



Add value.
Inspire trust.

ISO 20400 - Sustainable Procurement - Guidance

Take organisational sustainability commitments to the supply chain



Your Challenges

Organisations are under growing pressure from investors and customers to increase sustainability efforts. The integration of sustainability within the procurement process offers opportunities for improved environmental, social, and economic development.

However, much of an organisation's environment, social, and governance (ESG) footprint is deeply rooted in its supply chain. To successfully transform procurement practices, it must successfully integrate ESG strategies into its policies and processes. This should include the integration of sustainability considerations into sourcing practices like onboarding new suppliers, conducting regular due diligence, and making purchasing decisions. Although this is a challenging task, procurement leaders must take bold and decisive action to make a significant impact on an organisation's sustainability performance. This includes re-organising the entire purchasing function and inspiring organisation-wide teams to act sustainably.

What is ISO 20400?

ISO 20400 contains guidance relating to sustainable procurement. It describes the sustainable procurement principles, examines why organisations should undertake this, gives guidance integrating this at a strategic level, and also states the management techniques needed for implementation. This is not a certifiable standard, but it facilitates advice on how to integrate sustainability into procurement activities.

Why is an ISO 20400 important to your business?

An independent, external ISO 20400 validation of an organisation's sustainable procurement claims ascertains improvements in the ESG and corporate social responsibility (CSR). This enables you to analyse risks, barriers and gaps to identify the optimum solutions. The monitoring process evaluates your organisation's defined targets within a specified period, resulting in an internal or public report for valuable stakeholder communication.

How can we help you?

TÜV SÜD's ISO 20400 validation is completely customised to meet the specific needs of each organisation. We review whether your procurement strategies are consistent with the vision, mission and sustainability strategy of your company. Our portfolio also includes comprehensive training that can be extended across all levels of the organisation to optimise sustainable procurement awareness.

Proof of an external, unbiased evaluation is a powerful tool to build trust among your stakeholders. As an independent third party, our highly skilled experts follow a methodology that ensures ethical buying practices. We adopt a tailored evaluation approach to the organisation's sustainable procurement, which adds value by increasing the effectiveness of the monitoring systems throughout your organisation and across your supply chain. Our services enable your company and your partners to achieve the highest international standards and enhance your credibility amongst stakeholders.

Your business benefits

- **Minimise risk** – prevent financial, environmental and reputational risk by reducing supply chain disruption and maintaining a positive market reputation by ensuring business continuity and compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements.
- **Save money and time** – minimise inventories, rework times and waste by optimising sustainable procurement opportunities that improve your organisation's efficiency, productivity and profitability.
- **Gain a competitive edge** – clearly demonstrate ethical behaviour and enhance market credibility by driving innovation and implementing an effective sustainable procurement process.
- **Benefit from independent evaluation** – use our independent and impartial evaluation report to gain investor and customer confidence.

Why Choose TÜV SÜD?

As TÜV SÜD is vendor agnostic, our third-party validation is both impartial and independent, which delivers your organisation valuable insights from an unbiased expert. Our global team of experts has broad industry know-how so they can evaluate your organisation's sustainable purchasing status quo, allowing you to concentrate on your core competencies within the business.



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TÜV SÜD is a trusted partner of choice for safety, security and sustainability solutions. It specialises in testing, certification and auditing services. Since 1866, the company has remained committed to its purpose of enabling progress by protecting people, the environment and assets from technology-related risks. Today, TÜV SÜD is present in over 1,000 locations worldwide with its headquarters in Munich, Germany. Through expert teams represented by more than 25,000 employees, it adds value to customers and partners by enabling market access and managing risks. By anticipating technological developments and facilitating change, TÜV SÜD inspires trust in a physical and digital world to create a safer and more sustainable future.

Related services

TÜV SÜD provides the following related services:

- Supplier audits
- ISO 26000 - Social Responsibility
- Public training course on sustainable procurement and ISO 20400
- Sustainability reporting verification