BS EN ISO 14021:2016+A1:2021

BSI Standards Publication

Environmental labels and declarations — Self-declared environmental claims (Type II environmental labelling)

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National foreword

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The start and finish of text introduced or altered by amendment is indicated in the text by tags. Tags indicating changes to ISO text carry the number of the ISO amendment. For example, text altered by ISO amendment 1 is indicated by 〚A1〉 〈A1〛.

The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted to Technical Committee SES/1/2, Environmental Management - Environmental performance evaluation, environmental auditing, reporting, environmental labelling and related environmental investigations.

A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its committee manager.

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EUROPEAN STANDARD

NORME EUROPÉENNE

EUROPÄISCHE NORM

EN ISO 14021:2016 +A1

July 2021

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English Version

Environmental labels and declarations - Self-declared environmental claims (Type II environmental labelling) (ISO 14021:2016)

Marquage et déclarations environnementaux - Autodéclarations environnementales (Étiquetage de type II) (ISO 14021:2016)

Umweltkennzeichnungen und -deklarationen - Umweltbezogene Anbietererklärungen (Umweltkennzeichnung Typ II) (ISO 14021:2016)

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This document (EN ISO 14021:2016) has been prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 207 "Environmental management" in collaboration with CCMC.

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Foreword to amendment A1

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Full document details: BS EN ISO 14021:2016+A1:2021

Contents

Page

Foreword ..... **v**
Introduction ..... **vi**
1 Scope **1**
2 Normative references **1**
3 Terms and definitions **1**
3.1 General terms 1
3.2 Selected terms commonly used in self-declared environmental claims 4
4 Objective of self-declared environmental claims **5**
5 Requirements applying to all self-declared environmental claims **5**
5.1 General 5
5.2 Relationship to ISO 14020 5
5.3 Vague or non-specific claims 5
5.4 Claims of "... free" 5
5.5 Claims of sustainability 6
5.6 Use of explanatory statements 6
5.7 Specific requirements 6
5.8 Use of symbols to make environmental claims 7
5.9 Other information or claims 7
5.10 Specific symbols 7
5.10.1 General 7
5.10.2 The Mobius loop 8
6 Evaluation and claim verification requirements **8**
6.1 Responsibilities of the claimant 8
6.2 Reliability of evaluation methodology 8
6.3 Evaluation of comparative claims 8
6.4 Selection of methods 9
6.5 Access to information 10
7 Specific requirements for selected claims **10**
7.1 General 10
7.2 Compostable 11
7.2.1 Usage of term 11
7.2.2 Qualifications 11
7.2.3 Evaluation methodology 12
7.3 Degradable 12
7.3.1 Usage of term 12
7.3.2 Qualifications 12
7.3.3 Evaluation methodology 12
7.4 Designed for disassembly 12
7.4.1 Usage of term 12
7.4.2 Qualifications 13
7.4.3 Evaluation methodology 13
7.5 Extended life product 13
7.5.1 Usage of term 13
7.5.2 Qualifications 13
7.5.3 Evaluation methodology 14
7.6 Recovered energy 14
7.6.1 Usage of term 14
7.6.2 Qualifications 14
7.6.3 Evaluation methodology 14
7.7 Recyclable 15
7.7.1 Usage of term 15
7.7.2 Qualifications 15

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Documents
Document Sharing Hub
Full document details: BS EN ISO 14021:2016+A1:2021

7.7.3 Use of a symbol 15
7.7.4 Evaluation methodology 15
7.8 Recycled content 15
7.8.1 Usage of terms 15
7.8.2 Qualifications 16
7.8.3 Use of a symbol 16
7.8.4 Evaluation methodology 17
7.9 Reduced energy consumption 18
7.9.1 Usage of term 18
7.9.2 Qualifications 18
7.9.3 Evaluation methodology 18
7.10 Reduced resource use 18
7.10.1 Usage of term 18
7.10.2 Qualifications 18
7.10.3 Evaluation methodology 19
7.11 Reduced water consumption 19
7.11.1 Usage of term 19
7.11.2 Qualifications 19
7.11.3 Evaluation methodology 19
7.12 Reusable and refillable 19
7.12.1 Usage of terms 19
7.12.2 Qualifications 20
7.12.3 Evaluation methodology 20
7.13 Waste reduction 20
7.13.1 Usage of term 20
7.13.2 Qualifications 20
7.13.3 Evaluation methodology 21
7.14 Renewable material 21
7.14.1 Usage of term 21
7.14.2 Qualifications 21
7.14.3 Evaluation methodology 21
7.15 Renewable energy 21
7.15.1 Usage of term 21
7.15.2 Qualifications 22
7.15.3 Evaluation methodology 22
7.16 Sustainable 22
7.16.1 Usage of term 22
A1 7.17 Claims relating to greenhouse gas emissions 22
7.17.1 General 22
7.17.2 CFP and partial CFP 22
7.17.3 Carbon neutral 23
Annex A (informative) **Simplified diagrammatic representation of a recycling system** **24**
Bibliography **25**

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Documents
Document Sharing Hub
Full document details: BS EN ISO 14021:2016+A1:2021

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. 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/TC 207, *Environmental management*, Subcommittee SC 3, *Environmental labelling*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 14021:1999), of which it constitutes a minor revision. It also incorporates the Amendment ISO 14021:1999/Amd 1:2011.

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Introduction

The proliferation of environmental claims has created a need for environmental labelling standards which require that consideration be given to all relevant aspects of the life cycle of the product when such claims are developed.

Self-declared environmental claims may be made by manufacturers, importers, distributors, retailers or anyone else likely to benefit from such claims. Environmental claims made in regard to products may take the form of statements, symbols or graphics 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.

In self-declared environmental claims, the assurance of reliability is essential. It is important that verification is properly conducted to avoid negative market effects such as trade barriers or unfair competition, which can arise from unreliable and deceptive environmental claims. The evaluation methodology used by those who make environmental claims should be clear, transparent, scientifically sound and documented so that those who purchase or may potentially purchase products can be ensured of the validity of the claims.

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INTERNATIONAL STANDARD **ISO 14021:2016+A1:2021**

Environmental labels and declarations — Self-declared environmental claims (Type II environmental labelling)

1 Scope

This International Standard specifies requirements for self-declared environmental claims, including statements, symbols and graphics, regarding products. It further describes selected terms commonly used in environmental claims and gives qualifications for their use. This International Standard also describes a general evaluation and verification methodology for self-declared environmental claims and specific evaluation and verification methods for the selected claims in this International Standard.

This International Standard does not preclude, override, or in any way change, legally required environmental information, claims or labelling, or any other applicable legal requirements.

2 Normative references

The following documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 7000, *Graphical symbols for use on equipment — Registered symbols*

ISO 14020, *Environmental labels and declarations — General principles*

〈A1〉ISO 14026, *Environmental labels and declarations — Principles, requirements and guidelines for communication of footprint information*〈A1〉

〈A1〉ISO 14067, *Greenhouse gases — Carbon footprint of products — Requirements and guidelines for quantification*〈A1〉

3 Terms and definitions

〈A1〉For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO 14067 and the following apply.

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

— ISO Online browsing platform: available at https://www.iso.org/obp

— IEC Electropedia: available at http://www.electropedia.org/〈A1〉

3.1 General terms

3.1.1
biomass
material of biological origin, excluding material embedded in geological formations or transformed to fossilised material and excluding peat

Note 1 to entry: This includes organic material (both living and dead) from above and below ground, e.g. trees, crops, grasses, tree litter, algae, animals and waste of biological origin, e.g. manure.

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3.1.2
co-product
two or more products from the same unit process

[SOURCE: ISO 14040:2006, 3.10, modified]

3.1.3
environmental aspect
element of an organization's activities or products that can interact with the environment

3.1.4
environmental claim
statement, symbol or graphic that indicates an environmental aspect of a product, a component or packaging

Note 1 to entry: An environmental claim may be made on product or packaging labels, through product literature, technical bulletins, advertising, publicity, telemarketing, as well as through digital or electronic media such as the Internet.

3.1.5
environmental claim verification
confirmation of the validity of an environmental claim using specific predetermined criteria and procedures with assurance of data reliability

3.1.6
environmental impact
change to the environment, whether adverse or beneficial, wholly or partially resulting from an organization's activities or products

3.1.7
explanatory statement
explanation which is needed or given so that an environmental claim can be properly understood by a purchaser, potential purchaser or user of the product

3.1.8
functional unit
quantified performance of a product system for use as a reference unit in a life cycle assessment study

[SOURCE: ISO 14040:2006, 3.20, modified]

3.1.9
greenhouse gas
GHG
gaseous constituent of the atmosphere, both natural and anthropogenic, that absorbs and emits radiation at specific wavelengths within the spectrum of infrared radiation emitted by the Earth's surface, the atmosphere and clouds

Note 1 to entry: GHGs include, among others, carbon dioxide (CO_2), methane (CH_4), nitrous oxide (N_2O), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs) and sulphur hexafluoride (SF_6).

Note 2 to entry: A list of recognized GHGs is provided by IPCC, *Climate Change 2007: The Physical Science Basis*, Chapter 2, Table 2.14.

3.1.10
life cycle
consecutive and interlinked stages of a product system, from raw material acquisition or generation from natural resources to final disposal

[SOURCE: ISO 14040:2006, 3.1]

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3.1.11
material identification
words, numbers or symbols used to designate composition of components of a product or packaging

Note 1 to entry: A material identification symbol is not considered to be an environmental claim.

Note 2 to entry: References[10] to[13] in the Bibliography give examples of International Standards, national standards and industry publications dealing with material identification symbols.

3.1.12
offsetting
mechanism for compensating for the carbon footprint of a product through the prevention of the release of, reduction in, or removal of, an equivalent amount of GHG emissions in a process outside the boundary of the product system

EXAMPLE External investment in renewable energy technologies; energy efficiency measures; afforrestation/reforestation.

3.1.13
packaging
material that is used to protect or contain a product during transportation, storage, marketing or use

Note 1 to entry: For the purposes of this International Standard, the term “packaging” also includes any item that is physically attached to, or included with, a product or its container for the purpose of marketing the product or communicating information about the product.

3.1.14
product
any goods or service

[SOURCE: ISO 14040:2006, 3.9, modified]

3.1.15
qualified environmental claim
environmental claim which is accompanied by an explanatory statement that describes the limits of the claim

3.1.16
self-declared environmental claim
environmental claim that is made, without independent third-party certification, by manufacturers, importers, distributors, retailers or anyone else likely to benefit from such a claim

3.1.17
sustainable development
development that meets the needs 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 a way of expressing the broader expectations of society as a whole.

[SOURCE: ISO 26000:2010, 2.23]

3.1.18
upgradability
characteristic of a product that allows its modules or parts to be separately upgraded or replaced without having to replace the entire product

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3.1.19
waste
anything for which the generator or holder has no further use and which is discarded or is released to the environment

3.1.20
carbon footprint of a product
CFP
sum of GHG emissions and GHG removals in a product system, expressed as CO_2 equivalents and based on a life cycle assessment using the single impact category of climate change

[SOURCE: ISO 14067:2018, 3.1.1.1, modified — Notes 1 and 2 to entry have been deleted.]

3.1.21
partial carbon footprint of a product
partial CFP
sum of GHG emissions and GHG removals of one or more selected process(es) in a product system, expressed as CO_2 equivalents and based on the selected stages or processes within the life cycle

Note 1 to entry: A partial CFP is based on or compiled from data related to (a) specific process(es) or footprint information modules, which is (are) part of a product system and can form the basis for quantification of a CFP. More detailed information on information modules is given in ISO 14025:2006, 5.4.

[SOURCE: ISO 14067:2018, 3.1.1.2, modified — Notes 2 and 3 to entry have been deleted.]

3.2 Selected terms commonly used in self-declared environmental claims

Requirements for the usage of the terms listed below, in the context of making an environmental claim, are given in Clause 7.

Compostable	7.2.1
Degradable	7.3.1
Designed for disassembly	7.4.1
Extended life product	7.5.1
Recovered energy	7.6.1
Recyclable	7.7.1
Recycled content	7.8.1.1 a)
Pre-consumer material	7.8.1.1 a) 1)
Post-consumer material	7.8.1.1.a) 2)
Recycled material	7.8.1.1 b)
Recovered [reclaimed] material	7.8.1.1 c)
Reduced energy consumption	7.9.1
Reduced resource use	7.10.1
Reduced water consumption	7.11.1
Reusable	7.12.1.1
Refillable	7.12.1.2

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