

ImpactBuying first in Europe to meet the highest standard for collecting ESG supply chain data

Alkmaar, February 6, 2025 – ImpactBuying is the first company in Europe to meet the highest standard for collecting and validating reliable ESG supply chain data. The company has obtained ISAE 3000 assurance certification, setting a new benchmark for transparency and accountability in global supply chains.

Until now, the ISAE standard was primarily known for ensuring the reliability of financial data. ImpactBuying, which helps global retail brands measure and improve the impact of their supply chains on people and the environment, has now successfully applied this standard to non-financial data, including climate impact, fair wages and sustainable production. This means that ESG data is now subject to the same level of reliability and accountability as financial reporting.

Retailers and brands can now directly access verified, legally defensible ESG data from their suppliers without conducting complex and time-consuming audits themselves.

„Thanks to this certification, our clients can access highly reliable, validated supply chain data without having to verify every detail themselves,” says Leontien Hasselman-Plugge, CEO of ImpactBuying.

Increasing pressure to ensure transparency

Retailers face growing pressure to prove the origin and production conditions of their goods. Stricter European regulations, such as the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD) and the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD), require businesses to disclose the impact of their supply chains. Companies that fail to ensure data accuracy risk severe fines.

„Retailers, whether supermarkets, fashion brands or home improvement chains, must be accountable for everything happening in their supply chains,” says Hasselman-Plugge. “But given the complexity of global sourcing, with numerous suppliers, intermediaries, and producers, collecting and verifying relevant data is a massive challenge.”

According to Moniek van Roon, COO of ImpactBuying, the assurance certification guarantees that their ESG data is legally defensible, audit-proof, and immediately usable for compliance and reporting. „For example, a retailer selling mangoes with a sustainability label must prove that these mangoes were organically produced and that farmers were paid a fair wage. Until now, companies had to verify this data themselves. We now take on that responsibility, providing validated data that retailers can confidently report.”

Not just a snapshot

Organizations that meet the ISAE 3000 Type 2 standard demonstrate that they have the internal controls in place to collect, protect and verify supply chain data. „This is not a one-time audit, but a full-year review,” says Van Roon. „Every aspect of our data process, from emails to system configurations and documentation, has been examined to ensure complete accuracy.”

Ahold Delhaize Group is among the retailers benefiting from ImpactBuying’s data validation. „We highly value non-financial data about our suppliers and products, including product safety and sustainability,” says Leon Mol, Director Global Product Safety at Ahold Delhaize Group. ImpactBuying plays a key role in ensuring the reliability of this information at the highest level.”

The audit was conducted by accountancy firm BDO. „With current and upcoming legislation, the demand for high-quality ESG data is increasing exponentially,” says Kristian Mepschen, Senior Manager IT Risk Assurance



and Digital Risk Services at BDO. „Ensuring the reliability of supply chain data is essential so that businesses can confidently use it for CSRD reporting and compliance.”

As Europe debates reducing regulatory burdens on businesses, ImpactBuying supports simplification but stresses that fewer rules only work if the remaining data is 100 percent reliable. Hasselman-Plugge: „Simplifying regulations is fine, as long as we ensure that companies continue to make the right decisions based on hard facts. With this assurance certification, we take a major step forward in making transparency a practical reality for retailers.”

About ImpactBuying

ImpactBuying is a market leader in supply chain transparency, helping companies uncover and verify where and under what conditions their products are made. By combining advanced data analytics, deep industry expertise, and rigorous audit standards, ImpactBuying enables retailers and brands to make responsible purchasing decisions with full confidence.