



Proprietary standard

for water footprint certification

ISO 14046 · AWS · ESRS E3 · GRI 303 · CDP Water

aquafides

AQUAFIDES PROTOCOL v3.2

Regulatory coverage

ISO 14046 · AWS · ESRS E3 · GRI 303 · CDP Water

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VERSION HISTORY

Rev.	Date	Description of changes	Status
v1.0	15/03/2018	Initial release of the Aquafides Protocol	Superseded
v2.0	10/03/2022	Incorporation of AWARE factor and grey footprint	Superseded
v3.0	20/01/2025	Modular rewrite: CORE + compatible modules	Superseded
v3.1	15/09/2025	Incorporation of the M-ESRS E3 module (CSRD)	Superseded
v3.2.0	15/02/2026	Simultaneous coverage ISO 14046 + AWS + ESRS E3 + GRI 303 + CDP Water	ACTIVE

CONTACT

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REGULATORY COVERAGE

Aquafides Protocol v3.2

Five international water standards verified on a single file

The differential value of the Aquafides Protocol v3.2 is that a single audit file responds simultaneously to the five most demanding international water standards in force. Each module contributes its own datapoints and evidence, reusing the calculation and governance of the core. The table below summarises the coverage.

Standard	What it covers and why it matters	Aquafides module
ISO 14046:2014	ISO standard for water footprint calculation and AWARE-based impact assessment. Internationally recognised by regulators, multinationals and exporters. Universal methodological framework for water footprint.	M-ISO 14046
AWS Standard v2.0	Alliance for Water Stewardship. Assesses responsible water management in the catchment context, with its five outcomes — water balance, quality, important areas, governance and WASH. Relevant in stressed catchments and large international retailers.	M-AWS
ESRS E3 (CSRD)	Technical standard of the European sustainability reporting directive. Provides the mandatory datapoints on water and marine resources that every large EU enterprise must report from 2025.	M-ESRS E3
GRI 303 (2018)	Global standard for voluntary water and effluent reporting in sustainability reports. Covers disclosures on withdrawal, discharge and consumption. Recognised across the financial and ESG world.	M-GRI 303
CDP Water Security	Annual questionnaire of disclosures to	M-CDP Water

Standard	What it covers and why it matters	Aquafides module
	investors and financial markets. The Aquafides file prepares responses to W1-W6 sections with audited data, avoiding duplicated workload.	

What this means in practice

An organisation applying for Aquafides certification selects the modules that its market demands (all or some) and builds a single file that responds simultaneously to those standards. For example, an EU-listed hotel group will activate CORE + M-ISO 14046 + M-AWS + M-ESRS E3 + M-GRI 303 + M-CDP Water on the same documentary baseline, with a single independent audit. A public administration with an interest in water transparency will activate CORE + M-ISO 14046 + M-AWS. An exporting productive SME will activate CORE + M-ISO 14046 + M-CDP Water. Modularity avoids paying for and maintaining evidence for standards the organisation does not need in its market.

Reading for tour operators and financial entities

For European tour operators subject to CSRD and financial entities with water portfolios, simultaneous coverage of the five standards solves the critical problem of fragmented reporting: with a single Aquafides file in their hotel or industrial suppliers, they obtain audited E3-1 to E3-5 datapoints, GRI 303-1 to 303-5 disclosures ready for their reports and CDP Water W1 to W6 responses directly traceable to third-party verification.

More information at aquafides.org/protocolo. Extended coverage with M-MMX (Mexican standard NMX-AA-179-SCFI-2018) on request for organisations operating in Mexico.