

Response Form
for the
Exposure Draft of the
CFA Institute ESG Disclosure Standards for Investment Products

CFA Institute is developing voluntary, global industry standards, the CFA Institute ESG Disclosure Standards for Investment Products (the “Standards”), to establish disclosure requirements for investment products with ESG-related features. The purpose of the Standards is to provide greater transparency and consistency in ESG-related disclosures, resulting in clearer communication regarding the ESG-related features of investment products. The goal for this Exposure Draft is to elicit feedback on the proposed principles, requirements, and recommendations within the Standards. Please refer to the “Providing Feedback” guidelines for submitting comments. **All comments must be received by 14 July 2021 in order to be considered.**

Providing Feedback

Public commentary on the Exposure Draft will help shape the final version of the Standards, which is expected to be issued in November 2021. Comments should be provided in this Response Form, found [here](#) on the CFA Institute website, and submitted to standards@cfainstitute.org. Designated spaces for comments appear in the Response Form in the order in which the related topic sections appear in the Exposure Draft. Questions directed toward the Standards’ intended users are posed in the Exposure Draft’s Introduction, and these questions appear first in the Response Form, followed by designated spaces for comments related to the Guiding Principles, Provisions, and Glossary. General or summary comments on the Exposure Draft may be provided in the designated section at the end of the Response Form.

Each topic section in the Response Form contains a space for providing general comments pertaining to that section as well as spaces to provide comments for each provision in the section. When providing feedback on a specific provision, it may be helpful to consider whether the meaning of the provision is clearly stated and whether the provision will add value for users of the Standards. You may provide as few or as many comments as you wish.

The deadline for providing feedback is 14 July 2021. **Comments received after 14 July 2021 will not be considered.** Unless otherwise requested, all comments will be posted on the CFA Institute website.

Guidelines for submission

Comments are most useful when they:

- directly address a specific issue or question,
- provide a rationale and support for the opinions expressed, and
- suggest alternative solutions in the event of disagreement.

Positive comments in support of a proposal are equally as helpful as those that provide constructive suggestions for improvement.

Requirements for submission

In order for comments to be considered, please adhere to the following requirements:

- **Insert responses in the designated areas of the response form.**
- **Assign a unique file name to your response form before submitting.**
- **Provide all comments in English.**
- **Submit the response form as a Microsoft Word document.**
- **Submit the response form to standards@cfainstitute.org by 5:00 PM E.T. on 14 July 2021.**

General Information (required)

Respondent: <i>(Please enter your full name if you are submitting as an individual or the name of the organization if you are submitting on behalf of an organization.)</i>	Japan Stewardship Forum, an investor group (So we chose next question as "investment Professional" not sure it is correct choice... http://stewardship.or.jp/english/
Stakeholder Group: <i>(Please select the stakeholder group with which you most closely identify.)</i>	Investment Professional
Region: <i>(If you are submitting as an individual, please select the region in which you live. If you are submitting on behalf of an organization and the organization has a significant presence in multiple regions, please select "Global". Otherwise, please select the region in which the organization has its main office.)</i>	Asia-Pacific
Country: <i>(If you are submitting as an individual, please enter the country in which you live. If you are submitting on behalf of an organization, please enter the country in which the organization has its main office.)</i>	JAPAN
Confidentiality Preference: <i>(Please select your preference for whether or not your response is published on the CFA Institute website.)</i>	yes, my response may be published

QUESTIONS FOR INTENDED USERS

Questions for Investment Managers

1. Are the draft provisions helpful in establishing or clarifying the type of information that should be included in an investment product's disclosures regarding the ESG-related aspects of the investment product's strategy?

<QUESTION_01_01>

<QUESTION_01_01>

2. To what extent are the draft provisions supportive of and complementary with local laws and regulations and other codes and standards? Would preparing and presenting a compliant presentation in any way hinder your ability to comply with local laws and regulation or with other codes and standards?

<QUESTION_01_02>

ENTER RESPONSE HERE

<QUESTION_01_02>

3. Do you expect it will be feasible and practical for your organization to provide the information required by the draft disclosure provisions and adhere to the draft fundamental provisions?

<QUESTION_01_03>

ENTER RESPONSE HERE

<QUESTION_01_03>

4. To what extent would a compliant presentation proactively provide to asset owners, consultants, and advisors the ESG-related information they commonly request in their Requests for Proposals (RFPs), Due Diligence Questionnaires (DDQs), and other types of questionnaires?

<QUESTION_01_04>

ENTER RESPONSE HERE

<QUESTION_01_04>

5. Would it be helpful if the Standards contained a recommended format or template for compliant presentations?

<QUESTION_01_05>

ENTER RESPONSE HERE

<QUESTION_01_05>

Questions for Investors and Asset Owners

1. After reviewing the draft provisions and the sample compliant presentations, do you think a compliant presentation would help you understand how and why an investment product uses ESG information or addresses ESG issues?

<QUESTION_02_01>
ENTER RESPONSE HERE
<QUESTION_02_01>

2. To what extent would a compliant presentation provide the ESG-related information that you typically request in your Requests for Proposals (RFPs), Due Diligence Questionnaires (DDQs), and other types of questionnaires? Is there information that you would like to see disclosed in a compliant presentation that is not required by the draft provisions? Is there information required by the draft provisions that is not necessary?

<QUESTION_02_02>
ENTER RESPONSE HERE
<QUESTION_02_02>

3. Would the provision of compliant presentations by investment managers complement, streamline, or otherwise improve any of your existing processes, e.g., due diligence, certification, or reporting?

<QUESTION_02_03>
ENTER RESPONSE HERE
<QUESTION_02_03>

4. Would you find it helpful if the Standards contained a recommended format or template for compliant presentations?

<QUESTION_02_04>
ENTER RESPONSE HERE
<QUESTION_02_04>

Questions for Consultants and Advisors

1. After reviewing the draft provisions and the sample compliant presentations, do you think a compliant presentation would help you understand how and why an investment product uses ESG information or addresses ESG issues?

<QUESTION_03_01>
ENTER RESPONSE HERE
<QUESTION_03_01>

2. Would a compliant presentation help facilitate client discussions regarding ESG-related needs and preferences and suitable investment products?

<QUESTION_03_02>
ENTER RESPONSE HERE
<QUESTION_03_02>

3. To what extent would a compliant presentation provide the ESG-related information that you or your clients typically request in Requests for Proposals (RFPs), Due Diligence Questionnaires (DDQs), and other types of questionnaires? Is there information that you would like to see disclosed in a compliant presentation that is not required by the draft provisions? Is there information required by the draft provisions that is not necessary?

<QUESTION_03_03>
ENTER RESPONSE HERE
<QUESTION_03_03>

4. Would the provision of compliant presentations by investment managers complement, streamline, or otherwise improve any of your existing processes, e.g., investment product due diligence or overall assessments of investment managers' capabilities?

<QUESTION_03_04>
ENTER RESPONSE HERE
<QUESTION_03_04>

5. Would you find it helpful if the Standards contained a recommended format or template for compliant presentations?

<QUESTION_03_05>
ENTER RESPONSE HERE
<QUESTION_03_05>

Questions for Database Providers and Users

1. To what extent would a compliant presentation provide the ESG-related information that users are looking for?

<QUESTION_04_01>
ENTER RESPONSE HERE
<QUESTION_04_01>

2. Is it necessary, or would it be helpful, for compliant presentations to be in a standardized format? Would it be helpful if a machine-readable template was developed?

<QUESTION_04_02>
ENTER RESPONSE HERE
<QUESTION_04_02>

Questions for regulators and investment professionals

1. Are the draft provisions helpful in establishing or clarifying the type of information that should be included in an investment product's disclosures regarding the ESG-related aspects of the investment product's strategy?

<QUESTION_05_01>

<QUESTION_05_01>

2. Is there information that you would like to see disclosed in a compliant presentation that is not required by the draft provisions? Is there information required by the draft provisions that is not necessary?

<QUESTION_05_02>

ENTER RESPONSE HERE

<QUESTION_05_02>

3. Would the Standards be helpful in maintaining a commitment to professional ethics and integrity?

<QUESTION_05_03>

ENTER RESPONSE HERE

<QUESTION_05_03>

4. Would the Standards be helpful in providing investor protection through product transparency?

<QUESTION_05_04>

ENTER RESPONSE HERE

<QUESTION_05_04>

5. Would the Standards be useful in serving as a mechanism to help investors align their ESG-related objectives with those of suitable products?

<QUESTION_05_05>

ENTER RESPONSE HERE

<QUESTION_05_05>

6. Would the Standards be useful in serving as a mechanism to develop product labelling in your country?

<QUESTION_05_06>

ENTER RESPONSE HERE

<QUESTION_05_06>

GENERAL PRINCIPLES FOR INVESTMENT PRODUCT DISCLOSURES

General comments on the Principles:

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ENTER RESPONSE HERE
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Comments on Principle #1:

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Comments on Principle #2:

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Comments on Principle #3:

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Comments on Principle #4:

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Comments on Principle #5:

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SECTION 1: FUNDAMENTAL REQUIREMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

General comments on Section 1:

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Comments on Provision 1.A.1:

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Comments on Provision 1.A.2:

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Comments on Provision 1.A.3:

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Comments on Provision 1.A.4:

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Comments on Provision 1.A.5:

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Comments on Provision 1.A.6:

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Comments on Provision 1.A.7:

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Comments on Provision 1.A.8:

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Comments on Provision 1.A.9:

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Comments on Provision 1.A.10:

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Comments on Provision 1.A.11:

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Comments on Provision 1.A.12:

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Comments on Provision 1.A.13:

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Comments on Provision 1.A.14:

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Comments on Provision 1.A.15:

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Comments on Provision 1.A.16:

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Comments on Provision 1.A.17:

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Comments on Provision 1.A.18:

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Comments on Provision 1.A.19:

<COMMENT_01A19>
Could you please elaborate the reason for disclosure filing is required? Are you expecting to move this process to an approval basis in the future? In addition, is there any reason for the submission period is set from Jan through Jun?
<COMMENT_01A19>

Comments on Provision 1.B.1:

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Comments on Provision 1.B.2:

<COMMENT_01B02>
Who do you foresee to be the third-party examiner for this Disclosure? We would hope for a simple process for the ESG Disclosure which contains a clear and informative tool for investors, yet easy to maintain for investment managers. We do feel it is too soon for the third-party examination on ESG Disclosure to be requirement as these are qualitative information at still very early stage of development and requirements in such Disclosures are yet to be defined.
<COMMENT_01B02>

SECTION 2: GENERAL INFORMATION

General comments on Section 2:

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Comments on Provision 2.A.2:

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Comments on Provision 2.A.3:

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Comments on Provision 2.A.4:

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Comments on Provision 2.A.5:

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Comments on Provision 2.A.6:

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Comments on Provision 2.A.7:

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Comments on Provision 2.A.8:

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Comments on Provision 2.B.1:

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SECTION 3: OBJECTIVES

General comments on Section 3:

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Comments on Provision 3.A.1:

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Comments on Provision 3.A.2:

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Comments on Provision 3.B.1:

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SECTION 4: BENCHMARKS

General comments on Section 4:

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Comments on Provision 4.A.2:

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Comments on Provision 4.A.3:

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SECTION 5: SOURCES AND TYPES OF ESG INFORMATION

General comments on Section 5:

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Comments on Provision 5.A.1:

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Comments on Provision 5.A.2:

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SECTION 6: ESG EXCLUSIONS

General comments on Section 6:

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Comments on Provision 6.A.1:

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Comments on Provision 6.A.3:

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Comments on Provision 6.A.4:

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SECTION 7: ESG INFORMATION IN FINANCIAL ANALYSIS AND VALUATION

General comments on Section 7:

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Comments on Provision 7.A.1:

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Comments on Provision 7.A.2:

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Comments on Provision 7.A.3:

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Comments on Provision 7.A.4:

<COMMENT_07A04>
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<COMMENT_07A04>

SECTION 8: PORTFOLIO-LEVEL ESG CRITERIA AND CHARACTERISTICS

General comments on Section 8:

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Comments on Provision 8.A.1:

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Comments on Provision 8.A.2:

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Comments on Provision 8.B.1:

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SECTION 9: PROCESS TO ACHIEVE IMPACT OBJECTIVE

General comments on Section 9:

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Comments on Provision 9.A.1:

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Comments on Provision 9.A.3:

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Comments on Provision 9.A.4:

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Comments on Provision 9.A.5:

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Comments on Provision 9.B.1:

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SECTION 10: STEWARDSHIP

General comments on Section 10:

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Comments on Provision 10.A.1:

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Comments on Provision 10.A.2:

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Comments on Provision 10.A.3:

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Comments on Provision 10.A.4:

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Comments on Provision 10.B.1:

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GLOSSARY

General comments on Glossary:

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Comments on **BENCHMARK**:

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Comments on **COMPLIANT PRESENTATION**:

<COMMENT_11A02>
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Comments on **ESG INFORMATION**:

<COMMENT_11A03>
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<COMMENT_11A03>

Comments on **ESG ISSUE**:

<COMMENT_11A04>
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<COMMENT_11A04>

Comments on **EXCLUSION**:

<COMMENT_11A05>
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<COMMENT_11A05>

Comments on **FINANCIAL OBJECTIVE**:

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Comments on **IMPACT OBJECTIVE**:

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Comments on **INVESTMENT MANAGER:**

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Comments on **INVESTMENT PRODUCT:**

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Comments on **INVESTOR:**

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Comments on **STEWARDSHIP:**

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<COMMENT_11A11>

Comments on **STEWARDSHIP ACTIVITY:**

<COMMENT_11A12>
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<COMMENT_11A12>

GENERAL COMMENTS

General comments on Exposure Draft:

<COMMENT_12A00>

We had a discussion with members and below are collected opinions and questions:

1. We welcome this ESG Disclosure does not narrowly define the types of ESG investments and also this the disclosure requirements and recommendations are qualitative contents. In this way, this ESG Disclosure will be able to apply to different types of ESG investment products which may be developed in the future.
2. RE: 1A19 (response repetitive from the previous section) – Please elaborate the reason why you require investment manager to file ESG disclosure and the filing is limited only between Jan 1 to June 30.
3. We agree this Disclosure can be applied to all asset classes and types of investments. However, the standards do seem a burden for passive strategies and products.
4. Please elaborate CFA's strategy about the role of this ESG Disclosure in relation to the (ESG related) regulatory reports.

It does seem logical for this Disclosure to be a part of GIPS disclosure. If this has already been considered, please share the reason it has not been a part of the recommendation.

Currently IOSCO is taking a consultation similar topic (asset managers ESG disclosure), we would like the CFA institute to have a discussion with IOSCO for clear definition of each role.

5. RE:1AB2 (response repetitive from the previous section) - Who do you foresee to be the third-party examiner for this Disclosure? We would hope for a simple process for the ESG Disclosure which contains a clear and informative tool for investors, yet easy to maintain for investment managers. We do feel it is too soon for the third-party examination on ESG Disclosure to be requirement as these are qualitative information at still very early stage of development and requirements in such Disclosures are yet to be defined.

<COMMENT_12A00>