

**Certification Scheme
for the ESG4Real standard**

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Version	Author/Reviser	Date approved	Changes
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1 Introduction

This document describes the content of the ESG4Real certification scheme and which roles and responsibilities that apply regarding governance of the scheme. The certification scheme adopts ISO17065-compliant structures and practices to achieve recognition, credibility and transparency. This will also help spread the ESG4Real standard across markets.

2 Content of the scheme

The ESG4Real certification scheme is based on ISO17065:2012 *Conformity Assessment – Requirements for bodies certifying products, processes, and services*. The scheme also follows type 6 in ISO17067:2013 *Conformity assessment - Fundamentals of product certification and guidelines for product certification schemes*. The scheme contains two main parts:

- ESG4Real Standard – The document “*Description of ESG4Real Standard v.1.0*” describes the mandatory requirements of ESG4Real for asset owners and asset managers
- ESG4Real Certification process – The document “*ESG4Real Certification process v.1.0*” describes the certification methodology and steps to undergo to be a certified asset manager

Supplementary documents:

- “*ESG4Real Grievance mechanism v.1.0*” – Describes the steps for submitting a grievance related to ESG4Real
- “*ESG4Real Control points v.1.0*” – Includes detailed information about items to be controlled in audit for certification
- “*ESG4Real ESG criteria v.1.0*” – Full description of mandatory and recommended ESG criteria of the ESG4Real Standard

3 Roles and responsibilities

The following roles are defined in relation to governance and maintenance of the certification scheme.

3.1 Certification scheme owner: Responsible Investors Alliance International (RIA Intl.)

3.1.1 Description

RIA Intl. is the non-profit association with the purpose of promoting and developing responsible investments and integration of ESG (environmental, social and governance) aspects in professional asset management. RIA Intl. is founded by asset owners, but serves the interests of all affiliated asset owners, asset managers and other members.

3.1.2 Responsibilities

The statutes of RIA Intl. states that it shall:

- Own the ESG4Real trademark, the ESG4Real standard and the certification methodology and be responsible for spreading the ESG4Real standard.
- Endorse and be responsible for continuous development and progress of the ESG4Real standard and the certification methodology. This includes maintaining and revising the scheme.
- Directly and indirectly via RIA companies provide information, training, advisory, marketing and sales related to ESG4Real by establishing forums, working groups, etc.
- Give RIA national companies exclusive right to act on behalf of RIA Intl. in the respective country via assignment and licensing agreements.
- Sign licensing agreements for conduct of audit and certification of ESG4Real and use of the trademark with certification bodies that meet the qualifications described in chapter 3.3.3.

RIA Intl. shall also:

- Set qualification requirements for approval of certification bodies
- Accept the certification decision from any certification body that meet the qualifications as defined in chapter 3.3.3 and has signed a license agreement with RIA Intl. for use of the ESG4Real trademark
- Maintain database registry of certified asset managers

3.2 Customer and stakeholder interface: RIA national company

3.2.1 Description

RIA Intl. appoints RIA national companies to operate in the respective national market and act on behalf of RIA Intl. in matters related to the ESG4Real scheme. RIA national companies are required to sign an assignment and licensing agreement with RIA Intl.

3.2.2 Responsibilities

RIA national companies shall:

- Function as the primary contact interface towards customers and other ESG4Real stakeholders in the local market. Includes e.g. informing about new updates of the ESG4Real standard etc.
- Ensure spread of ESG4Real by conducting marketing and sales
- Provide advisory services regarding how to comply with ESG4Real
- Assist RIA Intl. in working groups, etc.
- Facilitate forums for best practice sharing and collaboration

3.3 Certification body

3.3.1 Description

The certification body is any organisation that meet the qualifications required of a certification body as defined in chapter 3.3.3 and has signed a licensing agreement with RIA Intl. for use of the ESG4Real trademark.

3.3.2 Responsibilities

The certification body shall:

- Perform audits of asset managers and make certification decisions based on the ESG4Real standard and the certification process defined by RIA Intl.
- Keep records of and regularly report to RIA Intl. regarding which asset managers that have been certified and any change of any asset manager's certification status

3.3.3 Qualifications

The certification body shall have achieved and maintain accreditation in accordance with the requirements of ISO/IEC 17065 – *Conformity assessment - Requirements for bodies certifying products, processes and services*.

- The accreditation shall encompass the certification scheme for the ESG4Real standard
- The accreditation shall be issued by an accreditation body, operating in accordance with ISO/IEC 17011 - *General requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies* and signatory to the respective IAF Arrangement.