BS ISO 59040:2025

BSI Standards Publication

Circular economy — Product circularity data sheet

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National foreword

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The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted to Technical Committee CED/1.

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International Standard

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Circular economy — Product circularity data sheet

Économie circulaire — Fiche de données de circularité des produits

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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 document 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 323, *Circular economy*.

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

The global economy is “linear” as it is mainly based on extraction, production, use and disposal. This linear economy leads to resource depletion, biodiversity loss, waste and harmful losses and releases, all of which collectively are causing serious damage to the capacity of the planet to continue to provide for the needs of future generations.[49] Moreover, several planetary boundaries have already been reached or exceeded.

There is an increased understanding that a transition towards an economy that is more circular, based on a circular use of resources, can contribute to meeting current and future human needs (welfare, housing, nutrition, healthcare, mobility, etc.). Transitioning towards a circular economy can also contribute to the creation and sharing of more value within society and interested parties, while natural resources are managed to be replenished and renewed and in a sustainable way, securing the quality and resilience of ecosystems.

Organizations recognize many potential reasons to engage in a circular economy (e.g. delivering more ambitious and sustainable solutions; improved relationships with interested parties; more effective and efficient ways to fulfil voluntary commitments or legal requirements; engaging in climate change mitigation or adaptation; managing resource scarcity risks, increasing resilience in the environmental, social and economic systems), while contributing to satisfying human needs.

The ISO 59000 family of standards (see Figure 1) is designed to harmonize the understanding of the circular economy and to support its implementation and measurement. It also considers organizations, such as government, industry and non-profit, in contributing to the achievement of the United Nations (UN) Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development[50].

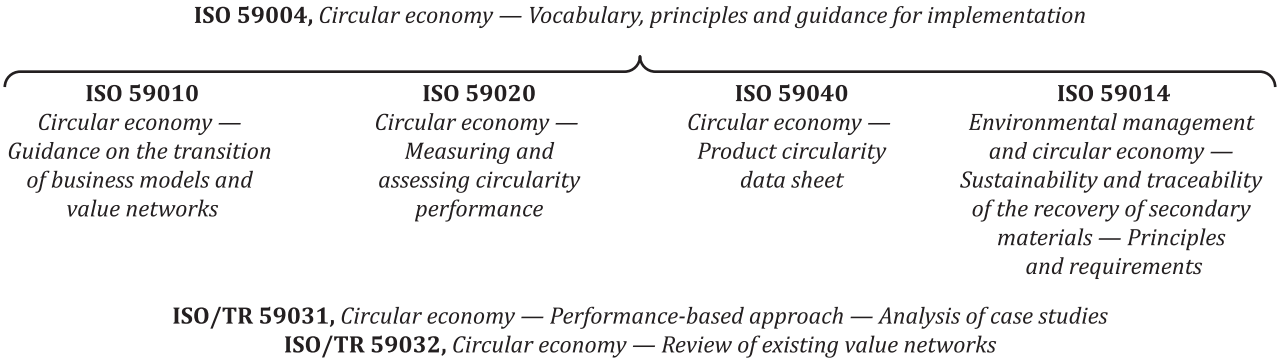

Figure 1 — ISO 59000 family of standards

Organizations throughout the world work with suppliers to acquire products. Many organizations establish multiple supplier relationships to cover a variety of business needs, such as purchasing, development, manufacturing, sales and after sales services. Conversely, suppliers provide products to a range of acquirers.

Acquirers and suppliers willing to enter or having entered a relationship for the purpose of dealing with a variety of products should introduce the product circularity data sheet (PCDS) based on the circular economy principles described in the ISO 59000 family of standards. The PCDS is intended to provide information to support the understanding of the circularity aspects of a product, as aligned to the circular economy principles according to the ISO 59000 family of standards. The PCDS is a method of reporting on the circularity performance of a product using PCDS statements providing verifiable data.

This document:

a) provides a general methodology for establishing, managing and maintaining a PCDS when acquiring or supplying products;

b) specifies requirements for the reporting of information to be used when creating a PCDS template and provides guidance about managing and sharing a PCDS;

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c) contains requirements and guidance on how to exchange product information that supports the circular economy using a PCDS;

d) is intended to facilitate circular economy business models as specified in ISO 59010, by focusing on the exchange of circularity aspects of products (business to business relationship);

e) is intended to be used by any organization wishing to adopt circular-economy-based practices in their supplier or acquirer relationships.

Data collected by this method can be used for digitalized product documentation.

In order to ensure the application of this document, it can be beneficial to have in place tested and mature systems that apply the specified methodology for managing product circularity data. In accordance with ISO/IEC Guide 17, suitable solutions for all sizes of enterprises should be accessible to reduce burdens. To ensure that small businesses can effectively manage the systems and conform to this document, training programmes can be established. These programmes can aim to educate small businesses on how to use the systems and understand the requirements of this document. Recognizing that small businesses require more time and resources to implement this document, a transition period can be provided.

The structure of this document is shown in Figure 2.

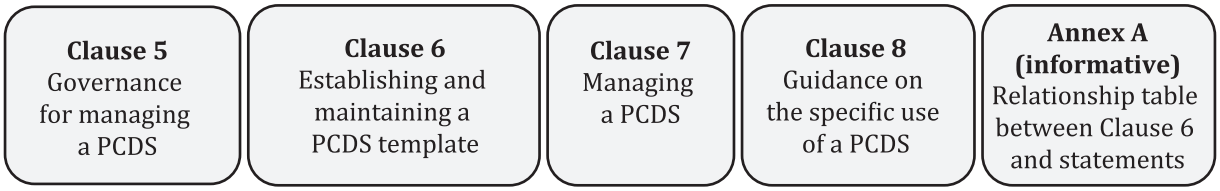

Figure 2 — Structure overview

Clause 5 provides acquirer and supplier guidance for successfully developing and implementing an acquirer and supplier relationship strategy and an acquirer and supplier relationship plan with the associated agreement. Clause 5 also provides guidance for considering PCDS from a risk management perspective.

The guidance contained in Clause 5 should be followed by an organization in the context of using a PCDS when acquiring products or when supplying them, or both.

Clause 6 provides requirements and guidance for establishing and maintaining a PCDS template. It provides guidance on mandatory and additional statements that can be considered when establishing a PCDS template.

Clause 7 provides requirements and guidance to suppliers on processes to produce and manage a PCDS. A supplier is providing answers to each mandatory statement of a PCDS template in order to claim conformance to this document. The additional statements and supplementary information of a PCDS template are not a requirement of this document, meaning that a supplier may claim conformance to this document without completing them.

Clause 8 provides guidance on specific application and usage of a PCDS.

Annex A provides a relationship table between Clause 6 and PCDS statements, which summarizes mandatory and additional statements.

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Circular economy — Product circularity data sheet

1 Scope

This document establishes a general methodology for information exchange supporting the interoperability of circular economy related information, based on the use of a product circularity data sheet (PCDS).

This document specifies requirements for completing a PCDS by an organization, regardless of its type, size and nature, when acquiring or supplying products in order to permit the exchange of circular economy related information about those products, without disclosing confidential business information.

This document also specifies requirements for the reporting format to be used when creating a PCDS template, based on the selection and use of various product circularity statements, according to the characteristics of the product.

In addition, this document gives guidance on managing and sharing a PCDS, as well as guidance on creating a PCDS template.

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their 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 59004:2024, *Circular economy — Vocabulary, principles and guidance for implementation*

ISO 59020:2024, *Circular economy — Measuring and assessing circularity performance*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO 59004 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 acquirer and supplier relationship

3.1.1
acquirer
organization (3.1.2) that acquires or procures a *product* (3.1.3) from another party that is intended for or required by this organization

EXAMPLE Consumer, client, end-user, retailer, receiver of product or service from an internal process, beneficiary, purchaser.

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC/IEEE 15288:2023, 3.1, modified — “organization” replaced “stakeholder”, “product from another party that is intended for or required by this organization” replaced “system, product or service from a supplier”. Example replaced Note 1 to entry.]

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3.1.2
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 59004:2024, 3.4.1]

3.1.3
product
physical-based object designed for or utilized with a purpose

Note 1 to entry: A product can be, for example:

— goods of any type;

— hardware (e.g. engine mechanical part, spare parts, consumables);

— electrical or electronic hardware devices or components (e.g. computers, communication equipment and sensors);

— processed materials (e.g. lubricant, cement).

[SOURCE: ISO 59004:2024, 3.2.2]

3.1.4
risk
effect of uncertainty

[SOURCE: ISO 14050:2020, 3.1.7]

3.1.5
sensitive information
information that needs to be protected from unavailability, unauthorized access, modification or public disclosure because of potential adverse effects on an individual, *organization* (3.1.2), national security or public safety

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC 27002:2022, 3.1.33]

3.1.6
supplier
organization (3.1.2) or an individual that enters into an agreement with another party for the supply of a *product* (3.1.3)

Note 1 to entry: Examples are producer, manufacturer, distributor, retailer or vendor of a product.

Note 2 to entry: Types of suppliers include those organizations that permit agreement negotiation with an *acquirer* (3.1.1) and those that do not permit negotiation with agreements (e.g. end-user licence agreements, terms of use, open-source products, copyright or intellectual property releases).

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC/IEEE 15288:2023, 3.45, modified — “another party” replaced “acquirer” and “or service” added in the definition. Notes to entry replaced the example and note to entry.]

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3.1.7
supplier relationship
agreement or agreements between *acquirers* (3.1.1) and *suppliers* (3.1.6) to conduct business and deliver *products* (3.1.3)

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC 27036-1:2021, 3.9, modified — "or services, and realize business benefit" has been deleted from the end of the definition.]

3.2 Terms related to product circularity data sheet

3.2.1
chain of custody
process by which inputs and outputs and associated information are transferred, monitored and controlled as they move through each step in the relevant supply chain

[SOURCE: ISO 22095:2020, 3.1.1]

3.2.2
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

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, losses and releases from the economic system.

[SOURCE: ISO 59004:2024, 3.1.1]

3.2.3
demounting
process of removing a *product* (3.1.3) from its mounting or setting, without damaging the product or its performance or contaminating other products or assemblies

EXAMPLE 1 Performance of product such as static or mechanical functions.

EXAMPLE 2 Product being demounted from a building or vehicle.

Note 1 to entry: Clean installation and demounting of products are fundamental for their repair and next use. These can occur at many levels. For example, an assembled product designed to be installed in a more complex product (e.g. a battery in a computer) or the assembled product designed to be installed in a building or vehicle.

3.2.4
disassembly
process whereby a *product* (3.1.3) is taken apart in such a way that it can subsequently be reassembled and made operational

[SOURCE: IEC 62542:2013, 6.1, modified — "can" replaced "could".]

3.2.5
dismantling
process whereby a *product* (3.1.3) is taken apart in such a way that it is not intended to be reassembled and made operational

Note 1 to entry: After dismantling some parts can be reused.

Note 2 to entry: In some languages or sectors, the term dismantling is used as synonym of disassembly or deinstallation.

[SOURCE: ISO 14009:2020, 3.2.16, modified — Part of the definition moved to Note 1 to entry. Note 2 to entry added.]

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3.2.6
interoperability
ability of *organizations* (3.1.2) to communicate and interact effectively

Note 1 to entry: Interoperability is considered as significant if the interactions can take place in at least one of the four areas of interoperability concerns: data, service, process and business.

[SOURCE: ISO 11354-1:2011, 2.1, modified — "enterprise" deleted in the term. "organizations" replaced "enterprises and entities within those enterprises" in the definition.]

3.2.7
hazardous substance
substance which can adversely affect human health or the environment with immediate or retarded effect, either by itself or through interaction with other factors

Note 1 to entry: Hazardous substances are typically identified by international or national regulations which guide on proper processing and disposal.

[SOURCE: ISO 59014:2024, 3.9]

3.2.8
material
substance or mixture of substances within a *product* (3.1.3) or product part

[SOURCE: IEC 62474:2018, 3.15]

3.2.9
product circularity data sheet
PCDS
product declaration which presents standardized information on the circularity aspects of a *product* (3.1.3) that can be used partially or entirely by other interested parties to enable evaluation of product circularity

3.2.10
product circularity data sheet statement
PCDS statement
information that describes circularity aspects of a *product* (3.1.3) in a True or False format that is verifiable

Note 1 to entry: PCDS statements are either general or sector specific.

Note 2 to entry: Sector-specific statements are used when applicable.

Note 3 to entry: PCDS statements are completed by the reporting organization (i.e. the one supplying products).

3.2.11
product circularity data sheet template
PCDS template
form consisting of business information, *PCDS statements* (3.2.10) and supplementary information

Note 1 to entry: A *PCDS* (3.2.9) represents a completed form filled in by a *supplier* (3.1.6) based on a PCDS template.

3.2.12
post-consumer recycled material
material (3.2.8) that has been reprocessed from waste from end-users

Note 1 to entry: End-users can be individuals or entities such as households, or commercial, industrial and institutional facilities in their role as end-users.

Note 2 to entry: This includes returns of material from the distribution chain.

[SOURCE: IEC 82474-1:2025, 3.4.6]

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3.2.13
pre-consumer recycled material
material (3.2.8) that has been reprocessed from waste material diverted from manufacturing process

Note 1 to entry: Excluded is reutilization of materials such as rework, regrind or scrap generated in a process and capable of being reclaimed within the same process that generated it.

Note 2 to entry: Pre-consumer recycled material is sometimes referred to as post-industrial recycled material.

[SOURCE: IEC 82474-1:2025, 3.4.4]

3.2.14
recycled content
proportion, by mass, of recycled *material* (3.2.8) in a *product* (3.1.3)

[SOURCE: ISO 14009:2020, 3.2.23]

3.2.15
renewable energy
energy generated from a renewable resource

3.2.16
sector
section of industry or technology where specialized practices are used, requiring specific product-related knowledge, skill, equipment or training

Note 1 to entry: A sector can be interpreted to mean a *product* (3.1.3) (such as welded products) or an industry (such as aerospace, in-service testing).

[SOURCE: ISO 9712:2021, 3.37, modified — “practices” replaced “NDT practices” in the definition. “castings” deleted in Note 1 to entry.]

3.2.17
statement
provision that conveys information

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC 20944-1:2013, 3.1.5.2]

3.3 Terms related to conformity assessment

3.3.1
audit
process for obtaining relevant information about an object of *conformity assessment* (3.3.2) and evaluating it objectively to determine the extent to which specified requirements are fulfilled

Note 1 to entry: The specified requirements are defined prior to performing an audit so that the relevant information can be obtained.

Note 2 to entry: Examples of objects for an audit are management systems, processes, *products* (3.1.3) and services.

Note 3 to entry: For accreditation purposes, the audit process is called “assessment”.

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC 17000:2020, 6.4]

3.3.2
conformity assessment
demonstration that specified requirements are fulfilled

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC 17000:2020, 4.1, modified — Notes 1 to 4 to entry deleted.]

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3.3.3
third party
person or body that is recognized as being independent of the parties involved, as concerns the issues in question

[SOURCE: ISO 14050:2020, 3.2.8]

3.3.4
verification
confirmation of a claim, through the provision of objective evidence, that specified requirements have been fulfilled

Note 1 to entry: Verification is considered to be a process for evaluating a claim based on historical data and information to determine whether the claim is materially correct and conforms with specified requirements.

Note 2 to entry: Verification is applied to claims regarding events that have already occurred or results that have already been obtained (confirmation of truthfulness).

Note 3 to entry: Verification can be performed as conformity assessment, including evidence gathering and the following decision on confirming the claim by issuing a verification statement. It can also be performed as determination activity contributing to the evidence gathering of another conformity assessment, such as product certification.

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC 17029:2019, 3.3, modified — Note 3 to entry replaced.]

4 Abbreviated terms

CMR carcinogenic, mutagenic and reprotoxic

DI document information

DOI digital object identifier

ID identifier

OID object identifiers

PCDS product circularity data sheet

PI persistent identifier

PURL permanent uniform resource locator

REC renewable energy credit

UID unique identifier

5 Governance for managing a PCDS

5.1 General

When establishing and implementing a PCDS, or when evaluating the feasibility to do so, an organization should consider the guidance given in 5.2 to 5.4.

Circularity information in the PCDS includes transparency of the methods used by the supplier to obtain that information. Acquirers should be aware that different suppliers can use different methods to assess their circularity aspects and that it is possible that the information is not always directly comparable between different suppliers. These inconsistencies can be managed through the supplier-acquirer relationship strategy. Acquirers should consider the specifications and other supplementary information provided in each PCDS to understand the responses to the PCDS statements with regard to circularity aspects.

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Those creating a PCDS template and filling in a PCDS should pay careful attention to the provisions of this document designed to support interoperability, including standardized sequence and numbering of UIDs, wording and sequence of categories, modules and topics as well as mandatory statements, binary format of statements, positioning of data fields for specifications and persistent identifiers, and machine readability.

5.2 Acquirer and supplier relationship strategy

An acquirer and supplier relationship strategy can be relevant in business scenarios. When such a relationship strategy is relevant, it should include the following:

a) Business needs and expectations related to circularity aspects of products.

b) Scope of application for a PCDS by determining the type of products, related business activities, a related PCDS template and value network considerations to be covered.

c) Management commitment to allocate necessary resources for establishing and implementing PCDS within the organization, which can mean:

   1) appointing an individual responsible for handling PCDS;

   2) ensuring that the appointed individual is adequately skilled and trained, and that necessary resources are provided to handle the PCDS according to the business needs.

This strategy should be reviewed:

— on a regular basis, or at the latest after five years, or whenever significant business, legal, regulatory, policy and contractual changes occur;

— when significant changes impact the acquired or supplied product.

5.3 Acquirer and supplier relationship plan and associated agreement

An acquirer and supplier relationship plan, and the associated agreement, can be relevant in business scenarios. When an acquirer and supplier relationship plan and the associated agreement are appropriate, they should include the following:

a) A supplier relationship plan, that documents circularity aspects and PCDS considerations from both organizational and technical perspectives will include (but is not necessarily limited to) the following topics:

   1) determining the products that should have a PCDS;

   2) identifying circularity aspects of the products applicable to PCDS (refer to ISO 59020 for additional information);

   3) how to collect internal information for a PCDS;

   4) technical data supporting the PCDS statements following a True or False logic;

   5) external sources for PCDS;

   6) how to improve circularity aspects of the products;

   7) determining responsibilities and their handover;

   8) value network addressed by the PCDS;

   9) how to exchange PCDS when acquirer or supplier roles change.

   The supplier relationship plan should include the identification and assessment of laws, regulations, policy and contractual agreements already in place in order to highlight rules and restrictions that can impact the management of PCDS-sensitive information.

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