



This is a preview of ISO/TS 12720:2024. [Click here to purchase the full version from the ANSI store.](#)

---

**Sustainability in buildings and civil engineering works — Guidelines on the application of the general principles in ISO 15392**

*Développement durable dans les bâtiments et les ouvrages de génie civil — Lignes directrices pour l'application des principes généraux de développement durable*

**ISO/TS 12720**

**Second edition  
2024-11**

This is a preview of ISO/TS 12720:2024. [Click here to purchase the full version from the ANSI store.](#)



**COPYRIGHT PROTECTED DOCUMENT**

© ISO 2024

All rights reserved. Unless otherwise specified, or required in the context of its implementation, no part of this publication may be reproduced or utilized otherwise in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, or posting on the internet or an intranet, without prior written permission. Permission can be requested from either ISO at the address below or ISO's member body in the country of the requester.

ISO copyright office  
CP 401 • Ch. de Blandonnet 8  
CH-1214 Vernier, Geneva  
Phone: +41 22 749 01 11  
Email: [copyright@iso.org](mailto:copyright@iso.org)  
Website: [www.iso.org](http://www.iso.org)

Published in Switzerland

This is a preview of ISO/TS 12720:2024. [Click here to purchase the full version from the ANSI store.](#)

<b>Foreword</b> .....	<b>iv</b>
<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>v</b>
<b>1 Scope</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>2 Normative references</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>3 Terms and definitions</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>4 Elements of the framework</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>5 Methodological approach</b> .....	<b>5</b>
5.1 General.....	5
5.2 Grouped sustainability objectives.....	7
5.2.1 General.....	7
5.2.2 Provision of base requirements.....	8
5.2.3 Application of life cycle thinking.....	8
5.2.4 Efficient and responsible management.....	9
5.2.5 Improvement of the construction sector and the built environment.....	10
<b>6 Application guidance</b> .....	<b>11</b>
<b>Bibliography</b> .....	<b>38</b>

This is a preview of ISO/TS 12720:2024. [Click here to purchase the full version from the ANSI store.](#)

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)).

ISO draws attention to the possibility that the implementation of this document may involve the use of (a) patent(s). ISO takes no position concerning the evidence, validity or applicability of any claimed patent rights in respect thereof. As of the date of publication of this document, ISO had not received notice of (a) patent(s) which may be required to implement this document. However, implementers are cautioned that this may not represent the latest information, which may be obtained from the patent database available at [www.iso.org/patents](http://www.iso.org/patents). ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

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

For an explanation of 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 [www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html](http://www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html).

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 59, *Buildings and civil engineering works*, Subcommittee SC 17, *Sustainability in buildings and civil engineering works*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO/TS 12720:2014), which has been technically revised.

The main changes are as follows:

- reflection of the revised sustainability objectives as published in ISO 15392:2019;
  - the increased number and realignment of sustainability objectives from ten in ISO 15392:2008 to 18 in ISO 15392:2019;
- inclusion of text in [Clause 6](#) describing the categorising of the 18 sustainability objectives into 4 grouped objectives as well as the descriptions, purposes and anticipated outcomes for each of those groupings;
- removal of Annex A.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at [www.iso.org/members.html](http://www.iso.org/members.html).

This is a preview of ISO/TS 12720:2024. [Click here to purchase the full version from the ANSI store.](#)

This document is intended for use by stakeholders involved during the life cycle of a construction works. More and more decision makers involved in construction projects are establishing goals to improve the sustainability performance of a construction works.

Decision-making typically relates to the planning, design, construction, use and operation, and end-of-life processes. The planning and design phases usually include the project inception/initiation, conception of need and feasibility, and initial and detailed design, all of which lead to the actual construction and occupancy of the building.

This document aims to demonstrate to each actor at each phase of the construction project a way to implement the nine general principles of sustainability in buildings and civil engineering works, as described in ISO 15392.

Although the following topics are currently outside the scope of this document, the guidelines in this document can also facilitate the different actors in

- identifying and setting performance targets,
- elaborating relevant practical tools (criteria, indicators, measurement methods) for assessing/measuring the actual performance levels, and
- formalizing a management system based on the general principles of sustainability, which can be monitored, assessed, and improved.

Application of the nine general principles to the life cycle of construction works introduces a multidimensional puzzle leading to a complex framework. [Clause 4](#) presents the different primary elements of the framework and the related facets to be considered regarding each element. [Clause 5](#) introduces the methodological approach for applying sustainability thinking to the development of the construction works and identifies six phases of the decision-making process and 18 sustainability objectives. [Clause 6](#) gives application guidance developed on the basis of these objectives and related issues of concern (see [Table 3](#)) and detailed recommendations attached to each issue (see [Table 4](#)).