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## **Environmental management — Environmental technology verification (ETV)**

*Management environnemental — Vérification des technologies  
environnementales (ETV)*



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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.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see [www.iso.org/directives](http://www.iso.org/directives)).

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. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see [www.iso.org/patents](http://www.iso.org/patents)).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation on the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: [www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html](http://www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html).

The committee responsible for this document is Technical Committee ISO/TC 207, *Environmental management*, Subcommittee SC 4, *Environmental performance evaluation*.

In the development of this document, ISO Guide 82 has been taken into account in addressing sustainability issues.

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## Introduction

The objective of environmental technology verification (ETV) is to provide credible, reliable and independent verification of the performance of environmental technologies. An environmental technology is a technology that either results in an environmental added value or measures parameters that indicate an environmental impact. Such technologies have an increasingly important role in addressing environmental challenges and achieving sustainable development.

ETV contributes to protection and conservation of the environment by promoting and facilitating market uptake of innovative environmental technologies, especially those that perform better than relevant alternatives. ETV is particularly applicable to those environmental technologies whose innovative features or performance cannot be fully assessed using existing standards. Through the provision of objective evidence, ETV provides an independent and impartial confirmation of the performance of an environmental technology based on reliable test data. ETV aims to strengthen the credibility of new, innovative technologies by supporting informed decision-making among interested parties.

ETV was established in the United States in 1995, and similar programmes were later introduced in other countries, including Canada, several European Union member states, Japan, South Korea and the Philippines. The performance of many environmental technologies has since been verified in these countries under ETV programmes established at either the national or international level. Interest in joint, mutually recognized verifications performed under different ETV programmes has increased over the past decade. In 2008, the International Working Group on ETV (IWG-ETV), composed of international experts representing institutions operating an ETV scheme in Canada, the United States, Japan, South Korea, the Philippines and the European Union, was established with the aim of exploring ways to accelerate international harmonization and mutual recognition of ETV programmes. The IWG-ETV reached a consensus that standardization of the ETV process by means of an International Standard is an appropriate way to establish the credibility and robustness of ETV world-wide.