

---

---

**Environmental labels and  
declarations — Self-declared  
environmental claims (Type II  
environmental labelling)**

*Marquage et déclarations environnementaux — Autodéclarations  
environnementales (Étiquetage de type II)*



Reference number  
ISO 14021:2016(E)



**COPYRIGHT PROTECTED DOCUMENT**

© ISO 2016, Published in Switzerland

All rights reserved. Unless otherwise specified, no part of this publication may be reproduced or utilized otherwise in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, or posting on the internet or an intranet, without prior written permission. Permission can be requested from either ISO at the address below or ISO's member body in the country of the requester.

ISO copyright office  
Ch. de Blandonnet 8 • CP 401  
CH-1214 Vernier, Geneva, Switzerland  
Tel. +41 22 749 01 11  
Fax +41 22 749 09 47  
copyright@iso.org  
www.iso.org

# Contents

Page

<b>Foreword</b>	<b>v</b>
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>vi</b>
<b>1 Scope</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2 Normative references</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>3 Terms and definitions</b>	<b>1</b>
3.1 General terms	1
3.2 Selected terms commonly used in self-declared environmental claims	4
<b>4 Objective of self-declared environmental claims</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5 Requirements applying to all self-declared environmental claims</b>	<b>4</b>
5.1 General	4
5.2 Relationship to ISO 14020	5
5.3 Vague or non-specific claims	5
5.4 Claims of "... free"	5
5.5 Claims of sustainability	5
5.6 Use of explanatory statements	5
5.7 Specific requirements	5
5.8 Use of symbols to make environmental claims	6
5.9 Other information or claims	7
5.10 Specific symbols	7
5.10.1 General	7
5.10.2 The Mobius loop	7
<b>6 Evaluation and claim verification requirements</b>	<b>8</b>
6.1 Responsibilities of the claimant	8
6.2 Reliability of evaluation methodology	8
6.3 Evaluation of comparative claims	8
6.4 Selection of methods	9
6.5 Access to information	9
<b>7 Specific requirements for selected claims</b>	<b>10</b>
7.1 General	10
7.2 Compostable	10
7.2.1 Usage of term	10
7.2.2 Qualifications	10
7.2.3 Evaluation methodology	11
7.3 Degradable	11
7.3.1 Usage of term	11
7.3.2 Qualifications	11
7.3.3 Evaluation methodology	12
7.4 Designed for disassembly	12
7.4.1 Usage of term	12
7.4.2 Qualifications	12
7.4.3 Evaluation methodology	13
7.5 Extended life product	13
7.5.1 Usage of term	13
7.5.2 Qualifications	13
7.5.3 Evaluation methodology	13
7.6 Recovered energy	13
7.6.1 Usage of term	13
7.6.2 Qualifications	13
7.6.3 Evaluation methodology	14
7.7 Recyclable	14
7.7.1 Usage of term	14
7.7.2 Qualifications	14

7.7.3	Use of a symbol.....	14
7.7.4	Evaluation methodology.....	15
7.8	Recycled content.....	15
7.8.1	Usage of terms.....	15
7.8.2	Qualifications.....	16
7.8.3	Use of a symbol.....	16
7.8.4	Evaluation methodology.....	16
7.9	Reduced energy consumption.....	17
7.9.1	Usage of term.....	17
7.9.2	Qualifications.....	17
7.9.3	Evaluation methodology.....	17
7.10	Reduced resource use.....	17
7.10.1	Usage of term.....	17
7.10.2	Qualifications.....	17
7.10.3	Evaluation methodology.....	18
7.11	Reduced water consumption.....	18
7.11.1	Usage of term.....	18
7.11.2	Qualifications.....	18
7.11.3	Evaluation methodology.....	18
7.12	Reusable and refillable.....	19
7.12.1	Usage of terms.....	19
7.12.2	Qualifications.....	19
7.12.3	Evaluation methodology.....	19
7.13	Waste reduction.....	20
7.13.1	Usage of term.....	20
7.13.2	Qualifications.....	20
7.13.3	Evaluation methodology.....	20
7.14	Renewable material.....	20
7.14.1	Usage of term.....	20
7.14.2	Qualifications.....	20
7.14.3	Evaluation methodology.....	21
7.15	Renewable energy.....	21
7.15.1	Usage of term.....	21
7.15.2	Qualifications.....	21
7.15.3	Evaluation methodology.....	21
7.16	Sustainable.....	21
7.16.1	Usage of term.....	21
7.17	Claims relating to greenhouse gas emissions.....	21
7.17.1	General.....	21
7.17.2	Product “carbon footprint”.....	22
7.17.3	“Carbon neutral”.....	22
<b>Annex A (informative) Simplified diagrammatic representation of a recycling system.....</b>		<b>23</b>
<b>Bibliography.....</b>		<b>24</b>

## 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. [www.iso.org/directives](http://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. [www.iso.org/patents](http://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 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 207, *Environmental management*, Subcommittee SC 3, *Environmental labelling*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 14021:1999), of which it constitutes a minor revision. It also incorporates the Amendment ISO 14021:1999/Amd 1:2011.