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Environmental labels and declarations — Type III environmental declarations — Principles and procedures

*Marquages et déclarations environnementaux — Déclarations
environnementales de Type III — Principes et modes opératoires*



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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

The main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards. Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

ISO 14025 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 207, *Environmental management*, Subcommittee SC 3, *Environmental labelling*.

This first edition of ISO 14025 cancels and replaces ISO/TR 14025:2000, which has been technically revised.

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Introduction

Type III environmental declarations present quantified environmental information on the life cycle of a product to enable comparisons between products fulfilling the same function. Such declarations

- are provided by one or more organizations,
- are based on independently verified life cycle assessment (LCA) data, life cycle inventory analysis (LCI) data or information modules in accordance with the ISO 14040 series of standards and, where relevant, additional environmental information,
- are developed using predetermined parameters, and
- are subject to the administration of a programme operator, such as a company or a group of companies, industrial sector or trade association, public authorities or agencies, or an independent scientific body or other organization.

Type III environmental declarations as described in this International Standard are primarily intended for use in business-to-business communication, but their use in business-to-consumer communication is not precluded. It is recognized that a developer of a Type III environmental declaration cannot precisely determine the audience. However, it is important to consider the information needs of different purchaser or user groups, for instance large businesses, small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs), public procurement agencies and consumers. Those responsible for developing Type III environmental declarations and programmes based on this International Standard will need to pay due attention to the level of awareness of the target audience.

In programmes based on this International Standard, the organization making the declaration will be required to ensure that data are independently verified either internally or externally. This could, but does not necessarily, mean third-party verification except in the case of business-to-consumer declarations. ISO provides a general definition for "certification" (procedure by which a third party gives written assurance that a product or process conforms to specified requirements). Nevertheless, "certification" is understood and conducted differently in different regions. To avoid confusion, this International Standard uses the term "third-party verification" instead of "certification".

Harmonization of general programme instructions and particularly product category rules (PCR) are encouraged between programmes to meet the principle of comparability. This includes mutual recognition of rules with respect to PCR development, PCR review and verification procedures, administrative procedures and declaration format. To ensure comparability, programme operators are encouraged to work cooperatively to achieve harmonization of the programmes and to develop mutual recognition agreements.

NOTE In the practice of developing Type III environmental declarations, programmes or their declarations are referred to by various names such as Eco-Leaf, eco-profile, environmental declaration of product, environmental product declaration (EPD) and environmental profile.