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Cross-border trade of second-hand goods

Commerce frontalier des produits de seconde main



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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. 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 ISO/PC 245, *Cross-border Trade of Second-hand Goods*.

For the purposes of research on cross-border trade of second-hand goods standards, users are encouraged to share their views on ISO 20245:2014 and their priorities for changes to future editions of the document. Click on the link below to take part in the online survey:

[ISO 20245 online survey](#)

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Introduction

The cross-border movement of second-hand goods (SHG) 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 SHG 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 diverts goods that might otherwise go to landfills and other disposal facilities.

It is generally understood that the expectations of consumers of SHG 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 SHG can find their way into the market leading to serious health and safety risks and waste management problems for the importing country.

While there are national standards, laws and guidelines designed to protect consumer health and safety and the environment in some countries, surveys of ISO's Consumer Policy Committee (COPOLCO) and Developing Countries Committee (DEVCO) members, as well as several ISO and IEC Technical Committees between 2002 and 2005 revealed significant concerns about trade in SHG. There was a consensus among those surveyed that, given concerns expressed about SHG and health, safety, environmental performance, servicing and repair, and given the apparent lack of universally applicable guidelines, there was adequate justification to recommend the development of an international standard.

This Technical Specification is an attempt to respond to the above concerns by providing a basis for in transit and port of entry screening of SHG. It establishes measurable criteria against which SHG can be evaluated with the objective of protecting consumers and the environment. The Technical Specification may be used by the importing or exporting parties or governments as a means to establish confidence in the goods that are being traded or donated.

It is recommended that this Technical Specification be read in conjunction with other standards that may impact the trade of consumer products as it relates to health, safety and environment. Three key ISO standards to reference in this area are:

- ISO 10377, *Consumer Product Safety — Guidelines for suppliers*
- ISO 10393, *Consumer product recall — Guidelines for suppliers*
- ISO 12931, *Performance criteria for authentication solutions used to combat counterfeiting of material goods*

While following the guidance provided by this and other standards above is voluntary, suppliers must always maintain an awareness of, and comply with, the legislation and regulations pertaining to the exportation and importation of consumer products.