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**Environmental management—
Vocabulary**

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Foreword

This translation has been made based on the original Japanese Industrial Standard revised by the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, through deliberations at the Japanese Industrial Standards Committee as the result of proposal for revision of Japanese Industrial Standard submitted by Japanese Standards Association (JSA) with the draft being attached, based on the provision of Article 12 Clause 1 of the Industrial Standardization Law applicable to the case of revision by the provision of Article 14.

Consequently **JIS Q 14050:2003** is replaced with this Standard.

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Attention is drawn to the possibility that some parts of this Standard may conflict with a patent right, application for a patent after opening to the public or utility model right. The relevant Minister and the Japanese Industrial Standards Committee are not responsible for identifying the patent right, application for a patent after opening to the public or the utility model right.

Environmental management—Vocabulary

Introduction

This Japanese Industrial Standard has been prepared based on the third edition of **ISO 14050** published in 2009 without any modifications of technical contents.

The portions with dotted underlines are the matters not given in the corresponding International Standard.

This Standard contains concepts and their definitions as used in the **JIS Q 14000** series of Standards issued related to environmental management.

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.

Many environmental terms and definitions are the result of recently developed concepts. The gradual evolution of these environmental concepts inevitably means that environmental terminology will continue to develop. The purpose of this Standard is to convey an understanding of the terms used in the **JIS Q 14000** series of Standards issued.

This Standard is intended above all to provide standards users with a compilation of the terms and definitions in use in the field of environmental management. It is expected, however, that the document will also be of use to standards developers, particularly those involved with translation, as an aid to maintaining consistency.

The terms and definitions in this Standard are derived from the standards on environmental management given in the Bibliography.

Other concepts which may be encountered in the environmental management field are not defined in this Standard. However, to aid users of the **JIS Q 14000** series of Standards on environmental management, some of these additional concepts are included with bibliographic references in Annex A.

Users should be aware that the application and description of these concepts vary throughout the international environmental community. Their presence in Annex A is not intended to promote or endorse the use of these concepts.

1 Scope

This Standard defines terms of fundamental concepts related to environmental management, published in the **JIS Q 14000** series of Standards.

NOTE 1 The notes appended to certain definitions offer clarification or examples to facilitate understanding of the concepts described.

NOTE 2 The terms and definitions are laid out in a systematic order, with an alphabetical index. A term in a definition or note that is defined in another entry is indicated by bold-face followed by its entry number in parentheses. Such terms may be replaced by their complete definition.

NOTE 3 The International Standard corresponding to this Standard and the symbol of degree of correspondence are as follows.

ISO 14050:2009 *Environmental management—Vocabulary* (IDT)

In addition, symbols which denote the degree of correspondence in the contents between the relevant International Standard and **JIS** are IDT (identical), MOD (modified), and NEQ (not equivalent) according to **ISO/IEC Guide 21-1**.

2 Conventions used in terms and definitions

In some cases, the special usage of a concept in a particular context is indicated by the qualification given in angle brackets before the definition.

The relevant source is given in brackets for each definition and note. If the same definition appears in more than one document, the earliest document is normally given as source.

3 General terms relating to environmental management

3.1 environment

surroundings in which an **organization** (3.4) operates, including air, water, land, natural resources, flora, fauna, humans, and their interrelation

NOTE : Surroundings in this context extend from within an organization to the global system.

[JIS Q 14001:2004]

3.2 environmental aspect

element of an **organization's** (3.4) activities or **products** (6.2) or services that can interact with the **environment** (3.1)

NOTE : A significant environmental aspect has or can have a significant **environmental impact** (3.3).

[JIS Q 14001:2004]

3.3 environmental impact

any change to the **environment** (3.1), whether adverse or beneficial, wholly or partially resulting from an **organization's** (3.4) **environmental aspects** (3.2)

[JIS Q 14001:2004]

3.4 organization

company, corporation, firm, authority or institution, or part or combination thereof, whether incorporated or not, public or private, that has its own functions and administration

NOTE : For organizations with more than one operating unit, a single operating unit may be defined as an organization.

[JIS Q 14001:2004]

3.5 top management

person or group of people who directs and controls an organization at the highest level

[JIS Q 14065:2011]

3.6 interested party

person or group having an interest in the performance or outcome of an **organization** (3.4) or a system

NOTE 1 “Outcome” includes **products** (6.2) and agreements. “System” includes **product systems** (6.1) and environmental labelling and declaration systems.

NOTE 2 This generic definition is not taken directly from any other document. The concept is defined specifically from the point of view of **environmental performance** (3.16) in **JIS Q 14001** (with identical definition in **JIS Q 14004** and **JIS Q 14031**), type I environmental labelling in **JIS Q 14024**, **type III environmental declaration** (8.5) in **JIS Q 14025**, and **life cycle assessment** (7.2) in **JIS Q 14040**.

The definitions are as follows:

- person or group concerned with or affected by the environmental performance of an organization
[JIS Q 14001:2004]
- any party affected by a **type I environmental labelling programme** (8.3)
[JIS Q 14024:2000]
- person or body interested in or affected by the development and use of a type III environmental declaration
[JIS Q 14025:2008]
- individual or group concerned with or affected by the environmental performance of a product system, or by the results of the life cycle assessment
[JIS Q 14040:2010]

3.7 third party

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

NOTE : “Parties involved” are usually supplier (“first party”) and purchaser (“second party”) interests.

[JIS Q 14024:2000]

3.8 target group

interested party (3.6) or parties selected as the focus of an **organization’s** (3.4) **environmental communication** (8.1) activity

[JIS Q 14063:2007]

3.9 client

⟨assessment⟩ **organization** (3.4) commissioning the assessment

Examples: The **site** (3.13) owner, the **assessee** (5.31.3), or any other party.

[JIS Q 14015:2002]

⟨validation or verification⟩ **organization** (3.4) or person requesting **validation** (5.4) or **verification** (5.1)

[JIS Q 14064-1:2010]

3.10 certification

procedure by which a **third party** (3.7) gives written assurance that a **product** (6.2), **process** (6.4) or service conforms to specified requirements

[JIS Q 14024:2000]

3.11 prevention of pollution

use of processes, practices, techniques, materials, **products** (6.2), services or energy to avoid, reduce or control (separately or in combination) the creation, emission or discharge of any type of pollutant or **waste** (3.12), in order to reduce adverse **environmental impacts** (3.3)

NOTE : Prevention of pollution can include source reduction or elimination, process, product or service changes, efficient use of resources, material and energy substitution, reuse, recovery, recycling, reclamation and treatment.

[JIS Q 14001:2004]

3.12 waste

substances or objects which the holder intends or is required to dispose of

NOTE : This definition is taken from the *Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal* (22 March 1989), but is not confined in this Standard to hazardous waste.

[JIS Q 14040:2010]

3.13 site

location with geographical boundaries and on which activities under the control of an **organization** (3.4) may be carried out

NOTE : The geographical boundaries may be on land and in water, and include above- and below-surface structures, both natural and man-made.

[JIS Q 14015:2002]

3.14 facility

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

[JIS Q 14064-1:2010]

3.15 transparency

open, comprehensive and understandable presentation of information

[JIS Q 14040:2010]

3.16 environmental performance

measurable results of an **organization's** (3.4) management of its **environmental aspects** (3.2)

NOTE : In the context of **environmental management systems** (4.1), results can be measured against the organization's **environmental policy** (4.1.1), **environmental objectives** (4.1.2), **environmental targets** (4.1.3) and other environmental performance requirements.

[JIS Q 14001:2004]

3.16.1 environmental performance evaluation, EPE

process (6.4) to facilitate management decisions regarding an **organization's** (3.4) **environmental performance** (3.16) by selecting indicators, collecting and analysing data, assessing information against **environmental performance criteria** (3.16.2), reporting and communicating, and periodically reviewing and improving this process

[JIS Q 14031:2000]

3.16.2 environmental performance criterion

environmental objective (4.1.2), **target** (4.1.3), or other intended level of **environmental performance** (3.16) set by the management of the **organization** (3.4) and used for the purpose of **environmental performance evaluation** (3.16.1)

[JIS Q 14031:2000]

3.16.3 environmental condition indicator, ECI

specific expression that provides information about the local, regional, national or global condition of the **environment** (3.1)

NOTE : "Regional" may refer to a state, a province, or a group of states within a country, or it may refer to a group of countries or a continent, depending on the scale of the condition of the environment that the **organization** (3.4) chooses to consider.

[JIS Q 14031:2000]

3.16.4 environmental performance indicator, EPI

specific expression that provides information about an **organization's** (3.4) **environmental performance** (3.16)

[JIS Q 14031:2000]

3.16.5 management performance indicator, MPI

environmental performance indicator (3.16.4) that provides information about the management efforts to influence an **organization's** (3.4) **environmental performance** (3.16)

[JIS Q 14031:2000]

3.16.6 operational performance indicator, OPI

environmental performance indicator (3.16.4) that provides information about the **environmental performance** (3.16) of an **organization's** (3.4) operations

[JIS Q 14031:2000]

4 Terms relating to environmental management systems

4.1 environmental management system, EMS

part of an **organization's** (3.4) management system used to develop and implement its **environmental policy** (4.1.1) and manage its **environmental aspects** (3.2)

NOTE 1 A management system is a set of interrelated elements used to establish policy and objectives and to achieve those objectives.

NOTE 2 A management system includes organizational structure, planning activities, responsibilities, practices, **procedures** (4.2), processes and resources.

[JIS Q 14001:2004]

4.1.1 environmental policy

overall intentions and direction of an **organization** (3.4) related to its **environmental performance** (3.16) as formally expressed by top management

NOTE : The environmental policy provides a framework for action and for the setting of **environmental objectives** (4.1.2) and **environmental targets** (4.1.3).

[JIS Q 14001:2004]

4.1.2 environmental objective

overall environmental goal, consistent with the **environmental policy** (4.1.1), that an **organization** (3.4) sets itself to achieve

[JIS Q 14001:2004]

4.1.3 environmental target

detailed performance requirement, applicable to the **organization** (3.4) or parts thereof, that arises from the **environmental objectives** (4.1.2) and that needs to be set and met in order to achieve those objectives

[JIS Q 14001:2004]

4.2 procedure

specified way to carry out an activity or a **process** (6.4)

NOTE 1 Procedures can be documented or not.

NOTE 2 Adapted from **JIS Q 9000:2006, 3.4.5.**

[JIS Q 14001:2004]

4.3 nonconformity

non-fulfilment of a requirement

[JIS Q 14001:2004]

4.4.1 correction

action taken to eliminate a detected **nonconformity** (4.3)

NOTE : Adapted from **JIS Q 9000:2006, 3.6.6.**

[JIS Q 14004:2004]

4.4.2 corrective action

action to eliminate the cause of a detected **nonconformity** (4.3)

[JIS Q 14001:2004]

4.4.3 preventive action

action to eliminate the cause of a potential **nonconformity** (4.3)

[JIS Q 14001:2004]

4.5 document

information and its supporting medium

NOTE 1 The medium can be paper, magnetic, electronic or optical computer disc, photograph or master sample, or a combination thereof.

NOTE 2 Adapted from **JIS Q 9000:2006, 3.7.2.**

[JIS Q 14001:2004]

4.6 record

document (4.5) stating results achieved or providing evidence of activities performed

NOTE : Adapted from **JIS Q 9000:2006, 3.7.6.**

[JIS Q 14001:2004]

4.7 continual improvement

recurring **process** (6.4) of enhancing the **environmental management system** (4.1) in order to achieve improvements in overall **environmental performance** (3.16) consistent with the **organization's** (3.4) **environmental policy** (4.1.1)

NOTE : The process need not take place in all areas of activity simultaneously.

[JIS Q 14001:2004]

5 Terms relating to validation, verification, and auditing

5.1 verification

⟨labels and declarations⟩ confirmation, through the provision of objective evidence, that specified requirements have been fulfilled

[JIS Q 14025:2008]

⟨greenhouse gases⟩ systematic, independent and documented **process** (6.4) for the evaluation of a **GHG assertion** (9.5.2) against agreed **verification criteria** (5.12)

NOTE : In some cases, such as in first-party verifications, independence can be demonstrated by the freedom from responsibility for the development of GHG data and information.

[JIS Q 14065:2011]

5.2 verification body

NOTE : See **validation or verification body** (5.6).

5.3 verifier

⟨labels and declarations⟩ person or body that carries out **verification** (5.1)

[JIS Q 14025:2008]

⟨greenhouse gases⟩ competent and independent person, or persons, with responsibility for performing and reporting on the verification process

NOTE : This term can be used to refer to a **verification body** (5.2).

[JIS Q 14064-1:2010]

5.4 validation

⟨assessment⟩ **process** (6.4) whereby the **assessor** (5.31.4) determines that the information gathered is accurate, reliable, sufficient and appropriate to meet the objectives of the assessment

[JIS Q 14015:2002]

⟨greenhouse gases⟩ systematic, independent and documented **process** (6.4) for the evaluation of a **GHG assertion** (9.5.2) related to a **GHG project** (9.4.2) plan against agreed **validation criteria** (5.12)

NOTE : In some cases, such as in first-party validations, independence can be demonstrated by the freedom from responsibility for the development of GHG data and information.

[JIS Q 14065:2011]

5.5 validation body

NOTE : See **validation or verification body** (5.6).

5.6 validation or verification body

body that performs **validations** (5.4) or **verifications** (5.1) of **GHG assertions** (9.5.2) in accordance with this Standard

NOTE : A validation or verification body can be an individual.

[JIS Q 14065:2011]

5.7 validation or verification team

one or more **validators** (5.8) or **verifiers** (5.3) conducting a **validation** (5.4) or **verification** (5.1), supported if needed by **technical experts** (5.31.2)

NOTE 1 One validator or verifier of the validation or verification team is appointed as the validation or verification team leader.

NOTE 2 The validation or verification team may include validators-in-training or verifiers-in-training.

[JIS Q 14065:2011]

5.8 validator

competent and independent person or persons with responsibility for performing and reporting on the results of a **validation** (5.4)

[JIS Q 14065:2011]

5.9 accreditation

third-party attestation related to a **validation or verification body** (5.6) conveying formal demonstration of its competence to carry out specific **validation** (5.4) or **verification** (5.1) tasks

[JIS Q 14065:2011]

5.10 accreditation body

authoritative body that performs **accreditation** (5.9)

NOTE : The authority of an accreditation body is generally derived from government.

[JIS Q 14065:2011]

5.11 personnel

persons working with or on behalf of the **validation or verification body** (5.6)

[JIS Q 14065:2011]

5.12 validation criteria, verification criteria

policy, procedure or requirement used as a reference against which evidence is compared

NOTE : Validation or verification criteria may be established by governments, **GHG programmes** (9.4.1), voluntary reporting initiatives, standards or good practice guidance.

[JIS Q 14064-1:2010]

5.13 validation statement

formal written declaration to the **intended user** (9.7.2), following **validation** (5.4) of a **GHG project** (9.4.2) plan, which provides assurance on the statements in the **responsible party's** (9.7.1) **GHG assertion** (9.5.2)

[JIS Q 14065:2011]

5.14 verification statement

formal written declaration to the **intended user** (9.7.2), following **verification** (5.1), which provides assurance on the statements in the **responsible party's** (9.7.1) **GHG assertion** (9.5.2)

[JIS Q 14065:2011]

5.15 conflict of interest

situation in which, because of other activities or relationships, impartiality in performing **validation** (5.4) or **verification** (5.1) activities is or could be compromised

[JIS Q 14065:2011]

5.16 level of assurance

degree of assurance the **intended user** (9.7.2) requires in a **validation** (5.4) or **verification** (5.1)

NOTE 1 The level of assurance is used to determine the depth of detail that a **validator** (5.8) or **verifier** (5.3) designs into their validation or verification plan and sampling plan to determine if there are any material errors, omissions or misrepresentations.

NOTE 2 **JIS Q 14064-3** recognizes two levels of assurance, reasonable or limited, that result in differently worded validation or verification statements.

[JIS Q 14065:2011]

5.17 uncertainty

parameter associated with the result of quantification which characterizes the dispersion of the values that could be reasonably attributed to the quantified amount

NOTE : Uncertainty information typically specifies quantitative estimates of the likely or perceived dispersion of values and a qualitative description of the likely causes of the dispersion.

[JIS Q 14064-1:2010]

5.18 audit

systematic, independent and documented **process** (6.4) for obtaining **audit evidence** (5.21) and evaluating it objectively to determine the extent to which the **audit criteria** (5.20) are fulfilled

NOTE 1 **Internal audits** (5.18.1), sometimes called first-party audits, are conducted by, or on behalf of, the **organization** (3.4) itself for management review and other internal purposes (e.g. to confirm the effectiveness of the management system or to obtain information for the improvement of the management system), and may form the basis for an organization's self-declaration of conformity. In many cases, particularly in smaller organizations, independence can be demonstrated by the freedom from responsibility for the activity being audited or freedom from bias and conflict of interest.

NOTE 2 External audits include those generally termed second- and third-party audits. Second-party audits are conducted by parties having an interest in the organization, such as customers, or by other persons on their behalf. Third-party audits are conducted by external, independent auditing organizations, such as regulators or those providing certification.

NOTE 3 When two or more management systems of different disciplines (e.g. quality, environmental, occupational health and safety) are audited together, this is termed a combined audit.

NOTE 4 When two or more auditing organizations cooperate to audit a single **auditee** (5.28), this is termed a joint audit.

NOTE 5 Adapted from **JIS Q 9000:2006, 3.9.1.**

[JIS Q 19011:2012]