
**Water efficiency labelling programmes
– Requirements with guidance for
implementation**



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ISO copyright office
CP 401 • Ch. de Blandonnet 8
CH-1214 Vernier, Geneva
Phone: +41 22 749 01 11
Email: copyright@iso.org
Website: www.iso.org

Published in Switzerland

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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 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 Project Committee ISO/PC 316, *Water efficient products - Rating*.

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.

Introduction

The purpose of ISO 31600 is to provide a set of best practices and guidance for the preparation and implementation of a water efficiency labelling programme for plumbing products and water using appliances. A key focus is to provide the criteria for developing countries to establish an effective water efficiency labelling standard that will save water resources.

This project was approved on the basis that consumer empowerment through the communication of a product's water efficiency is a proven way of saving both water and energy. Several countries around the world already have well-established and effective water efficiency labelling programmes which empower consumers to make choices favouring more water efficient fixtures and appliances without compromising on human hygiene and sanitation. These existing labelling programmes were consulted in the development of this document.

ISO 31600 aims to globally encourage the development of national standards for water efficiency labelling, which will further lead to development and marketing of water efficient products, and enable consumers to make an informed choice, positively influencing manufacturers to improve the performance of their products through consumer demand. This document does not seek to establish ways to use water efficiency labelling in policies or programmes. The intention is to provide an understanding of the essential requirements for the development of an effective water efficiency labelling programme.

This document refers to existing national standards for the determination of water consumption and other important test procedures and requirements that form the critical underpinnings of a water efficiency labelling programme. Countries without national standards for products may formulate their own national standard either by adopting a national standard from a supporting country or by preparing an indigenous standard, to meet the requirements in [Clause 4](#).

NOTE National regulations can also apply.

This document contains five informative annexes, with [Annex A](#) providing suggested universal tests for the determination of water consumption and [Annexes B](#) to [E](#) providing descriptions of a number of existing schemes/programmes. Countries that do not have an existing water efficiency labelling programme may consider these examples to select and adopt those best suited for their markets and conditions when developing their own water efficiency labelling programme.

Application of this document presupposes awareness of water efficiency programmes and regulations in the applicable country.

An overview of how to use this document, including the pathway to demonstrate conformance, is provided in [Figure 1](#).

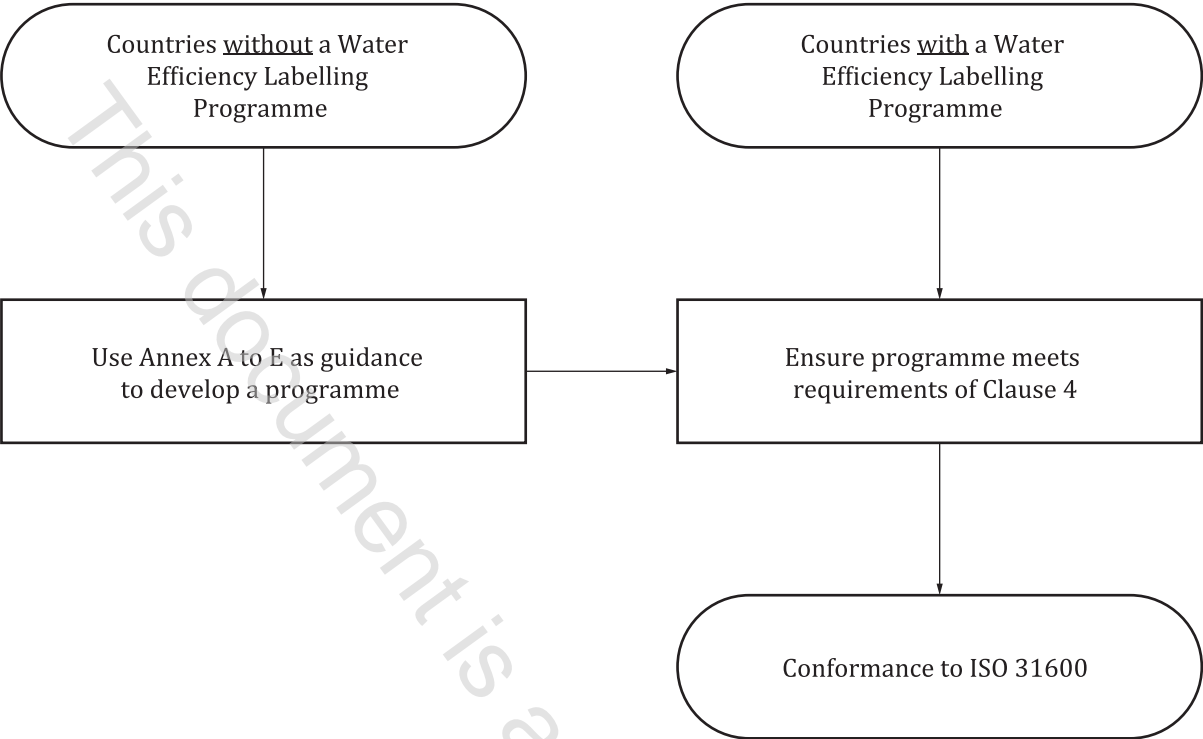


Figure 1 — Pathway to ISO 31600 conformance

Water efficiency labelling programmes – Requirements with guidance for implementation

1 Scope

This document specifies requirements for a water efficiency labelling programme for plumbing products and water using appliances along with guidance for their implementation.

This document applies to the following products:

- a) showers;
- b) tap (faucet) equipment;
- c) flow regulators (flow controllers);
- d) water closet (toilet) equipment;
- e) urinal equipment;
- f) dishwashers;
- g) clothes washing machines;
- h) the dryer function of combination washer/dryers, where they use water to dry a load.

2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions 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 General terms

3.1.1

water efficiency

accomplishment of a function, task, process, service or result, with the minimum amount of water needed for the safe operation of the product

[SOURCE: ISO 24513:2019, 3.4.7, modified — At the end of the definition, "practicable" has been replaced by "needed for the safe operation of the product".]