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Environmental management — Life cycle assessment — Critical review processes and reviewer competencies

Management environnemental — Analyse du cycle de vie — Processus de revue critique et compétences des vérificateurs

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Foreword

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The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO 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 207, *Environmental management*, Subcommittee SC 5, *Life cycle assessment,* 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 first edition cancels and replaces ISO/TS 14071:2014, which has been technically revised.

The main changes are as follows:

— additional specifications on the review process;

— corrections of inconsistencies.

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

For life cycle assessment (LCA), critical review is the conformity assessment approach in accordance with ISO 14040 and ISO 14044. These standards contain the overarching requirements for critical review in concise form.

Based on these requirements, a common critical review practice emerged that satisfied interested parties. For the mandatory case of LCA studies intended to be used in comparative assertions intended to be disclosed to the public, the performance of a critical review is established as a key feature for the acceptance of the study by interested parties. However, even in the broad range of applications of LCA, for which a critical review is not mandatory, the commissioners of the LCA study often decide to perform a voluntary critical review to improve the robustness of their studies and to increase credibility.

It is one of the key features of critical review that it does not relate to an accreditation scheme, but ensures quality by making the individual reviewer personally responsible for the work and by giving priority to the content rather than the form.

Because of the increasing use of LCA itself, as well as the broader application in tools such as carbon footprinting or upcoming labelling initiatives, this document specifies the established critical review practice in a more comprehensive way, by providing additional requirements and guidance for conducting a critical review and ensuring the relevant competencies.

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Environmental management — Life cycle assessment — Critical review processes and reviewer competencies

1 Scope

This document specifies requirements and gives guidance for conducting a critical review of any type of life cycle assessment (LCA) study and the competencies required for the review. It provides additional requirements and guidance to ISO 14040 and ISO 14044.

This document provides:

— details of a critical review process, including clarification with regard to ISO 14044;

— guidance to deliver the required critical review process, linked to the goal of the LCA and its intended use;

— content and deliverables of the critical review process;

— guidance to improve the consistency, transparency, efficiency and credibility of the critical review process;

— the required competencies for the reviewer(s) (internal, external and panel member);

— the required competencies to be represented by the panel as a whole.

This document can be applicable to other standards that require independent review of LCA-based procedures and information (e.g. ISO 14045, ISO 14046, ISO 14025, ISO 14067), and can be adapted to the specific fields of application. Other reference standards can be included in the critical review process.

This document does not apply to

a) critical reviews performed prior to its publication, and

b) the applications of LCA (as illustrated in ISO 14040:2006, Figure 1).

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

ISO 14044:2006, *Environmental management — Life cycle assessment — Requirements and guidelines*

ISO 14045, *Environmental management — Eco-efficiency assessment of product systems — Principles, requirements and guidelines*

ISO 14046, *Environmental management — Water footprint — Principles, requirements and guidelines*

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

ISO 14072, *Environmental management — Life cycle assessment — Requirements and guidelines for organizational life cycle assessment*

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