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Sustainability of construction works - Assessment of buildings - Part 2: Framework for the assessment of environmental performance

I.S. EN 15643-2:2011

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English Version

**Sustainability of construction works - Assessment of buildings -
Part 2: Framework for the assessment of environmental
performance**

Contribution des ouvrages de construction au
développement durable - Évaluation des bâtiments - Partie
2: Cadre pour l'évaluation des performances
environnementales

Nachhaltigkeit von Bauwerken - Bewertung der
Nachhaltigkeit von Gebäuden - Teil 2:
Rahmenbedingungen für die Bewertung der
umweltbezogenen Qualität

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Foreword

This document (EN 15643-2:2011) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 350 “Sustainability of construction works”, the secretariat of which is held by AFNOR.

This European Standard shall be given the status of a national standard, either by publication of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by September 2011, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by September 2011.

This document has been prepared under a mandate given to CEN by the European Commission and the European Free Trade Association

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Introduction

This European Standard forms part of a series of European Standards, written by CEN/TC 350, that provide a system for the sustainability assessment of buildings using a life cycle approach. The sustainability assessment quantifies impacts and aspects to assess the environmental, social and economic performance of buildings using quantitative and qualitative indicators, both of which are measured without value judgements. The purpose of this series of standards is to enable comparability of the results of assessments. This series of European Standards does not set benchmarks or levels of performance.

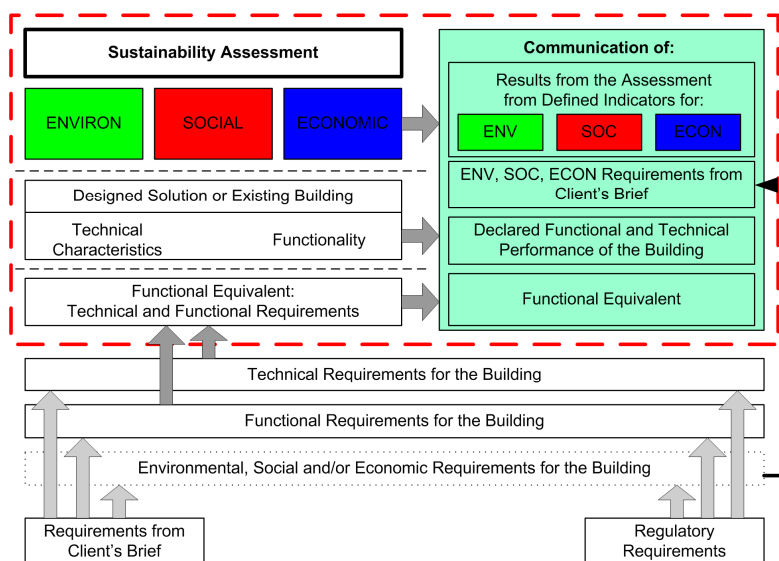
This series of standards will allow the sustainability assessment, i.e. the assessment of environmental, social and economic performance of a building, to be made concurrently and on an equal footing, on the basis of the same technical characteristics and functionality of the object of assessment.

The sustainability assessment of buildings uses different types of information. The results of a sustainability assessment of a building provide values for the different types of indicators, the related building scenarios and on the life cycle stages included in the assessment.

In carrying out assessments, scenarios and a functional equivalent are determined at the building level. Assessment at the building level means that the descriptive model of the building with the major technical and functional requirements has been defined in the client's brief or in the regulations, as illustrated in Figure 1. Assessments can be undertaken for the whole building, for parts of the building, which can be used separately, or for elements of the building.

Although the evaluation of technical and functional performance is beyond the scope of this series of standards, the technical and functional characteristics are considered within this framework by reference to the functional equivalent. The functional equivalent takes into account the technical and functional requirements and forms a basis for comparisons of the results of the assessment.

Any particular demands for, or related to, the environmental, social and economic performance defined in the client's brief, or in regulations, may be declared and communicated. Figure 1 shows how the functional equivalent and the technical and functional characteristics that differ from those required, either by the client's brief or through regulations, are to be declared and communicated with the results of the assessment.

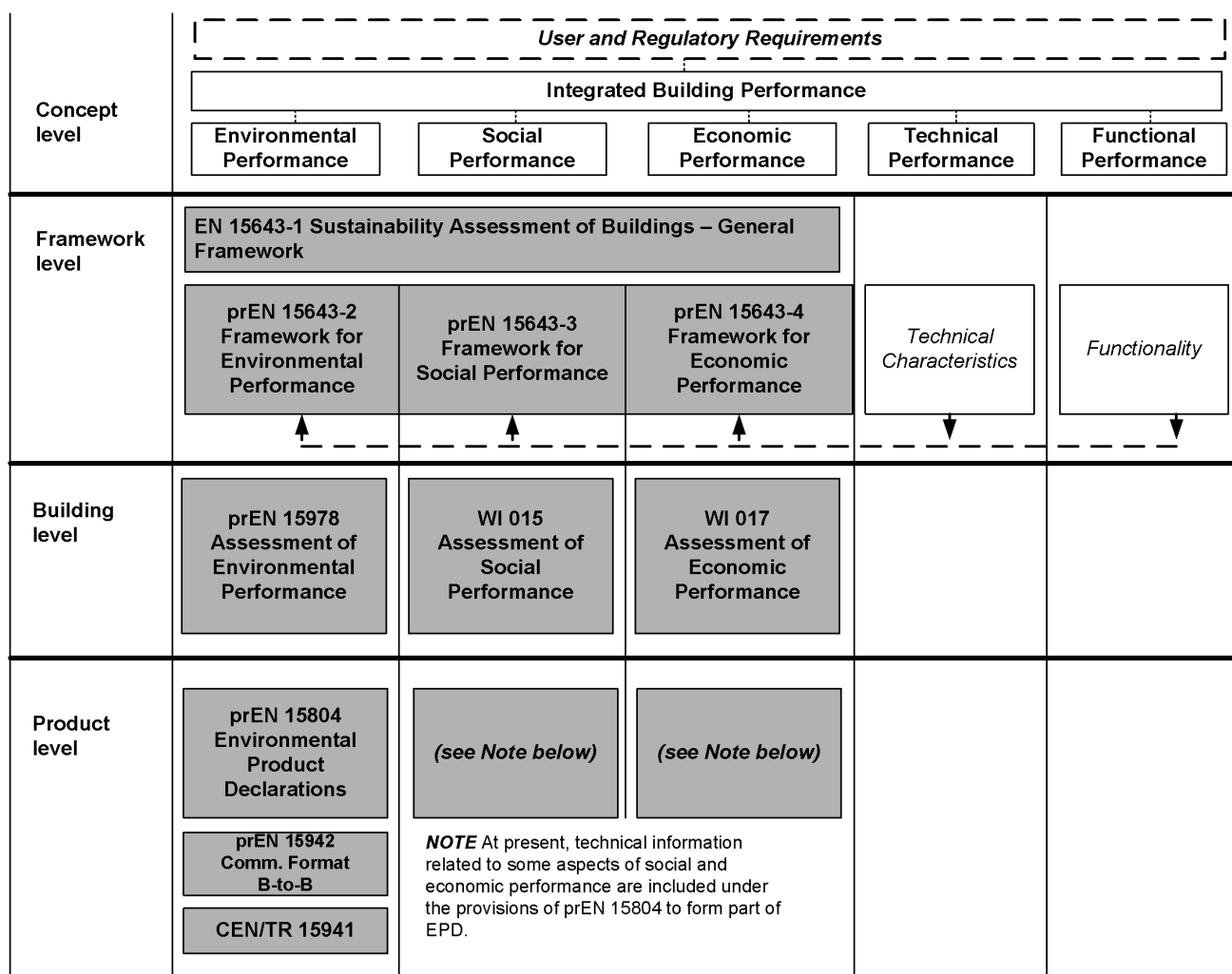


NOTE The outer box with the dotted line represents the area to be standardised by CEN/TC 350.

Figure 1 – The concept of sustainability assessment of buildings

In concept, the integrated building performance incorporates environmental, social and economic performance as well the technical and functional performance, and these are intrinsically related to each other, as illustrated in Figure 2. Although the assessment of technical and functional performance does not form part of this series of standards, their interrelationship with environmental, social and economic performance is prerequisite for an assessment of sustainability performance of buildings and, therefore, is taken into account.

It is advisable to carry out an assessment at the earliest opportunity during the conceptual stages of a construction or refurbishment project such as in the sketch plan stage in order to provide a broad estimate of the environmental performance, social performance and economic performance. As the project evolves the assessment may be periodically reviewed and updated to support decision making. A final assessment (as-built) should be carried out. The results of this final assessment can be used to inform all parties concerned.



NOTE The darkened boxes represent the work programme of CEN/TC 350.

Figure 2 – The work programme of CEN/TC 350

This European Standard EN 15643-2 is Part 2 of the framework standards for sustainability assessment of buildings. The purpose of EN 15643-2 is to provide a framework with principles, requirements and guidelines to assess the environmental performance of buildings. It focuses on the principles and requirements for the assessment of the environmental performance of a building as described at the "framework level" in Figure 2. In the drafting of this European Standard, ISO 21930 and ISO 21931-1 have been taken into consideration.

The first revision of the general framework standard, EN 15643-1, will combine all four parts of the framework of this series of standards into one framework standard. This will ensure simultaneous revision of the interlinked parts of the frameworks within the series of standards.

In the future, the assessment methodologies within this series of standards may be part of an overall assessment of integrated building performance. The assessment methodologies may also be extended to an assessment of the neighbourhoods and wider built environment.

1 Scope

This European Standard forms one part of a series of European Standards and provides the specific principles and requirements for the assessment of environmental performance of buildings taking into account technical characteristics and functionality of a building. Assessment of environmental performance is one aspect of sustainability assessment of buildings under the general framework of EN 15643-1.

The framework applies to all types of buildings and it is relevant for the assessment of the environmental performance of new buildings over their entire life cycle, and of existing buildings over their remaining service life and end of life stage.

In this series of standards, the environmental dimension of sustainability is limited to the assessment of environmental impacts and aspects of a building on the local, regional and global environment. The assessment is on Life Cycle Assessment and additional quantifiable environmental information expressed with quantified indicators. It excludes the assessment of a building's influence on the environmental impacts and aspects of the local infrastructure beyond the area of the building site, and environmental impacts and aspects resulting from transportation of the users of the building. It also excludes environmental risk assessment.

The standards developed under this framework do not set the rules for how different building assessment schemes may provide valuation methods. Nor do they prescribe levels, classes or benchmarks for measuring performance.

NOTE Valuation methods, levels, classes or benchmarks may be prescribed in the requirements for environmental, social and economic performance in the client's brief, building regulations, national standards, national codes of practice, building assessment and certification schemes, etc.

The rules for assessment of environmental aspects of organizations are not included within this framework. However, the consequences of decisions or actions that influence the environmental performance of the object of assessment are taken into account.

2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application 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.

prEN 15804, *Sustainability of construction works — Environmental product declarations — Product category rules*

prEN 15978, *Sustainability of construction works — Assessment of environmental performance of buildings — Calculation method*

EN ISO 14044, *Environmental management — Life cycle assessment — Requirements and guidelines (ISO 14044:2006)*

ISO 15392, *Sustainability in building construction — General principles*

ISO 15686-1, *Buildings and constructed assets — Service life planning — Part 1: General principles*

ISO 15686-2, *Buildings and constructed assets — Service life planning — Part 2: Service life prediction procedures*

ISO 15686-7, *Buildings and constructed assets — Service life planning — Part 7: Performance evaluation for feedback of service life data from practice*

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