

# **Independent Assurance Statement**

## To the Management and Stakeholders of KANN GmbH Baustoffwerke

DQS has been engaged by KANN GmbH Baustoffwerke to provide independent assurance over the KANN GmbH Baustoffwerke Nachhaltigkeitsbericht 2022 published in online PDF on the KANN GmbH Baustoffwerke website. The engagement took place from February to March 2023 and was concluded on April 4, 2023.

## **Objectives**

The objective of this assurance engagement was to independently express conclusions on underlying reporting processes and validate qualitative and quantitative claims, so as to limit misinterpretation by stakeholders and increase the overall credibility of the reported information and data.

## Scope of assurance

The assurance encompassed the entire report and focused on all figures, statements and claims related to sustainability during the reporting period January 2022 to December 2022. More specifically, this included:

- Statements, information and performance data contained within the sustainability report;
- KANN GmbH Baustoffwerke management approach of material issues; and
- KANN GmbH Baustoffwerke reported data and information as per the requirements of the Global Reporting Initiative Standards.

The assurance engagement was performed in accordance with a Type 2 assurance of the AA1000 Assurance Standard (AA1000AS v3), which consists of:

- Evaluating the company's sustainability framework and processes using the inclusivity, materiality, responsiveness and impact criteria of the AA1000 AccountAbility Principles (AA1000APS 2018), and
- Evaluating the quality of the reported sustainability performance information.

The report has been self-declared to be in accordance with requirements of the GRI Standards.

#### Level of assurance and limitations

A moderate level of assurance under AA1000AS was provided for this engagement. Information and performance data subject to assurance is limited to the content of the sustainability report.

The assurance did not cover financial data, technical descriptions of buildings, equipment and production processes or other information not related to sustainability or already supported by







existing documents, such as third-party audits or certifications and previous KANN GmbH Baustoffwerke annual reports.

The assurance engagement is not a compliance audit and does not assess or evaluate compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

## **Independence and Competences of the Assurance Provider**

The DQS Group is an independent professional services firm that provides assurance on sustainability disclosures under the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), CDP and other specialized management and reporting mechanisms. Independent verifiers have not been involved in the development of the report nor have they been associated with KANN GmbH Baustoffwerke sustainability program, data collection or strategic processes.

DQS Group ensures that the assurance team possesses the required competencies, maintained neutrality and performed ethically throughout the engagement. Further information, including a statement of impartiality, can be found at: <a href="https://www.dqsglobal.com">www.dqsglobal.com</a>.

The management of KANN GmbH Baustoffwerke was responsible for the preparation of the sustainability data.

## **Assurance Methodology**

The assurance procedures and principles used for this engagement were drawn from the International Standard AA1000AS and methodology developed by DQS, which consists of the following steps:

- 1. Identifying statements and data sets, which are classified according to the relevant data owners and the type of evidence required for the verification process.
- 2. Reviewing the Sustainability Report to determine whether the material topics identified during our procedures have been adequately disclosed.
- 3. Carrying out interviews with key functional managers and data owners at KANN GmbH Baustoffwerke office in Bendorf-Mülhofen (Germany)
- 4. Assessing the collected information and provide recommendations for immediate correction where required or for future improvement of the report content.

## **Evaluation of the adherence to AA1000 AccountAbility Principles**

**Inclusivity** – People should have a say in the decisions that impact them

The stakeholder identification and engagement process is well documented and implemented through the KANN GmbH Baustoffwerke Sustainability program and the Report brings out key stakeholder concerns as material aspects of significant stakeholders. The report is considered to be in line with the principle of inclusivity. Therefore, it is recommended that KANN GmbH Baustoffwerke should continue with the planned process of direct dialogue with the external stakeholders at determined intervals.







**Materiality** – Decision makers should identify and be clear about the sustainability topics that matter

The Report addresses the range of environmental, social and economic issues that KANN GmbH Baustoffwerke and its stakeholders have identified as being of material importance. The identification of material issues has considered both internal assessments of impacts, risks and opportunities, as well as stakeholders' views and concerns. The Report fairly brings out aspects and topics and its respective boundaries for the diverse operations of KANN GmbH Baustoffwerke. The report is considered to be in line with the principle of materiality.

**Responsiveness** – Organizations should act transparently on material sustainability topics and their related impacts

KANN GmbH Baustoffwerke is responding to those issues that it has identified as material and demonstrates this in its policies, objectives, indicators and performance targets. The organization and its stakeholders can use the reported information as a reasonable basis for their opinions and decision-making. The responses to material aspects are fairly articulated in the report, i.e. disclosures on KANN GmbH Baustoffwerke policies and management systems including governance. The report is considered to be in line with the principle of responsiveness.

**Impact** – Organizations should monitor, measure and be accountable for how their actions affect their broaders ecosystems

KANN GmbH Baustoffwerke has implemented systems to monitor and measure its economic, environmental and social impacts. Identified impacts are incorporated into both stakeholder engagement as well as the periodic materiality assessment process. The sustainability report discloses impacts in a balanced and effective way, indicating both realized and unrealized goals. The report is considered to be in line with the principle of impact.

## **Evaluation of Data Quality**

Nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the performance indicators of KANN GmbH Baustoffwerke within the scope of the assurance engagement are materially misstated. The processes for collecting and consolidating the data are structured in such a way as to enable independent verification.

Through a sampling procedure, the assurance team found that the sites were generally able to provide the required evidence and records to support their claims.





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## Conclusion

On the basis of a moderate assurance engagement according to the above-listed criteria, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the disclosures within the scope of this assurance engagement are materially misstated.

On behalf of the assurance team

April 12, 2023

Frankfurt, Germany

AA1000 Licensed Assurance Provider

**Guido Eggers** 

Managing Director DQS CFS GmbH

