



QGIS.ORG

Office of the Chairman
Via Geinas 2,
7031 Laax
Switzerland

18 May 2026

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Dear Sir or Madam,

In response to your enquiry concerning the technical capabilities of the QGIS software, I, Marco Bernasocchi, Chair of the Board of QGIS.ORG — the Swiss-based not-for-profit association that governs and represents the QGIS open-source geographic information system project — provide the following technical clarification on behalf of the QGIS.ORG association.

QGIS is a professional geographic information system distributed as free and open-source software under the GNU General Public License, version 2. QGIS reads, writes and converts a wide range of vector and raster spatial data formats. This functionality is provided through the GDAL/OGR (Geospatial Data Abstraction Library), which is an integral component shipped together with QGIS.

The ESRI File Geodatabase format (.gdb) is fully supported in QGIS through the OpenFileGDB driver of the GDAL library. According to the official GDAL documentation, the OpenFileGDB driver provides read, write and update access to vector layers of File Geodatabases (.gdb directories) created by ArcGIS 10 and above. Write and update capabilities have been supported since GDAL version 3.6.

GDAL version 3.6 and later is shipped as part of QGIS version 3.28 (Long Term Release) and all subsequent QGIS versions. Accordingly, from QGIS 3.28 onwards, a user is able to directly create, write and save geodatabases in the ESRI File Geodatabase (.gdb) format using standard QGIS functionality — in particular through the vector data export function ("Export → Save Features As...", selecting the ESRI File Geodatabase format), as well as through the data processing tools.

The availability of write support for this format can be independently verified by any party using the standard utility command `ogrinfo --formats`, in the output of which the driver is listed as `OpenFileGDB -vector- (rw+v): ESRI FileGDB`, where the designation "`rw+v`" denotes read and write support.

Creating geodatabases in the GDB format using QGIS does not require any proprietary (closed-source) software from ESRI or any other vendor, and does not require the purchase of



any commercial licence. The OpenFileGDB driver is a free component of the GDAL library and does not depend on any third-party proprietary libraries.

On the basis of the above, I confirm, on behalf of QGIS.ORG, that the QGIS software (version 3.28 and later) fully supports the creation of geodatabases in the File Geodatabase (GDB) format.

You are free to submit this letter to any relevant authority as confirmation of the above technical facts. I remain available should any further clarification be required.

Yours faithfully,

Best regards,

Marco Bernasocchi
QGIS Project Chair