

ICS 13.020.60

English Version

**Environmental management - Life cycle assessment -  
Critical review processes and reviewer competencies:  
Additional requirements and guidelines to ISO  
14044:2006 (ISO/TS 14071:2014)**

Management environnemental - Analyse du cycle de  
vie - Processus de revue critique et compétences des  
vérificateurs: Exigences et lignes directrices  
supplémentaires à l'ISO 14044:2006 (ISO/TS  
14071:2014)

Umweltmanagement - Ökobilanz - Prozesse der  
Kritischen Prüfung und Kompetenzen der Prüfer:  
Zusätzliche Anforderungen und Anleitungen zu ISO  
14044:2006 (ISO/TS 14071:2014)

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## European foreword

The text of ISO/TS 14071:2014 has been prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 207 “Environmental management” of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and has been taken over as CEN ISO/TS 14071:2016.

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### Endorsement notice

The text of ISO/TS 14071:2014 has been approved by CEN as CEN ISO/TS 14071:2016 without any modification.

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## Introduction

For life cycle assessment, critical review is the conformity assessment approach according to ISO 14040 and ISO 14044. These standards contain the overarching requirements for critical review in concise form.

Based on these requirements, a common critical review practice emerged that satisfied stakeholders. For the mandatory case of life cycle assessment (LCA) studies intended to be used in comparative assertions intended to be disclosed to the public, the performance of a critical review is established as key feature for the acceptance of the study by stakeholders. However, even in the broad range of applications of LCA, for which a critical review is not mandatory, the commissioners of the LCA study often decide today to perform a voluntary critical review to improve the robustness of their studies and to increase credibility.

It is one of the key features of critical review that it does not relate to an accreditation scheme, but ensures quality by making the individual reviewer personally responsible for the work and by giving priority to the content rather than the form.

Because of the increasing use of LCA itself, as well as the broader application in tools like carbon footprinting or upcoming labelling initiatives, it is the intention of this Technical Specification to document the established critical review practice in a more comprehensive way by providing additional requirements and guidelines for conducting a critical review and the competencies required.

This Technical Specification might be applicable to other standards that require independent review of LCA-based procedures and information (e.g. ISO 14045, ISO 14025, ISO/TS 14067), but might need to be adapted to the specific fields of application. Other reference standards can be included in the critical review process.

This Technical Specification does not apply to critical reviews performed prior to its publication.

# Environmental management — Life cycle assessment — Critical review processes and reviewer competencies: Additional requirements and guidelines to ISO 14044:2006

## 1 Scope

This Technical Specification provides additional specifications to ISO 14040:2006 and ISO 14044:2006. It provides requirements and guidelines for conducting a critical review of any type of LCA study and the competencies required for the review.

This Technical Specification provides:

- details of a critical review process, including clarification with regard to ISO 14044:2006;
- guidelines to deliver the required critical review process, linked to the goal of the life cycle assessment (LCA) and its intended use;
- content and deliverables of the critical review process;
- guidelines to improve the consistency, transparency, efficiency and credibility of the critical review process;
- the required competencies for the reviewer(s) (internal, external and panel member);
- the required competencies to be represented by the panel as a whole.

This Technical Specification does not cover the applications of LCA (as illustrated in ISO 14040:2006, Figure 1).

## 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.

ISO 14040:2006, *Environmental management — Life cycle assessment — Principles and framework*

ISO 14044:2006, *Environmental management — Life cycle assessment — Requirements and guidelines*

## 3 Terms and definitions

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

### 3.1

#### **independent internal expert**

competent person, employed in a full-time or part-time role the *commissioner of the LCA study* (3.4) or by the *practitioner of the LCA study* (3.6), but not involved in defining the scope or conducting the LCA study

Note 1 to entry: An expert is considered to be involved if he/she is part of the commissioner's or practitioner's project team.