



GUIDE 64

Guide for the inclusion of environmental aspects in product standards

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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.

ISO guides are intended essentially for internal use in ISO committees or in some cases for the guidance of member bodies when dealing with matters that would not normally be the subject of an International Standard.

ISO Guide 64 was drawn up by Technical Committee ISO/TC 207, *Environmental management*, and was approved by ISO and IEC national bodies.

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Introduction

Every product has some impact on the environment during its manufacture, distribution, use or disposal. These impacts may range from slight to significant; they may be short-term or long-term; and they may occur at the global, regional or local level. Provisions in product standards may have a significant influence on the extent of these environmental impacts.

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Guide for the inclusion of environmental aspects in product standards

1 Scope

1.1 This Guide covers the consideration of environmental impacts in product standards. It is intended for standard writers; its purpose is

- a) to raise awareness that provisions in product standards can affect the environment in both negative and positive ways;
- b) to outline the relationship between product standards and the environment;
- c) to help avoid provisions in product standards that may lead to adverse environmental impacts;
- d) to emphasize that addressing environmental aspects during the development of product standards is a complex process and requires balancing competing priorities;
- e) to recommend the use of life-cycle thinking and recognized scientific techniques when addressing environmental aspects of a product being standardized.

1.2 In order to achieve the purposes listed in 1.1, this Guide

- a) sets forth some general considerations that should be taken into account when developing product standards that achieve a proper balance between product function and environmental impacts;
- b) outlines ways in which provisions in product standards may affect the environment during the stages of a product's life cycle;
- c) addresses techniques for identifying and assessing the environmental impacts of provisions in product standards;
- d) highlights some ways to reduce adverse environmental impacts resulting from provisions in product standards.

To reflect the diversity of environmental impacts that products can have, this Guide may need to be supplemented by sectoral guides.

2 References

ISO 14001:1996, *Environmental management systems — Specification with guidance for use*

ISO 14040 —,¹ *Environmental management — Life cycle assessment — Principles and framework*

ISO/IEC Guide 2:1996, *Standardization and related activities — General vocabulary*

IEC Guide 109:1995, *Environmental aspects — Inclusion in electrotechnical product standards*

3 Definitions

For the purposes of this Guide, the following definitions apply.

3.1 standard writer

any person taking part in the preparation of standards

3.2 environmental aspect

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

NOTE — A significant environmental aspect is an environmental aspect that has or can have a significant environmental impact.

[ISO 14001]

3.3 environmental impact

any change to the environment, whether adverse or beneficial, wholly or partially resulting from an organization's activities, products or services

[ISO 14001]

3.4 life cycle

consecutive and interlinked stages of a product system, from raw material acquisition or generation of natural resources to the final disposal

[ISO 14040]

¹ To be published.