plantation is being managed in a way that preserves biological diversity and benefits the lives of local people & workers, while ensuring it sustains economic viability.

Chain of Custody (CoC) certification provides credible confirmation for products with environmentally and socially responsible sources to access the market.

FEATURES

- | Assures legality / builds upon a legal framework
- | Includes assessment of forest workers' and local communities' social situation
- | Ensures sustainable harvest levels and regeneration after harvest.
- | Prohibits highly hazardous chemicals

SCOPE

- | FM including controlled wood forest management
- | CoC including controlled wood chain of custody





2. PROGRAM FOR THE ENDORSEMENT OF FOREST CERTIFICATION (PEFC)



CONTEXT

PEFC is a leading global alliance of national forest certification systems. As an international non-profit, non-governmental organization, they are dedicated to promoting sustainable forest management through independent third-party certification.

SCOPE

- | All manufacturing companies that wish to implement Chain of Custody (CoC) certification (Individual/ Group).
- | All forest owners / managers that wish to implement sustainable forest management system.

FEATURES

- | Group certification approach for small forest owners.





3. EUROPEAN UNION TIMBER REGULATION (EUTR)



CONTEXT

EUTR promotes greater transparency in timber trading. To comply with EUTR standards, you must undertake a risk assessment for your wood sourcing practices.

It aims to counter illegal logging & associated trade in timber & timber products in the member states of the EU & ultimately contribute to sustainable management of forests & reduced emissions from deforestation and forest degradation beyond EU borders.

Bureau Veritas offers verification to EUTR standards, helping to prove due diligence on sustainable forestry practices for timber & forest products.

SCOPE

- | The EUTR covers a range of timber products such as solid wood products, flooring, plywood, pulp & paper
- | The EUTR applies to both imported & domestically produced timber & timber products.

FEATURES

- | It counters illegal harvesting, processing, transporting, buying or selling of timber in contravention of national and international laws in the member states of the EU
- | It helps reducing emissions from deforestation & forest degradation beyond EU borders



4. EUROPEAN FLAX®



European Flax.

Premium linen fibre

CONTEXT

Flax is a specific culture and supply chain. In Europe, it is linked to regional origins and non-relocatable know-how. Its use involves textiles, homeware textiles as well as high-performance technical products such as composite materials. To preserve and develop this sector, environmental issues are key. The European Confederation of Flax and Hemp (CELC) created the label European Flax®.

European Flax is the guarantee of traceability for premium linen fibre grown in Western Europe. It is guaranteed 99.9% by CELC to be a natural sustainable fibre, cultivated without irrigation and GMO free. It answers consumer expectations on origin, traceability, and environmental and social responsibility. It is a third party verified certification, through confidential audits with and is a registered trademark for which free B2B & B2C marketing tool, trainings and other sales supports are available.

Refer to the following webpage for more details on this scheme :

<https://allianceflaxlinenhemp.eu/en/european-flax-certification>

European Flax certification has a chain-of-custody standard with requirements that certified companies must comply with and that are the base for their annual audits. Each step of processing and trading must be certified right up to the finished product. All certified products must be made out of flax/linen supplies that are 100% certified

and be composed of pure linen or blends with at least 50% linen.

The European Flax certification cycle is 3 years and a contract is established with BV contract for yearly audit. Prospect clients can apply by sending their completed Request for Quotation (RFQ) to CELC or to BV.

SCOPE

Flax fibre traders, flax fibre pre-processors, yarn producers and processors, fabric producers and processors, flax technical textiles and composites producers, finished product manufacturers (clothing, accessories, home products, technical textile).



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5. ROUNDTABLE ON SUSTAINABLE PALM OIL (RSPO)



CONTEXT

Palm oil is the largest organic oil harvest in the world. Global production of palm oil is around 72.27 million metric tons in year 2020-21. Palm oil, used for both the food and non food industries, plays a primary role in the economic development of palm oil producing countries and in the nutrition of millions of people.

RSPO, founded in 2004 is a global, non-profit association, multi-stakeholder initiative on certified sustainable oil palm products. The association aims to promote the growth and use of sustainable palm oil. There is a deficit of certified sustainable palm oil on the world market because sustainable production is not yet established.

RSPO certified palm oil supports users' commitments to sustainability while maintaining an adequate supply of palm oil without damaging the living conditions of communities and the biodiversity of ecosystems.

Certification according to the RSPO Supply Chain Certification System, supports the establishment of sustainable & transparent production throughout the supply chain, until the product reaches its consumer.

SCOPE

- I Plantation companies, manufacturers, retailers, processors and wholesalers



METALS & MINERALS

CONTEXT

Metals and minerals extraction is potentially dangerous and polluting. To mitigate risk and preserve their reputation, many businesses certify their metal and mineral supply chain and production processes.

The metals and minerals industry is heavily scrutinized, pushing companies to prove their ethical business practices at all stages of production. Responsible sourcing and supply chain monitoring are key to preserving natural resources and ensuring safe, fair labor practices.

With certification and auditing from Bureau Veritas, companies can demonstrate compliance with global requirements for safety, quality and social responsibility. Certification also helps businesses safeguard their commercial interests, gain a competitive edge and contribute to a more sustainable vision of metal and mineral sourcing.

BENEFITS

- | Access to the global marketplace for certified products.
- | Address risks in your upstream metals and minerals supply chain
- | Achieve regulatory compliance for metals and minerals sourcing by performing supply chain due diligence
- | Protect your reputation & secure your commercial interests with internationally recognized certification
- | Prove your commitment to ethical business practices to consumers, employees and stakeholders





1. ALUMINIUM STEWARDSHIP INITIATIVE (ASI)



CONTEXT

The ASI is an industry-led global non-profit standard setting & certification organization. It brings together producers, users & stakeholders in the aluminum value chain with a commitment to maximize the contribution of aluminum to a sustainable society.

Certification to the ASI Standards enables the aluminum industry, as well as the users of aluminum to demonstrate their commitment to social, environmental and ethical standards.

ASI promotes continuous improvement in the environmental & social impact of aluminum production use & recycling. By adopting ASI standards and obtaining third party certification, companies can demonstrate responsible aluminum sourcing practices, improve sustainability performance & promote consumer & stakeholder confidence.

SCOPE / CLIENT SECTORS

- | Applicable to the entire aluminum value chain, from bauxite mining, to refining & smelting to material conversion.
- | Industrial users, such as the automotive industry & the packaging materials sectors.

FEATURES

It considers all stages of aluminium production & transformation specifically bauxite mining, alumina refining, primary aluminium production, semi-fabrication, material conversion & refining, re-melting of recycled scrap, as well as material stewardship criteria relevant to downstream users of aluminium.





2. RESPONSIBLE JEWELLERY COUNCIL (RJC)



CONTEXT

RJC's Code of Practice (CoP) is a landmark standard for the jeweler supply chain and addresses a wide range of supply chain issues, including business ethics, human rights, social and environmental performance. The certification provides evidence of responsible business practices which can be communicated to suppliers, customers and other stakeholders. Certification against the Responsible Jeweller Council Code of Practices is compulsory for all RJC commercial members within two years of joining.

FEATURES

- | World's leading standard setting organisation for the jewellery industry
- | Robust certification process which is ISEAL accredited





3. LONDON BULLION MARKET ASSOCIATION (LBMA)



CONTEXT

LBMA responsible sourcing certifications for precious metals refiners and assayers is the best way to demonstrate compliance in global markets and establish integrity and confidence to investors and consumers. Global supply chains recognize the LBMA & LPPM (London Platinum & Palladium Market) standards as vital to fight human rights abuses, money laundering, terrorist financing, and more.

It recognizes increasing importance of having strong corporate governance & addressing environmental and sustainability responsibilities. It formalizes & consolidates existing high standards of due Diligence amongst all LBMA Good Delivery Refiners. LBMA's Responsible Sourcing Programme explicitly requires refiners to engage with producers defining minimum requirements that are mandatory along the entire precious metal supply chain.

FEATURES

- | It sets objective criteria for institutions wishing to enter the London Precious Metals Market as traders or service providers.
- | LBMA owns & manages the good delivery lists for Gold & Silver
- | Through LBMA's Global Precious Metal Code it promotes integrity & functioning of markets

SCOPE

- | The LBMA represents the market for gold and silver bullion which has a global client base including the majority of the central banks that hold gold, private sector investors, mining companies, producers, refiners & fabricators.





SOCIAL AUDITS



SMETA



SA8000

CONTEXT

Bureau Veritas performs independent social responsibility audits to industry standards or customized to client needs.

It is crucial for companies to be aware of what is happening in their supply chains, and have processes in place to manage social responsibility risks. Social responsibility is a key element of the business value proposition, and failure in this regard can impact financial results and brand image.

Bureau Veritas uses a variety of social responsibility standards to evaluate suppliers, including corporate Code of Conduct audits & a range of industry standards. Customized social responsibility audits are also carried out using company-developed checklists and rating models. We supports continuous improvement in social compliance across a range of industries identified as critical by NGOs and consumers.

BENEFITS

- | Raise awareness of social responsibility compliance risks by understanding supply chain and identifying areas of risk
- | Leverage real-time data to enhance decision-making
- | Enhance working conditions for a healthier, more productive workforce
- | Respond to growing consumer and investor demand for social accountability
- | Improve brand image by communicating about production processes
- | Ensure compliance with regulations, market and NGO standards and contractual obligations



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1. SEDEX MEMBERS ETHICAL TRADE AUDIT (SMETA)



CONTEXT

The Supplier Ethical Data Exchange (Sedex) is a non-profit, membership organization that works with buyers & suppliers to promote ethical business practices in global supply chains. Sedex created the Sedex Members Ethical Trade Audit (SMETA) as an internationally recognized and comprehensive audit protocol applicable to all sectors.

Its methodology facilitates audits around Labor, Health and Safety, Environment, and Business Ethics. Results can be shared via the Sedex platform, enabling suppliers to avoid duplicate audits for multiple customers. is an audit methodology, providing a compilation of best practice ethical audit techniques.

It is designed to help auditors conduct high quality audits that encompass all aspects of responsible business practice, covering Sedex's four pillars of Labour, Health and Safety, Environment and Business Ethics. Recent more stringent auditor qualification requirements brought in by APSCA have made qualification for this service more difficult to maintain, causing demand to outstrip supply.

FEATURES

- | World's largest recognised social / ethical audit program
- | Designed for suppliers to share one audit with multiple customers
- | Common Audit report format is used
- | Focusing on local legislation as well as best industry practices
- | Based on common best practice guidance on conducting ethical audits
- | A common corrective action plan format
- | Each SMETA audit report carries an unique reference code to ensure appropriate validation





2. SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY - SA8000



CONTEXT

Established in 1997, the SA8000 standard helps certified organizations commit to the fair treatment of employees.

Elements of the standard are child labour, forced or compulsory labor, health and safety, freedom of association and right to collective bargaining, discrimination, disciplinary practices, working hours, remuneration, management system.

SA8000 improves standards for workers and for business. Management systems, worker engagement, a culture of continuous improvement, and other elements of SA8000 not only lead to better working conditions and worker well-being, they also have benefits for productivity, stakeholder relationships, market access, and more.

It is anchored by a management system element that drives continual improvement in each area.

FEATURES

- | Appreciated by brands & industry leaders for its rigorous approach to ensuring the highest quality of social compliance in their supply chains without sacrificing business interests.
- | The Standard reflects labor provisions contained within the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and International Labour Organization (ILO) conventions.
- | It respects, complements & supports national labor laws around the world, currently helps secure ethical working conditions for over two million workers.
- | Better hazard and risk detection
- | Higher employee retention





ASSURANCE OF SUSTAINABILITY REPORTS (ASR)



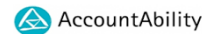
GRI



ISAE3000



ISO 26000



AA1000

CONTEXT

Transparent reporting on sustainability issues covering social & environmental impacts is critical to safeguarding a company's reputation. Independent report assurance helps companies communicate their ethical business practices & establish their environmental credentials. There are many frameworks and "standards" but these are not certifiable schemes, but can provide the basis for assurance. Some are listed later on in this section.

Assurance is more technically complex and risky than management systems auditing and certification (similar to GHG emission verification, but covering social aspects as well). It should be conducted only by trained and experienced experts.

No accreditations exist yet for SRA / ASR, but ISO 17029 is expected to be needed to offer assurance to the EU's Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD). The main European sustainability Reporting Standards (ESRS) were published in July 2023

The phased implementation to 50,000 companies in Europe is underway.

SCOPE / CLIENT SECTORS

- | Organizations large and small, single site or multi site organizations, multi-national organizations, public, private and non-profit organizations
- | See the Corporate Register database of 22,000 companies' CSR / Sustainability reports over the past decades - <https://www.corporateregister.com/>

BENEFITS

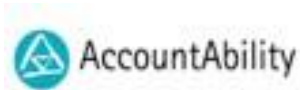
- | Access to capital
- | Licence to operate
- | Gain a strategic advantage by demonstrating excellence in sustainability performance and reporting
- | Prove data is accurate and bias-free to build stakeholder confidence in your business practices
- | Enhance communication with investors and stakeholders and gain their trust



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ACCOUNTABILITY'S AA1000



AccountAbility is a global consulting & standards firm, recognized as a Framework Developer in the World Economic Forum's ESG Ecosystem Map that works on ESG matters.

AccountAbility's 3 AA1000 assurance standards are principles-based frameworks hold companies accountable for sustainability management performance & reporting. It includes simple, practical, and easy-to-use frameworks for:

- | **AA1000AP: Accountability Principles-** Developing, analysing & implementing sustainability initiatives
- | **AA1000SES: Stakeholder Engagement Standard-** Creating and conducting inclusive sustainability-related stakeholder engagement practices
- | **AA1000AS: Assurance Standard-** Assuring credibility in reporting on progress toward sustainability goals

FEATURES

- | Complements & can be used with other international, national, sectoral, topic-driven sustainability-related standards, frameworks & guidelines

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD ON ASSURANCE ENGAGEMENTS (ISAE 3000)



ISAE covers assurance engagements other than financial audits or reviews of historical financial information.

ISAE 3000 is the standard for assurance over non-financial information, issued by the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC, now the IAASB the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board). It consists of guidelines for the ethical behavior, quality management and performance of an ISAE 3000 engagement. It applies for audits of internal control, sustainability and compliance with laws and regulations. It involves assessment of all aspects of a business's ethical practices: processes, quality control, standard operating procedures, data security, a visible paper trail and documented assurance reporting.

ISAE 3000 provides assurance at limited / reasonable levels

IAASB is expected to replace this standard (and others in the group like ISAE 3410 for GHG emissions) with the single assurance standard ISSA 5000 in Sept 2024.





GLOBAL REPORTING INITIATIVE (GRI)



Created by an international independent stakeholder-based organization that helps businesses & governments to understand & communicate the impact of business on critical sustainability issues such as climate change, human rights, corruption and many others.

It aims to increase accountability and enhance transparency by providing a score to business' sustainability reports.

GRI is one of the world's most widely used standards on sustainability reporting & disclosure. (It topped the BV sustainability reporting survey results in 2022.) [New Universal Standards](#) were published in 2021, and [industry sector specific standards](#), such as for oil & gas are being launched as they are developed.

There is a newly launched GRI Readiness Assessment service to help clients understand if they are ready for assurance of their sustainability report to the GRI requirements. New content expected soon here on [the Sustainability Sharepoint](#).

FEATURES

- | Global standard for impact reporting.
- | An independent, multi-stakeholder process.
- | GRI Standards are available as a free public good.
- | Scoring in a range from A+ to C-

INTERNATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY STANDARDS BOARD (ISSB)



The ISSB has now replaced SASB, however SASB's 77 globally applicable industry-specific standards are still relevant to enable businesses to identify, manage and communicate to their investors about financially material sustainability information.

The ISSB / IFRS framework standards S1 and S2 enable reporting organizations to identify the minimal set of financially material sustainability topics and their associated metrics for a typical company in a given industry.

Whilst the standards are freely available for voluntary use by reporting companies the ISSB is lobbying governments, with some success, to incorporate the standards into their local frameworks. Jurisdictions that are developing, or have already introduced, plans includes Australia, Canada, Colombia, Hong Kong, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Nigeria, the Philippines, Singapore, and the United Kingdom.

The S2 standard aligns well with the framework recommended by the Task Force for Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) which is already being adopted into law by the G20 countries.





SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The 17 interconnected sustainable goals set by the UN address global challenges including climate change & environmental degradation.

The SDG's offer an aspirational framework for the development of sustainability strategy which many businesses are adopting that are supported by standards & auditing. Some BV countries offer "certification" to the SDGs. This is not assurance.

ISO 26000 - GUIDANCE ON SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

This international standard offers guidance to assist organizations in contributing to sustainable development. It is not certifiable, and assurance is not provided against it, but there are some audits conducted against it in some BV countries, as with the SDGs above.





SUSTAINABLE DAIRY PARTNERSHIP



CONTEXT

In January 2022, BVC was approved as the official verifier for the Sustainable Dairy Partnership (SDP), the Sustainable Agriculture Initiative (SAI) platform's ESG reporting program for the dairy industry.

The SDP offers a unified approach to gathering data and reporting on sustainability in dairy supply chains, but it is not a one-size-fits-all solution. SDP-specific requirements are aligned with current industry initiatives and regulations. In this way, processors can leverage their existing sustainability efforts to meet requirements. Meanwhile, a materiality assessment ensures that processors' sustainability targets are tailored to their unique operations.

For buyers, the SDP system provides not only consistency through a standardization framework but confidence thanks to its assurance model. To ensure the continued credibility of SDP claims, external verification is mandatory for certain critical requirements. This includes auditing clients against the SDP's core foundational elements, verifying their materiality assessments and assessing their progress reporting.

SCOPE

Dairy industry players members of SAI platform ([Members](#))





DATA CENTER EFFICIENCY & SUSTAINABILITY VERIFICATION (CNDCP-SRI / JRC CoC)

CONTEXT

The CNDCP members (100 + data center operator) signed a commitment as part of their Self-Regulatory Initiative to make data centers climate neutral by 2030 based on 5 targets

- 1) Energy Efficiency
- 2) Clean Energy
- 3) Water Conservation
- 4) Circular Economy
- 5) Circular Energy Systems

Data centre operators and trade associations are committed to the European Green Deal, achieving the ambitious greenhouse gas reductions of the climate law, and leveraging technology and digitalization to achieve the goal of making Europe climate neutral by 2050.

To ensure data centres are an integral part of the sustainable future of Europe, data centre operators and trade associations agree to take the following actions to make data centres climate neutral by 2030.

FEATURES

- | Plot Assessment & Feasibility Studies (Site Due diligence),
- | Design Review and Code Compliance verification ,Product Certification services (LCIE & CODDE),
- | Sustainability Solutions – Assessment, Auditing, Verification and Certification (BV Clarity) ,
- | Construction Technical Support Services, Commissioning Services (BVPI),
- | Operation & Maintenance - Training, Systems & Procedures,
- | Cybersecurity Conformity Assessment Services (BV Secura),
- | Environmental, Health & Safety - Systems & Procedures,
- | Data Center Life Cycle Product and System Certification





CONTEXT

Travel and tourism accounts for around 10% of the world's economic activity. It is a rapidly growing sector, with international tourist arrivals forecast to grow from 1.1 billion in 2014 to around 1.8 billion in 2030. The impact of travel and tourism on global and local environments and on host communities can be both positive and negative, providing both opportunities and responsibilities.

Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC) is an independent and neutral organization, legally registered in the USA as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that represents a diverse and global membership, including UN agencies, NGO's, national and provincial governments, leading travel companies, hotels, tour operators, individuals and communities – all striving to achieve best practices in sustainable tourism. The GSTC establishes and manages global sustainable standards, known as the GSTC Criteria.

SCOPE

- | Hotels
- | Tour Operators

