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# Tractors and machinery for agriculture and forestry — Sustainability —

## Part 1: Principles

*Tracteurs et matériels agricoles et forestiers — Durabilité —  
Partie 1: Principes*



Reference number  
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## Contents

	Page
<b>Foreword</b> .....	<b>iv</b>
<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>v</b>
<b>1 Scope</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>2 Terms and definitions</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>3 Principles</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>4 Recommendations for the application of the principles</b> .....	<b>4</b>
4.1 Stakeholders and their interests .....	4
4.2 Organization policy .....	4
4.3 Performance indicators .....	5
4.4 Process for optimization of performance .....	6
4.5 Information to stakeholders .....	6
4.5.1 General .....	6
4.6 Reports .....	7
4.6.1 General .....	7
4.6.2 Labels and declarations .....	7
4.6.3 Additional information .....	7
4.7 Assessment .....	7
<b>Annex A (informative) Stakeholder approach – Examples for performance indicators</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>Annex B (informative) Life-cycle approach</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>Annex C (informative) (Practicable) Examples of how the individual life cycle stages could provide contributions with respect to sustainability</b> .....	<b>12</b>
<b>Bibliography</b> .....	<b>15</b>

## 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 WTO principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: [Foreword - Supplementary information](#)

The committee responsible for this document is ISO/TC 23, *Tractors and machinery for agriculture and forestry*.

ISO 17989 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Tractors and machinery for agriculture and forestry — Sustainability*:

— *Part 1: Principles*

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## Introduction

International concern over human impact on the health of the environment (e.g. acid rain, ozone layer depletion, air, water and soil pollution, ground compaction, soil erosion) and the consumption of the limited natural resources have encouraged organizations that are involved in the design, development and marketing of machinery to give attention to how a machine can impact the environment. Social issues, such as a safe workplace, and economic issues, such as a manufacturing organization considering increasing the number of workers to increase production rates, shall be balanced by organisations. This rise in attention is driven not only by issues relating to social responsibility of manufacturers, but also purchasers of machinery who themselves can have concerns about the impact that their machine has on the environment, as well as legislative bodies that are in positions to mandate certain actions intended to reduce the adverse impact of machinery on the environment. In order to address these concerns, application of the principles of sustainability has been regarded as appropriate strategy.

The sustainability concept was developed in the forestry sector when more and more wood was used as source of energy (before the use of coal started) and has a long tradition in agriculture as agricultural and forestry production are linked to the land.

Today, sustainability standards are used in agriculture with the aim of achieving a fair balance between the three sustainability aspects:

- economic aspects, such as:
  - cost-effectiveness;
  - liquidity;
  - stability / steady economic condition.
- environmental aspects, such as:
  - climate effects;
  - resource consumption;
  - biodiversity;
  - soil protection;
  - water and air pollution.
- social aspects, such as:
  - work and employment (education, training, safety);
  - social involvement.

It is recognized that a product's design and its use over its lifetime can have a significant impact on the quality and sustainability of the environment in which it operates. Taking steps during a product's design and development stage that are aimed at reducing the impacts of the product is an important factor in sustaining the environment. In this sense, designing for sustainability can be seen as a process and set of considerations that are integrated into a product's design and development activities in support of reducing the negative impacts and improving the performance of the product. The design and use of agricultural and forestry machinery, being very closely tied to the environment in the production of food, fibres, fuel and lumber for humans and livestock, is no exception to this objective.

Standards which provide designers and manufacturers of agricultural and forestry machinery with guidelines for the incorporation of sustainability into a machine's design and development are desired and would be useful in advancing the state of the art of sustainability in design in this industry sector, and could provide machinery purchasers with the means of fairly comparing the impacts of competing products.

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This part of ISO 17989 is the first of a series of standards that specifies principles related to sustainability and recommends to regard 'sustainability' as a management task to be addressed to the manufacturer. Other parts of this series are planned to address specific product families and to specify approaches related to sustainability in the design and use of products/machines.