SS ISO 14065 : 2021 ISO 14065 : 2020, IDT (ICS 13.020.40)

SINGAPORE STANDARD

General principles and requirements for bodies validating and verifying environmental information





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Published by Enterprise Singapore

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ISBN 978-981-49-2562-4

The content of this Singapore Standard was approved on 23 March 2021 by the Environment and Resources Standards Committee (ERSC) under the purview of the Singapore Standards Council.

First published, 2017 First revision, 2021

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Contents

		Page	
Natio	onal Foreword	6	
	Foreword		
	duction		
1	Scope		
2	Normative references		
3	Terms and definitions		
3.1	Terms related to environmental information		
3.2	Terms related to personnel and organization		
3.3	Terms related to validation and verification		
4	Principles		
4.1	General		
4.2	Principles for the validation/verification process		
4.3	Principles for validation/verification bodies		
4.4	Conservativeness		
4.5	Professional scepticism		
5	General requirements		
5.1	Legal entity		
5.2	Responsibility for validation/verification statements		
5.3	Management of impartiality		
5.4	Liability		
5. 4 6	Structural requirements		
6.1	Organizational structure and top management		
6.2	Operational control		
7	Resource requirements		
7.1	General		
7.1 7.2	Personnel		
7.2	Management process for the competence of personnel		
7.3 7.4	Outsourcing		
	Validation/verification programme		
8 9	, 1 6		
9.1	Process requirements		
9.1	Pre-engagement		
9.2			
9.3 9.4	EngagementPlanning		
	<u> </u>		
9.5	Validation/verification execution		
9.6 9.7	Review		
	Decision and issue of the validation/verification statement		
	Decision		
9.8	Facts discovered after the issue of the validation/verification statement		
9.9	Handling of appeals		
9.10	Handling of complaints		
9.11	Records		
10	Information requirements		
10.1	Publicly available information		
10.2	Other information to be available		
10.3	Reference to validation/verification and use of marks		
10.4	Confidentiality		
11	Management system requirements	28	

11.1	General	28
11.2	Management review	28
11.3	Internal audits	28
	Corrective action	
11.5	Actions to address risks and opportunities	28
	Documented information	
Anne	x A (informative) Types of opinions	29
	x B (informative) Reference to validated/verified statements and use of marks	
	x C (informative) Examples of reports of factual findings	
Anne	x D (normative) Additional requirements applicable to green bond validation,	verification
and A	UP	37
Anne	x E (normative) Additional requirements applicable to greenhouse gas	validation
verifi	cation and AUP	38
Anne	x F (normative) Additional requirements applicable to validation, verificatio	n and AUF
assoc	iated with reporting investments and financing activities related to climate char	ige41
Biblic	ography	42

National Foreword

This Singapore Standard was prepared by the Working Group on Greenhouse Gases and Product Life Cycle set up by the Technical Committee on Environmental Management under the purview of ERSC.

This standard is an identical adoption of ISO 14065 : 2020, "General principles and requirements for bodies validating and verifying environmental information", published by the International Organization for Standardization.

NOTE 1 – References to International/Overseas Standards are replaced by applicable Singapore Standards or Technical References.

NOTE 2 - Where numerical values are expressed as decimals, the comma is read as a full point.

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. Where SSs are deemed to be stable, i.e. no foreseeable changes in them, they will be classified as "Mature Standards". Mature Standards will not be subject to further review, unless there are requests to review such standards.
- 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 and the Singapore Standards Council 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. Although care has been taken to draft this standard, users are also advised to ensure that they apply the information after due diligence.
- 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.

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).

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).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation of 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 www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 207, *Environmental management*, Subcommittee SC 7, *Greenhouse gas management and related activities*, in collaboration with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Technical Committee CEN/SS S26, *Environmental management*, in accordance with the Agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement).

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO 14065:2013), which has been technically revised. The main changes compared with the previous edition are as follows:

- the Scope has been expanded to include bodies performing validation, verification and agreed upon procedures in all areas of environmental information (not only greenhouse gas);
- it has been aligned with the requirements of ISO/IEC 17029;
- Annex D has been added for additional requirements applicable to green bonds;
- Annex E has been added for additional requirements applicable to greenhouse gases;
- Annex F has been added for additional requirements applicable to non-financial disclosure.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

Introduction

Environmental information is increasingly being used for decision-making by individuals and organizations. Environmental information can be seen in various forms, including but not limited to:

- greenhouse gas statements;
- environmental footprints (e.g. carbon and water);
- environmental performance;
- environmental labelling claims, including environmental product declarations;
- environmental information as part of sustainability reporting;
- calculations associated with the valuation of environmental resources;
- environmental information related to "green bonds", "climate finance" and other financial instruments.

Users of environmental information want to know whether it is accurate and reliable. They seek assurance on statements of historical information, and validation that forecasted information is based on reasonable assumptions and methods. This document identifies principles and defines requirements for validation and verification bodies that meet these needs.

Requirements for validation/verification bodies in this document include:

- general requirements (see Clause 5, including legal, impartiality, liability, and contractual matters);
- structural requirements (see Clause 6, including organizational structure and operational control);
- resource requirements (see Clause 7, including personnel and competency management);
- programme requirements (see Clause 8);
- process requirements (see Clause 9, including process steps such as pre-engagement, engagement, execution, review, and issuance of opinions and records management);
- information requirements (see Clause 10, including communication and confidentiality);
- management systems requirements (see Clause 11, including the internal management system of the body, internal audits, management review and corrective actions).

This document is a sector application of ISO/IEC 17029:2019. It references the requirements of ISO/IEC 17029 and also includes specific requirements related to bodies that validate or verify environmental information.

Bodies operating in accordance with this document can be first-party, second-party or third-party bodies. Bodies can provide validation only, verification only, or provide both validation and verification, and perform agreed-upon procedures (AUP).

This document provides programme owners, regulators and accreditation bodies with a basis for assessing and recognizing the competence of validation and verification bodies. It can also be used in other ways, such as in peer assessment within groups of validation/verification bodies or between such groups.

General principles and requirements for bodies validating and verifying environmental information

1 Scope

This document specifies principles and requirements for bodies performing validation and verification of environmental information statements.

Any programme requirements related to bodies are additional to the requirements of this document.

This document is a sector application of ISO/IEC 17029:2019, which contains general principles and requirements for the competence, consistent operation and impartiality of bodies performing validation/verification as conformity assessment activities.

This document includes sector-specific requirements in addition to the requirements of ISO/IEC 17029:2019.

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 14030-4,¹ Environmental performance evaluation — Green debt instruments — Part 4: Verification programme requirements

ISO 14064-3, Greenhouse gases — Part 3: Specification with guidance for the verification and validation of greenhouse gas statements

 $ISO\ 14066, \textit{Greenhouse gases} -- \textit{Competence requirements for greenhouse gas validation teams and verification teams}$

ISO 14097,² Framework including principles and requirements for assessing and reporting investments and financing activities related to climate change

ISO/IEC 17000, Conformity assessment — Vocabulary and general principles

ISO/IEC 17029:2019, Conformity assessment — General principles and requirements for validation and verification bodies

¹ Under preparation. Stage at the time of publication: ISO/DIS 14030-4:2020.

² Under preparation. Stage at the time of publication: ISO/DIS 14097:2020.