



GRI 204: Procurement Practices 2016

204

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TOPIC STANDARD

GRI 204: Procurement Practices 2016

Topic Standard

Effective Date

This Standard is effective for reports or other materials published on or after 1 July 2018

Responsibility

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Introduction

GRI 204: Procurement Practices 2016 contains disclosures for organizations to report information about their procurement practice-related impacts, and how they manage these impacts.

The Standard is structured as follows:

- [Section 1](#) contains a requirement, which provides information about how the organization manages its procurement practice-related impacts.
- [Section 2](#) contains one disclosure, which provides information about the organization's procurement practice-related impacts.
- The [Glossary](#) contains defined terms with a specific meaning when used in the GRI Standards. The terms are underlined in the text of the GRI Standards and linked to the definitions.

The rest of the Introduction section provides a background on the topic, an overview of the system of GRI Standards and further information on using this Standard.

Background on the topic

This Standard addresses the topic of procurement practices. This covers an organization's support for local suppliers or those owned by women or members of vulnerable groups. It also covers how the organization's procurement practices (such as the lead times it gives to suppliers, or the purchasing prices it negotiates) cause or contribute to negative impacts in the supply chain.

System of GRI Standards

This Standard is part of the GRI Sustainability Reporting Standards (GRI Standards). The GRI Standards enable an organization to report information about its most significant impacts on the economy, environment, and people, including impacts on their human rights, and how it manages these impacts.

The GRI Standards are structured as a system of interrelated standards that are organized into three series: GRI Universal Standards, GRI Sector Standards, and GRI Topic Standards (see [Figure 1](#) in this Standard).

Universal Standards: GRI 1, GRI 2 and GRI 3

[GRI 1: Foundation 2021](#) specifies the requirements that the organization must comply with to report in accordance with the GRI Standards. The organization begins using the GRI Standards by consulting [GRI 1](#).

[GRI 2: General Disclosures 2021](#) contains disclosures that the organization uses to provide information about its reporting practices and other organizational details, such as its activities, governance, and policies.

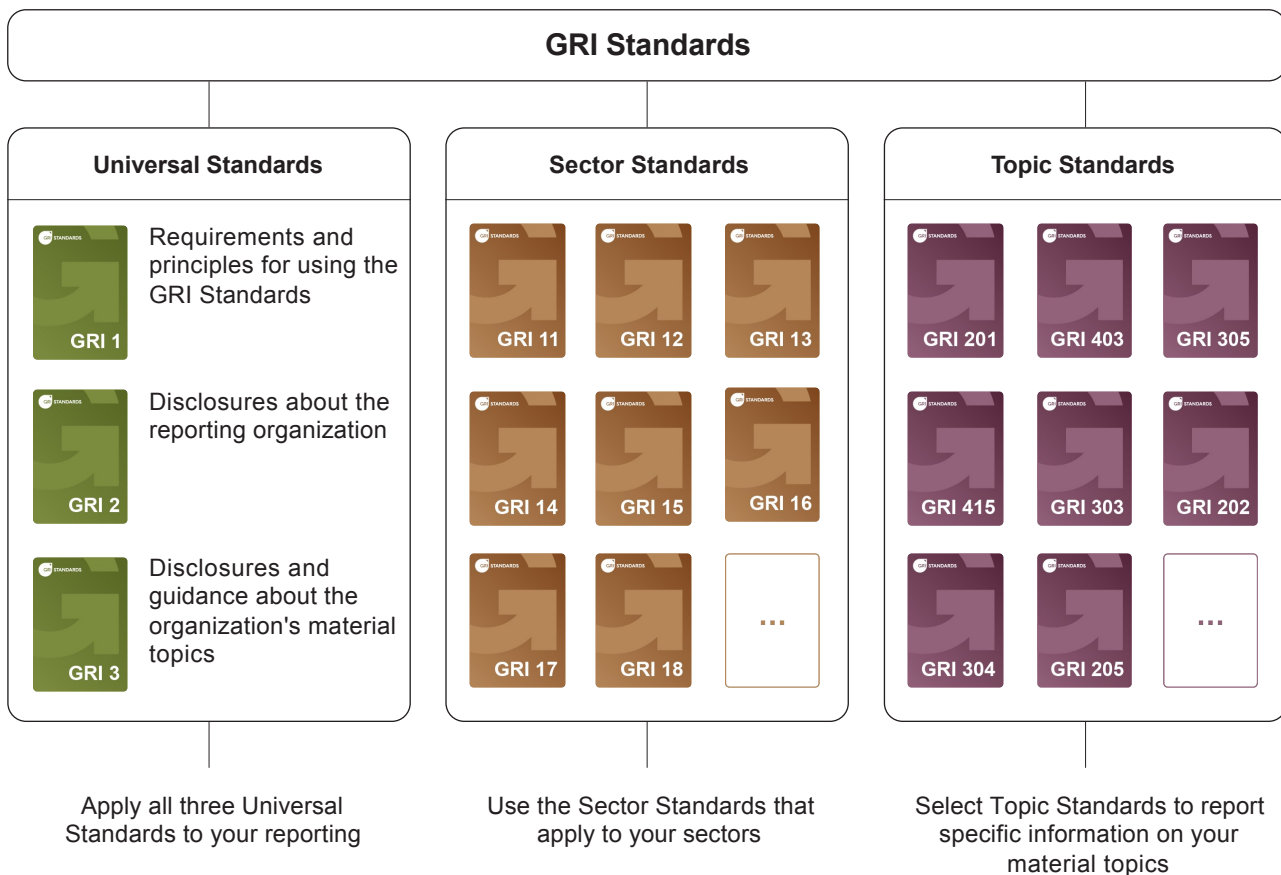
[GRI 3: Material Topics 2021](#) provides guidance on how to determine material topics. It also contains disclosures that the organization uses to report information about its process of determining material topics, its list of material topics, and how it manages each topic.

Sector Standards

The Sector Standards provide information for organizations about their likely material topics. The organization uses the Sector Standards that apply to its sectors when determining its material topics and when determining what to report for each material topic.

Topic Standards

The Topic Standards contain disclosures that the organization uses to report information about its impacts in relation to particular topics. The organization uses the Topic Standards according to the list of material topics it has determined using [GRI 3](#).

Figure 1. GRI Standards: Universal, Sector and Topic Standards

Using this Standard

This Standard can be used by any organization – regardless of size, type, sector, geographic location, or reporting experience – to report information about its procurement practice-related impacts.

An organization reporting in accordance with the GRI Standards is required to report the following disclosures if it has determined procurement practices to be a material topic:

- [Disclosure 3-3 in GRI 3: Material Topics 2021](#) (see clause 1.1 in this Standard);
- Any disclosure from this Topic Standard that is relevant to the organization's procurement practice-related impacts (Disclosure 204-1).

See [Requirements 4 and 5 in GRI 1: Foundation 2021](#).

Reasons for omission are permitted for these disclosures.

If the organization cannot comply with a disclosure or with a requirement in a disclosure (e.g., because the required information is confidential or subject to legal prohibitions), the organization is required to specify the disclosure or the requirement it cannot comply with, and provide a reason for omission together with an explanation in the GRI content index. See [Requirement 6 in GRI 1: Foundation 2021](#) for more information on reasons for omission.

If the organization cannot report the required information about an item specified in a disclosure because the item (e.g., committee, policy, practice, process) does not exist, it can comply with the requirement by reporting this to be the case. The organization can explain the reasons for not having this item, or describe any plans to develop it. The disclosure does not require the organization to implement the item (e.g., developing a policy), but to report that the item does not exist.

If the organization intends to publish a standalone sustainability report, it does not need to repeat information that it has already reported publicly elsewhere, such as on web pages or in its annual report. In such a case, the organization can report a required disclosure by providing a reference in the GRI content index as to where this information can be found (e.g., by providing a link to the web page or citing the page in the annual report where the information has been published).

Requirements, guidance and defined terms

The following apply throughout this Standard:

Requirements are presented in **bold font** and indicated by the word 'shall'. An organization must comply with requirements to report in accordance with the GRI Standards.

Requirements may be accompanied by guidance.

Guidance includes background information, explanations, and examples to help the organization better understand the requirements. The organization is not required to comply with guidance.

The Standards may also include recommendations. These are cases where a particular course of action is encouraged but not required.

The word 'should' indicates a recommendation, and the word 'can' indicates a possibility or option.

Defined terms are underlined in the text of the GRI Standards and linked to their definitions in the [Glossary](#). The organization is required to apply the definitions in the Glossary.

1. Topic management disclosures

An organization reporting in accordance with the GRI Standards is required to report how it manages each of its material topics.

An organization that has determined procurement practices to be a material topic is required to report how it manages the topic using [Disclosure 3-3 in GRI 3: Material Topics 2021](#) (see clause 1.1 in this section).

This section is therefore designed to supplement – and not replace – Disclosure 3-3 in *GRI 3*.

REQUIREMENTS 1.1 **The reporting organization shall report how it manages procurement practices using [Disclosure 3-3 in GRI 3: Material Topics 2021](#).**

GUIDANCE The reporting organization can also:

- describe actions taken to identify and adjust the organization’s procurement practices that cause or contribute to negative impacts in the supply chain, including:
 - how dialogue with suppliers is used to identify procurement practices that cause or contribute to negative impacts in the supply chain;
 - actions taken to adjust payment policies and procedures;
- describe policies and practices used to select locally-based suppliers, either organization-wide or for specific locations;
- explain the rationale and methodology for tracing the source, origin, or production conditions of raw materials and production inputs purchased, if applicable;
- describe policies and practices used to promote economic inclusion when selecting suppliers.

Procurement practices that cause or contribute to negative impacts in the supply chain can include:

- stability or length of relationships with suppliers;
- lead times;
- ordering and payment routines;
- purchasing prices;
- changing or cancelling orders.

Forms of economic inclusion can include:

- small and medium-sized suppliers;
- suppliers owned by women;
- suppliers which are owned by or recruit workers from members of vulnerable, marginalized, or under-represented social groups.

2. Topic disclosures

An organization is expected to compile information for economic disclosures using figures from its audited financial statements or from its internally-audited management accounts, whenever possible. Data can be compiled using, for example:

- the relevant International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), published by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB), and the Interpretations developed by the IFRS Interpretations Committee (specific IFRS are referenced for some of the disclosures);
- the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) issued by the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC);
- national or regional standards recognized internationally for the purpose of financial reporting.

Disclosure 204-1 Proportion of spending on local suppliers

REQUIREMENTS	<p>The reporting organization shall report the following information:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Percentage of the procurement budget used for significant locations of operation that is spent on <u>suppliers local to that operation</u> (such as percentage of products and services purchased locally). b. The organization's geographical definition of 'local'. c. The definition used for 'significant locations of operation'.
RECOMMENDATIONS	<p>2.1 When compiling the information specified in Disclosure 204-1, the reporting organization should calculate the percentages based on invoices or commitments made during the reporting period, e.g, using accruals accounting.</p>
GUIDANCE	<p>Guidance for Disclosure 204-1</p> <p>Local purchases can be made either from a budget managed at the location of operation or at an organization's headquarters.</p> <p>Background</p> <p>By supporting local suppliers, an organization can indirectly attract additional investment to the local economy. Local sourcing can be a strategy to help ensure supply, support a stable local economy, and maintain community relations.</p>

Glossary

This glossary provides definitions for terms used in this Standard. The organization is required to apply these definitions when using the GRI Standards.

The definitions included in this glossary may contain terms that are further defined in the complete [GRI Standards Glossary](#). All defined terms are underlined. If a term is not defined in this glossary or in the complete [GRI Standards Glossary](#), definitions that are commonly used and understood apply.

business partner

entity with which the organization has some form of direct and formal engagement for the purpose of meeting its business objectives

Source: Shift and Mazars LLP, *UN Guiding Principles Reporting Framework*, 2015; modified

Examples: affiliates, business-to-business customers, clients, first-tier suppliers, franchisees, joint venture partners, investee companies in which the organization has a shareholding position

Note: Business partners do not include subsidiaries and affiliates that the organization controls.

business relationships

relationships that the organization has with business partners, with entities in its value chain including those beyond the first tier, and with any other entities directly linked to its operations, products, or services

Source: United Nations (UN), *Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations "Protect, Respect and Remedy" Framework*, 2011; modified

Note: Examples of other entities directly linked to the organization's operations, products, or services are a non-governmental organization with which the organization delivers support to a local community or state security forces that protect the organization's facilities.

employee

individual who is in an employment relationship with the organization according to national law or practice

human rights

rights inherent to all human beings, which include, at a minimum, the rights set out in the *United Nations (UN) International Bill of Human Rights* and the principles concerning fundamental rights set out in the *International Labour Organization (ILO) Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work*

Source: United Nations (UN), *Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations "Protect, Respect and Remedy" Framework*, 2011; modified

Note: See [Guidance to 2-23-b-i in GRI 2: General Disclosures 2021](#) for more information on 'human rights'.

impact

effect the organization has or could have on the economy, environment, and people, including on their human rights, which in turn can indicate its contribution (negative or positive) to sustainable development

Note 1: Impacts can be actual or potential, negative or positive, short-term or long-term, intended or unintended, and reversible or irreversible.

Note 2: See [section 2.1 in GRI 1: Foundation 2021](#) for more information on 'impact'.

local supplier

organization or person that provides a product or service to the reporting organization, and that is based in the same geographic market as the reporting organization (that is, no transnational payments are made to a local supplier)

Note: The geographic definition of 'local' can include the community surrounding operations, a region within a country or a country.

material topics

topics that represent the organization's most significant impacts on the economy, environment, and people, including impacts on their human rights

Note: See [section 2.2 in GRI 1: Foundation 2021](#) and [section 1 in GRI 3: Material Topics 2021](#) for more information on 'material topics'.

supplier

entity upstream from the organization (i.e., in the organization's supply chain), which provides a product or service that is used in the development of the organization's own products or services

Examples: brokers, consultants, contractors, distributors, franchisees, home workers, independent contractors, licensees, manufacturers, primary producers, sub-contractors, wholesalers

Note: A supplier can have a direct business relationship with the organization (often referred to as a first-tier supplier) or an indirect business relationship.

supply chain

range of activities carried out by entities upstream from the organization, which provide products or services that are used in the development of the organization's own products or services

sustainable development / sustainability

development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs

Source: World Commission on Environment and Development, *Our Common Future*, 1987

Note: The terms 'sustainability' and 'sustainable development' are used interchangeably in the GRI Standards.

value chain

range of activities carried out by the organization, and by entities upstream and downstream from the organization, to bring the organization's products or services from their conception to their end use

Note 1: Entities upstream from the organization (e.g., suppliers) provide products or services that are used in the development of the organization's own products or services. Entities downstream from the organization (e.g., distributors, customers) receive products or services from the organization.

Note 2: The value chain includes the supply chain.

worker

person that performs work for the organization

Examples: employees, agency workers, apprentices, contractors, home workers, interns, self-employed persons, sub-contractors, volunteers, and persons working for organizations other than the reporting organization, such as for suppliers

Note: In the GRI Standards, in some cases, it is specified whether a particular subset of workers is required to be used.



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