



GRI Certified Software and Tools Program

Certification Requirements

All software or digital tools (data gathering systems, reporting process reports, learning software, etc.) which make use of GRI copyright protected content from the GRI Standards require GRI certification and written permission to use copyright protected content. A software or tool may be a standalone product or included in a broader suite.

The GRI Certified Software and Tools Program confirms that GRI content in software and digital tools is being used accurately.

Below are the requirements for applying the GRI Standards content:

1. Transparency

If any of the elements from the GRI Standards are included in any type of software or tool there must be a clear indication that it is GRI's copyright protected material and GRI authorization to use this material is required. The program applies to the following types of software and tools:

- a. Sustainability reporting wizards;
- b. Tools for assessing performance for internal management systems;
- c. Tools and software for data gathering;
- d. Other.

2. Accuracy of reproduction

The GRI content (language, metrics, classifications, etc.) has to precisely match the original GRI Standards.

3. Completeness

In cases when GRI Disclosures are used, the respective requirements, recommendations and guidance from the corresponding Standards must be provided as well (directly or indirectly). In cases where partial reproduction of the Disclosures is provided, a link (weblink) to the complete guidance of the corresponding disclosure has to be provided (source where in the [GRI Standards](#) can be found).

4. Clarity

The referencing of GRI Standards, whether from the Universal (100 series) or the Topic-Specific series (200, 300, 400 series) should include the title and publication year (e.g., *GRI 102: General Disclosures 2016*).

The numbering of the individual GRI Disclosures should include, at a minimum, the number of the disclosure (as follows): "102-53", whereby "102" refers to GRI Standard 102 – General Disclosures and "-53" to the specific disclosure within the referenced standard.

Other possible formats are: "Disclosure 102-53" or "GRI 102-53", as long as this is consistent for all disclosures included in the software tool. The GRI title of the disclosure can also be included.

An explanation of the meaning of the numbering should also be included in the implementation guide, or other documents that support the use of the software.

5. Added value

Inclusion of GRI copyright protected content in software and digital tools will be certified only in cases when such a usage adds value to the GRI Standards. GRI reserves the right to deny permission to include GRI content in a software.

6. Disclaimers

Every software or tool that is developed by a third party and includes GRI copyright protected content has to include the following disclaimer:

(Software name) has undergone certification through the GRI Certified Software and Tools Program. This means that GRI confirms that the content from the GRI Standards is being used accurately in this software or digital tool.

(Name of the software provider) cannot guarantee that the use of this software or tool will result in producing a sustainability report that can be classified as a GRI Standards report. The complete GRI Standards have to be considered in order to ensure that the report will qualify as a GRI Standards report.

7. Communication

Applicants must provide GRI with any messaging and communication materials (including user guides, website texts, marketing materials) containing references to GRI or the GRI Certified Software and Tools Program, in order for them to be assessed and approved.