

# GRI 307: ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE 2016

# GRI 307

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## About this Standard

<b>Responsibility</b>	This Standard is issued by the <a href="#">Global Sustainability Standards Board (GSSB)</a> . Any feedback on the GRI Standards can be submitted to <a href="mailto:standards@globalreporting.org">standards@globalreporting.org</a> for the consideration of the GSSB.
<b>Scope</b>	<i>GRI 307: Environmental Compliance</i> sets out reporting requirements on the topic of environmental compliance. This Standard can be used by an organization of any size, type, sector or geographic location that wants to report on its impacts related to this topic.
<b>Normative references</b>	This Standard is to be used together with the most recent versions of the following documents. <a href="#">GRI 101: Foundation</a> <a href="#">GRI 103: Management Approach</a> <a href="#">GRI Standards Glossary</a>  In the text of this Standard, terms defined in the Glossary are <u>underlined</u> .
<b>Effective date</b>	This Standard is effective for reports or other materials published on or after 1 July 2018. Earlier adoption is encouraged.

**Note:** This document includes hyperlinks to other Standards. In most browsers, using **'ctrl' + click** will open external links in a new browser window. After clicking on a link, use **'alt' + left arrow** to return to the previous view.

# Introduction

## A. Overview

This Standard is part of the set of GRI Sustainability Reporting Standards (GRI Standards). These Standards are designed to be used by organizations to report about their impacts on the economy, the environment, and society.

The GRI Standards are structured as a set of interrelated, modular standards. The full set can be downloaded at [www.globalreporting.org/standards/](http://www.globalreporting.org/standards/).

There are three universal Standards that apply to every organization preparing a sustainability report:

*GRI 101: Foundation*

*GRI 102: General Disclosures*

*GRI 103: Management Approach*

***GRI 101: Foundation* is the starting point for using the GRI Standards. It has essential information on how to use and reference the Standards.**

An organization then selects from the set of topic-specific GRI Standards for reporting on its material topics. These Standards are organized into three series: 200 (Economic topics), 300 (Environmental topics) and 400 (Social topics).

Each topic Standard includes disclosures specific to that topic, and is designed to be used together with *GRI 103: Management Approach*, which is used to report the management approach for the topic.

***GRI 307: Environmental Compliance* is a topic-specific GRI Standard in the 300 series (Environmental topics).**

## B. Using the GRI Standards and making claims

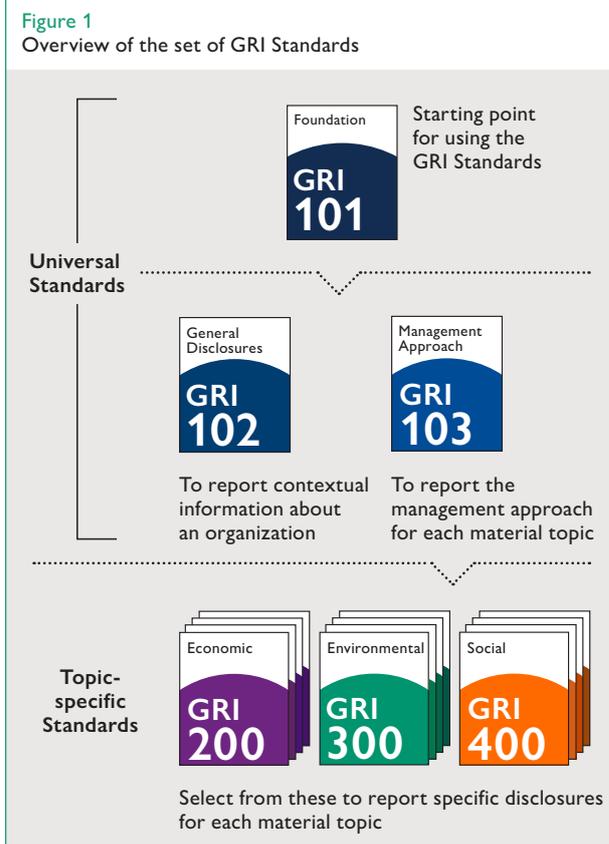
There are two basic approaches for using the GRI Standards. For each way of using the Standards there is a corresponding claim, or statement of use, which an organization is required to include in any published materials.

1. The GRI Standards can be used as a set to prepare a sustainability report that is in accordance with the Standards. There are two options for preparing a report in accordance (Core or Comprehensive), depending on the extent of disclosures included in the report.

An organization preparing a report in accordance with the GRI Standards uses this Standard, *GRI 307: Environmental Compliance*, if this is one of its material topics.

2. Selected GRI Standards, or parts of their content, can also be used to report specific information, without preparing a report in accordance with the Standards. Any published materials that use the GRI Standards in this way are to include a 'GRI-referenced' claim.

See **Section 3 of *GRI 101: Foundation*** for more information on how to use the GRI Standards, and the specific claims that organizations are required to include in any published materials.



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## C. Requirements, recommendations and guidance

The GRI Standards include:

**Requirements.** These are mandatory instructions. In the text, requirements are presented in **bold font** and indicated with the word 'shall'. Requirements are to be read in the context of recommendations and guidance; however, an organization is not required to comply with recommendations or guidance in order to claim that a report has been prepared in accordance with the Standards.

**Recommendations.** These are cases where a particular course of action is encouraged, but not required. In the text, the word 'should' indicates a recommendation.

**Guidance.** These sections include background information, explanations and examples to help organizations better understand the requirements.

An organization is required to comply with all applicable requirements in order to claim that its report has been prepared in accordance with the GRI Standards. See [GRI 101: Foundation](#) for more information.

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## D. Background context

In the context of the GRI Standards, the environmental dimension of sustainability concerns an organization's impacts on living and non-living natural systems, including land, air, water, and ecosystems.

*GRI 307* addresses the topic of environmental compliance, covering an organization's compliance with environmental laws and/or regulations. This includes compliance with international declarations, conventions and treaties, as well as national, sub-national, regional, and local regulations.

The disclosures in this Standard can provide information on an organization's compliance with applicable laws and regulations, and with other instruments concerned with environmental protection.

Additional disclosures that relate to this topic can also be found in:

- [GRI 419: Socioeconomic Compliance](#)

If the reporting organization has identified both topics as material, it can combine its disclosures for *GRI 307* and *GRI 419*. For example, if the organization uses the same approach for managing both topics, it can provide one combined explanation of its management approach.

# GRI 307: Environmental Compliance

This Standard includes disclosures on the management approach and topic-specific disclosures. These are set out in the Standard as follows:

- Management approach disclosures (this section references *GRI 103*)
- Disclosure 307-1 Non-compliance with environmental laws and regulations

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## 1. Management approach disclosures

Management approach disclosures are a narrative explanation of how an organization manages a material topic, the associated impacts, and stakeholders' reasonable expectations and interests. Any organization that claims its report has been prepared in accordance with the GRI Standards is required to report on its management approach for every material topic, as well as reporting topic-specific disclosures for those topics.

Therefore, this topic-specific Standard is designed to be used together with *GRI 103: Management Approach* in order to provide full disclosure of the organization's impacts. *GRI 103* specifies how to report on the management approach and what information to provide.

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### Reporting requirements

- 1.1** The reporting organization shall report its management approach for environmental compliance using *GRI 103: Management Approach*.

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### Guidance

When reporting its management approach for environmental compliance, the reporting organization can also disclose expenditures on insurance for environmental liability.

## 2. Topic-specific disclosures

### Disclosure 307-1

#### Non-compliance with environmental laws and regulations

##### Reporting requirements

The reporting organization shall report the following information:

- a. Significant fines and non-monetary sanctions for non-compliance with environmental laws and/or regulations in terms of:
  - i. total monetary value of significant fines;
  - ii. total number of non-monetary sanctions;
  - iii. cases brought through dispute resolution mechanisms.
- b. If the organization has not identified any non-compliance with environmental laws and/or regulations, a brief statement of this fact is sufficient.

Disclosure  
307-1

##### Reporting recommendations

- 2.1 When compiling the information specified in Disclosure 307-1, the reporting organization should include administrative and judicial sanctions for failure to comply with environmental laws and/or regulations, including:
  - 2.1.1 international declarations, conventions, and treaties;
  - 2.1.2 national, sub-national, regional, and local regulations;
  - 2.1.3 voluntary environmental agreements with regulating authorities that are considered binding and developed as a substitute for implementing new regulations;
  - 2.1.4 cases brought against the organization through the use of international dispute mechanisms or national dispute mechanisms supervised by government authorities;
  - 2.1.5 cases of non-compliance related to spills as reported with [GRI 306: Effluents and Waste](#).

##### Guidance

###### *Guidance for Disclosure 307-1*

In certain jurisdictions, voluntary environmental agreements with regulating authorities can be referred to as 'covenants'.

###### *Background*

Non-compliance within an organization can indicate the ability of management to ensure that operations conform to certain performance parameters. In some circumstances, non-compliance can lead to clean-up obligations or other costly environmental liabilities. The strength of an organization's compliance record can also affect its ability to expand operations or gain permits.

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### Legal liability

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