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Environmental statements and programmes for products — Environmental product declarations (EPDs)

Déclarations environnementales et programmes pour les produits — Déclarations environnementales de produits (DEP)

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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).

ISO draws attention to the possibility that the implementation of this document may involve the use of (a) patent(s). ISO takes no position concerning the evidence, validity or applicability of any claimed patent rights in respect thereof. As of the date of publication of this document, ISO had not received notice of (a) patent(s) which may be required to implement this document. However, implementers are cautioned that this may not represent the latest information, which may be obtained from the patent database available at www.iso.org/patents. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), see www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 207, *Environmental management*, Subcommittee SC 3, *Environmental labelling*, in collaboration with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN), in accordance with the Agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement).

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 14025:2006), which has been technically revised.

The main changes are as follows:

— the title has been updated;

— ISO/TS 14027 and ISO/TS 14029 have been added as normative references;

— new preferred terminology for critical concepts has been introduced and several original preferred terms have been deprecated including “environmental label”, “environmental declaration” and “Type III environmental declaration”;

— some of the content from Clauses 4, 5, 6 and 7 has been removed and transferred to the revised ISO 14020;

— a description of the concept of “additional environmental or other sustainability-related information” and how to include this type of information into an EPD has been added;

— Clause 8 on requirements for EPD types has been added;

— Annex C on the harmonization of PCRs and EPD programmes for EPD comparability in accordance with ISO/TS 14027 and ISO/TS 14029 has been added;

— EPD programme requirements on PCR review and aspects of verification to satisfy the demands of the marketplace have been added;

— requirements for new EPD tools, in recognition of the growing reliance on such tools to automate generation of EPDs, have been added.

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Introduction

0.1 This document contains principles, requirements and guidance for environmental product declaration (EPD) programmes and EPDs. EPDs provide quantified environmental information on the life cycle of a product that can support comparisons between products fulfilling the same function. EPDs:

— are provided by one or more organizations;

— are based on independently verified life cycle assessment (LCA) data, life cycle inventory analysis (LCI) data or information modules in accordance with ISO 14040 and ISO 14044 and, where relevant and available, additional environmental or other sustainability-related information;

— are developed using predetermined impact indicators and predetermined inventory indicators;

— are subject to the administration of a programme operator that acts objectively, avoiding any conflict of interest (e.g. a company or group of companies, industrial sector or trade association, public authorities or agencies, an independent scientific body, other organization).

0.2 EPDs are one type of environmental statement. The overall goals of environmental statements are to:

— communicate accurate information about environmental aspects or potential environmental impacts of products;

— encourage the demand for and supply of products that cause less stress on the environment;

— stimulate market-driven continual environmental improvement in products;

— where relevant, support compliance with regulation.

0.3 An EPD is not in itself a comparative assertion and does not declare the environmental preferability of a product.

0.4 EPD programmes following this document are required to ensure that both the supporting LCA data and the resulting EPDs undergo independent verification, either internal or external to the responsible party. This can, but does not necessarily, mean third-party verification except in the case of business-to-consumer EPDs, in which case this document requires that EPD programmes specify that all verifications be carried out as third-party verification.

0.5 Harmonization of general programme instructions (GPI) and particularly product category rules (PCR) is encouraged between EPD programmes to be aligned with the principle of comparability (see 4.3). This includes mutual recognition of rules with respect to PCR development, PCR review and verification procedures, administrative procedures and EPD format. To help ensure comparability of EPDs, programme operators are encouraged to work cooperatively to achieve harmonization of the programmes and PCRs and to develop mutual recognition arrangements (MRAs).

To support harmonization, two complementary documents have been published: ISO/TS 14027 and ISO/TS 14029. These supporting documents describe principles and requirements for PCR development and MRA, respectively, and are complementary to the related clauses in this document.

NOTE Practical guidance on harmonization of PCRs and EPD programmes in accordance with ISO/TS 14027 and ISO/TS 14029 in conjunction with this document can be found in Annex C.

0.6 The objective of this document is to harmonize the development and enhance the credibility of EPDs. The benefits of applying this document are:

a) increased opportunities for purchasers, potential purchasers and users of products to make informed comparisons of, and purchasing decisions related to, products;

b) to encourage improvement of the environmental performance of products;

c) to provide information for assessing the potential environmental impacts of products over their life cycle;

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d) accurate and verified EPDs that are not misleading;

e) increased potential for market forces to stimulate environmental improvements in production processes and products;

f) prevention or minimization of unwarranted EPDs and greenwashing;

g) reduction in marketplace confusion with other types of environmental statements and general certification of products that fulfil environmental or other sustainability-related requirements.

0.7 This document is one of the documents developed by ISO/TC 207/SC 3 that provide principles, requirements and guidance for different types of environmental statements about products. These documents include the following:

— ISO 14020, which provides common terms and definitions, principles and general requirements for all environmental statements (e.g. self-declared environmental claims, ecolabels, EPDs and footprint communications) and associated programmes that enable the communication of environmental aspects and environmental impacts of products.

— ISO 14021, which provides principles, requirements and guidance for environmental statements in the form of self-declared environmental claims.

— ISO 14024, which provides principles, requirements and guidance for environmental statements in the form of ecolabels.

— ISO 14025 (this document), which provides principles, requirements and guidance for environmental statements in the form of EPDs.

— ISO 14026, which provides principles, requirements and guidance for environmental statements in the form of footprint communications.

— ISO/TS 14027, which provides principles, requirements and guidance for PCR that support the use of LCA as a method to compile and evaluate information that is used as a basis for making environmental statements.

— ISO/TS 14029, which provides principles, requirements and guidance for the mutual recognition of EPDs, footprint communications and associated programmes.

0.8 Environmental statement programme operators are encouraged to cooperate and harmonize with each other, whenever relevant and applicable, to enhance the coherence of environmental statement programmes, at regional, national and international levels.

0.9 Figure 1 provides the existing structure of the documents on environmental statements developed by ISO/TC 207/SC 3 in graphic form.

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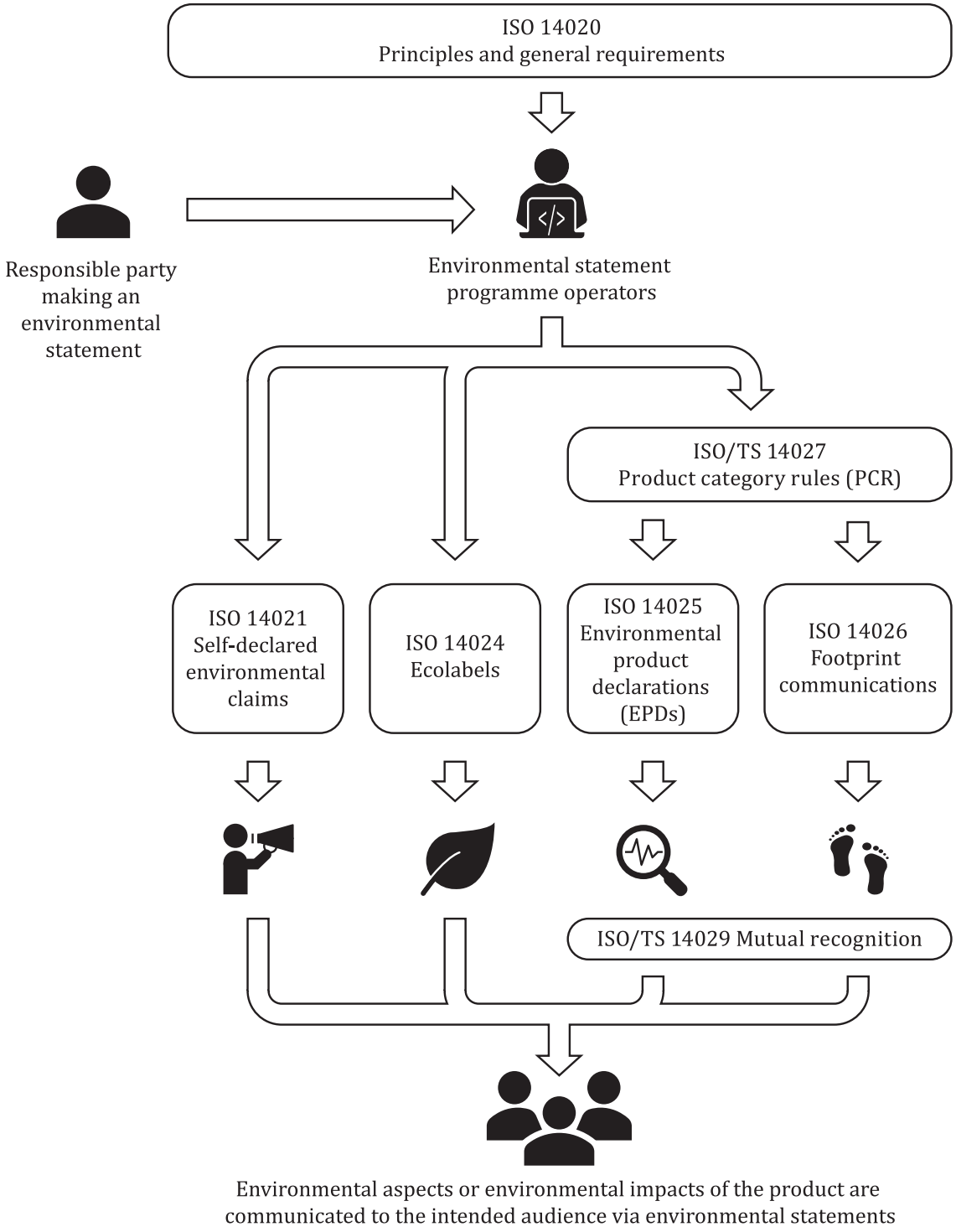


Figure 1 — Structure of documents on environmental statements developed by ISO/TC 207/SC 3

0.10 This document requires the user to apply the requirements in ISO 14020. Those requirements refer to the generic term “environmental statement”. When reading this document and ISO 14020 together, the generic term “environmental statement” in ISO 14020 can be interpreted as referring to the specific term included in this document, i.e. “environmental product declaration (EPD)”.

0.11 EPDs developed in accordance with this document are a type of environmental statement based on independently verified LCA data (see 0.1). As such, neither self-declared environmental claims developed under ISO 14021 nor ecolabels developed under ISO 14024 are considered EPDs or a type of EPD. The original terminology referring to Types I, II and III has been removed from all three documents and is no longer preferred.

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Environmental statements and programmes for products — Environmental product declarations (EPDs)

1 Scope

1.1 This document specifies principles and requirements and gives guidance on environmental product declaration (EPD) programmes and their associated EPDs. This document specifies the use of ISO 14040 and ISO 14044 on life cycle assessment (LCA) in the development of EPDs.

1.2 This document is applicable to EPD programmes and their associated EPDs that are intended to address the potential environmental impacts and environmental aspects of products, and which can also include related social and economic aspects in support of sustainable development.

NOTE 1 This document does not deal with social or economic LCA indicators.

NOTE 2 Related social and economic aspects of the products can be reported as additional sustainability-related information, where relevant and available.

1.3 This document provides requirements and guidance for the communication of the potential environmental impacts and environmental aspects of products to the intended audience of the EPD.

1.4 This document does not apply to sector-specific provisions, which are dealt with in other ISO documents. It is intended that sector-specific provisions in other ISO documents related to EPDs are based on and use the principles, requirements and guidance of this document.

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 14020:2022, *Environmental statements and programmes for products — Principles and general requirements*

ISO/TS 14027, *Environmental labels and declarations — Development of product category rules*

ISO/TS 14029, *Environmental statements and programmes for products — Mutual recognition of environmental product declarations (EPDs) and footprint communication programmes*

ISO 14040, *Environmental management — Life cycle assessment — Principles and framework*

ISO 14044, *Environmental management — Life cycle assessment — Requirements and guidelines*

ISO 14050, *Environmental management — Vocabulary*

3 Terms, definitions and abbreviated terms

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

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

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

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