
**Environmental management — Water
footprint — Illustrative examples on
how to apply ISO 14046**

*Management environnemental — Empreinte eau — Exemples
illustrant l'application de l'ISO 14046*

PROOF/ÉPREUVE



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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).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see www.iso.org/patents).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

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 207, *Environmental management*, Subcommittee SC 5, *Life cycle assessment*.

Introduction

Principles, requirements and guidelines for the quantification and reporting of a water footprint are given in ISO 14046. The water footprint assessment according to ISO 14046 can be conducted as a stand-alone assessment, where only impacts related to water are assessed, or as part of a life cycle assessment. In addition, a variety of modelling choices and approaches are possible depending on the goal and scope of the assessment. The water footprint can be reported as a single value or as a profile of impact category indicator results.

This document provides illustrative examples on the application of ISO 14046 to further enhance understanding of ISO 14046 and to facilitate its widespread application.

At the time of the publication of this document, water footprint assessment methods are developing rapidly. Practitioners are encouraged to be aware of the latest developments when undertaking water footprint studies.

These examples are for illustrative purposes only and some of the data used are fictitious. The data are not intended to be used outside of the context of this document.

The Bibliography might contain references to methods that are not fully compliant with ISO 14046:2014.

Environmental management — Water footprint — Illustrative examples on how to apply ISO 14046

1 Scope

This document provides illustrative examples of how to apply ISO 14046, in order to assess the water footprint of products, processes and organizations based on life cycle assessment.

The examples are presented to demonstrate particular aspects of the application of ISO 14046 and therefore do not present all of the details of an entire water footprint study report as required by ISO 14046.

NOTE The examples are presented as different ways of applying ISO 14046 and do not preclude alternative ways of calculating the water footprint, provided they are in accordance with ISO 14046.

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 14046:2014, *Environmental management — Water footprint — Principles, requirements and guidelines*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO 14046:2014 apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <http://www.iso.org/obp>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <http://www.electropedia.org/>

4 Symbols and abbreviated terms

4.1 Symbols

α	characterization factor
C	concentration
E	emission
F	footprint
R	rainfall
V	volume