

English Version

Textiles and textile products - Self-declared environmental claims - Use of the terms

Textiles et produits textiles - Autodéclarations environnementales - Utilisation des termes

Textilien und textile Erzeugnisse - Umweltbezogene Anbietererklärung - Verwendung von Begriffen

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European foreword

This document (CEN/TS 16822:2015) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 248 "Textiles and textile products", the secretariat of which is held by BSI.

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Introduction

This Technical Specification has been written to help companies within the textile supply chain to define self-declared environmental claims for textile products based on accurate and verifiable information and to harmonize the use of self-declared environmental claims and, therefore, to promote to the final consumer the purchase of textile products with less negative environmental impact and to increase environmental consciousness.

It is essential that the self-declared environmental claims for textile products are reliable, based on a clear, transparent, accurate and documented methodology.

The self-declared environmental claims for textile products can be carried out by any entity from the textile chain, including manufacturers, importers, distributors, retailers, etc.

In many sectors, including the textile sector, the offers of "ecological" products are numerous and their number is increasing. The environment is now the spot light on which many companies focus their strategy.

However, this tendency leads to a proliferation of claims about textile products and these claims are sometimes difficult to understand correctly, such as "sustainable", "responsible", "organic", "natural", "biodegradable", or may even be abusive, for example "greenwashing".

The purpose of this Technical Specification is to answer the following questions: What is the meaning of these terms and what can they really guarantee? How can we know exactly the environmental characteristics of the textile products concerned? What are the practical conditions for using these terms?

The environmental claims for textile products may take the form of statements, symbols or graphics on product or package labels, or in product literature such as technical bulletins, company advertising, promotional material, etc.

1 Scope

This Technical Specification establishes guidelines for the development and use of self-declared environmental claims for textiles (e.g. fibres, yarns, fabrics), textile products (e.g. clothing) and textile components of products (e.g. upholstery fabric in furniture), which includes principles, methodology and rules for some terms commonly used in environmental claims.

This Technical Specification does not provide any substitute for any legal requirements applicable to textile products, related to environmental information, environmental claims or labelling, or any other legal requirement.

2 Normative references

The following documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

EN ISO 14006, *Environmental management systems - Guidelines for incorporating ecodesign (ISO 14006)*

EN ISO 14021:2001¹⁾, *Environmental labels and declarations — Self-declared environmental claims (Type II environmental labelling)*

EN ISO 14040:2006, *Environmental management - Life cycle assessment - Principles and framework (ISO 14040:2006)*

EN ISO 14044, *Environmental management - Life cycle assessment - Requirements and guidelines (ISO 14044)*

CEN ISO/TS 14067, *Greenhouse gases - Carbon footprint of products - Requirements and guidelines for quantification and communication (ISO/TS 14067)*

3 Terms and definitions

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

3.1

textile product

term covering "textiles", textile products and "textile components of products"

3.2

environmental claim

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

[SOURCE: EN ISO 14021]

Note 1 to entry: 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 [EN ISO 14021]. Some brand names or visual drawings which call to mind the protection of the environment may be considered as environmental claims.

1) This document is currently impacted by the stand-alone amendment EN ISO 14021:2001/A1:2011.