

ESG Sustainability Report Assurance

EXPLORING THE PROCESS,
OPTIONS & BENEFITS



We are the world's leading testing, inspection and certification company.
Our value to society is enabling a better, safer and more interconnected world.



96,000
employees



2,600
offices
and laboratories



140
years of added
value to society

25+ YEARS OF SUSTAINABILITY EXPERIENCE

1990–1995

- Launched the world's first environmental management certification scheme – the Green Dove Award

1995–2000

- The first accredited independent provider of SA8000 training and certification
- Launched ISA2000 – one of the first health and safety management system certification schemes

2000–2005

- Launched Sustainability Report Assurance verification
- Helped to develop the AA1000 reporting standard
- Expanded Restricted Substances Testing Services

2005–2010

- Became a DOE under the UN CDM, verifying carbon reduction projects worldwide

2010–2015

- Accredited to deliver ISO 14067 certification, measurement of a product's carbon footprint
- Expanded Sustainability services to include Equator Principles and the Higg Index, etc.

2015–2020+

- One of the first organizations to issue AWS certificates
- Accredited under the ICAO CORSIA

WHAT IS REPORT ASSURANCE?

Sustainability assurance is an evaluation of environmental factors, social responsibility and governance criteria in companies' policies and practices. This provides a thorough picture of company behavior.

Sustainability report assurance ensures that a company's sustainability report meets certain standards. The responsibility of reporting should be initiated from governance. A sustainability report assesses a company's environmental, social and economic impacts on its stakeholders.

ASSURANCE ASSESSMENT

We can support your ESG sustainability reporting through:

- Opinions on how to manage environmental, social and governance (ESG)
- Independent assurance on ESG metrics and targets
- Data management processes and systems, including internal controls evaluation
- Verifying your data and reporting non-financial information against international standards
- Recommending improvements to reporting and disclosures

SCOPE

There are three key options:

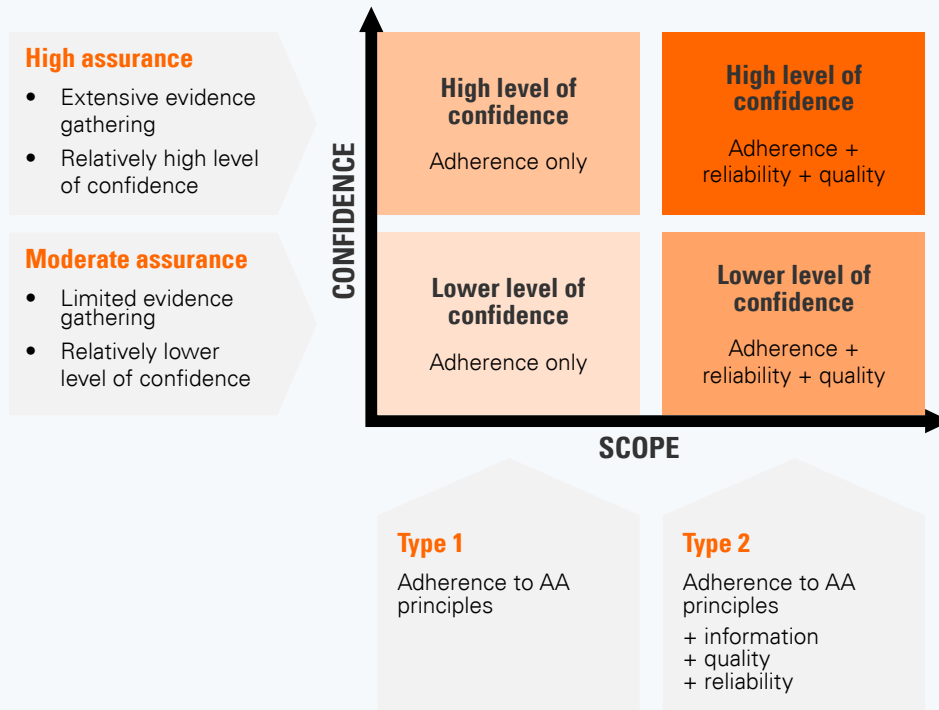
1. Verification of your whole sustainability report
2. Part of the report or selected key performance indicators (KPIs), such as verification of emissions
3. Against a standard/framework, including GRI, SASB and TCFD

ASSURANCE OPTIONS

AA1000

This standard emphasizes the need for organizations to demonstrate effective stakeholder engagement, identification of material sustainability issues and existence of a responsible business strategy.

AA1000 confidence vs. scope



ISAE 3000

This standard underscores the importance of data quality, reporting procedures, controls and evidence-gathering processes.

REASONABLE ASSURANCE ENGAGEMENTS

The assurance provider must obtain sufficient evidence to form an opinion, like that of a financial statement audit. The assurance provider expresses an opinion, such as whether the sustainability report is complete and accurate, based on the identified criteria.

LIMITED ASSURANCE ENGAGEMENTS

The assurance provider must obtain a meaningful level of assurance to form a conclusion, expressed as negative assurance in the assurance report.

THE BENEFITS

There are many benefits, including:

- Increased trust in sustainability reports, making them more credible
- Identification, analysis and risk management, including improvement in processes
- If tied to lending or financing, a reduced cost of capital. External verification/SPOs
- Enhanced reputation towards stakeholders
- Improved brand value, avoiding accusations of greenwashing
- Avoiding the use of costly resources to create your own guidelines by reporting according to international standards

- Requirement by regulation, government or stock exchange rules, including the reduction of legal risk

The benefits depend on the system of assurance. A smaller scope will mean reduced benefits.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- [SGS.com](https://www.sgs.com)
- ESG@sgs.com

WHEN YOU NEED TO BE SURE

