

ICS 13.020



**NATIONAL STANDARD OF THE
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

GB/T 24021-2024

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

(English Translation)

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1 Scope

This document stipulates the requirements for self-declared environmental claims, including product-related descriptions, symbols and graphics; describes the terms commonly used in environmental claims and gives the conditions for their use;

stipulates the general method for the evaluation and verification of self-declared environmental claims, as well as specific methods of evaluating and verifying the claims selected in this document.

This document does not exclude, replace or in any other way alter the environmental information, claims or signs required by law, nor any other applicable legal requirements.

2 Normative references

The contents of the following documents constitute essential provisions of this document through normative references in the text. Among them, for dated reference documents, only the version corresponding to the date applies to this document; for undated reference documents, the latest version (including all amendments) applies to this document.

ISO 7000 Graphical symbols for use on equipment - Registered symbols

Note: GB/T 16273.1-2008 Graphical symbols for use on equipment - Part 1: Common symbols (ISO 7000:2004, NEQ)

ISO 14020 Environmental labels and declarations - General principles

Note: GB/T 24020-2000 Environmental management - Environmental labels and declarations -

General principles (ISO14020:1998, IDT)

ISO 14026 Environmental labels and declarations - Principles, requirements and guidelines for communication of footprint information

ISO 14067 Greenhouse gases - Carbon footprint of products - Requirements and guidelines for quantification additional explanatory statement shall only be allowed if, under all foreseeable circumstances, the environmental claim remains valid without qualification.

5.7 Specific requirements

The self-declared environmental claim and any explanatory statements shall comply with all requirements set out in 5.7, which:

- a) Shall be non-misleading and accurate;
- b) Shall be specific and verified;
- c) Shall be related to a specific product and only used under appropriate environments or conditions;
- d) Shall be specified whether the statement applies to the entire product, part of the product or its packaging, or an element of the service;
- e) The environmental aspects or environmental improvements stated shall be specific;
- f) The same environmental change shall not be repeatedly stated in different terms to imply that it will bring multiple benefits;
- g) Shall not lead to misinterpretation;
- h) In addition to the correct description of the final product, all relevant factors in the product life cycle shall be considered, to determine the likelihood that the reduction of one impact will cause an increase in another;

Note 1: This does not necessarily mean that life cycle assessment should be performed.

- i) If the product has not been licensed or certified by an independent third-party organization, claims shall be made without such implication;
- j) Shall not directly suggest or imply that the product has environmental improvements that do not actually exist, or exaggerate the environmental aspects of the product in the statement;
- k) Shall not make statements that appear to be literally true but which may misunderstand or mislead purchasers due to the omission of relevant facts;
- l) Only involve environmental aspects that exist or may occur during the product life cycle;
- m) Shall provide environmental claims and explanatory statements in a manner that

indicates that they shall be read as a whole and that explanatory statements shall be of reasonable size and placed close to the relevant statement;

n) When using comparative assertions involving environmental superiority or environmental improvement, the statement shall be specific and indicate the basis for the comparison. Such environmental claims shall be linked to the timing of improvements;

o) If the statement is based on factors that existed in the past but were not discovered at the time, the statement shall not be expressed in a manner that misleads purchasers, potential purchasers or users of the product into thinking that the statement is based on recent improvement to the product or process;

p) Shall not make claims based on certain substances or properties that have never existed in the product type;

q) If changes in technology, competitive products or other circumstances may affect the accuracy of the statement, it shall be re-evaluated and updated as necessary;

r) Shall be targeted at the area where the corresponding environmental impact occurs.

Note 2: As long as a production process is in an area where environmental impacts occur, a statement about the process can be made. The extent of the zone depends on the nature of the impact.

5.8 Use of symbols in environmental claims

5.8.1

When making a self-declared environmental claim, it can choose whether to use symbols.

5.8.2

The symbols used in environmental claims shall be simple, easy to print, can be placed in appropriate parts of the product in appropriate sizes.

5.8.3

Symbols used for one type of environmental claim shall be easily distinguishable from other symbols (including symbols used for other environmental claims).

5.8.4

When using symbols indicating that the environmental management system has been implemented, they shall not be easily misunderstood as symbols indicating product environmental aspects.

5.8.5

Natural products can only be used as a label if there is a direct and verifiable link between the natural product and the claimed benefit.