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**Buildings and civil engineering  
works — Vocabulary —**

**Part 3:  
Sustainability terms**

*Batiments et ouvrages de genie civil — Vocabulaire —  
Partie 3: Termes relatifs a la durabilite*



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ISO copyright office  
Ch. de Blandonnet 8 • CP 401  
CH-1214 Vernier, Geneva, Switzerland  
Tel. +41 22 749 01 11  
Fax +41 22 749 09 47  
copyright@iso.org  
www.iso.org

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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](http://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](http://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 voluntary nature of standards, 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](http://www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html).

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 59, *Buildings and civil engineering works*, Subcommittee SC 2, *Terminology and harmonization of languages*.

A list of all parts in the ISO 6707 series can be found on the ISO website.

## Introduction

With the growth in the number of international construction projects and the development of the international market in construction products, there is an increasing need for agreement on a common language.

ISO 6707-1 defines general terms related to buildings and civil engineering works. This document establishes preferred terms and concepts related to sustainability for buildings and other types of construction works. Communication is important to the implementation and operation of the concept of sustainable development related to building and civil engineering. In the interest of common understanding and standardization, consistent word usage is encouraged to help eliminate the major barrier to effective technical communication.

The preparation of this document was undertaken under the administrative direction of ISO/TC 59/SC 2, but the development work was undertaken by a joint working group of ISO/TC 59/SC 2 and ISO/TC 59/SC 17.

This document presents a mix of terms and definitions, some of which are repeated from other ISO publications, while others are those that have been derived from ISO standards on environmental management and environmental life cycle assessment. Derivations have been performed carefully in order to maintain the original intention, but to enable interpretation to the context of sustainability and sustainable development related to buildings and civil engineering works.

This document does not contain a complete list of terms of relevance to the thematic field, but focuses on concepts that have been standardized and/or applied through publication of individual standards within ISO/TC 59/SC 17 and on terms and definitions of concepts frequently encountered in the literature related to sustainability in buildings and other types of construction works.

Attention has been paid to how the terms selected have been used in ISO standards and European standards so as to maintain the original intention.

ISO/TR 21932 was one of the principle sources employed. Although informative in nature, it contains terms and definitions of concepts that have been applied and standardized in the documents developed to date under ISO/TC 59/SC 17, as well as other terms and definitions that constitute work in progress within SC 17 or established within CEN/TC 350 (given in Annexes B and C).

A related vocabulary on terms under ISO/TC 268: ISO 37102 is expected to focus on concepts that have been standardized and/or applied through publications within ISO/TC 268.

This document is intended to be used in conjunction with ISO 6707-1.



# Buildings and civil engineering works — Vocabulary —

## Part 3: Sustainability terms

### 1 Scope

This document establishes preferred terms and definitions for concepts applicable to sustainability and sustainable development related to buildings and civil engineering works.

NOTE It focuses on concepts that have been standardized and/or applied through publication of individual International Standards within ISO/TC 59/SC 17 and on terms and definitions of concepts frequently encountered in the literature of buildings and other types of construction works that relate to sustainable development.

### 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 6707-1, *Buildings and civil engineering works — Vocabulary — Part 1: General terms*

### 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO 6707-1 and the following apply.

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

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

NOTE Where terms in definitions are defined in this document, the relevant terms are in *italics*, and the term number is given after the relevant term. Where terms in definitions are defined in ISO 6707-1, the terms are also in *italics* but no term number is given.

#### 3.1 Base terms

##### 3.1.1

##### **sustainable development**

development that meets the environmental, social and economic needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs

[SOURCE: ISO Guide 82:2014, 3.2, modified – Note 1 to entry has been removed.]

##### 3.1.2

##### **sustainability**

state of the global system, including environmental, social and economic aspects in which the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs

Note 1 to entry: The environmental, social and economic aspects interact and are interdependent and are often referred to as the three dimensions of sustainability.

Note 2 to entry: Sustainability is the goal of *sustainable development* (3.1.1).