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# Sustainability in buildings and civil engineering works — Carbon metric of an existing building during use stage —

## Part 1: Calculation, reporting and communication

*Développement durable dans les bâtiments et les ouvrages de génie civil — Métrique du carbone des bâtiments existants pendant la phase opérationnelle —*

*Partie 1: Calculs, rapports et communication*

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ISO copyright office
Ch. de Blandonnet 8 • CP 401
CH-1214 Vernier, Geneva, Switzerland
Tel. +41 22 749 01 11
Fax +41 22 749 09 47
copyright@iso.org
www.iso.org

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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).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see www.iso.org/patents).

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

For an explanation on 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 the following URL: www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 59, *Buildings and civil engineering works*, Subcommittee SC 17, *Sustainability in buildings and civil engineering works*.

This first edition of ISO 16745-1, together with ISO 16745-2, cancels and replaces ISO 16745:2015, of which it constitutes a minor revision.

ISO 16745:2015, Clause 7 has been transferred to ISO 16745-2 to keep the requirements for the verification of the carbon metric declaration independent of the requirements for the carbon metric calculation, reporting and communication, as well as other minor editorial modifications.

A list of all parts in the ISO 16745 series can be found on the ISO website.


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# Introduction

Buildings contribute approximately one-third of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. With its high share of emissions, the building and construction sector has the responsibility to take the global lead in implementing strategies to reduce GHG emissions. The building and construction sector has more potential and opportunity to deliver quick, deep, and cost-effective GHG mitigation than any other sectors. Carbon dioxide ($CO_2$) emissions contribute to global warming, which is one of the most recognized environmental impacts attributable to buildings.

In this context, measurement and reporting of GHG emissions from existing buildings are critical for enabling significant and cost-effective GHG mitigation. Currently, there has not been a globally agreed method established to measure, report, and verify potential reductions of GHG emissions from existing buildings in a consistent and comparable way. If such a method existed, it could be used as a universal tool for measurement and reporting of GHG emissions, providing the foundation for accurate performance baselines of buildings to be drawn, national targets to be set, and carbon trading to occur on a level playing field.

In principle, accurate and precise reporting can only be achieved if GHG emissions (and removals) from all life cycle stages of buildings are measured and/or quantified. However, not all countries in the world have sufficient capacity or resources to use and apply life cycle assessment (LCA) methodologies.

Respecting the need for collaboration on a global scale, the need exists for a metric that is usable not only in countries with sufficient number of experts and a precise database, but also in those countries where experts' services are limited and databases have considerable gaps. For instance, with the potential for global scale carbon trading within building-related sectors, a method that is consistently usable in both the well-developed and developing world is needed.

Operational energy use in buildings typically accounts for 70 % to 80 % of energy use over the building life cycle. Therefore, the operating stage of the building's life cycle is the focus of measurement and reporting of direct and indirect GHG emissions.

This document aims to set out a globally applicable common method of measuring and reporting of associated GHG emissions (and removals) attributable to existing buildings, by providing requirements for the determining and reporting of a carbon metric(s) of a building.

The carbon metric is a measure (a partial carbon footprint) that is based on energy use data and related building information for an existing building in operation. It provides information related to the calculation of GHG emissions and can be used as an environmental indicator. Using this approach, the metric and its protocol can be applied by all stakeholders in both developing and well-developed countries, where building energy consumption and other relevant data can be retrieved or collected, making it useful and globally transferable.

This document aims to be practical for many stakeholders (i.e. not only for the building profession), who are expected to use the carbon metric of a building as reference for decision making in their business activities, governmental policies, and as a baseline for benchmarking.

The simplicity of approach provides applicability at all scales, ranging from cities and building portfolios to individual buildings.

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# Sustainability in buildings and civil engineering works — Carbon metric of an existing building during use stage —

# Part 1: Calculation, reporting and communication

## 1 Scope

This document provides requirements for determining and reporting a carbon metric of an existing building, associated with the operation of the building. It sets out methods for the calculation, reporting and communication of a set of carbon metrics for GHG emissions arising from the measured energy use during the operation of an existing building, the measured user-related energy use, and other relevant GHG emissions and removals. These carbon metrics are separated into three measures designated CM1, CM2, and CM3 (see 5.1.1).

This document follows the principles set out in ISO 15392 and those described in Clause 4. Where deviations from the principles in ISO 15392 occur, or where more specific principles are stated, this document takes precedence.

The carbon metrics CM1 and CM2 are not quantified based on life cycle assessment (LCA) methodology. Carbon metric CM3 may include partial quantification based on the results of LCA.

This document does not include any method of modelling of the operational energy use of the building but follows the conventions provided by other International Standards, as given in relevant clauses.

This document is not an assessment method for evaluating the overall environmental performance of a building or a building-rating tool and does not include value-based interpretation of the carbon metric(s) through weightings or benchmarking.

This document deals with the application of the carbon metric(s) for an existing building, either residential or commercial, or a building complex. It does not include provisions for regional and/or national building stock.

## 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 6707-1:2004, *Buildings and civil engineering works — Vocabulary — Part 1: General terms*

ISO 12655, *Energy performance of buildings — Presentation of measured energy use of buildings*

ISO 14050, *Environmental management — Vocabulary*

ISO 15392, *Sustainability in building construction — General principles*

ISO/TR 16344:2012, *Energy performance of buildings — Common terms, definitions and symbols for the overall energy performance rating and certification*

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## 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO 6707-1, ISO 12655, ISO 14050, ISO 15392, ISO/TR 16344 and the following apply.

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

— IEC Electropedia: available at http://www.electropedia.org/

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

**3.1**
**building service**
service provided by *technical building systems* (3.19) and by appliances to provide acceptable indoor environment conditions, domestic hot water, illumination levels, and other services related to the use of the building

Note 1 to entry: For the purposes of this document, the following terms are used as per their definitions in the following reference documents: *appliances* (ISO 6707-1:2004, 5.4.7) and *building* (ISO 6707-1:2004, 3.1.3).

[SOURCE: ISO 52000-1:2017, 3.3.3, modified – Note 1 to entry has been added.]

**3.2**
**carbon intensity**
*carbon metric* (3.3) expressed in relation to a specific reference unit related to the function of the building

Note 1 to entry: For the purposes of this document, the following terms are used as per their definitions in the following reference documents: *function* (ISO 15686-10:2010, 3.10) and *building* (ISO 6707-1:2004, 3.1.3).

Note 2 to entry: Examples of reference units may include per unit area, per person, per kilobyte, per unit output, and per GDP.

**3.3**
**carbon metric**
sum of annual greenhouse gas emissions and removals, expressed as $CO_2$ equivalents, associated with the use stage of a building

Note 1 to entry: For the purposes of this document, the following terms are used as per their definitions in the following reference documents: *greenhouse gas emissions* (ISO 14064-1:2006, 2.5), *removals* (ISO 14064-1:2006, 2.6), *$CO_2$ equivalents* (ISO 14064-1:2006, 2.19) and *building* (ISO 6707-1:2004, 3.1.3).

**3.4**
**cooling**
removal of latent and/or sensible heat

[SOURCE: ISO 16818:2008, 3.47]

**3.5**
**delivered energy**
*energy* (3.6), expressed per *energy carrier* (3.7), supplied to the *technical building systems* (3.19) through the *system boundary* (3.18), to satisfy the uses taken into account [heating, *cooling* (3.4), *ventilation* (3.20), domestic hot water, lighting, appliances, etc.], or to produce electricity

Note 1 to entry: For the purposes of this document, the term *appliances* is used as per its definition in ISO 6707-1:2004, 5.4.7.

Note 2 to entry: Delivered energy can be calculated for defined energy uses or it can be measured.

[SOURCE: ISO/TR 16344:2012, 2.1.33, modified – Note 1 related to active solar and wind energy systems has been deleted.]


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**3.6**
**energy**
capacity for doing work; having several forms that may be transformed from one to another, such as thermal (heat), mechanical (work), electrical, or chemical

[SOURCE: ISO 16818:2008, 3.74]

**3.7**
**energy carrier**
substance or phenomenon that can be used to produce mechanical work or heat or to operate chemical or physical processes

Note 1 to entry: For the purposes of this document, the term *heat* is used as per its definition in ISO 16818:2008, 3.117.

Note 2 to entry: The energy content of *fuels* (3.10) is given by their *gross calorific value* (ISO/TR 16344:2012, 2.1.78).

[SOURCE: ISO/TR 16344:2012, 2.1.46]

**3.8**
**energy source**
source from which useful *energy* (3.6) can be extracted or recovered either directly or by means of a conversion or transformation process

EXAMPLE Oil or gas fields, coal mines, sun, wind, the ground (geothermal energy), the ocean (wave energy, ocean thermal energy), forests, etc.

[SOURCE: ISO 52000-1:2017, 3.4.15]

**3.9**
**exported energy**
*energy* (3.6), expressed per *energy carrier* (3.7), delivered by the *technical building systems* (3.19) through the *system boundary* (3.18) and used outside the system boundary

Note 1 to entry: It can be specified by generation types [e.g. combined heat and power (CHP), photovoltaic (PV)] in order to apply different weighting factors.

[SOURCE: ISO/TR 16344:2012, 2.1.72, modified – Note 2 has been deleted.]

**3.10**
**fuel**
material that can be used to produce heat or generate power by combustion

Note 1 to entry: For the purposes of this document, the term *heat* is used as per its definition in ISO 16818:2008, 3.117.

[SOURCE: ISO/TR 16344:2012, 2.1.74]

**3.11**
**functional equivalent**
quantified functional requirements and/or technical requirements for a building or part thereof for use as a reference basis for comparison

Note 1 to entry: For the purposes of this document, the term *building* is used as per its definition in ISO 6707-1:2004, 3.1.3.

[SOURCE: ISO 21931-1:2010, 3.7, modified – a reference to part of a building has been added.]

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**3.12**
**greenhouse gas emission coefficient**
coefficient that describes the amount of a specific greenhouse gas that is released from doing a certain activity, such as burning one tonne of *fuel* (3.10) in a furnace

Note 1 to entry: For the purposes of this document, the term *greenhouse gas* is used as per its definition in ISO 14064-1:2006, 2.1.

Note 2 to entry: In general, GHG emission coefficients from specific *energy consumption* (ISO 50001:2011, 3.7) are quantified based on *GHG emission factors* (ISO 14064-1:2006, 2.7) for use of the *energy* (3.6).

Note 3 to entry: Greenhouse gas emission coefficients can differ by year.

**3.13**
**greenhouse gas reservoir**
physical unit or component of the biosphere, geosphere, or hydrosphere with the capability to store or accumulate a GHG removed from the atmosphere by a *greenhouse gas sink* (3.14) or a GHG captured from a *greenhouse gas source* (3.15)

Note 1 to entry: For the purposes of this document, the term *GHG* is used as per its definition in ISO 14064-1:2006, 2.1.

Note 2 to entry: The total mass of carbon contained in a GHG reservoir at a specified point in time could be referred to as the carbon stock of the reservoir.

Note 3 to entry: A GHG reservoir can transfer greenhouse gases to another GHG reservoir.

Note 4 to entry: The collection of a GHG from a GHG source before it enters the atmosphere and storage of the collected GHG in a GHG reservoir could be referred to as GHG capture and storage.

[SOURCE: ISO 14064-1:2006, 2.4]

**3.14**
**greenhouse gas sink**
physical unit or process that removes a GHG from the atmosphere

Note 1 to entry: For the purposes of this document, the term *GHG* is used as per its definition in ISO 14064-1:2006, 2.1.

[SOURCE: ISO 14064-1:2006, 2.3]

**3.15**
**greenhouse gas source**
physical unit or process that releases a GHG into the atmosphere

Note 1 to entry: For the purposes of this document, the term *GHG* is used as per its definition in ISO 14064-1:2006, 2.1.

[SOURCE: ISO 14064-1:2006, 2.2]

**3.16**
**gross floor area**
sum of the floor areas of the conditioned spaces within the building, including basements, mezzanine and intermediate floor tiers, and penthouses, of headroom height 2,2 m or as specified in national or regional codes and standards

Note 1 to entry: For the purposes of this document, the following terms are used as per their definitions in the following documents: *conditioned spaces* (ISO 16818:2008, 3.38) and *building* (ISO 6707-1:2004, 3.1.3).

Note 2 to entry: It is measured from the exterior faces of exterior walls or from the centreline of walls separating buildings, but excluding covered walkways, open roofed-over areas, porches and similar spaces, pipe trenches, exterior terraces or steps, chimneys, roof overhangs, and similar features.

[SOURCE: ISO/TR 16344:2012, 2.1.79]


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**3.17**
**renewable energy**
*energy* (3.6) from an *energy source* (3.8) that is not depleted by extraction

[SOURCE: ISO/TR 16344:2012, 2.1.123, modified – specific reference to energy source has been added and the examples and explanatory note have been removed.]

**3.18**
**system boundary**
boundary that includes within it all areas associated with a building (both inside and outside the building) where *energy* (3.6) is consumed or produced

Note 1 to entry: For the purposes of this document, the term *building* is used as per its definition in ISO 6707-1:2004, 3.1.3.

Note 2 to entry: Inside the system boundary, the system losses are taken into account explicitly, while outside the system boundary, they are taken into account in the conversion factor.

[SOURCE: ISO/TR 16344:2012, 2.1.142]

**3.19**
**technical building system**
technical equipment for heating, *cooling* (3.4), *ventilation* (3.20), humidification, dehumidification, domestic hot water, lighting, building automation and control and electricity production

Note 1 to entry: A technical building system can refer to one or to several *building services* (3.1) [e.g. heating, heating and domestic hot water, and indoor transportation (e.g. escalator, elevator)].

Note 2 to entry: A technical building system is composed of different sub-systems.

Note 3 to entry: Electricity production can include *cogeneration* (ISO 52000-1:2017, 3.3.5), wind power and photovoltaic (PV) systems.

[SOURCE: ISO 52000-1:2017, 3.3.13, modified – indoor transportation has been added to Note 1 to entry.]

**3.20**
**ventilation**
process of supplying or removing air by natural means or mechanical means to or from a space for the purpose of controlling air contaminant levels, humidity, odours, or temperature within the space

[SOURCE: ISO 16818:2008, 3.242]

# 4 Principles

## 4.1 General

The application of the following principles is fundamental to ensuring that GHG-related information presented through the carbon metric represents a true and fair measure. These principles provide the basis for the application of the requirements in this document by the organization or individual determining the carbon metric.

## 4.2 Completeness

Include all relevant GHG emissions and removals (see 5.1) that provide a significant contribution to the carbon metric.

## 4.3 Consistency

Apply assumptions, methods, and data in the same way throughout the carbon metric determination to arrive at conclusions in accordance with the needs of the intended user and intended use (see 5.1).

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