

Responsible procurement: Engaging with a sustainably operating supply chain



HeidelbergCement currently has more than 100,000 suppliers and business partners in more than 50 countries. The complexity of global networks means it is extremely important for businesses to ensure an adequate exchange and accessibility of information on all levels of their supply chain. To enable this, we build on trustful relationships, based on full transparency, to ensure seamless and sustainable operational performance.

The importance of responsible procurement

Responsible sourcing plays a decisive role in meeting our Sustainability Commitments 2030 as well as supporting the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. We are working toward a transparent, sustainable and future-oriented approach to procuring products and services by going beyond the legal requirements for business practices. We select and evaluate our suppliers not only on the basis of economic criteria, but also integrate social, ethical and environmental performance factors into the process. Especially important: securing human and labour rights is non-negotiable to us when entering and maintaining a business relationship.

What we do



To fully understand and measure our social and environmental footprint across our value chain and improve our sustainability performance, we...

- ensure our suppliers comply with the principles of our Supplier Code of Conduct (in turn addressing the international social accountability standard SA 8000, environmental standard ISO 14001) and applicable national and international supply chain laws;
- deploy our Responsible Procurement initiative, including a global risk assessment with an early warning system for sustainability-related risks as well as regular auditing of key suppliers;
- collaborate with our partners to develop innovative CO₂ reduction projects (e.g. in cement and clinker production and transport) to address climate change;

- offer our compliance hotline "SpeakUp" to report concerns regarding any kind of unlawful behaviour or violation of internationally acknowledged conventions;
- follow a zero tolerance policy: we end the contractual relationship in the event of non-compliance and when all remedial measures have failed;
- obtain and communicate all legally required data to report on our progress transparently.

90%

of our global spending is with local suppliers

Did you know?

The environmental non-profit organisation CDP has listed HeidelbergCement as a globally leading company in the top 8% of its Supplier Engagement Rating (SER) in 2021. The SER recognises how effectively companies engage with their suppliers on climate change.

