

The ISO 14020 series (14020, 14021, 14024, 14025) for Environmental Documentation

Types of Environmental Documentation according to ISO.

Type 1: Labells. Labelling programmes, Type I environmental labelling programmes **ISO 14024:2018**

Type 2: Self Declarations. Self-declared environmental claims, Type II environmental labelling, **ISO 14021:2016**

Type 3: Environmental Declarations. Environmental Declarations, Type III environmental declaration programmes **ISO 14025:2006**

Type 1 are environmental labels such as Nordic Svanen, EU Flower etc. Remember that there are also several environmental brands that are not in accordance with ISO.

Type 2 are self-declarations. Keep in mind that most self-declarations are not in accordance with ISO standard.

Type 3: Environmental declarations in accordance with ISO 14025. Here there are also "several" so-called EPDs that do not meet the requirements of ISO 14025.

Certain criteria's must be fulfilled:

The EPD must be in accordance with ISO 14025. For "Construction Materials, the EPD must also be in accordance with EN15804. Other product groups might have other standards.

The EPD must be published by an EPD Program Operator. ECO Platform has a list over established EPD Program Operators.

The EPD must be third party verified

The EPD must be valid. Normally 5 years validity.

Proposed categories for environmental documentation:

A: Type III EPD according to ISO 14025 or Type I environmental badges according to ISO 14024.

B: Environmental declaration not fully according to ISO 14025 or environmental badges not fully in accordance with ISO 14024. Examples: Single issue declarations, only presenting one indicator as for example GWP, or brands that do not have a life cycle perspective.

C: Self-declarations according to ISO 14021.

D: Other types of self-declarations.

E: Other. E.g., promotional material, general information about environmental management systems in the enterprise etc.

Additional information:

Recent years have seen two key trends with ecolabels. There is an explosion in the number of different ecolabelling programs across the world and across business sectors and secondly a proliferation of umbrella labelling programs. The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) has created standards for labelling practices within the ISO 14000 schema. ISO 14020 to 14025 series deals with environmental labels and declarations. ISO proposed three categories of environmental labels according to the aspects covered and the rigor required to award the seal: type I in ISO 14024; type II in ISO 14021; and type III in ISO 14025.

Type I (ISO 14024) is a voluntary multi-criteria ecolabel program assessed by an independent third party who considers the life cycle impacts of a product. Awarded certification authorizes the use of environmental labels on products and indicates overall environmental preferability of a product within a product category. The awarding body may be either a governmental organization or a private non-commercial entity. (e.g. EU Ecolabel, Nordic swan and German Blue Angel)

Type II (ISO 14021) is a self-declared claim made by manufacturers or retailers without third-party auditing. Developed internally by companies claims can take the form of a declaration, a logo, or a commercial.

Type III (ISO/TR 14025) an environmental product declaration consisting of quantified product information on the life cycle impacts. Instead of assessing or weighting the environmental performance of a product this type of label only shows the objective data, facilitating product comparison among buyers.