BS EN ISO 14050:2020

BSI Standards Publication

Environmental management — Vocabulary

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National foreword

This British Standard is the UK implementation of EN ISO 14050:2020. It is identical to ISO 14050:2020. It supersedes BS EN ISO 14050:2010, which is withdrawn.

The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted to Technical Committee SES/1, Environmental management.

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

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Management environnemental - Vocabulaire (ISO 14050:2020)

Umweltmanagement - Begriffe (ISO 14050:2020)

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European foreword

This document (EN ISO 14050:2020) has been prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 207 "Environmental management" in collaboration with CCMC.

This European Standard shall be given the status of a national standard, either by publication of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by February 2021, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by February 2021.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. CEN shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

This document supersedes EN ISO 14050:2010.

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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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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, *Environmental management*, in collaboration with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Technical Committee CEN/SS S26, *Environmental management*, in accordance with the Agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement).

This fourth edition cancels and replaces the third edition (ISO 14050:2009), which has been technically revised. The fourth edition is structured differently from the third edition. It presents a more generic vocabulary of environmental management terminology.

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.

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Introduction

Communication is important in the implementation and operation of environmental management systems. This communication will be most effective if there is a common understanding of the terms used.

To simplify the harmonization of terms and definitions in the field of environmental management, each terminological entry in this document contains a generic term and its definition. Notes to entry and examples have been included only in a few cases to provide additional information or clarification.

The terminology is arranged in subclauses, each representing a specific sub-domain. The sequence of the term entries corresponds to the concept diagrams in Annex A.

This document has been developed in close cooperation with the committees and working groups involved in the development and revision of the ISO 14000 family of standards. A list of published documents in the ISO 14000 family of standards is presented in the Bibliography.

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Environmental management — Vocabulary

1 Scope

This document defines terms used in documents in the fields of environmental management systems and tools in support of sustainable development. These include management systems, auditing and other types of assessment, communications, footprinting studies, greenhouse gas mitigation and adaptation to climate change.

2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

3 Terms and definitions

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/

3.1 General terms relating to management systems

3.1.1
organization
person or group of people that has its own functions with responsibilities, authorities and relationships to achieve its *objectives* (3.1.6)

3.1.2
interested party
stakeholder
person or *organization* (3.1.1) that can affect, be affected by, or perceive itself to be affected by a decision or activity

3.1.3
top management
person or group of people who directs and controls an *organization* (3.1.1) at the highest level

3.1.4
management system
set of interrelated or interacting elements of an *organization* (3.1.1) to establish *policies* (3.1.5) and *objectives* (3.1.6), as well as *processes* (3.1.9) to achieve those objectives

3.1.5
policy
intentions and direction of an *organization* (3.1.1), as formally expressed by its *top management* (3.1.3)

3.1.6
objective
result to be achieved

3.1.7
risk
effect of uncertainty

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3.1.8
hazard
potential source of injury or damage to the health of people, or damage to property or the *environment* (3.2.2)

3.1.9
process
set of interrelated or interacting activities that uses or transforms inputs to deliver a result

3.1.10
competence
ability to apply knowledge and skills to achieve intended results

3.1.11
documented information
information required to be controlled and maintained by an *organization* (3.1.1) and the medium on which it is contained

3.1.12
performance
measurable result

3.1.13
continual improvement
recurring activity to enhance *performance* (3.1.12)

3.1.14
effectiveness
extent to which planned activities are realized and planned results achieved

3.1.15
requirement
need or expectation that is stated, generally implied or obligatory

3.1.16
conformity
fulfilment of a *requirement* (3.1.15)

3.1.17
nonconformity
non-fulfilment of a *requirement* (3.1.15)

3.1.18
corrective action
action to eliminate the cause(s) of a *nonconformity* (3.1.17) and to prevent recurrence

3.1.19
audit
systematic and independent *process* (3.1.9) for obtaining evidence and evaluating it objectively to determine the extent to which the *audit criteria* (3.4.44) are fulfilled

3.1.20
measurement
process (3.1.9) to determine a value

3.1.21
monitoring
determining the status of a system, a *process* (3.1.9) or an activity

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3.2 General terms relating to environmental management

3.2.1
environmental management
set of coordinated activities within an *organization* (3.1.1) related to its *environmental aspects* (3.2.20)

3.2.2
environment
surroundings in which an *organization* (3.1.1) operates, including air, water, *land* (3.8.16), *natural resources* (3.2.5), flora, fauna, humans and their interrelationships

3.2.3
ecosystem
dynamic complex of communities of plants, animals and microorganisms and their non-living environment, interacting as a functional entity

3.2.4
ecosystem service
benefit people obtain from one or several *ecosystems* (3.2.3)

3.2.5
natural resource
part of nature that provides benefits to humans or underpins human well-being

3.2.6
environmental baseline
state of the *environment* (3.2.2) without the change that is considered

3.2.7
target group
interested party (3.1.2) or interested parties selected as the focus of an *organization's* (3.1.1) *environmental communication* (3.7.19) activity

3.2.8
third party
person or body that is recognized as being independent of the parties involved, as concerns the issues in question

3.2.9
sustainable development
development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs

3.2.10
prevention of pollution
use of *processes* (3.1.9), practices, techniques, materials, *products* (3.5.12), or energy to avoid, reduce or control (separately or in combination) the creation, emission or discharge of any type of pollutant or waste, in order to reduce adverse *environmental impacts* (3.2.22)

3.2.11
area of concern
aspect of the natural environment, human health or resources of interest to society

3.2.12
environmental topic area
area of interest or concern for *environmental management* (3.2.1) in an *organization* (3.1.1) in relation to its surroundings

3.2.13
methodology
set of means or *procedures* (3.3.6) used for a specific purpose

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3.2.14
transparency
open, comprehensive and understandable presentation of information

3.2.15
benchmark
reference point against which comparisons can be made

3.2.16
equity share
extent of the rights an *organization* (3.1.1) has to the *risks* (3.1.7) and rewards from an operation based on its equity interest

3.2.17
local authority
public body given the authority by legislation or directives of a higher level of government to set general *policies* (3.1.5), plans or *requirements* (3.1.15)

3.2.18
site
location with geographical boundaries and on which activities under the control of an *organization* (3.1.1) can be carried out

3.2.19
facility
single installation, set of installations or production *processes* (3.1.9) (stationary or mobile), which can be defined within a single geographical boundary, organizational unit or production process

3.2.20
environmental aspect
element of an *organization's* (3.1.1) activities or *products* (3.5.12) that interacts or can interact with the *environment* (3.2.2)

3.2.21
environmental impact pathway
series of consecutive, causal relationships, ultimately starting at an *environmental aspect* (3.2.20) and ending at an *environmental impact* (3.2.22)

3.2.22
environmental impact
change to the *environment* (3.2.2), whether adverse or beneficial, including possible consequences, wholly or partially resulting from an *organization's* (3.1.1) *environmental aspects* (3.2.20)

3.2.23
environmental impact factor
quantity of *environmental impact* (3.2.22) per quantity of *environmental aspect* (3.2.20)

3.2.24
indicator
quantitative, qualitative or binary variable that can be measured, calculated or described, representing the status of operations, management, conditions or impacts

3.2.25
key performance indicator
KPI
indicator (3.2.24) of *performance* (3.1.12) deemed by an *organization* (3.1.1) to be significant and giving prominence and attention to certain aspects of operations, management, conditions or impacts

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3.2.26
combined indicator
indicator (3.2.24) that includes information on more than one aspect of operations, management, conditions or impacts

3.2.27
environmental performance
performance (3.1.12) related to the management of *environmental aspects* (3.2.20)

3.2.28
environmental performance evaluation
EPE
process (3.1.9) to facilitate management decisions regarding an *organization's* (3.1.1) *environmental performance* (3.2.27) by selecting *indicators* (3.2.24), collecting and analysing data, assessing information against environmental performance criteria, reporting and communicating, and periodically reviewing and improving this process

3.2.29
environmental performance indicator
EPI
indicator (3.2.24) that provides information about an *organization's* (3.1.1) *environmental performance* (3.2.27)

3.2.30
management performance indicator
MPI
environmental performance indicator (3.2.29) that provides information about the management efforts to influence an *organization's* (3.1.1) *environmental performance* (3.2.27)

3.2.31
operational performance indicator
OPI
environmental performance indicator (3.2.29) that provides information about the *environmental performance* (3.2.27) of an *organization's* (3.1.1) operation

3.2.32
environmental condition indicator
indicator (3.2.24) that provides information about the local, regional, national or global *environmental condition* (3.2.33)

3.2.33
environmental condition
state or characteristic of the *environment* (3.2.2) as determined at a certain point in time

3.2.34
sphere of influence
range or extent of political, contractual, economic or other relationships through which an *organization* (3.1.1) has the ability to affect the decisions or activities of individuals or organizations

3.2.35
trade-off
decision-making actions that select from various *requirements* (3.1.15) and alternative solutions on the basis of net benefit to *interested parties* (3.1.2)

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3.3 Terms relating to environmental management systems

3.3.1
environmental management system
EMS
part of the *management system* (3.1.4) used to manage *environmental aspects* (3.2.20), fulfil *compliance obligations* (3.3.4), and address *risks* (3.1.7) and opportunities

3.3.2
environmental policy
policy (3.1.5) related to *environmental performance* (3.2.27)

3.3.3
environmental objective
objective (3.1.6) set by the *organization* (3.1.1) and consistent with its *environmental policy* (3.3.2)

3.3.4
compliance obligation
legal requirement that an *organization* (3.1.1) has to comply with or other *requirement* (3.1.15) that an organization has to or chooses to comply with

3.3.5
maturity level
level of achievement in the implementation process measured on a scale of maturity for *environmental management system* (3.3.1) elements

3.3.6
procedure
specified way to carry out an activity or a *process* (3.1.9)

3.4 Terms relating to verification, validation and audit

3.4.1
verification
conformity assessment
confirmation through the provision of *objective evidence* (3.4.32), that specified *requirements* (3.1.15) have been fulfilled

3.4.2
verification statement
formal declaration of the outcome of a *verification* (3.4.1)

3.4.3
verification team
one or more *verifiers* (3.4.5) conducting a *verification* (3.4.1), supported if needed by *technical experts* (3.4.36)

3.4.4
verification body
organization (3.1.1) that performs *verifications* (3.4.1)

3.4.5
verifier
competent and independent person or persons with responsibility for performing and reporting on a *verification* (3.4.1) *process* (3.1.9)

3.4.6
verification plan
planning document detailing the implementation of *verification* (3.4.1)

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3.4.7
verification report
document detailing a *verification* (3.4.1) and its results

3.4.8
environmental claim verification
confirmation of the validity of an *environmental claim* (3.7.3) using specific predetermined criteria and *procedures* (3.3.6) with an assurance of data reliability

3.4.9
technology
application of scientific knowledge, tools, techniques, crafts or systems in order to solve a problem or to achieve an *objective* (3.1.6), which can result in a *product* (3.5.12) or *process* (3.1.9)

3.4.10
environmental technology
technology (3.4.9) that either results in an *environmental added value* (3.4.12) or measures parameters that indicate an *environmental impact* (3.2.22)

3.4.11
environmental technology verification
verification (3.4.1) of the *performance* (3.1.12) of an *environmental technology* (3.4.10) by a *verifier* (3.4.5)

3.4.12
environmental added value
more beneficial or less adverse *environmental impact* (3.2.22) of a *technology* (3.4.9) with respect to the relevant alternative

3.4.13
intrusive investigation
sampling and testing requiring physical interference

3.4.14
professional scepticism
attitude that includes a questioning mind and a critical assessment of evidence

3.4.15
completeness check
process (3.1.9) of verifying whether information from the phases of a *life cycle assessment* (3.6.2) is sufficient for reaching conclusions in accordance with the goal and scope definition

3.4.16
consistency check
process (3.1.9) of verifying that the assumptions, methods and data are consistently applied throughout the study and are in accordance with the goal and scope definition performed before conclusions are reached

3.4.17
sensitivity check
process (3.1.9) to determine that the information obtained from a *sensitivity analysis* (3.6.25) is relevant for reaching conclusions, changing results, have influence on results and giving recommendations

3.4.18
test body
organization (3.1.1) providing an environment for testing, test implementation and means for performing and reporting on the testing

3.4.19
test plan
planning document detailing the principles, test methods, conditions, *procedures* (3.3.6) and *data quality* (3.6.46) required to carry out testing and to produce test data

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3.4.20
test report
document describing conditions and results of testing, and usually including a description of or reference to *procedures* (3.3.6)

3.4.21
validation
confirmation through the provision of *objective evidence* (3.4.32) that the *requirements* (3.1.15) for a specific intended use or application have been fulfilled

3.4.22
validation statement
formal declaration of the outcome of a *validation* (3.4.21)

3.4.23
validation team
one or more *validators* (3.4.25) conducting a *validation* (3.4.21), supported if needed by *technical experts* (3.4.36)

3.4.24
validation body
organization (3.1.1) that performs *validations* (3.4.21)

3.4.25
validator
competent and independent person or persons with responsibility for performing a *validation* (3.4.21) and reporting on the results of the validation

3.4.26
complaint
expression of dissatisfaction, other than by appeal, by any person or *organization* (3.1.1) to another person or organization, relating to its activities, where a response is expected

3.4.27
validation criteria
policy (3.1.5), *procedure* (3.3.6) or *requirement* (3.1.15) used as a reference against which evidence is compared

3.4.28
level of assurance
degree of reliability the intended user requires in a *validation* (3.4.21) or *verification* (3.4.1)

3.4.29
conflict of interest
situation in which, because of other activities or relationships, impartiality in performing *validation* (3.4.21) or *verification* (3.4.1) activities is or could be compromised

3.4.30
accreditation
third-party attestation related to a *validation body* (3.4.24), *verification body* (3.4.4) or certification body conveying a formal demonstration of its *competence* (3.1.10) to carry out specific *validation* (3.4.21) or *verification* (3.4.1) tasks

3.4.31
accreditation body
authority that performs *accreditation* (3.4.30)

3.4.32
objective evidence
<audit> data supporting the existence or verity of something

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3.4.33
audit client
organization (3.1.1) or person requesting an *audit* (3.1.19)

3.4.34
auditee
organization (3.1.1) being audited

3.4.35
audit team
one or more persons conducting an *audit* (3.1.19), supported if needed by *technical experts* (3.4.36)

3.4.36
technical expert
person who provides specific knowledge on a specified subject

3.4.37
auditor
person who conducts an *audit* (3.1.19)

3.4.38
combined audit
audit (3.1.19) carried out together at a single *auditee* (3.4.34) on two or more *management systems* (3.1.4)

3.4.39
joint audit
audit (3.1.19) carried out at a single *auditee* (3.4.34) by two or more auditing *organizations* (3.1.1)

3.4.40
internal audit
audit (3.1.19) where the *audit team* (3.4.35) belongs to the *auditee* (3.4.34)

3.4.41
audit programme
set of one or more *audits* (3.1.19) planned for a specific time frame and directed towards a specific purpose

3.4.42
audit scope
extent and boundaries of an *audit* (3.1.19)

3.4.43
audit plan
description of the activities and arrangements for an *audit* (3.1.19)

3.4.44
audit criteria
set of *requirements* (3.1.15) used as a reference against which *objective evidence* (3.4.32) is compared

3.4.45
audit evidence
records, statements of fact or other information, which are relevant to the *audit criteria* (3.4.44) and verifiable

3.4.46
audit findings
results of the evaluation of the collected *audit evidence* (3.4.45) against *audit criteria* (3.4.44)

3.4.47
audit conclusion
outcome of an *audit* (3.1.19), after consideration of the audit *objectives* (3.1.6) and all *audit findings* (3.4.46)

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3.4.48
certification
third-party attestation related to an object of conformity assessment, with the exception of *accreditation* (3.4.30)

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC 17000:2020, 7.6]

3.4.49
environmental information validation
process (3.1.9) to evaluate the reasonableness of the assumptions, limitations, and methods that support an *environmental information statement* (3.4.51) about the outcome of future activities

3.4.50
environmental information verification
process (3.1.9) for evaluating an *environmental information statement* (3.4.51) based on historical data and information to determine whether the statement is materially correct and conforms to criteria

3.4.51
environmental information statement
environmental information claim
declaration of environmental information

3.5 Terms relating to product systems

3.5.1
product system
collection of *unit processes* (3.6.9) with *elementary flows* (3.6.12) and *product flows* (3.5.3), performing one or more defined functions and which models the *life cycle* (3.6.1) of a *product* (3.5.12)

3.5.2
process energy
energy input required for operating the *process* (3.1.9) or equipment within a *unit process* (3.6.9), excluding energy inputs for production and delivery of the process energy itself

3.5.3
product flow
products (3.5.12) entering from or leaving to another *product system* (3.5.1)

3.5.4
energy use
manner or kind of application of energy

3.5.5
product system value
worth or desirability ascribed to a *product system* (3.5.1)

3.5.6
product system value indicator
numerical quantity representing the *product system value* (3.5.5)

3.5.7
product standard
standard that specifies *requirements* (3.1.15) to be fulfilled by a *product* (3.5.12) or group of products to establish its *fitness for purpose* (3.5.8)

3.5.8
fitness for purpose
ability of a *product* (3.5.12) or a *process* (3.1.9) to serve a defined purpose under specific conditions

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3.5.9
product environmental criteria
<environmental labelling> environmental *requirements* (3.1.15) that the *product* (3.5.12) has to meet in order to be awarded an *environmental label* (3.7.1)

3.5.10
product environmental aspect
element of a *product* (3.5.12) that, during its *life cycle* (3.6.1), can interact with the *environment* (3.2.2)

3.5.11
performance tracking of an organization
comparison of the *performance* (3.1.12) of the same *organization's* (3.1.1) *products* (3.5.12) and *unit processes* (3.6.9) over time, based on the same time period, *system boundary* (3.6.8) and reporting unit

3.5.12
product
any goods or service

3.5.13
co-product
product (3.5.12) coming from the same *unit process* (3.6.9) or *product system* (3.5.1) as one or more other products

3.5.14
intermediate product
output from a *unit process* (3.6.9) within a system that is input to one or more other unit process(es) within the same system, where it is transformed

3.5.15
final product
product (3.5.12) that requires no additional *transformation* (3.8.26) prior to its use

3.5.16
service life
period of time during which a *product* (3.5.12) in use meets or exceeds the *performance* (3.1.12) *requirements* (3.1.15)

3.5.17
consumer
individual member of the general public purchasing or using *products* (3.5.12) and property for private purposes

3.5.18
raw material
primary or secondary material that is used to produce a *product* (3.5.12)

3.5.19
release
emission to air or discharge to water or soil

3.5.20
design and development
process (3.1.9) that transforms *requirements* (3.1.15) into a *product* (3.5.12)

3.5.21
product function characteristic
attribute or characteristic in the *performance* (3.1.12) and use of a *product* (3.5.12)

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3.5.22
ecodesign
systematic approach that considers *environmental aspects* (3.2.20) in *design and development* (3.5.20) with the aim to reduce adverse *environmental impacts* (3.2.22) throughout the *life cycle* (3.6.1) of a *product* (3.5.12)

3.5.23
recyclable
characteristic of a *product* (3.5.12), including *packaging* (3.5.26) and associated components, that can be diverted from the waste stream through available *processes* (3.1.9) and programmes, and can be collected, processed and returned to use in the form of *raw materials* (3.5.18)

3.5.24
upgradability
characteristic of a *product* (3.5.12) that allows its modules or parts to be separately upgraded or replaced without having to replace the entire product

3.5.25
double counting
accounting for the inputs or outputs of a *process* (3.1.9) more than once

3.5.26
packaging
product (3.5.12) that is used to protect or contain another product during transportation, storage, marketing or use

3.5.27
supply chain
those involved, through upstream and downstream linkages, in activities delivering value in the form of a *product* (3.5.12) to different *interested parties* (3.1.2)

3.5.28
value chain
entire sequence of activities or parties that create or receive value through the provision of a *product* (3.5.12)

3.6 Terms relating to life cycle assessment

3.6.1
life cycle
consecutive and interlinked stages from *raw material* (3.5.18) acquisition or generation from *natural resources* (3.2.5) to final disposal

3.6.2
life cycle assessment
LCA
compilation and assessment of the inputs, outputs and the potential *environmental impacts* (3.2.22) of a *product system* (3.5.1) throughout its *life cycle* (3.6.1)

3.6.3
life cycle inventory analysis
phase of *life cycle assessment* (3.6.2) involving the compilation and quantification of inputs and outputs for a *product* (3.5.12) throughout its *life cycle* (3.6.1)

3.6.4
life cycle inventory analysis result
outcome of a *life cycle inventory analysis* (3.6.3) that catalogues the flows crossing the *system boundary* (3.6.8) and provides the starting point for *life cycle impact assessment* (3.6.5)

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3.6.5
life cycle impact assessment
LCIA
phase of *life cycle assessment* (3.6.2) aimed at understanding and evaluating the magnitude and significance of the potential *environmental impacts* (3.2.22) for a *product system* (3.5.1) throughout the *life cycle* (3.6.1) of the *product* (3.5.12)

3.6.6
life cycle interpretation
phase of *life cycle assessment* (3.6.2) in which the findings of either the *life cycle inventory analysis* (3.6.3) or the *life cycle impact assessment* (3.6.5), or both, are evaluated in relation to the defined goal and scope in order to reach conclusions and recommendations

3.6.7
functional unit
quantified *performance* (3.1.12) of a *product system* (3.5.1) for use as a reference unit

3.6.8
system boundary
boundary based on a set of criteria specifying which *unit processes* (3.6.9) are part of the system under study

3.6.9
unit process
smallest element considered in the *life cycle inventory analysis* (3.6.3) for which input and output data are quantified

3.6.10
ancillary input
material input that is used by the *unit process* (3.6.9) producing the *product* (3.5.12), but which does not constitute part of the product

3.6.11
feedstock energy
heat of combustion of a *raw material* (3.5.18) input that is not used as an energy source to a *product system* (3.5.1), expressed in terms of higher heating value or lower heating value

3.6.12
elementary flow
material or energy entering the system being studied that has been drawn from the *environment* (3.2.2) without previous human *transformation* (3.8.26), or material or energy leaving the system being studied that is released into the environment without subsequent human transformation

3.6.13
energy flow
input to or output from a *unit process* (3.6.9), an *information module* (3.6.47) or a *product system* (3.5.1), quantified in energy units

3.6.14
intermediate flow
product flow (3.5.3), *material flow* (3.12.30) or *energy flow* (3.6.13) occurring between *unit processes* (3.6.9) of the *product system* (3.5.1) being studied

3.6.15
reference flow
measure of the outputs from *processes* (3.1.9) in a given *product system* (3.5.1) required to fulfil the function expressed by the *functional unit* (3.6.7)

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3.6.16
allocation
partitioning the input or output of a *process* (3.1.9) or a *product system* (3.5.1) between the product system under study and one or more other product systems

3.6.17
environmental mechanism
system of physical, chemical and biological *processes* (3.1.9) for a given *impact category* (3.6.18), linking the *life cycle inventory analysis results* (3.6.4) to category *indicators* (3.2.24) and to *category endpoints* (3.6.22)

3.6.18
impact category
<life cycle assessment> class representing environmental issues of concern to which *life cycle inventory analysis results* (3.6.4) can be assigned

3.6.19
impact category indicator
<life cycle assessment> quantifiable representation of *impact category* (3.6.18)

3.6.20
weighting factor
factor that is applied to convert an assigned *life cycle inventory analysis result* (3.6.4) or a life cycle *impact category indicator* (3.6.19) result to the common unit of the weighting indicator

3.6.21
cut-off criteria
specification of the amount of *material flow* (3.12.30) or *energy flow* (3.6.13) or the level of environmental significance associated with *unit processes* (3.6.9) or the *product system* (3.5.1) to be excluded from a study

3.6.22
category endpoint
attribute or aspect of the natural environment, human health or resources, which identifies an environmental issue giving cause for concern

3.6.23
characterization factor
factor derived from a characterization model, which is applied to convert an assigned *life cycle inventory analysis result* (3.6.4) to the common unit of the category *indicator* (3.2.24)

3.6.24
uncertainty analysis
systematic *procedure* (3.3.6) to quantify the uncertainty in the results of a *life cycle inventory analysis* (3.6.3) or *product system value* (3.5.5) assessment due to the cumulative effects of model imprecision, input uncertainty and data variability

3.6.25
sensitivity analysis
systematic *procedure* (3.3.6) for estimating the effects of the choices made regarding methods and data on the outcome of a study

3.6.26
organizational life cycle assessment
OLCA
compilation and evaluation of the inputs, outputs and potential *environmental impacts* (3.2.22) of the activities associated with an *organization* (3.1.1) as a whole or portion thereof adopting a *life cycle* (3.6.1) perspective

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3.6.27
critical review
process intended to ensure *conformity* (3.1.16) of a *life cycle assessment* (3.6.2) or an *eco-efficiency* (3.6.48) assessment to the principles and *requirements* (3.1.15) of the relevant International Standards

3.6.28
critical review statement
conclusive document aggregating the conclusions from the reviewer(s) regarding the *life cycle assessment* (3.6.2) study, and stating unambiguously whether the life cycle assessment study is in conformance with the *requirements* (3.1.15)

3.6.29
critical review report
documentation of the *critical review* (3.6.27) process and its findings, including detailed comments from the reviewer(s) or the critical review panel, as well as corresponding responses from the practitioner of the *life cycle assessment* (3.6.2) study

3.6.30
commissioner of the critical review
organization (3.1.1) (or group of organizations) that finances the *critical review* (3.6.27) of the *life cycle assessment* (3.6.2) study

3.6.31
independent external expert
competent person, not employed in a full-time or part-time role by the commissioner of the *life cycle assessment* (3.6.2) study or the practitioner of the life cycle assessment study, and not involved in defining the scope of or conducting the life cycle assessment study

3.6.32
independent internal expert
competent person, employed in a full-time or part-time role by the commissioner of the *life cycle assessment* (3.6.2) study or by the practitioner of the life cycle assessment study, but not involved in defining the scope of or conducting the life cycle assessment study

3.6.33
life cycle thinking
life cycle perspective
LCT
consideration of the *environmental aspects* (3.2.20) relating to a *product* (3.5.12) during its entire *life cycle* (3.6.1)

3.6.34
primary data
quantified value of a *unit process* (3.6.9) or an activity obtained from a direct *measurement* (3.1.20) or a calculation based on direct measurements at the original source

3.6.35
secondary data
data that do not fulfil the *requirements* (3.1.15) for *primary data* (3.6.34)

3.6.36
basic data
data acquired from a data acquisition *process* (3.1.9)

3.6.37
physical object
identifiable entity in the real world, which is described by *basic data* (3.6.36)

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3.6.38
site-specific data
data obtained from a direct *measurement* (3.1.20) or a calculation based on direct measurement at the original source within the *product system* (3.5.1)

3.6.39
quantitative data
numerical data item, which includes its unit

3.6.40
quantitative information
quantitative data (3.6.39) that has been processed or analysed to be meaningful for a specific purpose or *objective* (3.1.6)

3.6.41
data generator
person(s) or *organization(s)* (3.1.1) responsible for the modelling of the *process* (3.1.9) and the compilation or the updating of the data

3.6.42
data documentation format
structure of the documentation of data

3.6.43
data documentor
person(s) or *organization(s)* (3.1.1) responsible for entering the data into the *data documentation format* (3.6.42) in use

3.6.44
data commissioner
person(s) or *organization(s)* (3.1.1) that commissions the data collection and documentation

3.6.45
data field
container for specified data with a specified data type

3.6.46
data quality
characteristics of data that relate to their ability to satisfy stated *requirements* (3.1.15)

3.6.47
information module
compilation of data covering a *unit process* (3.6.9) or a combination of unit processes that are part of the *life cycle* (3.6.1) of a *product* (3.5.12)

3.6.48
eco-efficiency
aspect of sustainability relating the *environmental performance* (3.2.27) of a *product system* (3.5.1) to its *product system value* (3.5.5)

3.6.49
eco-efficiency indicator
measure relating *environmental performance* (3.2.27) of a *product system* (3.5.1) to its *product system value* (3.5.5)

3.6.50
eco-efficiency profile
eco-efficiency (3.6.48) assessment results relating the *life cycle impact assessment* (3.6.5) results to the *product system value* (3.5.5) assessment results

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3.6.51
comparative eco-efficiency assertion
claim in *eco-efficiency* (3.6.48) regarding the superiority or equivalence of one *product* (3.5.12) versus a competitor's product that performs the same function

3.7 Terms relating to environmental labelling, declarations and communication

3.7.1
environmental label
claim that indicates the *environmental aspects* (3.2.20) of a *product* (3.5.12)

3.7.2
ecolabelling body
third-party body, and its agents, that conducts a *Type I environmental labelling programme* (3.7.8)

3.7.3
environmental claim
statement, symbol or graphic that indicates an *environmental aspect* (3.2.20) of a *product* (3.5.12), including any associated components and *packaging* (3.5.26)

3.7.4
self-declared environmental claim
environmental claim (3.7.3) that is made, without an independent third-party *certification* (3.4.48), by manufacturers, importers, distributors, retailers or anyone else likely to benefit from such a claim

3.7.5
qualified environmental claim
environmental claim (3.7.3) that is accompanied by an *explanatory statement* (3.7.6) to describe the limits of the claim

3.7.6
explanatory statement
explanation that is needed or given so that an *environmental claim* (3.7.3) can be properly understood by a purchaser, potential purchaser or user of the *product* (3.5.12)

3.7.7
comparative assertion
environmental claim (3.7.3) regarding the superiority or equivalence of one *product* (3.5.12) versus a competing product that performs the same function

3.7.8
Type I environmental labelling programme
voluntary, multiple-criteria-based *third party* (3.2.8) programme that awards a licence that authorizes the use of *environmental labels* (3.7.1) on *products* (3.5.12) to indicate the overall environmental preferability of a product within a particular product category based on *life cycle* (3.6.1) considerations

3.7.9
Type III environmental declaration
environmental declaration providing quantified environmental data using predetermined parameters and, where relevant, additional environmental information

3.7.10
Type III environmental declaration programme
voluntary programme for the development and use of *Type III environmental declarations* (3.7.9), based on a set of operating rules

3.7.11
declared unit
quantity of a *product* (3.5.12) for use as a reference unit in a *Type III environmental declaration* (3.7.9) or *footprint communication* (3.7.18), based on one or more *information modules* (3.6.47)

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3.7.12
product category rules
PCR
set of specific rules, *requirements* (3.1.15) and guidelines for developing *Type III environmental declarations* (3.7.9) and *footprint communications* (3.7.18) for one or more *product* (3.5.12) categories

3.7.13
product category rules review
PCR review
process (3.1.9) whereby a third-party panel verifies the *product category rules* (3.7.12)

3.7.14
product category rules committee
PCR committee
group of representatives of *interested parties* (3.1.2) tasked by the *programme operator* (3.7.16) with drafting and finalizing the *product category rules* (3.7.12)

3.7.15
core rules
set of rules that provides consistent *requirements* (3.1.15) for the development of *product category rules* (3.7.12) across multiple *product* (3.5.12) categories

3.7.16
programme operator
body that conducts a communication programme

3.7.17
footprint
metric(s) used to report *life cycle assessment* (3.6.2) results addressing an *area of concern* (3.2.11)

3.7.18
footprint communication
result of the preparation, provision and dissemination of a *footprint* (3.7.17), supporting information and *explanatory statement* (3.7.6)

3.7.19
environmental communication
process (3.1.9) that an *organization* (3.1.1) conducts to provide and obtain information, and to engage in dialogue with internal and external *interested parties* (3.1.2), to encourage a shared understanding of environmental issues, aspects and *performance* (3.1.12)

3.7.20
environmental communication policy
overall intentions and directions of an *organization* (3.1.1) related to its *environmental communication* (3.7.19) as formally expressed by *top management* (3.1.3)

3.7.21
environmental communication objective
overall *environmental communication* (3.7.19) goal consistent with the *environmental communication policy* (3.7.20) that an *organization* (3.1.1) sets itself to achieve as part of its *environmental communication strategy* (3.7.23)

3.7.22
environmental communication target
detailed *performance* (3.1.12) *requirement* (3.1.15), applicable to the *organization* (3.1.1), that arises from the *environmental communication objectives* (3.7.21), and that needs to be set and met in order to achieve those objectives

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