

# Ernst & Young assurance statement



Italcementi - Financial year ended December 31, 2008.  
Independent assurance report on a selection of environmental and safety indicators

Further to the request made by Italcementi, we performed a review on the Group's environmental and safety indicators for the financial year 2008 identified by the ✓ symbol in the sustainable development report on p. 6-7 (the "Indicators") to obtain limited assurance that the Indicators were prepared in accordance with the reporting criteria applicable in 2008 (the "Reporting Criteria"), consisting in external standards elaborated by the World Business Council for Sustainable Development - Cement Sustainability Initiative (WBCSD-CSI) available on the WBCSD web site<sup>1</sup> completed with Group specific procedures, a summary of which is provided on p. 33 under the heading "Reporting methodology".

It is the responsibility of Italcementi Group's Sustainable Development Department to prepare these Indicators and to provide information on the Criteria.

It is our responsibility to express a conclusion on these Indicators on the basis of our review. Our review was conducted in accordance with the ISAE 3000<sup>2</sup> international standard from IFAC. Our independence is defined by legal and regulatory texts as well as by our professional code of ethics.

A higher level of assurance would have required more extensive work.

## Nature and scope of our review

We performed the following review to be able to express a conclusion:

- We have assessed the Reporting Criteria with respect to their relevance, their completeness, their neutrality, and their reliability.
- At the Group level, we have conducted interviews with the persons responsible for reporting in order to assess the application of the Reporting Criteria. At this level, we have implemented analytical procedures and verified, on a test basis, the calculations and the consolidation of the data.
- At the Cement business level, we checked the consistency of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions with figures declared to authorities and verified in the framework of the 2007/589/CE European Directive on "allowances".
- We have selected a sample of six cement sites and three business units<sup>3</sup> on the basis of their contribution to the Group's consolidated data and the results of the review performed during previous

financial year. At the level of the selected sites and entities, we have verified the understanding and application of the Reporting Criteria, and verified, on a test basis, calculations and reconciliation with supporting documents.

- We reviewed the presentation of the Indicators in the sustainable development report and the associated notes on methodology.
- On average, our tests covered 33% of environmental indicators<sup>4</sup> and 43% of hours worked used in the calculation of the lost time injury frequency rate.

## Information about the Reporting Criteria

- **Relevance.** The Group publishes the key performance indicators defined for cement activities by the working groups of the WBCSD-CSI. Methodologies selected by the Group are consistent with the latest versions of the WBCSD-CSI standards and guidelines (2005). The Group's amendments are specified in the notes on methodology p. 33.
- **Completeness.** The reporting perimeters for environment and safety data are specified in the "Reporting Methodology" section on p. 33 and in p. 34. They aim to cover the Cement activities worldwide for environmental indicators, Cement and Aggregates activities for indicators on quarry rehabilitation, and the whole Group for safety indicators. Perimeters actually covered by the Indicators have been indicated where applicable, notably for NO<sub>x</sub>, SO<sub>x</sub> and dust emissions p. 20.
- **Neutrality.** The Group provides detailed information on methodologies used to establish the indicators in the notes on methodology on p. 33 and in the comments next to the published data. Due to a change in the Reporting Criteria on the indicator "quarries with a rehabilitation plan" (scope and requirements), the data is not comparable to previous years.
- **Reliability.** Internal controls on the Indicators still have to be strengthened and the potential for interpreting the Reporting Criteria on the indicator on "quarry rehabilitation plans" (e.g. grouping next-to-each-other quarries) should be reduced.


## Conclusion

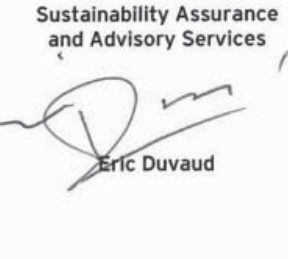
Based on our review, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the Indicators were not established, in all material respects, in accordance with the Reporting Criteria.

Paris-La Défense, April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009

ERNST & YOUNG Audit

ERNST & YOUNG  
Sustainability Assurance  
and Advisory Services

  
Jean-Yves Jégourel

  
Eric Duvaud

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.wbcسد.org/Projects/Cement>

<sup>2</sup> ISAE 3000: "Assurance Engagement other than reviews of historical data", International Federation of Accountants, International Audit and Assurance Board, December 2003.

<sup>3</sup> Six cement plants: Bussac (France), Speed and Bessemer (U.S.A.), Yerraguntla and Sitapuram (India), and Tourah (Egypt), two business units of the Cement Branch: Calcia (France) and Suez (Egypt); and one business unit of the Aggregates Branch: GSM (France).

<sup>4</sup> 64% for CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, 36% on average of SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub> and dust emissions, 15% for raw materials consumption and 32% for fuel consumption, 10% of sites certified ISO 14001, and 45% of quarries.