

GIRP PRESS RELEASE

Forthcoming GIRP guidance will help simplify carbon emissions reporting

Lisbon, 15 October 2024

Attendees at the GIRP Supply Chain Conference in Lisbon, Portugal, received an exclusive preview of the key findings of the **Scope 3 Methodological Guidance**, developed in close collaboration between GIRP, the European Healthcare Distribution Association, and leading sustainability consultancy EcoAct, under the leadership of sustainability experts from GIRP member company Cencora (Alliance Healthcare Europe). This comprehensive guide, aimed at harmonizing Scope 3 carbon emissions reporting across the European healthcare distribution sector, will be publicly available before the end of the year.

The **Scope 3 Methodological Guidance** provides a framework for accurately calculating and reporting Scope 3 emissions—those indirectly generated by an organization’s entire value chain. It addresses common challenges such as inconsistent data collection practices and varying reporting standards while emphasizing the need for harmonized approaches across the healthcare sector. Importantly, this guidance aligns with the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocol, the international accounting framework that provides standards and guidance for organizations to measure their emissions effectively.

A key focus of the guidance is how to allocate emissions to customers based on their specific requests, ensuring that companies in the healthcare distribution sector can meet the growing demands for transparency and accuracy in their sustainability practices.

The working group behind this guidance is spearheaded by Cencora and includes key industry leaders from Pharma Logistik Austria, Cofares, PHOENIX Group, Kwizda, Multipharma, Merck Group, Sanofi, and Sandoz. The group was supported by sustainability consultants from EcoAct, who conducted in-depth interviews with group members to understand their current levels of reporting and the challenges they face in collecting and sharing information. Together, they developed standardized guidance for Scope 3 reporting, specifically focusing on GHG Protocol Category 4 (upstream transportation) and Category 9 (downstream transportation), which are of greatest relevance to wholesalers and pharmacies.

Giulia Ferrati, Director of ESG at Cencora, and David Grant, Principal Consultant at EcoAct, outlined the issues highlighted by the working group’s members, particularly around collecting and analyzing data to improve the quality of emissions reporting. The guidance includes new tools to support this and offers insights for those just starting the process.

“As the global push for sustainability intensifies, companies in the pharmaceutical supply chain face increasing pressure to account for and reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. GIRP’s new guidance will provide the healthcare value chain with the tools needed to standardize data collection, improve accuracy, and meet the growing demands of regulatory frameworks and investor expectations,” said David Grant. “We are delighted to be supporting this project.”

Kasper Ernest, newly appointed Director General of GIRP, expressed his satisfaction with the outputs from the working group: “This guidance represents a significant step towards greater transparency and environmental responsibility for full-service healthcare distributors and the entire supply chain. By providing standardized guidance on Scope 3 emissions reporting, we are equipping our members and partners with the tools to meet their sustainability commitments while championing their role as leaders in driving sustainable practices. With Cencora’s expertise in this initiative, we ensure that full-service healthcare distributors, manufacturers, and the entire healthcare value chain can align their efforts to reduce environmental impact while maintaining the highest standards of service and reliability.”

The **Scope 3 Methodological Guidance** is being finalized for publication and will be available through the GIRP website before the end of the year. For more information, please contact Ms Clare Birmingham, Senior Manager, Communications and Public Affairs (c.birmingham@girp.eu).