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Cross-border trade of second-hand goods

Échanges transfrontaliers de marchandises d'occasion



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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).

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).

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 voluntary nature of standards, 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.

This document was prepared by Project Committee ISO/PC 245, *Cross-border trade of second-hand goods*.

This first edition of ISO 20245 cancels and replaces ISO/TS 20245:2014.

The main changes compared to ISO/TS 20245:2014 are as follows:

- revision of structure and numbering of clauses;
- addition of definitions for “primary feature” (3.5) and “secondary feature” (3.6), and removal of definition for “value”;
- modification of definitions for “consignee” (3.4), “second-hand goods” (3.7) and “supplier” (3.8);
- revision of [Figure 1](#);
- addition in [Annex A](#) of sample checklists for exporters and importers of second-hand goods;
- updating of reference documents.

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Introduction

The cross-border movement of second-hand goods has been in practice for many years and trade activity has increased exponentially. Most second-hand goods are sold or donated by developed countries to developing ones and the value of this market is estimated at billions of dollars. Consumers welcome having the choice of purchasing low-cost, durable and safe second-hand goods as an alternative to higher-priced new goods, and the demand for these products is robust. In addition, the re-use of consumer goods is viewed as a factor in good environmental stewardship because it is more resource efficient than manufacturing new items and it diverts goods that might otherwise go to landfills and other disposal facilities.

It is generally understood that the expectations of consumers of second-hand goods will be somewhat lower than if they were purchasing new goods, and that they have the normal consumer obligations to physically examine the product and enquire about safety and environmental issues. Nonetheless, dangerous or environmentally damaging second-hand goods can find their way into the market, leading to serious health and safety risks and waste management problems for the importing country.

In many countries, there are national requirements and guidelines designed to protect the environment and consumer health and safety. However, surveys have highlighted concerns about second-hand goods and health, safety, environmental performance, servicing and repair, and the apparent lack of universally applicable guidelines.

This document has been developed to answer these concerns. It provides a basis for in-transit and port-of-entry screening of second-hand goods and it establishes measurable criteria against which second-hand goods can be evaluated, with the objective of protecting consumers and the environment. This document can be used by the importing or exporting parties as a means to establish confidence in the goods that are being traded or donated.

This document relates to health, safety and environment. It is intended to be used in conjunction with other standards that might impact the trade of consumer products, notably ISO 10377, ISO 10393 and ISO 12931.