

Indicators

G4-EN27

EXTENT OF IMPACT MITIGATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

- a. Report quantitatively the extent to which environmental impacts of products and services have been mitigated during the reporting period.
- b. If use-oriented figures are employed, report the underlying assumptions regarding consumption patterns or normalization factors.

GUIDANCE

Relevance

For some sectors, the impacts of products and services during their use phase (such as water consumption of a washing machine) and at the end of their useful life can be equal to or greater in significance than the production phase. The significance of such impacts is determined by both customer behavior and general product or service design. Organizations are expected to take more proactive approaches to assessing and improving the environmental impacts of their products and services.

This measure assesses the actions the organization has taken to reduce the negative environmental impacts and enhance the positive impacts of its product and service design and delivery. Integrating environmental considerations into product and service design may help identify new business opportunities, differentiate products and services, and stimulate innovation in technology. This may also decrease the risk of incompatibility with future environmental legislation, as well as enhance reputation.

Compilation

The following impacts are excluded since they are covered in other Environmental Indicators:

- Reclaiming of products and product packaging (G4-EN28)
- Impacts on biodiversity (G4-EN12)

Identify the specific initiatives undertaken in the reporting period to mitigate the most significant environmental impacts of products and service groups in relation to:

- Materials use (such as use of non-renewable, energy-intensive, toxic materials)
- Water use (such as volumes used during production or use)
- Emissions (such as GHG, toxic, ozone-depleting emissions)
- Effluents (such as quality of water used during production or use)
- Noise
- Waste (such as non-reclaimable, toxic materials or compounds)

Identify the extent to which environmental impacts of products and services have been mitigated during the reporting period.

For example, when considering the water use of washing machine, consumption patterns or normalization factors may be expressed as using 10% less water use per 5kg of laundry.

Documentation sources

Potential sources of information include product lifecycle assessments (LCA) or documents related to product design, development, and testing.