

How to read your company's MSCI ESG Ratings report

ESG Issuer Communications
MSCI ESG Research LLC

February 2023



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Issuer interaction with MSCI ESG Issuer Communications



Key insights for issuers

MSCI ESG Ratings





What are ESG Ratings?

MSCI ESG Ratings aim to measure a company's management of financially relevant ESG risks and opportunities

To do this we measure:



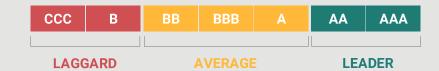






MSCI ESG Research's approach to ESG Ratings

MSCI ESG Ratings is designed to measure a company's resilience to industry material ESG risks and opportunities





opportunities and focus on the

Industry relative: the final ESG

rating compares a company to

a company's core business

model.

its industry peers

issues that are most relevant to

Financial materiality: We monitor emerging risks &





- Alternative data & models: Alternative data helps minimize reliance on voluntary disclosure to deliver key insights.
- Models transform unstructured data into meaningful metrics.



- Tech-enabled human insights: We use technology and artificial intelligence (AI) to increase the timeliness and precision of data collection and analysis, and to check and validate data.
- Our 400+ strong team of ESG analysts vet, validate and transform ESG related data into meaningful insights.



What key questions do MSCI ESG Ratings address?

Q: How is the company governed?

How do governance structures impede / enable it to be a longterm steward of capital?

A: Analyze ownership structure, board, incentives and behavior.

Q: What risks² does the company face?

How exposed is its business model to relevant short-, medium- and long-term ESG risks?

A: Map company operations to an extensive proprietary database of ESG risk factors.

Q: What does the company say?

What is its strategy for managing these risks? What measures has it put in place?

A: Benchmark company disclosures and policies vs. industry peers.

Q: What does4 the company do?

What evidence do we see that these risks are being managed? What is its track record?

A: Evaluate alternative data from sources outside the company.



What is the process to rate a company?



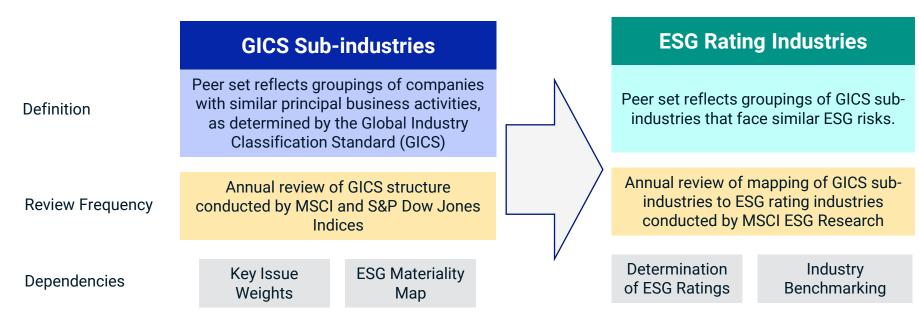




Source: MSCI ESG Research as of June 2022

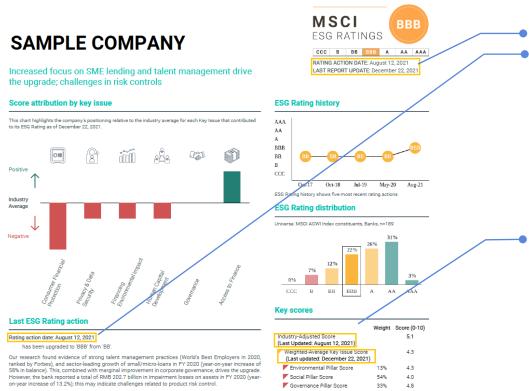
How are ESG peer sets constructed?

The ESG Ratings model relies on industry groupings from the Global Industry Classification Standard (GICS®)¹ to inform a range of ESG assessments.





How to interpret key dates on my report



Company ESG data is updated on an ongoing basis. Updates yielding underlying score changes are reflected as of the "Last Update" date.

Companies' ESG Ratings are reviewed by industry analysts, typically annually, which is reflected as the "Rating action date." The timing of analyst reviews is determined solely by MSCI ESG Research. MSCI ESG Ratings aim to incorporate data from all corporate disclosures published up to three months prior to the ESG rating action date.

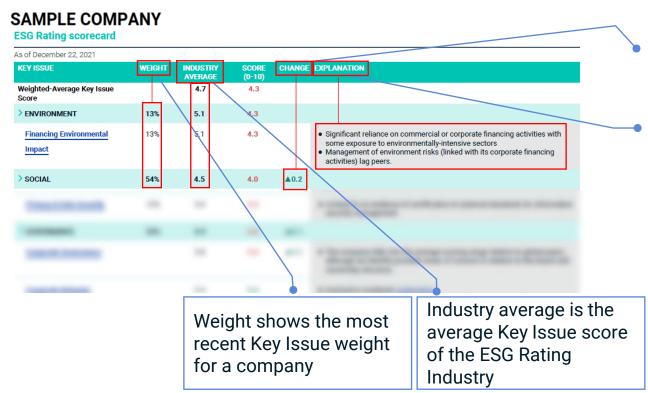
Weighted Average Key Issue score (WAKI) vs Industry Adjusted Score (IAS)

New information may be reflected in these reports as frequently as weekly. Where relevant, scoring changes may result in a **Weighted Average Key Issue score** change.

The **Industry Adjusted Score** is updated at the time of the ESG rating action date.



How to interpret my ESG rating scorecard



Company Key Issue score change, since the last rating action

Key Issue score explanation

Key scores

	Weight	Score (0-10)
Industry-Adjusted Score (Last Updated: February 24, 2022)		8.7
Weighted-Average Key Issue Score (Last updated: February 24, 2022)		6.1
Environmental Pillar Score	22%	7.7
Social Pillar Score	45%	5.3
Governance Pillar Score	33%	6.2



Recent developments affecting ESG scores

Recent score changes that have an impact on the WAKIS are reflected in this section.

Certain ESG scores are updated on a weekly basis to reflect changes in underlying data. Some possible reasons for a data update include:

- New corporate governance data disclosed in a proxy filing
- Update to peer set data
- New controversy or change to the severity assessment of an existing controversy
- New business and geographic segment data
- Relevant data submitted by an issuer is published by MSCI ESG Research

SAMPLE COMPANY

Recent developments affecting ESG scores

Date ▲	Туре	Score (0-10)	Change	Explanation
	Current Weighted-Average Key Issue Score	4.3		
Mar 16, 2022	Data Update: Controversies		▼0.2	Controversy case(s) upgraded or archived
Aug 12, 2021	ESG Rating action	4.2	▲0.1	has been upgraded to 'BBB' from 'BB'.
Aug 12, 2021	Data Update: Controversies			
Aug 10, 2021	Data Update: Corporate Governance		▲0.1	Flags Added: Risk Management Expertise Flags Removed: Executives on Pay Committee, CEO Pay NQD0 Business Combination Provision Governance Score changed based on the listed Key Metric(s): Related Party Transactions, Pay Committee Independence



How ESG Ratings capture a company's unique business characteristics

Some companies may face a unique ESG risk or opportunity that is not shared by other companies in its industry.

This can arise from scenarios such as:

- · Unique or diversified business models
- Subsets of companies within an industry that face a unique set of risks

In these cases, a company-specific Key Issue is added to the analysis and the weights on the remaining Key Issues are reduced proportionally.

For more information on rating model details and the ESG Risk Exposure model, refer to MSCI ESG Ratings Methodology.

Rating model details

If the sample company was rated based on a modified version of the Textiles, Apparel & Luxury Goods Industry ESG Rating model:

Supply Chain Labor Standards has been added as a company-specific Key Issue for textile and apparel manufacturing companies that have outsourced significant manufacturing in developing countries¹.





How to interpret controversies mentioned in my company's ESG Ratings report

- Controversy cases based on ESG risks are incorporated in company MSCI ESG Ratings assessments to provide an overview of all recorded controversies.
- However, only Moderate, Severe and Very Severe controversy cases result in scoring deductions (up to 5 points) in the relevant Key Issue's risk management sections.

SAMPLE COMPANY

Most recent controversies

Last update	Headline	Assessment	Туре
Aug-22	California, US: Lawsuit over alleged processing advertising revenue transactions for a website that purportedly	Moderate	Human Rights Concerns
	distributed child pornography		
Mar-22	United States: Media criticism over potential unfair practices of Buy Now, Pay Later service affecting customers	Minor	Customer Relations



Interpreting my company's peers

- ESG Rating Industries are based on GICS Sub-Industries¹, which are grouped to form peer sets that have similar ESG Key Issues.
- The Industry Adjusted Score is an industry-relative assessment based on peers in the same ESG Rating Industry.
- The Peer Benchmarking table displays five industry peers selected based on their similarity to your company, considering factors such as ESG Key Issue weight, GICS industry classification, region and size.

	Financing Environmental Impact	Access to Finance	Human Capital Development	Privacy & Data Security	Consumer Financial Protection	Corporate Governance	Corporate Behaviour	Rating & Trend
HSBC HOLDINGS PLC	• • •	• • •	• •	• • • •	• •	• • • •	•	AA ∢►
JPMORGAN CHASE & CO.	• • • •	• • •	• •	• • • •	•	• •	•	A ∢ ►
INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL BANK OF CHINA LIMITED	•••	••••	••••	• •	•	• •	•••	Α 🛕
CHINA CONSTRUCTION BANK CORPORATION	•••	••••	••••	•	•	••	•	A ∢ ►
WELLS FARGO & COMPANY	• • • •	•	•	•	•	• • •	•	BB ◀▶

As of February 2023



Interpreting your scores





How scores roll up to the final ESG Rating

ESG Letter Rating (AAA-CCC)

Final Industry Adjusted Score (0-10)

Weighted Average Key Issue Score (0-10)

Adjusted relative to industry peers Exceptional truncations

Weighted average of underlying Pillar Scores

Environment Pillar Score (0-10)

Social Pillar Score (0-10)

Governance Pillar Score (0-10)

Each pillar is organized into underlying themes;
Pillar and Theme Scores derive from the weighted average of underlying Issue scores

Environmental Key Issue Scores (0-10)

Risk Exposure Scores

Indicators:

Business Segments; Geographic Segments; Co-spec indicators Risk Management Scores

Indicators: Strategy

Strategy
Programs & Initiatives
Performance
Controversies

Social Key Issue Scores (0-10)

Risk Exposure Scores

Indicators:

Business Segments; Geographic Segments; Co-spec indicators Risk Management Scores

Indicators:

Strategy; Programs & Initiatives; Performance Controversies Governance Key Issue Scores Score (0-10)

Key Metrics

Indicators:

Ownership characteristics;

Board and committee composition; Pay figures; Accounting metrics; Policies & practices; Geographic segments; Controversies



Source: MSCI ESG Research. February 2023

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How to interpret your ESG Rating drill down

		ng action date: 7, 2020		ng action date: 2, 2021		ort update date: 2, 2021	Diffe	rence
Description	Score	Weight	Score	Weight	Score	Weight	Score	Weight
ESG Rating Letter Grade	ВВ		BBB		BBB		-	-
Industry Adjusted Score	4.2		5.1		5.1		-	-
Industry Minimum Score	3.6		2.3		2.3		-	-
Industry Maximum Score	6.0		6.0		6.0		-	-
Weighted Average Key Issue Score	4.6		4.2		4.3		0.1	-
Environmental Pillar Score	5.8	9.0%	4.3	13.0%	4.3	13.0%	-	-
	5.8	9.0%	4.3	13.0%	4.3	13.0%	-	-
Financing Environmental Impact Key Issue Score	0.0	2.0.0						
Financing Environmental Impact Key Issue Score Exposure Score	6.2	3.0.0	6.2		6.2		-	-
		3.0.0	6.2 7.0		6.2 7.0		-	-
Exposure Score	6.2	5.0.0					- -	-
Exposure Score Business Segment Exposure Score	6.2 7.0	,,,,,	7.0		7.0		- - -	-
Exposure Score Business Segment Exposure Score Company-Specific Exposure Score	6.2 7.0 5.3		7.0 3.9		7.0 3.9		- - - -	-
Exposure Score Business Segment Exposure Score Company-Specific Exposure Score Management Score Management Score - Excluding	6.2 7.0 5.3 5.0		7.0 3.9 3.5		7.0 3.9 3.5		- - - -	-

Step 1: Check the different 3 columns to note score change:

- a) Prior Rating action
- b) The latest Rating action
- c) Last Report update date

Step 2: Check respective Key Issues and components driving the change

Step 3: Deep dive in the respective Key Issue subsection of the report for more information on Key Issue performance



Interpreting your assessment



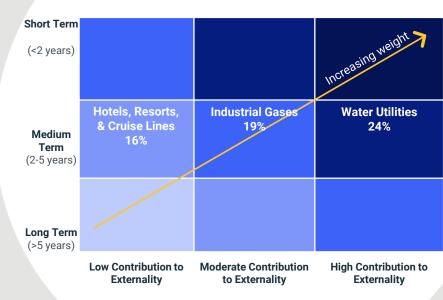


Setting Key Issue weights

Key Issue weights are based on:

- Industry's contribution to externality vs. other industries
- Time horizon of risk factor for that industry
- Number and significance of other issues assessed
- Minimum 33% weight applied to the Governance Pillar, based on standard time horizon and impact for Corporate Behavior and Corporate Governance

Water Stress Key Issue Weights





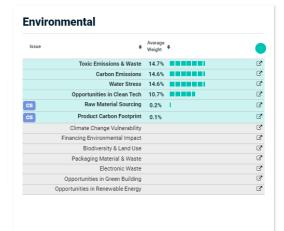
How can I check Key Issue weights for my sub-industry compared to others?

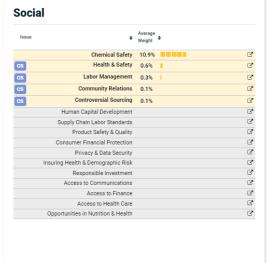
ESG Industry Materiality Map

MSCI ESG Ratings provide an assessment of the long-term resilience of companies to environmental, social, and governance (ESG) issues. Our ESG Industry Materiality Map is a representation of the current Key ESG Issues and their contribution to companies' ESG Ratings. It is part of our ESG Ratings transparency initiatives, through which we have made ESG Ratings of companies and funds accessible to the public.

To see the Key Issues assessed for companies in a specific GICS®1 sub-industry or sector, find the industry in the dropdown list or use the search bar on the right. Click here for more information





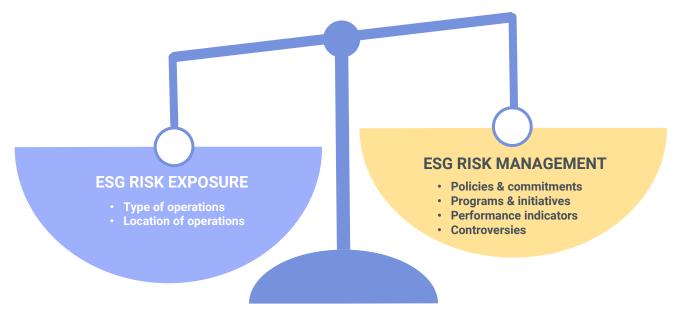






Source: MSCI ESG Industry Materiality Map, Feb 2023

Evaluating ESG risk management relative to risk exposure



EVALUATE RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY IN THE CONTEXT OF RISK EXPOSURE



Source: MSCI ESG Research as of March 2021

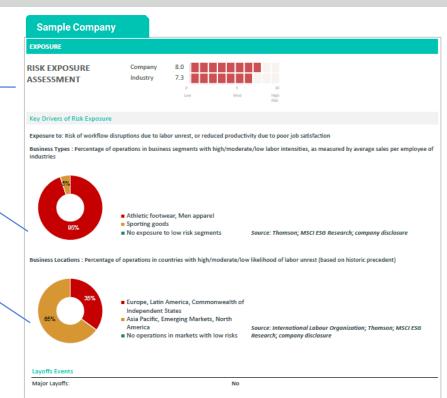
Exposure assessment

Risk exposure is assessed on the basis of three key factors:

Business Segment: Analyzes the breakdown of a company's business segments in terms of revenues, assets or operations

Geographic Segment: Analyzes the breakdown of a company's geographic segments in terms of revenues, assets or operations

Company-Level Factors: Number of employees, size, reliance on government contracts or reliance on outsourced production





Management assessment

Risk management is assessed on the basis of three key factors:

Strategy & Governance: Evaluates organizational capacity and company management's level of commitment to address the key risks and opportunities, such as executive body responsibilities, grievance escalation procedures, etc.

Initiatives and Programs: Evaluates the strength and scope of the initiatives, programs and targets in place to improve performance on the issue such as certifications, audits, etc.

Performance: Evaluates the company's track record on managing the specific risk or opportunity, such as emission intensity, product recalls, etc.

As part of the qualitative indication of a company's performance on an ESG Issue, we incorporate information on **controversies** in which a company has been implicated.



	nership(s r risk eval	ognized ind) on supply luation and		Forma	l participant	Formal participant		- L	LOW N	IID TO
Conduc	ts suppli	er training o	on qualit	y assuranc	ne e					
Freque	ncy of sup	plier trainin	g		dic training but ency is unknown	Annual training		- L	LOW N	IID TO
Scope o	f supplier	training			suppliers, or all 'high uppliers'	All suppliers		- L	LOW N	IID TO
Certific	ation pro	gram for su	ppliers							
		oplier faciliti ed by compa		Yes		Yes		- L	LOW	TO
Tier 3 -	Ingredien	rd-party aud ts / raw mai ty on a regu	terials	Yes		Yes		- L	LOW	т
Manufac	turing an t Recalls	d handling								
Year	Severe (Class I)	Moderate (Class II)	Minor (Class III)	Number of units		Details				
2020	1	,,				Nestlé Recalls Dr	rumstick Ice Cream Co	nes Due	To List	eria Ris
									lon craw	
					Nestle USA, Inc.		o varieties of their Dru tive test for listeria at			
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SAMPLE COMPANY

How is ESG risk exposure determined?



Sourced from company disclosures

Assessment by MSCI ESG Research

We of revenue/ assets

ESG risk of countries and regions

GEOGRAPHIC SEGMENT EXPOSURE



Example: water intensity of business activities

EXPOSURE

Example: water availability in countries of operation





How are companies evaluated on ESG risk management?

	EXAMPLE METRIC	COMPANY 1	COMPANY 2	
	Oversight of Water Management	Board-level Committee BEST PRACTICE	No evidence of oversight WORST PRACTICE	
PRACTICES	Water Reduction Target	5% annual reduction in water intensity BEST PRACTICE	No evidence of target WORST PRACTICE	
	Practices Score	8.5/10	2.0/10	How strong are the company's programs and policies?
	Water Intensity vs. Industry Peers	21,450 m3/mil USD sales 2.1x industry average	7,150 m3/mil USD sales 0.7x industry average	
PERFORMANCE	Water Intensity Trend	+2.1% CAGR (2016-2019)	-7.8% CAGR (2016-2019)	How effective are its programs and policies?
	Performance Score	3.5/10	8.0/10	and policies:
CONTROVERSIES	Severity of Ongoing Controversies	No ongoing controversies	One Severe Controversy	Do ongoing controversies indicate potential lapses in
	Controversy Deduction	0.0	-2.5	oversight?
	Average (Practices, Performance) - Controversies	6.0 / 10	2.5 / 10	



Arriving at the final Key Issue score Example: Water Stress

Industry: Commodity Chemicals

Key Issue: Water Stress





Source: "Commodity Chemicals Industry Report." 2021. MSCI ESG Research. (Client access only).

Information Classification: GENERAL

Score

6.9 / 10

7.3 / 10

8.5 / 10

5.4 / 10

5.5 / 10

0

5.5 / 10

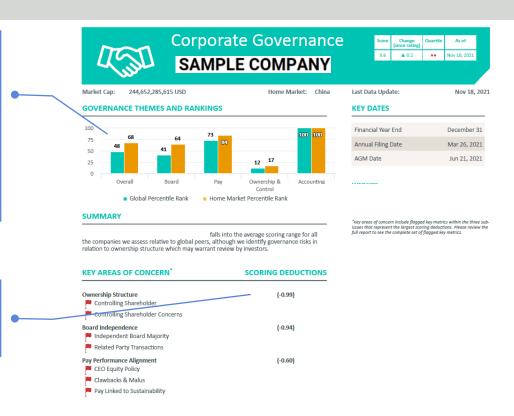
4.0 / 10

Corporate Governance assessment

The scores for the four underlying Key Issues (Ownership & Control, Board, Pay and Accounting) are an absolute assessment of these four aspects of a company's governance that use a universally applied 0-10 scale.

Each company starts with a "perfect 10" score and <u>scoring deductions are applied</u> based on the assessment of individual key metrics.

Go to the corporate governance section of the report for more details on the key metrics contributing to score deductions.



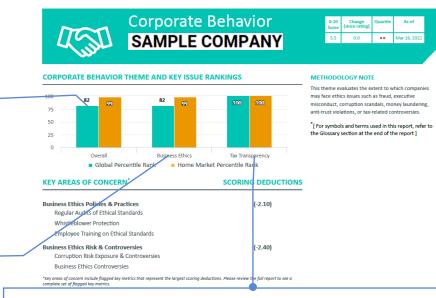


Corporate Behavior assessment

The scores for the two underlying Key Issues (Business Ethics & Tax Transparency) are an absolute assessment of these two aspects of a company's governance that use a universally applied 0-10 scale.

Each company starts with a "perfect 10" score and <u>scoring deductions are applied</u> based on the assessment of individual key metrics.

Business Ethics: Companies are evaluated on their oversight and management of business ethics issues such as fraud, executive misconduct, corrupt practices, money laundering or anti-trust violations.



Tax Transparency: Companies are evaluated on their estimated corporate tax gap (i.e., gap between estimated effective tax rate and estimated statutory tax rate), revenue reporting transparency and their involvement in tax-related controversies.



Data sources

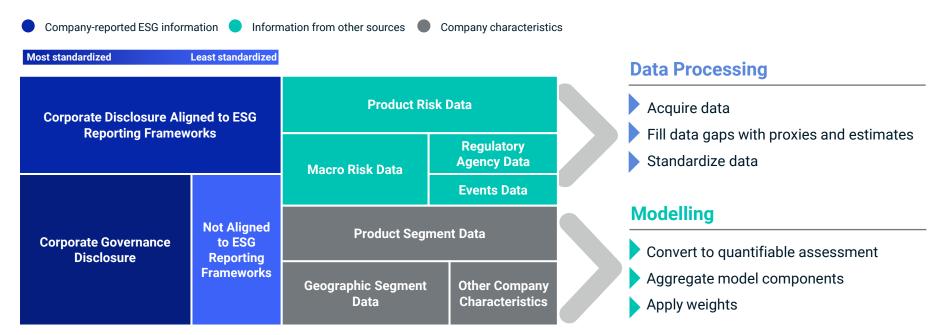
Driving your company's MSCI ESG rating assessment





MSCI ESG Ratings utilize a diverse range of data sources

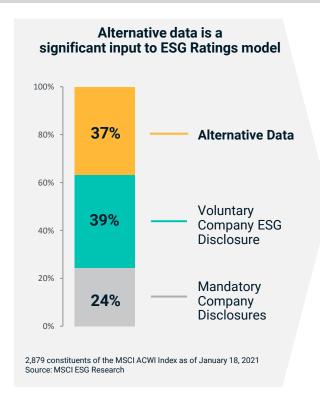
Source of Data Inputs into MSCI ESG Ratings, Sized by % of Contribution





Source: MSCI ESG Research as of June 2022

How different sources are incorporated into an MSCI ESG rating



- **Company disclosures** (e.g., annual financial reports, sustainability reports, proxy reports, web information)
- Alternative data sources, including specialized regulatory, government, academic and NGO datasets, and over 3,000 global and local news sources, power into a company rating.
- **We do not use private or confidential information**, to maintain both transparency and traceability of sources.



Call to action

Issuer interaction with MSCI ESG Issuer Communications





Participate in the data review process

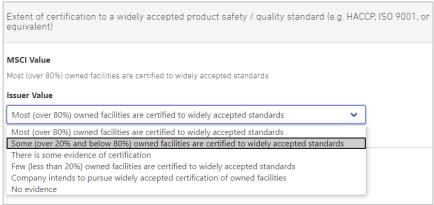


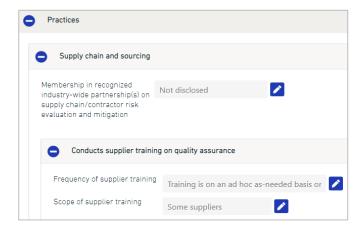
Login to the Issuer Communications Portal & MSCI ONE

https://esqicp.msci.com/ (all non-Climate data categories) | https://one.msci.com/ (for Climate data)

Data Review Efficiency

- Standardized and consistent feedback format
- Includes only company-verifiable data
- Data pre-filled; not a survey





Metric Transparency

- Better understand MSCI ESG Research's assessment criteria
- All data must be publicly available



Additional resources available

Educational videos



ESG Issuer Academy



ESG Ratings video



Methodology (publicly available)





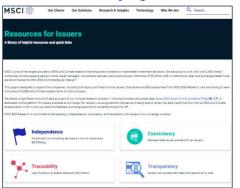




FAQs and instructions



Dedicated webpage on MSCI.com





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