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## **Environmental management — Life cycle assessment — Requirements and guidelines for organizational life cycle assessment**

*Management environnemental — Analyse du cycle de la vie  
— Exigences et lignes directrices pour l'analyse du cycle de vie  
organisationnelle*



Reference number  
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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 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 207, *Environmental management*, Subcommittee SC 5, *Life cycle assessment*.

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## Introduction

In order to analyse the environmental performance of products, it has become standard to use a life cycle perspective to capture all impacts from resource extraction to the disposal of the product. The benefits and the potential of the life cycle approach are not limited to an application on products. While the Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) methodology was originally developed for products, its application at the organizational level is becoming more and more relevant. However, an Organizational LCA (OLCA) appears to be even more complex. There is more than one product life cycle to follow, as most organizations are engaged in many product life cycles to different degrees and a large part of environmental impact can reside outside the organization's gate, upstream and downstream of the value chain.

The present Technical Specification (TS) is dedicated to the application of LCA to organizations. It, therefore, extends the application of ISO 14040 and ISO 14044 to all the activities of the organization that means the reporting unit of the system allows coverage of different products and unit processes of any organization within the same LCA study.

The choice of goal and scope by the organization during its LCA study is key to assisting this organization in making the relevant choices according to the present TS, including the products and unit processes that are studied, the related system boundary, and the time frame which is covered.

This TS is applicable to an organization for a given time period.

This TS is applicable to all types of organizations. If properly justified, application of this TS to segments or selected companies of an organization is possible.