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National Standards
Authority of Ireland
Dublin 9
Ireland

Tel: (01) 807 3800
Tel: (01) 807 3838

# ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT – VOCABULARY

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# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

# NORME INTERNATIONALE

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# Environmental management — Vocabulary

# Management environnemental — Vocabulaire

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# 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

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.

International Standard ISO 14050 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 207, *Environmental management*, Subcommittee SC 6, *Terms and definitions*.

Annex A of this International Standard is for information only.

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International Organization for Standardization
Case postale 56 • CH-1211 Genève 20 • Switzerland
Internet central@iso.ch
X.400 c=ch; a=400net; p=iso; o=isocs; s=central

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# Avant-propos

L'ISO (Organisation internationale de normalisation) est une fédération mondiale d'organismes nationaux de normalisation (comités membres de l'ISO). L'élaboration des Normes internationales est en général confiée aux comités techniques de l'ISO. Chaque comité membre intéressé par une étude a le droit de faire partie du comité technique créé à cet effet. Les organisations internationales, gouvernementales et non gouvernementales, en liaison avec l'ISO participent également aux travaux. L'ISO collabore étroitement avec la Commission électrotechnique internationale (CEI) en ce qui concerne la normalisation électrotechnique.

Les projets de Normes internationales adoptés par les comités techniques sont soumis aux comités membres pour vote. Leur publication comme Normes internationales requiert l'approbation de 75 % au moins des comités membres votants.

La Norme internationale ISO 14050 a été élaborée par le comité technique ISO/TC 207, *Management environnemental,* sous-comité SC 6, *Termes et définitions.*

L'annexe A de la présente Norme internationale est donnée uniquement à titre d'information.

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# Introduction

This International Standard contains concepts and their definition as used in the ISO 14000 series of standards and related to environmental management.

Communication is important in the implementation and operation of Environmental Management Systems. This communication will be most effective if there is a common understanding of the terms used

Many environmental terms and definitions are the result of recently developed concepts. The gradual evolution of these environmental concepts inevitably means that environmental terminology will continue to develop The purpose of this document is to convey understanding of the terms used in the published standards in the ISO 14000 series.

The terms and definitions in this International Standard are derived from the following International Standards on environmental management.

ISO 14001:1996, *Environmental management systems — Specification with guidance for use*

ISO 14004:1996, *Environmental management systems — General guidelines on principles, systems and supporting techniques*

ISO 14010:1996, *Guidelines for environmental auditing — General principles*

ISO 14011:1996, *Guidelines for environmental auditing — Audit procedures — Auditing of environmental management systems*

ISO 14012:1996, *Guidelines for environmental auditing — Qualification criteria for environmental auditors*

Because of the ongoing work on the development of environmental management standards within ISO/TC 207 including the publication of additional and revised International Standards, this International Standard will be reviewed, and as appropriate revised or amended.

Other concepts which may be encountered in the environmental management field are not defined in this International Standard. However, to aid users of the ISO 14000 standards on environmental management, some of these additional concepts are included with bibliographic references in an informative annex.

Users should be aware that the application and description of these concepts vary throughout the international environmental community. Their presence in Annex A is not intended to promote or endorse the use of these concepts.

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