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Environmental management — Life cycle assessment — Critical review processes and reviewer competencies: Additional requirements and guidelines to ISO 14044:2006

Management environnemental — Analyse du cycle de vie — Processus de revue critique et compétences des vérificateurs: Exigences et lignes directrices supplémentaires à l'ISO 14044:2006

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Foreword

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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).

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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 Technical Committee ISO/TC 207, *Environmental management*, Subcommittee SC 5, *Life cycle assessment*.

Introduction

For life cycle assessment, critical review is the conformity assessment approach according to ISO 14040 and ISO 14044. These standards contain the overarching requirements for critical review in concise form.

Based on these requirements, a common critical review practice emerged that satisfied stakeholders. For the mandatory case of life cycle assessment (LCA) studies intended to be used in comparative assertions intended to be disclosed to the public, the performance of a critical review is established as key feature for the acceptance of the study by stakeholders. However, even in the broad range of applications of LCA, for which a critical review is not mandatory, the commissioners of the LCA study often decide today to perform a voluntary critical review to improve the robustness of their studies and to increase credibility.

It is one of the key features of critical review that it does not relate to an accreditation scheme, but ensures quality by making the individual reviewer personally responsible for the work and by giving priority to the content rather than the form.

Because of the increasing use of LCA itself, as well as the broader application in tools like carbon footprinting or upcoming labelling initiatives, it is the intention of this Technical Specification to document the established critical review practice in a more comprehensive way by providing additional requirements and guidelines for conducting a critical review and the competencies required.

This Technical Specification might be applicable to other standards that require independent review of LCA-based procedures and information (e.g. ISO 14045, ISO 14025, ISO/TS 14067), but might need to be adapted to the specific fields of application. Other reference standards can be included in the critical review process.

This Technical Specification does not apply to critical reviews performed prior to its publication.