

IFS ESG CHECK

Verification tool for the assessment of sustainability management systems

BUSINESS CHALLENGE

Climate change concerns all of us. Sustainability is here to stay. For this reason, more and more customers and retailers are demanding greater transparency in terms of environmental, social and governance sustainability. As a result, small- and medium-sized enterprises in particular face a huge challenge to understand the various regulations and implement measures in a target-oriented manner. IFS has therefore created the IFS ESG (environment, social and governance) Check, which provides an introduction and guidance on these topics, especially for small and medium-sized enterprises. The scheme offers the possibility, through a gradual approach, to demonstrate its commitment to integrating sustainability into daily business: it thus creates the basis on which companies can align their sustainability management system, identify risks and plan their further commitment.

WHAT IS PRODUCT ?

The IFS ESG Check can be applied to companies already IFS certified and at the same time applicable as a "standalone" standard for companies that are not IFS certified.

The cardinal principles are those ESG that is environmental, social and governance.

The planned activity is made up of two parts:

- A self-assessment done directly by the company
- An on-site or remote verification by a qualified auditor

It is possible to combine the IFS Certification audit with the IFS ESG. There are currently two modules:

- **The basic ESG Check (11 requirements):** focuses on the implementation of a sustainability management system that takes into account the company's sustainability policy, the commitment of senior management to its sustainability objectives and an appropriate framework.

- **Voluntary additional module, the Carbon Footprint (6 requirements):** carbon footprint management system, which also includes the calculation of the corporate carbon footprint.

The results of the IFS ESG Check provide the status quo and show in which areas companies have room for improvement and provide the necessary coordinates to start a journey towards a sustainable and successful future.



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WHO IS IT FOR?

Companies that adhere to this voluntary certification demonstrate their commitment to greater sustainability by integrating ESG principles into their business strategy, achieving better performance in terms of greater solidity, efficiency and resilience to changes.

WHAT ARE THE KEY BENEFITS?

The main advantages of the IFS ESG Check are:



Have an easy-to-use tool to check the level of maturity of a company in terms of sustainability.



Have information and documentation ready when customers or government organizations require them.



Have a preparatory system for the evolution of the legal landscape relating to environmental, social and governance (ESG) principles.



Recognition by renowned companies in the retail sector as a tool for documenting sustainability management systems.



Create a basis for entering more comprehensive sustainability assessment systems.

OUR APPROACH

The IFS ESG Check is, in principle, an annual verification check whose frequency can be increased throughout the year to show more progress the IFS ESG Check does not impact the GFSI certification for certified companies. The scoring system is only meant to show them where they are in managing their environmental, social and governance aspects, so they can decide next steps on their path to sustainability and in which fields they want to improve. At the end of the activity, each company will receive a confirmation letter, uploading to the relevant IFS portal and the possibility of using a new specific logo. It is also possible to request a preliminary Gap-analysis check for the assessment of the Organization's level of compliance with the requirements.

FAQ

What are the supporting documents?

- ESG check guideline
- ESG check program
- Self assessment form ESG check
- Self assessment form carbon footprint

Where are the necessary documents to support the application of this standard?

The documents mentioned above can all be downloaded free of charge from the IFS website at the following link: <https://www.ifs-certification.com/index.php/en/standards/4275-ifs-esg-check-en>

Who is it applicable to?

To all small and medium-sized enterprises in any sector