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Industrial decarbonization - Requirements and guidelines for sectoral transition plans

EESTI STANDARDI EESSÕNA

NATIONAL FOREWORD

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EUROPEAN STANDARD

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Industrial decarbonization - Requirements and guidelines for sectoral transition plans

Décarbonation de l'industrie - Exigences et lignes
directrices pour les plans de transition sectoriels

Industrielle Dekarbonisierung - Anforderungen und
Leitlinien für sektorale Übergangspläne

This European Standard was approved by CEN on 27 July 2025.

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COMITÉ EUROPÉEN DE NORMALISATION
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European foreword

This document (EN 18074:2025) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 467 “Climate Change”, the secretariat of which is held by UNI.

This European Standard shall be given the status of a national standard, either by publication of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by April 2026, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by April 2026.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. CEN shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

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Introduction

As industry represents around 20 % of greenhouse gases (GHG) emissions [1], it is at the centre of many discussions regarding a decarbonization transition.

Many industrial sectoral roadmaps and companies' commitments for transition have been published but without governance or methodological baseline. This gap is questioning the credibility of those documents. A great number of initiatives work on establishing standards for entity transition plans (ETP) compatible with 1,5°C or 2°C pathways in line with the Paris Agreement. It seems relevant to ensure the consistency of entity transition plans with sectoral transition plans (STP), established using a common and recognized methodology. Furthermore, the review of the European industrial strategy by the European Commission in 2021 mentions the necessary development of transition plans for more resilient, digitalized and sustainable industrial infrastructure and systems. Again, a common method across sectors would give credibility by harmonizing these plans and enhancing validation and verifiability. No standardized method is available yet for sectoral transition plans which leads to differences in the scopes and results.

Finally, requirements and recommendations to develop a sectoral transition plan would facilitate an adequate answer from industrial sectors to the decarbonization challenge. A sectoral standard would also question sectoral transformation regarding all the value chains being able to respond to the same need. Therefore, production and consumption ways could be progressively transformed.

Climate change is one of the most pressing challenges that our world faces. Scientific assessments from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reports have shown that many of the worst consequences of climate change can be avoided by limiting global warming to 1,5 °C above pre-industrial levels. Scenarios assessed by the IPCC indicate that limiting warming to 1,5 °C, with no or limited temperature overshoot, requires achieving at least net zero global carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions in the early 2050s, along with deep and sustained global reductions in other GHG emissions [2] [3]. These scenarios also show that the earlier and faster emission reductions occur, the lower peak warming and the lower the likelihood of overshooting warming limits.

The 2015 Paris Agreement [4] states the importance of achieving a global balance between human-caused emissions by sources and human-led removals by sinks in the second half of the 21st century, taking into account varying capabilities in different parts of the world, on the basis of equity, and in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty. This document therefore includes recommendations on just transition (more details available in Annex B).

The results of a sectoral transition plan include:

- a sectoral inventory as defined in 5.1;
- several decarbonization scenarios composed of several decarbonization trajectories including a technological and a market pathway and investment planning;
- an action plan for the implementation of the scenarios exposed before.

This document aims to help an organization to elaborate a credible, qualitative, and ambitious sectoral transition plan.

This document aims to fill the gap exposed previously. The development of a European Standard (EN) is of particular importance to standardize practices, strengthen trust between sectoral transition plan's interested parties and guarantee the quality of the transition plan. It will facilitate the replicability of sectoral transition plans for industry decarbonization and their dissemination.

In this document, the following verbal forms are used:

- “shall” indicates a requirement;
- “should” indicates a recommendation;
- “may” indicates a permission;
- “can” indicates a possibility or a capability.

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1 Scope

This document specifies the requirements and recommendations relative to the construction of a sectoral transition plan for industry decarbonization.

This document does not specify the requirements for the construction of a roadmap of single industrial company's transition plan (a plant or a group), however, a sectoral transition plan can be used as a reference in an entity transition plan.

This document is intended to be used by organizations, including national and public bodies, trade associations, federations, companies and NGOs that wish to establish or monitor sectoral decarbonization plans.

This document is climate-programme neutral. If a climate programme is applicable, requirements of this programme are additional to the requirement of this document.

In this document, either natural or technological sequestrations occur inside the geographical and sectoral boundaries considered in the sectoral transition plan. Otherwise, they are excluded.

In this document, considering its energy consumption and its cost, the direct air capture and storage technology (DACs) is not considered relevant and is excluded from the sectoral transition plan.

Carbon offsets are excluded from this document.

NOTE Carbon offsets are intended as be understood as “*Emissions reduction or removal* resulting from an action outside the geographical and sectoral boundary used to counterbalance the sector's residual emissions”.

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.

EN 19694 (all parts), *Stationary source emissions — Determination of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in energy-intensive industries*

EN ISO 14064-1:2019, *Greenhouse gases — Part 1: Specification with guidance at the organization level for quantification and reporting of greenhouse gas emissions and removals (ISO 14064-1:2018)*

3 Terms, definitions and abbreviated terms

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

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

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