



SUSTAINABLE HEALTHCARE POSITION STATEMENT

A joint publication by the International Federation of Pharmaceutical Wholesalers and the Pharmaceutical Environment Group

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*Alignment on
GHG reporting
and data sharing
approaches
between
pharmaceutical
companies and
wholesalers*



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01 Introduction

The International Federation of Pharmaceutical Wholesalers (IFPW) and Pharmaceutical Environment Group (PEG) have come together to collaborate on improving the measurement of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions, sharing of that data amongst companies, and taking action to reduce impacts. We present this position statement to work collaboratively across partners to drive environmental performance, foster transparency, and create a more resilient and environmentally friendly supply chain. This position statement aims to address these opportunities by establishing a unified framework for action.



02 Shared Commitment to Sustainability

The companies represented in IFPW and PEG support the following principles:

- **Shared Vision:** We share a common vision of a sustainable pharmaceutical industry that prioritizes environmental protection, social responsibility, patient safety, ethical business practices, and science aligned ambitions.
- **Alignment on Transparent Reporting Practices:** We will strive to align on common sustainability reporting standards and frameworks – aligned with ISSB Sustainability Disclosure Standards to ensure consistent and comparable data collection and disclosure. This will enable us to track progress, identify areas for improvement, and communicate our sustainability performance to stakeholders.
- **Science-Aligned Targets:** We will strive to set climate targets that are aligned with contemporary science to avoid a 1.5°C rise or above in mean surface temperature.
- **Collaborative Partnerships:** We will foster strong partnerships based on trust and transparency. We will work together to identify opportunities for improvement and implement sustainable practices across the supply chain.
- **Supply Chain Optimization:** We will collaborate to optimize supply chain efficiency, minimize waste, and reduce carbon emissions.
- **Sustainable Sourcing:** We will prioritize sustainable sourcing practices, including responsible procurement of raw materials, natural products, and the use of renewable energy sources to decarbonize operations.
- **Anti-trust and trade regulation laws:** This commitment is undertaken with full awareness of and commitment to compliance with all applicable anti-trust obligations.

Good reporting practices

Transparency

We commit to being transparent in our environmental reporting. This includes publicly disclosing our environmental data and the methodologies used for calculations. We will be transparent about any limitations or uncertainties in the data and actively engage with stakeholders to discuss our environmental performance. We will strive to provide clear and concise explanations of our environmental impacts.

Alignment with Best Practices

We commit to aligning our environmental reporting with recognized global standards and frameworks such as the Global Logistics Emission Council (GLEC) and working towards other critical standards such as International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB), the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), the Sustainability Accounting Standards Board (SASB), the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD) and the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD). Where regional legislation imposes reporting requirements at a higher or equal standard to the aforementioned examples, those regional standards shall apply. We will also align our reporting with industry-specific standards and best practices. We will regularly review and update our reporting practices to reflect the latest standards and best practices and aim to seek external assurance on our environmental data and reports to enhance credibility.



Two-Way Data Exchange

We recognize the importance of two-way data exchange with our value chain partners. We will establish communication channels with our partners and customers to share environmental data and best practices. We will collaborate to improve environmental performance and empower customers to make informed decisions through data sharing, capacity building, and joint initiatives. We will facilitate the flow of environmental information across the entire value chain. These efforts will serve as a gateway to setting and refining product-level data as available to our customers, enabling more granular and impactful sustainability assessments.

Gradual Improvement of Calculation Practices

We understand that improving environmental data accuracy and granularity is an ongoing process. We will set realistic targets for improvement and prioritize the most material environmental impacts for our initial reporting efforts. We will invest in tools and technologies to improve data collection, management, and analysis. We will also train our employees on environmental data collection and reporting methodologies. We will continuously refine our data collection and calculation methodologies to enhance accuracy and completeness.

Supplier Empowerment

We are committed to empowering our suppliers to improve their environmental performance. We will provide resources and guidance to our suppliers to help them develop and implement sustainable practices, for instance through the shape of annual joint workshops on the topic. We will collaborate with our suppliers to develop and implement sustainable practices and encourage them to set science-aligned climate targets and recognize and reward suppliers for their environmental achievements. We will integrate environmental criteria into our supplier selection and evaluation processes and strive to work with suppliers who demonstrate strong environmental performance around areas such as GHG intensity for similar services, allowing the industry to set benchmarks for product distribution footprint.

Streamlined Reporting Practices to Focus on Impact

We are committed to streamlining our reporting practices to focus on the most significant environmental impacts of our organization. We will prioritize materiality by identifying and reporting on key performance indicators (KPIs) that accurately reflect our environmental performance. We will present our environmental information in a clear, concise, and understandable manner.



04 Implementation

To ensure effective implementation of this initiative, we will leverage IFPW and PEG platforms to lead discussions with the intent of:

- Developing a detailed action plan outlining specific targets, timelines, and performance metrics.
- Monitoring progress and reporting on achievements.
- Identifying and addressing potential challenges and risks.
- Promoting continuous improvement and innovation in sustainability practices.

We understand that transformative change requires collaborative efforts. Therefore, we will actively participate in joint projects, share best practices, and contribute to industry-wide initiatives that promote sustainable practices.

In order to drive the above, we will strive to engage on a semi-annual basis, leveraging events run by our respective organizations when possible, to create discussion platforms, discuss progress and opportunities and align on next steps that can be undertaken.



05 Roadmap to data accuracy

Our organizations commit to prioritizing data quality by establishing clear standards for accuracy, completeness, and consistency as listed in Annex 1. We commit to integrating data quality considerations into sustainability initiatives, ensuring that data accuracy informs aspects of planning, implementation, and evaluation. Finally, we will leverage technology to enhance data accuracy and efficiency.

This may include exploring the use of data automation and artificial intelligence, where they offer advantages and maintain accuracy, as well as considering exploring the adoption of blockchain technology to where it can enhance data security, transparency, and traceability. This also includes leveraging the power of data to better refine assumptions that can be made to assess specific GHG areas such as downstream logistics and distribution, identifying standard distribution patterns and averaged datapoints to assess emissions in the absence of specific primary data.

06 Reporting process

We commit to clear reporting frequencies, including annual reporting to track progress and demonstrate accountability. We will consider interim reporting for key performance indicators to provide more frequent updates and enable faster course correction.

To enhance reporting quality, we plan to implement where possible and financially reasonable external assurance of GHG data to ensure accuracy, completeness, and consistency in accordance with recognized standards.

To avoid burdensome reporting, and in the event that best practices in this document are met, we will consider GHG reporting as a final result of an agreed-upon methodology and GHG assessment, rather than sharing of detailed primary data itself. This approach will allow for data privacy and security while still providing valuable information for analysis and improvement.

We will explore options for sharing anonymized primary data with trusted partners for research and collaborative initiatives, while ensuring data privacy and security.

We will work towards reporting at market and site level where statistically meaningful, while agreeing that our carbon reduction targets should be set at company level.

To ensure efficiency and avoid redundancy, we intend to prioritize reporting platforms that are capable of interacting with one another and sharing information.

This interconnectivity will enable us to streamline data collection and analysis processes, preventing duplication of efforts across different platforms. By fostering collaboration and information exchange among these platforms, we can create a more integrated and comprehensive reporting system that provides valuable insights with minimal resource expenditure.

07 Work towards Science-based targets

Recognizing the critical importance of limiting global warming, we commit to develop and set climate targets that are aligned with contemporary science to avoid a 1.5°C rise or above in mean surface temperature. This commitment underscores our dedication to a transparent and accountable approach to reducing our environmental footprint.



Conclusion

By working together, we can drive significant positive change in the healthcare industry and contribute to a more sustainable future.

[Signatures of Participating Pharmaceutical Companies]
IFPW – GIRP – PEG

Annex 1. Roadmap to data accuracy

Targeted improvements	
Scope 1	Fuel Primary data (actual fuel use)
	Fugitive emissions (refrigerants) Primary data (actual refrigerant refills)
Scope 2	Electricity use Primary data (actual electricity use)
	Purchased goods and services Move to actual footprint as shared by companies (when in line with quality standards)
	Capital Goods Move to actual footprint as shared by companies (when in line with quality standards)
	Fuel and other energy related activities
Scope 3	Upstream and downstream transport and distribution Move to or use primary data (fuel, weight & km data) or actual footprint as shared by companies (when in line with quality standards). Start with road transportation.
	Waste generated in operations Primary data (actual waste weight)
	Business travel Move to actual traveling distance, class of service and if possible type of plane for air, use mileage for road transport date when available, otherwise maintain spend-based for road business travel (<1% of total assessment)
	Use of sold products For company-to-company discussion between distributors and manufacturers
	End of life treatment of sold products For company-to-company discussion between distributors and manufacturers
	Investments As reported upon by investees

Whilst this statement sets out alignment on GHG reporting and data sharing approaches between pharmaceutical companies and wholesalers, for those PEG companies who have also committed to the [SMI Joint Supplier Standards](#), the SMI standards will take precedence where those standards are higher than standards proposed in this document.

