

# Sustainability: How are you doing?

// BY PETER MACKAY ON 26 SEP 2023



## Chemical Express sees CSR as a vital imperative if chemical transport companies are to meet the expectations of their clients

In an era marked by environmental challenges and heightened social consciousness, there is a notable increase in the attention and adoption of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) by companies that want to operate in a way that balances economic, social, and environmental considerations to ensure long-term success and positive impact.

Sustainable businesses aim to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs; they integrate sustainability principles into their core strategies, operations and decision-making processes.

The directive EU 2022/2464 amends previous directives (2004/109/EC – 2013/34/EU) and regulation (537/2014) and will make the Corporate Sustainability Report mandatory for a larger number of companies as from this year. For instance, the number companies in scope in Italy will rise from 300 now to around 6,000; in the whole EU around 50,000 companies will now fall under the requirement, which will now apply to companies with more than 250 employees; turnover exceeding €50m; or an annual budget of at least €43m.

## WHAT IT SHOWS

In advance of its legal obligations, Chemical Express, together with some advisors, is starting to prepare its first Corporate Sustainability Report. This is both a challenge, considering the activity sector – bulk liquid chemicals transport – but also an opportunity. The advantages of publishing a comprehensive CSR report are evident:

**Safety Excellence:** The bulk liquid chemicals transport industry operates in a high-risk environment. By showcasing safety protocols, training practices and emergency response strategies, Chemical Express establishes itself as a responsible industry leader, enhancing stakeholder confidence.

**Environmental Leadership:** The transport sector's environmental footprint is under scrutiny. Chemical Express is a founding member of ALIS (Logistic Association of Sustainable Intermodality), a logical consequence of the path started in 1995 with the first intermodal transports, and it firmly believes that this represents the future of transport; through its CSR

report, it can spotlight initiatives to reduce emissions, enhance fuel efficiency and minimise waste, underscoring its commitment to preserving the planet.

**Trust and Credibility:** The reputation of a bulk liquid chemicals transport company hinges on trust. Transparency about ethical practices and community engagement fosters credibility among customers, regulators and investors.

**Innovation and Adaptation:** CSR reporting encourages innovation. Chemical Express will use its report to showcase investments in sustainable technologies, driving positive change within the industry and preparing for future challenges.

**Employee Engagement:** The heart of any company lies in its employees. A CSR report communicates to Chemical Express's workforce that their safety, well-being and contribution to a sustainable future are very highly valued.

**Competitive Edge:** Differentiation is crucial in a competitive market. Chemical Express, thanks to its CSR report, differentiates itself as a responsible, forward-thinking partner, attracting customers who align with its values.

**Long-Term Sustainability:** Chemical Express's operations have far-reaching effects on local communities and ecosystems. By demonstrating a commitment to minimising these impacts, the company secures its role as a responsible corporate citizen, ensuring its viability for generations to come.

Thanks to the CSR reporting requirement, all companies can become active contributors to sustainable development. Chemical Express and the other companies accepting this challenge, thanks to the transparency,

integrity, and responsibility, hold the promise of not only reshaping the industry but also contributing to a more just, equitable, and sustainable global landscape.

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