



ISO 14046

Environmental management

**Water footprint — Principles,
requirements and guidelines**

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Executive summary

- This International Standard specifies principles, requirements and guidelines related to water footprint assessment of products, processes and organizations based on life cycle assessment.
- This International Standard provides transparency, consistency, reproducibility and credibility for assessing and reporting the water footprint of products, processes or organizations.
- A water footprint assessment identifies potential environmental impacts related to water, identifies quantity of water use and changes in water quality, includes relevant geographical and temporal dimensions, utilizes hydrological knowledge and is modular.
- A water footprint assessment can assist in assessing the magnitude of potential environmental impacts related to water, in identifying opportunities to reduce water related potential environmental impacts, in strategic risk management related to water, in facilitating water efficiency and optimization of water management, in informing decision-makers of potential environmental impacts related to water, and in providing consistent and reliable information, based on scientific evidence for reporting water footprint results.
- A water footprint assessment can be conducted and reported as a stand-alone assessment, or as part of a comprehensive life cycle assessment of all environmental impacts.

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