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NATIONAL FOREWORD

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English version

Environmental labels and declarations - Self-declared environmental claims (Type II environmental labelling) (ISO 14021:1999)

Marquages et déclarations environnementaux -Autodéclarations environnementales (Etiquetage de type II) (ISO 14021:1999) Umweltkennzeichnungen und -deklarationen -Umweltbezogene Anbietererklärungen (Umweltkennzeichnung Typ II) (ISO 14021:1999)

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EUROPEAN COMMITTEE FOR STANDARDIZATION COMITÉ EUROPÉEN DE NORMALISATION EUROPÄISCHES KOMITEE FÜR NORMUNG

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Foreword

The text of the International Standard from Technical Committee ISO/TC 207 "Environmental management" of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) has been taken over as an European Standard by CEN/CMC.

This European Standard shall be given the status of a national standard, either by publication of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by February 2002, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by February 2002.

According to the CEN/CENELEC Internal Regulations, the national standards organizations of the following countries are bound to implement this European Standard: Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

Endorsement notice

The text of the International Standard ISO 14021:1999 has been approved by CEN as a European Standard without any modification.



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Introduction

The proliferation of environmental claims has created a need for environmental labelling standards which require that consideration be given to all relevant aspects of the life cycle of the product when such claims are developed.

Self-declared environmental claims may be made by manufacturers, importers, distributors, retailers or anyone else likely to benefit from such claims. Environmental claims made in regard to products may take the form of statements, symbols or graphics on product or package labels, or in product literature, technical bulletins, advertising, publicity, telemarketing, as well as digital or electronic media, such as the Internet.

In self-declared environmental claims, the assurance of reliability is essential. It is important that verification is properly conducted to avoid negative market effects such as trade barriers or unfair competition, which can arise from unreliable and deceptive environmental claims. The evaluation methodology used by those who make environmental claims should be clear, transparent, scientifically sound and documented so that those who purchase or may potentially purchase products can be assured of the validity of the claims



Environmental labels and declarations — Self-declared environmental claims (Type II environmental labelling)

1 Scope

This International Standard specifies requirements for self-declared environmental claims, including statements, symbols and graphics, regarding products. It further describes selected terms commonly used in environmental claims and gives qualifications for their use. This International Standard also describes a general evaluation and verification methodology for self-declared environmental claims and specific evaluation and verification methods for the selected claims in this standard.

This International Standard does not preclude, override, or in any way change, legally required environmental information, claims or labelling, or any other applicable legal requirements.

2 Normative references

The following normative documents contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this International Standard. For dated references, subsequent amendments to, or revisions of, any of these publications do not apply. However, parties to agreements based on this International Standard are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent editions of the normative documents indicated below. For undated references, the latest edition of the normative document referred to applies. Members of ISO and IEC maintain registers of currently valid International Standards.

ISO 7000, Graphical symbols for use on equipment -- Index and synopsis.

ISO 14020:1998, Environmental labels and declarations — General principles.

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this International Standard, the following terms and definitions apply.

3.1 General terms

3.1.1

coproduct

any two or more products from the same unit process

[ISO 14041:1998]

3.1.2

environmental aspect

element of an organization's activities or products that can interact with the environment

3.1.3

environmental claim

statement, symbol or graphic that indicates an environmental aspect of a product, a component or packaging

NOTE An environmental claim may be made on product or packaging labels, through product literature, technical bulletins, advertising, publicity, telemarketing, as well as through digital or electronic media such as the Internet.