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**Nanotechnologies — Guidance on  
voluntary labelling for consumer  
products containing manufactured  
nano-objects**

*Nanotechnologies — Lignes directrices pour l'étiquetage volontaire  
des produits contenant des nano-objets manufacturés*



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Published in Switzerland

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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)).

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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 WTO principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: Foreword - Supplementary information

The committee responsible for this document is ISO/TC 229, *Nanotechnologies*.

For the purposes of research, users are encouraged to share their views on this document and their priorities for changes to future editions.

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## Introduction

It is generally agreed that nanotechnology brings benefits and better performance to enabled consumer products along with possible concerns for adverse effects, which both raise issues about the public awareness on the benefits and concerns.

As nanotechnology is implemented more broadly, the number of products using nanotechnology, in particular the consumer products containing manufactured nano-objects, will increase. Any approach to affixing a label to consumer products containing manufactured nano-objects (PCMNOs) should ensure accurate communication about the product and its properties and avoid misleading labelling.

It is important that sufficient openness and transparency accompany the responsible introduction of new technologies to the marketplace. Labelling can help consumers to make informed choices for purchase and use. The labelling specified by this Technical Specification does not attempt to prejudge either the positive or negative effects of consumer products containing manufactured nano-objects. The purpose of the guidance in this Technical Specification is to provide a framework to facilitate a harmonized approach for the voluntary provision of labelling for PCMNOs that may or may not exhibit or impart nanoscale phenomena. This Technical Specification is designed as voluntary guidance on conveying specific product information that a manufacturer may choose to disclose on product labels and is not intended to provide mandatory labelling requirements, which are established by relevant regulatory authorities.

This Technical Specification is designed for use by businesses and other organizations involved in the manufacture and distribution of consumer PCMNOs. In order to conform to this Technical Specification, all the normative clauses of this Technical Specification apply. A decision about whether to use this Technical Specification is subject to voluntary consideration. Other parties such as authorities, healthcare professionals, consumers, consumer organizations, environmental NGOs and trade unions may also find it useful.

This Technical Specification provides guidance that does not supersede or substitute for any applicable legal requirements. Product manufacturers and distributors are advised to identify and understand applicable legal requirements and guidance issued by regulatory authorities. Products intended for sale in a specific country or region should conform to, and the use of this document should not conflict with, legal requirements for product labels and labelling established for that country or region.



# Nanotechnologies — Guidance on voluntary labelling for consumer products containing manufactured nano-objects

## 1 Scope

This Technical Specification provides guidance on the content of voluntary labels for consumer products containing manufactured nano-objects (PCMNO).

This Technical Specification is not applicable to consumer products that contain naturally occurring nano-objects that were not subjected to manufacturing processes. Consumer products containing nano-objects that are incidentally present (i.e. unintentional by-products of a process) are also outside the scope of this Technical Specification.

## 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/TS 80004-1, *Nanotechnologies — Vocabulary — Part 1: Core terms*

## 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO/TS 80004-1 and the following apply.

### 3.1

#### **consumer product**

product that is intended to be acquired and used by an individual for personal rather than professional use, excluding its packaging

[SOURCE: ISO 20282-1:2006, 3.2 — modified]

### 3.2

#### **label**

written, printed, graphic matter affixed to a product, imprinted on a product, or its immediate container or packaging, which displays information related to the product

### 3.3

#### **labelling**

provided information about a product by means of the label affixed to a product, its immediate container or packaging by a manufacturer or supplier

### 3.4

#### **manufactured nano-object**

#### **MNO**

nano-object intentionally produced for commercial purposes to have specific properties or composition

[SOURCE: ISO/TS 12805, 3.3]

### 3.5

#### **nano-object**

material with one, two or three external dimensions in the nanoscale

Note 1 to entry: Generic term for all discrete nanoscale objects.