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Interested committees:

Title: Draft BS EN ISO 14021 ISO 14021 Environmental statements and programmes for products. Self-declared environmental claims.

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Introduction

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For international standards, comments will be reviewed by the relevant UK national committee before sending the consensus UK vote and comments to the international committee, which will then decide appropriate action. If the international standard is approved, it is usual for the text to be published as a British Standard.

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Template for comments and secretariat observations

Date: xx/xx/20xx	Document: ISO/DIS xxxx
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1	2	(3)	4	5	(6)	7
MB	Clause No./ Subclause No./Annex (e.g. 3.1)	Paragraph/ Figure/Table/Note	Type of comment	Comment (justification for change) by the MB	Proposed change by the MB	Secretariat observations on each comment submitted
	3.1	Definition 1	ed	Definition is ambiguous and needs clarifying.	Amend to read '...so that the mains connector to which no connection...'	
	6.4	Paragraph 2	te	The use of the UV photometer as an alternative cannot be supported as serious problems have been encountered in its use in the UK.	Delete reference to UV photometer.	



DRAFT International Standard

ISO/DIS 14021

Environmental statements and programmes for products — Self- declared environmental claims

ICS: 13.020.50

ISO/TC 207/SC 3

Secretariat: **SA**

Voting begins on:
2025-04-28

Voting terminates on:
2025-07-21

This document is circulated as received from the committee secretariat.

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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).

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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.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 207/SC 3 Environmental Labelling.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO 14021:2016), which has been technically revised.

The main changes are as follows:

- The elements that are common to all the documents in the 14020 series have been removed and are now in ISO 14020-2022.
 - the addition of a normative reference to the revised ISO 14020.
 - the structuring of the document to correspond with the structure of ISO 14020.
 - Self-declared environmental claims are now required to be part of a documented “programme”.
 - inclusion of enhanced requirements for documentary information to be retained to demonstrate the validity/veracity of the self-declared environmental claim. Inclusion of new requirements to disclose the effect of attribution of characteristics where it impacts the reliability of some self-declared environmental claims
 - inclusion of guidance about the role that maintaining a chain of custody plays in assessing certain self-declared environmental claims, such as recycled content.
 - updating of the specific claims included in [Clause 8](#) to reflect changes in the market.
- updating of reference documents.

A list of all parts in the ISO 14020 series can be found on the ISO website.

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.

Introduction

- 0.1 This document contains principles, requirements and guidance for self-declared environmental claims that provide environmental information about products. The validity and accuracy of such claims is essential to avoid unfair competition that can arise from vague, unreliable and deceptive environmental claims (i.e. greenwashing). When assessment methods used by those who make self-declared environmental claims, are transparent, scientifically sound and documented, those who purchase, or may potentially purchase, products can be assured of the validity and accuracy of the claims.
- 0.2 Self-declared environmental claims may be made by manufacturers, importers, distributors, retailers or anyone else likely to benefit from such claims. Self-declared environmental claims made in regard to products may take the form of words, symbols or graphics or combinations thereof on product or package labels, or in product literature, technical bulletins, advertising, publicity, telemarketing, as well as digital or electronic media, such as the internet.
- 0.3 Self-declared environmental claims are one type of environmental statement. The overall goal of environmental statements is to:
- a) communicate accurate and relevant information about the environmental aspects or impacts of products,
 - b) encourage the demand for and supply of products that cause less stress on the environment, and
 - c) stimulate market-driven continual environmental improvement in products.
- 0.4 The objective of this document is to harmonize the use of self-declared environmental claims. The benefits using this document will be:
- a) accurate, relevant and verifiable self-declared environmental claims that are not misleading,
 - b) increased potential for market forces to stimulate and improve environmental aspects in production, processes, products,
 - c) prevention or minimization of unwarranted claims and greenwashing,
 - d) less marketplace confusion,
 - e) facilitation of international trade, and
 - f) increased opportunities for purchasers, potential purchasers and users of the product to make better informed choices.
- 0.5 The international harmonization of requirements for self-declared environmental claims is intended to help businesses, especially SMEs, to present substantiated, correct and transparent environmental information on their products, consequently limiting the risk of “greenwashing”.
- 0.6 Third party audits are not required but the additional rigour is intended to help users of the standard avoid greenwashing.
- 0.7 This document provides a framework for regulatory authorities of all types and sizes and trade associations to identify “best practices” in self-declared environmental claims.
- 0.8 This document is one of a series of ISO documents (i.e. the ISO 14020 series of documents) that provide requirements and guidance for different types of environmental statements. The documents in the ISO 14020 series include:
- ISO 14020: common terms and definitions, principles and general requirements for all environmental statements (e.g. self-declared environmental claims, ecolabels, EPDs and footprint communications) and associated programmes that enable the communication of environmental aspects and environmental impacts of products.
 - ISO 14021: requirements for environmental statements in the form of self-declared environmental claims.

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- ISO 14024: requirements for environmental statements in the form of environmental labels known as ecolabels.
- ISO 14025: requirements for environmental statements in the form of environmental product declarations (EPDs).
- ISO 14026: requirements for environmental statements in the form of footprint communications.
- ISO/TS 14027: requirements for product category rules (PCR) that support the use of life cycle assessment (LCA) as a method to compile and evaluate information that is used as a basis for making environmental statements.
- ISO/TS 14029: requirements for the mutual recognition of EPDs, footprint communications and associated programmes.

This following diagram provides the structure of the ISO 14020 series of documents in graphic form.

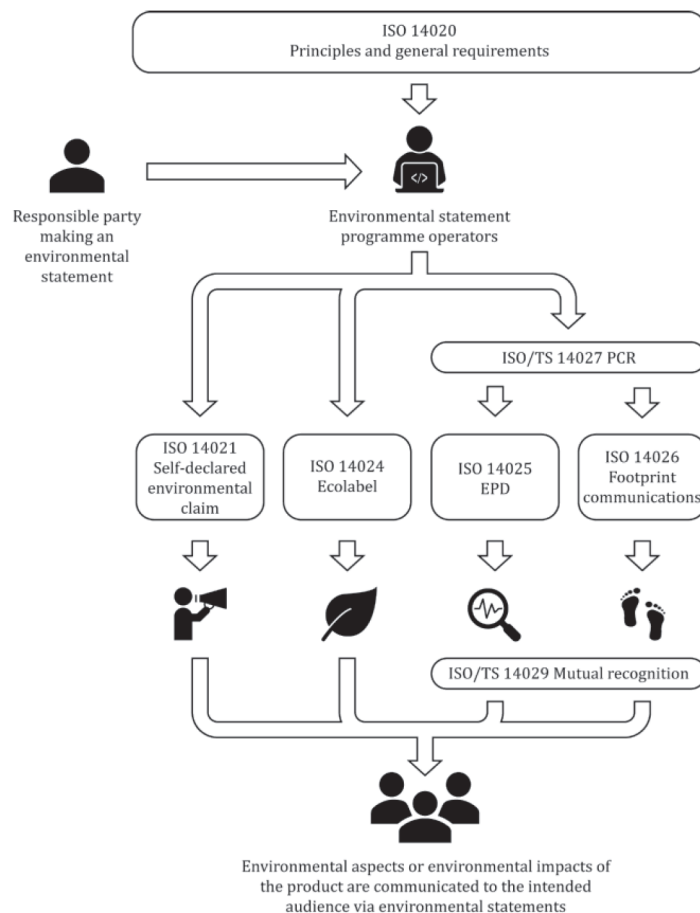


Figure 1 — Structure of the ISO 14020 series of standards

0.9 This document makes normative reference to requirements in ISO 14020. Those requirements refer to the generic term 'environmental statement'. In reading this document and ISO 14020 together, the generic term 'environmental statement' in ISO 14020 can be interpreted as referring to the specific term included in this document i.e. 'self-declared environment claim'.

Environmental statements and programmes for products — Self-declared environmental claims

1 Scope

This document establishes principles, specifies requirements and gives guidance for self-declared environmental claims about products and their programmes, including claims that also cover related social and economic aspects that are affected by environmental conditions or the environmental performance of the product.

This document also defines selected terms commonly used in self-declared environmental claims and provides qualifications for their use, as well as describing the documentation and methodologies required for assessing self-declared environmental claims.

This document is applicable to self-declared environmental claims that are predominantly take the form of words, but can also be used for symbols and graphics on product or package labels, or in product literature, technical bulletins, advertising and publicity, including on digital platforms.

2 Normative references

The following document is referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of its content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 14020, *Environmental statements and programmes for products — Principles and general requirements*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO 14020 and ISO 14050 and the following apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminology databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <https://www.electropedia.org/>

3.1 Terms related to the environment

3.1.1 environment

surroundings in which an *organization* (3.6.1) operates, including air, water, land, natural resources, flora, fauna, humans, and their interrelationships

Note 1 to entry: Surroundings can extend from within an organization to the local, regional and global system.

Note 2 to entry: Surroundings can be described in terms of biodiversity, ecosystems, climate or other characteristics of an organization's activities (including projects) or *products* (3.4.1). that interact or can interact with the environment.

[SOURCE: ISO 14020:2022, 3.1.2]

3.1.2**environmental aspect**

element of an *organization's* (3.6.1) activities or *products* (3.4.1) that interacts or can interact with the *environment* (3.1.1).

Note 1 to entry: Typically, environmental aspects can include emissions to air, discharges to water and *waste* (3.4.6) arisings, which in turn can generate environmental and health impacts such as global warming, smog, water pollution or contaminated land.

[SOURCE: ISO 14020:2022, 3.1.3]

3.1.3**environmental impact**

change to the *environment* (3.1.1) whether adverse or beneficial, including possible consequences, wholly or partially resulting from an *organization's* (3.6.1) *environmental aspects* (3.1.2)

[SOURCE: ISO 14020:2022, 3.1.4]

3.1.4**environmental performance**

performance related to the management of *environmental aspects* (3.1.2)

[SOURCE: ISO 14020:2022, 3.1.5]

3.2 Terms related to the environmental statements**3.2.1****environmental statement**

information on one or more *environmental aspect(s)* (3.1.2) or *environmental impact(s)* (3.1.3) of a *product* (3.4.1) which intends to inform an intended audience and intends to influence the market of this product

Note 1 to entry: The environmental statement can represent a point in time or can cover a period of time.

Note 2 to entry: Types of environmental statement include, but are not limited to:

- a) *self-declared environmental claims* (3.2.4);
- b) *ecolabels* (3.2.5);
- c) *environmental product declarations* (3.2.6);
- d) *footprint communications* (3.2.8).

Note 3 to entry: An environmental statement can appear on a *product* (3.4.1) or packaging as a label, a symbol, a logo, an electronic product label or a machine-readable code. It can also be communicated in other ways, e.g. in web-based product data or in an advertisement.

Note 4 to entry: In some countries, the term “environmental claim” is used to indicate all types of product environmental statements. However, for the sake of clarity, within this document the word “claim” is only used in relation to a self-declared environmental claim.

[SOURCE: ISO 14020:2022, 3.2.1, modified—Data on deprecated term has been removed.]

3.2.2**comparative self-declared environmental claim**

environmental statement (3.2.1) comparing the environmental impact(s) of one *product* (3.4.1) versus other products that perform the same function with regard to the *environmental aspect(s)* (3.1.2) addressed

Note 1 to entry: In the case of comparative *environmental product declarations* (3.2.6) and *footprint communications* (3.2.8), products fulfil the same functional unit.

Note 2 to entry: Comparative environmental statements can also be applied to the same product over time, e.g. performance tracking.

[SOURCE: ISO 14020:2022, 3.2.4, modified]

3.2.3

supporting information

information about the environmental statement programme that is provided to support the validity of a self-declared environmental claim

[SOURCE: ISO 14020:2022, 3.2.5, modified]

3.2.4

self-declared environmental claim

DEPRECATED: Type II environmental label

environmental statement (3.2.1) that is made outside of any third-party *environmental statement programme* (3.3.1) by the supplier of the product, or by any other party likely to benefit from the supply of the product to the user.

Note 1 to entry: The supplier typically can include the manufacturer, importer, distributor, retailer or marketer of the product; however, independent reviews and commentary on the environmental aspects of a product would not be included under this definition, unless they are sponsored by the supplier.

3.2.5

ecolabel

DEPRECATED: Type I environmental label

environmental statement (3.2.1) which indicates that a *product* (3.4.1) fulfils the criteria of an ecolabelling programme

Note 1 to entry: Requirements for ecolabels are given in ISO 14024.

[SOURCE: ISO 14020:2022, 3.2.7]

3.2.6

environmental product declaration

EPD

DEPRECATED: Type III environmental declaration

environmental statement (3.2.1) providing environmental data of a *product* (3.4.1) using predetermined impact indicators and predetermined inventory indicators resulting from a life cycle assessment (LCA) and, where relevant and available, additional environmental information

Note 1 to entry: The predetermined indicators address relevant *environmental aspect(s)* (3.1.2) or *environmental impact(s)* (3.1.3) the results of those predetermined indicators are derived from an LCA using PCR.

Note 2 to entry: Requirements for life cycle assessment are given in ISO 14040 and ISO 14044.

Note 3 to entry: EPD can include quantitative and qualitative data.

Note 4 to entry: EPDs can include, where relevant and available, data related to additional sustainability-related information

Note 5 to entry: Requirements for PCR are given in ISO/TS 14027.

[SOURCE: ISO 14020:2022, 3.2.8, modified — in the definition, the terminology regarding indicators has been made more specific and reference has been added to “where relevant and available”, Note 1 to entry has been revised and Note 4 to entry has been replaced.]

3.2.7

footprint

metric(s) used to report life cycle assessment results addressing an area of concern

EXAMPLE Carbon footprint of a product (CFP) within the area of concern of climate change.

Note 1 to entry: Requirements for *footprint communication* (3.2.8) are given in ISO 14026.

[SOURCE: ISO 14020:2022, 3.2.9]

3.2.8

footprint communication

result of the preparation, provision and dissemination of a *footprint* (3.2.7) and *supporting information* (3.2.3) and explanatory text

[SOURCE: ISO 14026:2017, 3.1.1]

3.2.9

claimant

responsible party

person or *organization* (3.6.1) responsible for the provision of the *environmental statement* (3.2.1)

Note 1 to entry: The responsible party could be the manufacturer, importer, distributor, retailer or marketer of a product, or any other party along the supply chain.

[SOURCE: ISO 14020:2022, 3.2.13, modified]

3.2.10

intended audience

person or *organization* (3.6.1) identified by the *responsible party* (3.2.9) as being the one that relies on the *environmental statement* (3.2.1) to make decisions

Note 1 to entry: The intended audience can be a purchaser or potential purchaser, an investor, a consumer, or the general public.

Note 2 to entry: In other documents, the term “intended user” is used for this concept

[SOURCE: ISO 14020:2022, 3.2.14, modified—An additional [admitted][preferred] term has been added.]

3.2.11

greenwashing (noun)

unsubstantiated, misleading or irrelevant *environmental statement* (3.2.1)

3.2.12

conformity assessment

demonstration that specified requirements are fulfilled

Note 1 to entry: Conformity assessment includes activities such as but not limited to testing, inspection, validation, verification, certification, and accreditation of conformity assessment bodies.

[SOURCE: ISO 14020:2022]

3.2.13

explanatory text

explanation that is needed or given so that a self-declared environmental claim can be properly understood by the *intended audience* (3.2.10).

[SOURCE: ISO 14050:2020, 3.7.6, modified: the preferred term was changed from “explanatory statement” and in the definition reference to environmental claim was changed to self-declared environmental claim]

3.3 Terms related to programmes

3.3.1

environmental statement programme

rules and procedures for providing an *environmental statement* (3.2.1)

Note 1 to entry: Environmental statement programmes can be carried out at international, regional, national or sub-national levels.

Note 2 to entry: An environmental statement programme can include requirements for *conformity assessment* (3.2.12).

Note 3 to entry: In the case of *self-declared environmental claims* (3.2.4), made in accordance with this document the environmental statement programme is typically established by the *responsible party* (3.2.9). For other types of environmental statement, the environmental statement programme is typically established by a party that is external to the responsible party.

Note 4 to entry: In the case of self-declared environmental claims, the environmental statement programme consists of the information and records used to support the claim, in accordance with this document.

[SOURCE: ISO 14020:2022, 3.3.1 remove note 2 modified—references to this document have been added to Notes 4 and 5 to entry.]

3.3.2

programme operator

person or *organization* (3.6.1) responsible for developing and maintaining an *environmental statement programme* (3.3.1)

Note 1 to entry: In the case of *self-declared environmental claims* (3.2.4), the programme operator is typically the *responsible party* (3.2.9). For other types of *environmental statement* (3.2.1), the programme operator is typically a party that is external to the responsible party.

[SOURCE: ISO 14020:2022, 3.3.3]

3.4 Terms related to products and their characteristics

3.4.1

product

any goods or service

Note 1 to entry: The definition of product can refer to the process of producing the good or service.

[SOURCE: ISO 14020:2022, 3.2.11]

3.4.2

product category

group of *products* (3.4.1) that can fulfil equivalent functions

[SOURCE: ISO 14020:2022, 3.2.12]

3.4.3

biomass

material of biological origin excluding material embedded in geological formations, peat and material transformed to fossilized material

[SOURCE: ISO 14050: 2020, 3.8.25, modified]

3.4.4

bio-based

biobased

derived from *biomass* (3.4.3)

[SOURCE: ISO 16559:2022, 3.7.4, modified—a second form of the preferred term has been included.]

3.4.5

material identification

words, numbers or symbols used to designate composition of components of a *product* (3.4.1) or packaging

Note 1 to entry: A material identification symbol is not considered to be an *environmental statement* (3.2.1).

Note 2 to entry: References [6] through [9] in the Bibliography give examples of International Standards, national standards and industry publications dealing with material identification symbols.

3.4.6

waste

resource that is no longer considered to be an asset as it, at the time, provides insufficient value to the holder

Note 1 to entry: The holder can choose to retain, discard, or transfer the waste.

Note 2 to entry: Value can be assigned to waste as a result of a need from another interested party, at which point the resource is no longer considered waste.

Note 3 to entry: The assignment of value to waste as a resource is linked, in part, to the available technology (e.g. landfill mining).

Note 4 to entry: Some regulations require the holder to dispose of certain types of waste, while others assign value to waste.

Note 5 to entry: Because resources include the energy content or energy potential of materials, such energy, when liberated during a process and not recovered for another use, can be considered a waste.

[SOURCE: ISO 59004: 2024, 3.3.6]

3.4.7

compostable

characteristic of a substance, material or *product* ([3.4.1](#)), packaging or associated component that allows it to biodegrade within a specified time under controlled conditions, generating a relatively homogeneous and stable humus-like substance and leaving no visible, distinguishable or toxic residue

Note 1 to entry: In this document, compostable is applicable only for the terrestrial environment, not for marine and water environments.

3.4.8

degradable

characteristic of a *product* ([3.4.1](#)) or packaging that allows it to break down in the *environment* ([3.1.1](#)) into its constituents

Note 1 to entry: degradable refers to photodegradable, oxydegradable and other similar terms but not *biodegradable* ([3.4.9](#))

3.4.9

biodegradable

characteristic of a *product* ([3.4.1](#)) or packaging that allows it to be broken down into basic substances by the action of micro-organisms in the environment through biological decomposition

3.4.10

post-consumer material

material generated by households or by commercial, industrial and institutional facilities in their role as end-users of a *product* ([3.4.1](#)) which can no longer be used for its intended purpose

Note 1 to entry: This includes returns of material from the distribution chain.

Note 2 to entry: This includes material of uncertain origin that is recovered from the natural environment, e.g. a beach cleanup programme but does not include material recovered from the natural environment by the original owner (e.g. a clean-up of an industrial spill, funded by the original owner responsible for the spill).

Note 3 to entry: Post-consumer materials can be sold, given away or discarded as waste.

Note 4 to entry: Post-consumer material retains its status as post-consumer through all future manufacturing processes and actions through the supply chain, including reuse and recovery from a waste stream of a manufacturing process.

3.4.11

pre-consumer material

post-industrial material

material diverted from the waste stream during a manufacturing process

Note 1 to entry: Reutilization of materials such as rework, regrind or scrap generated in a process and capable of being recovered within the same process that generated it is excluded from this definition.

3.4.12

recovered energy

energy recovered from a system or process that would have been otherwise lost or not used in the system

Note 1 to entry: In this context, the *product* (3.4.1) can be the recovered energy itself.

3.4.13

energy recovery

generation of useful energy through direct and controlled transformation of *recovered material* (3.4.17)

Note 1 to entry: Forms of useful energy include usable heat and electricity.

Note 2 to entry: Where alternative processing technologies are not established, energy recovery is often the final treatment for use of recovered material.

Note 3 to entry: In the context of the *circular economy* (3.6.4), the generation of energy from virgin resources is not a form of 'energy recovery.'

[SOURCE: ISO 59004: 2024, 3.3.16, modified]

3.4.14

recyclable

capable of being diverted from the waste stream through available processes and programmes and collected, processed and returned to use in the form of raw materials or products

Note 1 to entry: Recycling is only one of several waste-prevention strategies. The choice of a strategy will depend on circumstances and account should be taken of differing regional impacts in making this choice.

3.4.15

recycled content

proportion by mass of *recycled material* (3.4.16) in or attributed to a *product* (3.4.1), a component or packaging

3.4.16

recycled material

Pre-consumer material (3.4.11) or *post-consumer material* (3.4.10) or both, that has been reprocessed from recovered material and incorporated into a product or into a component, excluding recovered energy.

Note 1 to entry: A diagrammatic representation of a recycling system is given in [Annex B](#).

Note 2 to entry: Material can be a substance or a mixture of substance that have been reprocessed

[SOURCE: ISO 14009:2020, 3.2.10, modified]

3.4.17

recovered material

material that would have otherwise been disposed of as *waste* (3.4.6) or used for *energy recovery* (3.4.13), but has instead been collected for use as a material input

Note 1 to entry: Recovered material could be *pre-consumer material* (3.4.11) or *post-consumer material* (3.4.10)

Note 2 to entry: This includes material of uncertain origin that is recovered from the natural environment, e.g. a beach cleanup programme.

3.4.18

renewable energy

energy collected from resources that are naturally replenished at a rate equal or faster than extracted or used

Note 1 to entry: Renewable energy includes sources such as sunlight, wind, rain, tides, waves, biomass, and geothermal heat.

[SOURCE: IPCC AR6, Working Group III, Annex 1, Modified]

3.4.19

refillable

characteristic of packaging or a container that has been conceived and designed to accomplish within its *life cycle* (3.6.6) a certain number of trips or rotations from supplier to user after being replenished with the same or a similar *product* (3.4.1) to that it originally contained.

3.4.20

reusable

A characteristic of the design of a *product* (3.4.1) or packaging that allows it to be used again by a consumer for the same or a similar purpose in its original form without additional processing except for cleaning or washing.

3.4.21

renewable material

material that can be naturally or artificially grown or replenished within a foreseeable time frame by processes found in nature

Note 1 to entry: Some materials are capable of being exhausted but can be regrown or replenished indefinitely with proper stewardship when managed in line with principles of *sustainable development* (3.6.2). Examples include trees in forests, grasses in grasslands and fertile soil.

Note 2 to entry: In this context, foreseeable timeframe refers to a measurement based on the typical lifetime of a human rather than the time humans have been or will be in existence.

[SOURCE: ISO 59004, modified. Examples and note 2 added from ISO 6707-3:2022]

3.5 Terms related to processes and activities

3.5.1

disassembly

process whereby a *product* (3.4.1) is taken apart in such a way that it could subsequently be reassembled and made operational

[SOURCE: IEC 62542:2013, 6.1]

3.5.2

dismantling

process whereby a product is taken apart at the end of its useful life in such a way that allows components and parts to be reused, recycled, recovered for energy or, in some other way, diverted from the waste stream.

Note 1 to entry: Dismantling can be destructive or not destructive

3.5.3

reuse

use of a *product* (3.4.1) or its component parts after their initial use, for the same purpose for which they were originally designed

Note 1 to entry: Utilization intended by the original design can involve either single-use or multiple-uses by the initial user or customer over time.

Note 2 to entry: Minor treatment (e.g. cleaning) of the product can be needed by the user to allow for reuse.

Note 3 to entry: In some cases, resources, like water, are considered as a product, in which case, the purpose of 'original design' is not applicable.

[SOURCE: ISO 59004, 3.5.17]

3.5.4 recycling

process by which *recovered material* ([3.4.17](#)) is made suitable to use in a manufacturing process, product or component, excluding *energy recovery* ([3.4.13](#)).

Note 1 to entry: Recycling includes recovery actions such as collection, transport, sorting, cleaning. Recycling also includes re-processing.

Note 2 to entry: Recycling does not include *reuse* ([3.5.3](#)).

Note 3 to entry: The position of a recycling process within a recycling system is shown in [Annex B](#)

3.6 Other terms

3.6.1 organization

person or group of people that has its own functions with responsibilities, authorities, and relationships to achieve its objectives

Note 1 to entry: The concept of organization includes, but is not limited to sole-trader, company, corporation, firm, enterprise, authority, partnership, charity or institution, or part or combination thereof, whether incorporated or not, public, or private (e.g. foundation, union, association, agency, municipality, region, country, intergovernmental agencies).

Note 2 to entry: A group of organizations can also be considered as an organization that has, alone or collectively, their own objectives.

[SOURCE: ISO 14001:2015, 3.1.4, modified — Examples in Note 1 to entry and a new Note 2 to entry have been added.]

3.6.2 sustainable development

development that meets the need of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs

Note 1 to entry: Sustainable development is about integrating the goals of a high quality of life, health and prosperity with social justice and maintaining the earth's capacity to support life in all its diversity. These social, economic and environmental goals are interdependent and mutually reinforcing. Sustainable development can be treated as way of expressing the broader expectation of society.

[SOURCE: ISO 26000:2010, 2.23]

3.6.3 sustainability

state of the global system, including environmental, social and economic aspects, in which the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs

Note 1 to entry: The environmental, social and economic aspects interact, are interdependent and are often referred to as the three dimensions of sustainability.

[SOURCE: ISO Guide 82:2019, 3.1, modified—Note 2 to entry has been removed.]

3.6.4 circular economy

economic system that uses a systemic approach to maintain a circular flow of resources, by recovering, retaining or adding to their value while contributing to *sustainable development* ([3.6.2](#))

Note 1 to entry: Resources can be considered concerning both stocks and flows.

Note 2 to entry: The inflow of virgin resources is kept as low as possible, and the circular flow of resources is kept as closed as possible to minimize *waste* ([3.4.6](#)), losses and releases from the economic system.

[SOURCE: ISO 59004:2024, 3.1.1]

3.6.5

circularity

degree of alignment with the principles for a *circular economy* ([3.6.4](#))

Note 1 to entry: The principles for a circular economy are described in ISO 59004.

[SOURCE: ISO 59004:2024, 3.1.15, modified—Note 1 to entry has been added.]

3.6.6

life cycle

consecutive and interlinked stages, from raw material acquisition or generation from natural resources to final disposal

[SOURCE: ISO 14044:2006/Amd 2:2020, 3.1]

3.6.7

attribution, noun

assignment of specified characteristics of the input to outputs or part of the outputs

Note 1 to entry: Specified characteristics can refer to distinguishing features of a material or product (e.g. recycled content) or distinguishing features of one or more production processes in the supply chain (e.g. made using renewable energy)

4 Principles

The principles of ISO 14020 shall apply. i.e.:

- a) credibility,
- b) evidence based methodology,
- c) transparency and availability,
- d) confidentiality,
- e) life cycle perspective,
- f) environmental performance improvement and innovation,
- g) accessibility and avoidance of unnecessary information and administrative demands,
- h) interested parties and consultation,
- i) voluntary, and
- j) regionality.

5 Other types of environmental statements

5.1 General

The environmental statements listed in this clause are outside the Scope of this document, and thus cannot be used as self-declared environmental claims in conformance with ISO 14021. The misuse or unsubstantiated use of the environmental statements identified in this section can lead to greenwashing. However, some of these environmental statements are covered by the requirements in other ISO documents, and the following recommendations are provided to assist the user to find an appropriate document. As the portfolio of ISO documents is constantly expanding, the lists of other documents are not exhaustive.

5.2 ISO 14020 series of documents

Beyond self-declared environmental claims, different forms of environmental statements about products, including ecolabels, environmental product declaration and footprint communication, are specified in the other documents in the ISO 14020 series. The other types of environmental statements are described in ISO 14020.

5.3 Footprint communications

Any footprint communication, including a self-declared footprint communication, should conform with the requirements of ISO 14026, rather than with this document. Footprint statements include, but are not limited to:

- Carbon footprint statements quantified in accordance with ISO 14067 and communicated in accordance with ISO 14026;
- Water footprint statements quantified in accordance with ISO 14046 and communicated in accordance with ISO 14026.

5.4 Carbon neutral

Environmental statements associated with carbon neutrality, or net zero should be made in accordance with an appropriate ISO document that specifies how to address these matters, rather than using ISO 14021.

ISO standards dealing with calculating and reporting GHG emissions and reductions associated with products include, but are not limited to:

- ISO 14067, and
- ISO 14068-1.

NOTE Carbon neutral and carbon neutrality are defined in ISO 14068-1.

5.5 Low carbon energy

Low carbon energy refers to energy derived from sources which generate less than 100 g CO₂e/kWh greenhouse gas emissions throughout the whole life cycle of the energy production. These include either renewable energy sources, or non-renewable non-fossil fuel energy sources, including but not limited to nuclear.

As environmental statements of low carbon energy are comparative and rely on life cycle assessment, they should be made in accordance with an appropriate ISO standard that specifies how to address these matters rather than this document.

NOTE Claims of renewable energy are covered in [clause 8.9](#).

5.6 Statements of sustainability

As set out in [Clause 7.11.4](#), this document does not permit self-declared environmental claims of having achieved sustainability. Environmental statements of having achieved sustainability should only be made

- a) in association with a publicly available third-party programme that fulfils the requirements of ISO 14020, Clause 6, or
- b) as a statement of conformance with a publicly available document established on a consensus basis with involvement of interested parties.

EXAMPLE The ISO 34101 series on sustainable and traceable cocoa.