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**Environmental management — Environ-  
mental performance evaluation —  
Guidelines**

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ICS 13.020.10

**Descriptors** : pollution control, performance, policy formation

**Reference number** : JIS Q 14031 : 2000 (E)

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## **Foreword**

This translation has been made based on the original Japanese Industrial Standard established by the Minister of International Trade and Industry through deliberations at the Japanese Industrial Standards Committee in accordance with the Industrial Standardization Law:

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In the event of any doubts arising as to the contents,  
the original JIS is to be the final authority.

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# Environmental management — Environmental performance evaluation — Guidelines

## 0 Introduction

This Japanese Industrial Standard has been prepared based on the first edition of ISO 14031 *Environmental management—Environmental performance evaluation—Guidelines* published in 1999 without modifying the technical contents.

Many organizations are seeking ways to understand, demonstrate and improve their environmental performance. This can be achieved by effectively managing those elements of their activities, products and services that can significantly impact the environment.

Environmental performance evaluation (EPE), the subject of this Standard, is an internal management process and tool designed to provide management with reliable and verifiable information on an ongoing basis to determine whether an organization's environmental performance is meeting the criteria set by the management of the organization.

An organization with an environmental management system in place should assess its environmental performance against its environmental policy, objectives, targets and other environmental performance criteria. When an organization does not have an environmental management system, EPE can assist the organization in:

- identifying its environmental aspects;
- determining which aspects it will treat as significant;
- setting criteria for its environmental performance; and
- assessing its environmental performance against these criteria.

EPE and environmental audits help the management of an organization to assess the status of its environmental performance and to identify areas for improvement as needed. EPE is an ongoing process of collection and assessment of data and information to provide a current evaluation of performance, as well as performance trends over time. In contrast, environmental audits are conducted periodically to verify conformance to defined requirements. Further guidance on environmental auditing is provided in JIS Q 14010:1996 and JIS Q 14011:1996.

Examples of other tools that management can use to provide additional information for EPE include environmental reviews and life cycle assessment (LCA). While EPE focuses on describing the environmental performance of an organization, LCA is a technique for assessing the environmental aspects and potential impacts associated with product and service systems. Further guidance on LCA is provided in JIS Q 14040, JIS Q 14041, ISO 14042 and ISO 14043 (see Bibliography). Relevant information derived from these and other data sources can support the implementation of EPE, as well as the implementation of other management tools.

## 1 Scope

This Standard gives guidance on the design and use of environmental performance evaluation within an organization. It is applicable to all organizations, regardless of type, size, location and complexity.

This Standard does not establish environmental performance levels. It is not intended for use as a specification standard for certification or registration purposes or for the establishment of any other environmental management system conformance requirements.

**NOTE** The International Standard corresponding to this Standard is as follows.

In addition, symbols which denote the degree of correspondence in the contents between the relevant International Standard and JIS are IDT (identical), MOD (modified), and NEQ (not equivalent) according to ISO/IEC Guide 21.

ISO 14031 *Environmental management—Environmental performance evaluation—Guidelines* (IDT)