

SINGAPORE STANDARD

Environmental labels and declarations – General principles



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This Singapore Standard was approved by the Environment and Resources Standards Committee on behalf of the Singapore Standards Council on 7 December 2017.

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The Environment and Resources Standards Committee, appointed by the Standards Council, consists of the following members:

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The Technical Committee on Environmental Management, appointed by the Environment and Resources Standards Committee and responsible for the preparation of this standard, consists of representatives from the following organisations:

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The Working Group on Environmental Management, appointed by the Technical Committee, to assist in the preparation of this standard, comprises the following experts who contribute in their *individual capacity*:

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The organisations in which the experts of the Working Group are involved are:

Agility Logistics Services Pte Ltd
Building and Construction Authority
Singapore Accreditation Council
Singapore Contractors Association Ltd
Singapore Environment Council
Systems on Silicon Manufacturing Company Pte Ltd

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National Foreword

This Singapore Standard was prepared by the Working Group on Environmental Management appointed by the Technical Committee on Environmental Management under the direction of the Environment and Resources Standards Committee.

This standard is identical with ISO 14020:2000 published by the International Organization for Standardization.

Where appropriate, the words “International Standard” shall be read as “Singapore Standard”. The references to International Standards shall be replaced by the following Singapore Standards:

International Standard	Corresponding Singapore Standard
ISO 14020	SS ISO 14020
ISO 14021	SS ISO 14021
ISO 14025	SS ISO 14025
ISO 14040	SS ISO 14040

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

NOTE

1. *Singapore Standards (SSs) and Technical References (TRs) are reviewed periodically to keep abreast of technical changes, technological developments and industry practices. The changes are documented through the issue of either amendments or revisions.*
2. *An SS or TR is voluntary in nature except when it is made mandatory by a regulatory authority. It can also be cited in contracts making its application a business necessity. Users are advised to assess and determine whether the SS or TR is suitable for their intended use or purpose. If required, they should refer to the relevant professionals or experts for advice on the use of the document. Enterprise Singapore shall not be liable for any damages whether directly or indirectly suffered by anyone or any organisation as a result of the use of any SS or TR.*
3. *Compliance with a SS or TR does not exempt users from any legal obligations.*

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.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 3.

Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

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

International Standard ISO 14020 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 207, *Environmental management*, Subcommittee SC 3, *Environmental labelling*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 14020:1998), which has been technically revised.

Introduction

Environmental labels and declarations are one of the tools of environmental management, which is the subject of the ISO 14000 series.

Environmental labels and declarations provide information about a product or service in terms of its overall environmental character, a specific environmental aspect, or any number of aspects. Purchasers and potential purchasers can use this information in choosing the products or services they desire based on environmental, as well as other, considerations. The provider of the product or service hopes the environmental label or declaration will be effective in influencing the purchasing decision in favour of its product or service. If the environmental label or declaration has this effect, the market share of the product or service can increase and other providers may respond by improving the environmental aspects of their products or services to enable them to use environmental labels or make environmental declarations, resulting in reduced environmental stress from that product or service category.

Environmental labels and declarations — General principles

1 Scope

This International Standard establishes guiding principles for the development and use of environmental labels and declarations. It is intended that other applicable standards in the ISO 14020 series be used in conjunction with this International Standard.

This International Standard is not intended for use as a specification for certification and registration purposes.

NOTE Other International Standards in the series are intended to be consistent with the principles set forth in this International Standard. Other standards currently in the ISO 14020 series are ISO 14021, ISO 14024 and ISO/TR 14025 (see Bibliography).

2 Terms and definitions

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

2.1

environmental label

environmental declaration

claim which indicates the environmental aspects of a product or service

NOTE An environmental label or declaration may take the form of a statement, symbol or graphic on a product or package label, in product literature, in technical bulletins, in advertising or in publicity, amongst other things.

2.2

life cycle

consecutive and interlinked stages of a product system, from raw material acquisition or generation of natural resources to the final disposal

[ISO 14040:1997]

NOTE "Product" includes any goods or service.

2.3

environmental aspect

element of an organization's activities, products or services which can interact with the environment