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Environmental management— Life cycle assessment— Requirements and guidelines

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Contents

	Page
Intro	oduction1
1	Scope2
2	Normative reference 3
3	Terms and definitions
4 4.1 4.2 4.3 4.4 4.5	Methodological framework for LCA8General requirements8Goal and scope definition8Life cycle inventory analysis (LCI)13Life cycle impact assessment (LCIA)19Life cycle interpretation27
5 5.1 5.2 5.3	Reporting
6 6.1 6.2 6.3	Critical review35General35Critical review by internal or external expert36Critical review by panel of interested parties36
Ann	ex A (informative) Examples of data collection sheets
Ann	ex B (informative) Examples of life cycle interpretation40
Bibl	iography50

Q 14044: 2010 (ISO 14044: 2006)

Foreword

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

This Standard, together with **JIS Q 14040**:2010, cancels and replaces **JIS Q 14040**: 1997, **JIS Q 14041**:1999, **JIS Q 14042**:2002 and **JIS Q 14043**:2002, which have been technically revised.

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Introduction

This Japanese Industrial Standard has been prepared based on the first edition of **ISO 14044** published in 2006 without modifying the technical contents.

The portions underlined with dots are the matters not stated in the corresponding International Standard.

The increased awareness of the importance of environmental protection, and the possible impacts associated with products, both manufactured and consumed, has increased interest in the development of methods to better understand and address these impacts. One of the techniques being developed for this purpose is life cycle assessment (hereafter referred to as "LCA").

NOTE 1 In this Standard, the term "product" includes services.

LCA can assist in

- identifying opportunities to improve the environmental performance of products at various points in their life cycle,
- informing decision-makers in industry, government or non-government organizations (e.g. for the purpose of strategic planning, priority setting, product or process design or redesign),
- the selection of relevant indicators of environmental performance, including measurement techniques, and
- marketing (e.g. implementing an ecolabelling scheme, making an environmental claim, or producing an environmental product declaration).

LCA addresses the environmental aspects and potential environmental impacts (e.g. use of resources and environmental consequences of releases) throughout a product's life cycle from raw material acquisition through production, use, end-of-life treatment, recycling and final disposal (i.e. cradle-to-grave).

NOTE 2 The "potential environmental impacts" are relative expressions, as they are related to the functional unit of a product system.

There are four phases in an LCA study:

- a) the goal and scope definition phase,
- b) the inventory analysis phase,
- c) the impact assessment phase, and
- d) the interpretation phase.

The scope, including system boundary and level of detail, of an LCA depends on the subject and the intended use of the study. The depth and the breadth of LCA can differ considerably depending on the goal of a particular LCA.