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English Version

## Mechanical products - Conditions to set up environmental communication models by recognizing sectorial particularities

Produits mécaniques - Lignes directrices pour la sélection de modèles de communication environnementaux par la reconnaissance des particularités sectorielles

Mechanische Produkte - Leitfaden für die Auswahl von Modellen der Umweltkommunikation

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EUROPEAN COMMITTEE FOR STANDARDIZATION  
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## European foreword

This document (CEN/TR 17004:2016) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 406 "Mechanical products - Ecodesign methodology", the secretariat of which is held by AFNOR.

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## Introduction

The European mechanical sector can find opportunities in producing rules for environmental product declaration from such perspectives as business opportunities, financial perspectives, sectorial consistency and public image.

It allows companies in the mechanical field to address current and anticipate future demands coming from clients or markets on the environmental efficiency of their products. In addition, they have sometimes to meet requirements of regulations in force or to come, and to measure products improvements in an eco-innovation project to enhance the attractiveness of the products.

Any communication on environmental criteria will have to be decided for each category of products by the corresponding Technical Committee.

Declaration of environmental performance of products can present several advantages:

- to promote existing eco-innovation efforts to clients and market;
- to create the market for green mechanical products;
- to ensure a fair competition on the market.

This document is aimed at:

- optimizing rules to reduce the cost of environmental communication;
- sharing the efforts needed to develop declaration rules;
- reducing the costs for information exchange within the supply chain.

As most of companies in the mechanical field sell products across Europe and around the world, it is impossible to evaluate and communicate environmental characteristics, taking into account all specific local rules and methodologies. That is why companies expect simple, pragmatic and unified rules.

## 1 Scope

This Technical Report provides guidance on how to apply existing communication models regarding environmental concerns to mechanical products.

Carrying out communication models for environmental performances of mechanical products can be relevant for several entities, e.g. single companies, enterprises, collective bodies (trade associations, standardization committees, etc.) and others.

On the one hand side, mechanical products represent a large variety of non-uniform items. They can be characterized by several properties distinguishing them from each other. On the other hand side, various generic standards/standard-series are existent addressing on how to communicate environmental issues.

This Technical Report provides a consistent approach on how to match a particular mechanical product with an appropriate generic standard.

In order to do so, this Technical Report contains criteria to cluster the great variety of mechanical products into categories. Based on this categorization, existing standards concerning environmental performance communication are evaluated with regards to their suitability.

## 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 14050, *Environmental management - Vocabulary (ISO 14050)*

## 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions from EN ISO 14050 and the following apply

### 3.1

#### **mechanical product**

product manufactured by enterprises from mechanical engineering and metalworking industry, such as capital goods (machinery, production systems, components), tools, household goods, optical parts, measuring instruments

[SOURCE: CEN/TS 16524:2013, 2.1]

### 3.2

#### **consumer goods**

goods that satisfy personal needs rather than those required for the production of other goods or services

### 3.3

#### **capital goods**

goods that are themselves utilized in the production of other goods rather than being sold to consumers