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Tourism and related services — Guidelines on developing environmental specifications for accommodation establishments

Tourisme et services connexes — Lignes directrices pour l'élaboration de spécifications environnementales pour les hébergements

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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).

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For an explanation on 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.

The committee responsible for this document is Technical Committee ISO/TC 228, *Tourism and related services.*

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Introduction

Accommodation establishments exist in nearly every habitat in the world. While many impacts, such as energy and water consumption, are universal, the location of the accommodation establishment determines the priority and type of impacts to be considered. A hotel in the desert, on a small island or in a traditional resort can have greater impact on water resources than one in a rain forest. A building in the Arctic needs to consider protection of the permafrost from melting beneath the buildings. A lodge in the African savannah needs to consider its effect on wildlife, just as a resort hotel on the beach needs to consider the effect of its lighting on nesting sea turtles.

Because of the diversity of habitats in the world, these effects are not detailed in this Technical Specification. This Technical Specification is intended to be used as a guideline for the development of national and private specifications that are oriented towards the special conditions prevailing in each country, while considering the general impacts of tourists and accommodation establishments. In order to reduce their environmental impacts, accommodation establishments are encouraged to follow good practices which do not compromise health and safety practices and requirements.

The aim of this Technical Specification is not to create a new label, but to harmonize existing criteria. The Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC) has contributed to the development of this Technical Specification. The criteria specified in 4.2 are based on the environmental part of the GSTC Criteria for Hotels and Tour Operators.

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1 Scope

This Technical Specification provides guidelines for developing specifications aimed at reducing the negative impacts and increasing the positive impacts of accommodation establishments on the environment.

This Technical Specification does not apply to campsites.

2 Terms and definitions

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

2.1
accommodation
provision of at least sleeping and sanitary facilities

[SOURCE: ISO 18513:2003, 2.1.1]

2.2
accommodation establishment
establishment providing tourist *accommodation* (2.1)

2.3
additionality
difference between what an individual consumes at home and in an *accommodation establishment* (2.2)

2.4
environment
surroundings in which an *accommodation establishment* (2.2) operates, including air, water, land, natural resources, flora, fauna, humans, and their interrelationships

Note 1 to entry: Surroundings in this context extend from within an accommodation establishment to the global system.

[SOURCE: ISO 14001:2015, 3.2.1, modified]

2.5
environmental aspect
element of an *accommodation establishment's* (2.2) activities or products or services that can interact with the *environment* (2.4)

Note 1 to entry: A significant environmental aspect has or can have a significant *environmental impact* (2.6).

[SOURCE: ISO 14001:2015, 3.2.2, modified]

2.6
environmental impact
change to the *environment* (2.4), whether adverse or beneficial, wholly or partially resulting from an *accommodation establishment's* (2.2) *environmental aspects* (2.5)

[SOURCE: ISO 14001:2015, 3.2.4, modified]

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