

May 1, 2026

Sumitomo Mitsui DS Asset Management Co., Ltd. (hereinafter, the “Company”) continuously monitors ESG data providers (hereinafter, the “Providers”) to ensure that sustainability-related data held by each Provider is collected and delivered appropriately.

The results of the monitoring are reported regularly at internal meetings (Stewardship/ESG Committee), where the appropriateness of each Provider is reviewed and decisions are made regarding whether to continue the engagement.

As a result of the monitoring conducted in March 2026, no material concerns were identified with respect to any of the Providers. However, we will continue our engagement with the Providers in order to obtain more effective data.

Monitoring Items for Each Provider

1. Overview of the Providers Used by the Company

Provider Name	Overview	Remarks
Morningstar Sustainalytics	Provides ESG ratings, ESG data, and screening data on investment ineligibility.	Has declared its acceptance of the Financial Services Agency’s “Code of Conduct for ESG Evaluation and Data Providers.”
RepRisk	Provides ESG data.	
MSCI ESG Research	Provides ESG data.	
GRESB	Provides company- and fund-level ESG data for real estate and infrastructure.	Operated primarily by approximately 150 investment institutions.
CSRHub	Provision of ESG consensus data.	Discloses a total of 1,025 data sources.

2. Verification of Data Accuracy

The Company conducted an in-person due diligence meeting with Morningstar Sustainalytics regarding data accuracy.

To confirm whether each Provider is delivering accurate data, the Company verifies the correlation among their ESG ratings while considering differences in their rating methodologies.

We conduct sample checks of GHG emissions data to verify whether the data provided is consistent with disclosures made by portfolio companies and other investee entities.

3. Response to Data Errors

If any concerns regarding the data are identified through preliminary research conducted as part of the engagement activities of fund managers and analysts, we make inquiries to the relevant Providers.

If any errors are identified, we request corrections as appropriate and subsequently confirm that the data has been properly amended.

4. Request for Self-Assessment

We request that the Providers also communicate proactively regarding the accuracy of their data.

We believe that ESG information is an important factor in assessing the stability and sustainability of portfolio companies and other investee entities, as well as in gaining insight into the enhancement of long-term corporate value or the avoidance of value erosion. Through the multifaceted use of non-financial information, including ESG factors, we encourage portfolio companies and other investee entities to disclose ESG data and conduct engagement activities aimed at improving sustainability, in order to deliver high-quality investment returns to our clients.

In addition, together with our monitoring of the Providers, we will continue our efforts to appropriately assess companies' social and environmental impacts and to encourage improvement.

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