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Environmental management

Part 1:
Environmental labels and declarations—
Type III environmental declarations

Standards Australia

STANDARDS NEW ZEALAND
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PREFACE

This Handbook was prepared by the Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee EV/3, Environmental Labelling.

This Handbook is identical to and has been reproduced from ISO/TR 14025:2000, *Environmental labels and declarations—Type III environmental declarations*.

The objective of this Handbook is to provide persons who have an interest in Type III environmental declarations with information about issues and elements pertaining to Type III environmental declarations. At the time that the ISO technical report was developed the subject of Type III environmental declarations was still evolving and there was insufficient agreement on a number of points to support the development of an International Standard. ISO/TR 14025 was thus developed to report on those elements where there was international agreement and to provide information about various approaches currently being considered for those elements where international agreement had yet to be reached.

As this Handbook is reproduced from an International Technical Report, the following applies:

(a) Its number appears on the cover and title page while the International Technical Report number appears only on the cover.

(b) In the source text, 'this Technical Report' should read 'this Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Handbook'.

(c) A full point substitutes for a comma when referring to a decimal marker.

At the time that this Handbook was published ISO 14021, ISO 14040 and ISO 14041 (mentioned in the Normative references clause) had been adopted as Australian/New Zealand Standards. In the case of ISO 14021, the Australian/New Zealand Standard includes some modifications from the International Standard but these modifications are not expected to affect the way the document is referenced in this Handbook.

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CONTENTS

Page

Introduction iv

1 Scope 1

2 Normative references 1

3 Terms and definitions 1

4 Objective of Type III environmental declarations 3

5 Technical considerations 3
5.1 General 3
5.2 Methodology options 4
5.3 Pre-set categories of parameter 5
5.4 Additional environmental information 6
5.5 Quality assurance (data and pre-set types of information) 6

6 Interested-party input 7
6.1 General 7
6.2 Suggested levels for interested-party input 7
6.3 Concepts for establishing product-specific information requirements 8
6.4 Possible options for addressing interested-party input 8

7 Declaration format and communication 8
7.1 General 8
7.2 Establishing the information needs of the user 8
7.3 Type III environmental declaration designs and formats 9
7.4 Combining Type III environmental declarations with other environmental labels 11
7.5 Experience and research 11

8 Procedures for establishing Type III environmental declarations and programmes 11
8.1 General 11
8.2 Setting minimum programme requirements 12
8.3 Selection of product categories 12
8.4 Related requirements 12
8.5 Certification 12
8.6 Accreditation 12
8.7 Mutual recognition 12
8.8 Technology transfer 13
8.9 Periodic review 13

Annex A (informative) **Review of methodologies and their application to Type III environmental declarations** 14

Annex B (informative) **Examples of roles of organizations involved in Type III environmental declaration programmes** 24

Bibliography 25

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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this Technical Report is to identify and describe the elements and issues concerning Type III environmental declarations and corresponding programmes, as well as to provide information in specific areas where general agreement among experts exists.

This Technical Report also discusses issues that should be resolved prior to the possible development of an International Standard. It recognizes that there are various Type III environmental declarations in use and that the concept is still evolving.

In the work plan of the Type III task group, a Type III environmental declaration is described as “quantified environmental life cycle product information, provided by a supplier, based on independent verification, (e.g. third party), (critically reviewed) systematic data, presented as a set of categories of parameter (for a sector group)[1)].

— The Type III environmental declaration is non-selective but presents the information in a format that facilitates comparison between products.

— The Type III environmental declaration includes information supplied to industrial customers and to end-use consumers.

“Third party” does not necessarily imply the involvement of a certification body.”

1) These terms of reference are not yet finalized and represent a majority, rather than a unanimous, point of view on some issues. The parts in parentheses are issues for further consideration.

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