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Environmental labels and declarations — General principles

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Descriptors : environmental engineering, labels, safety measures

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Q 14020 : 1999 (ISO 14020 : 1998)

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 labels and declarations — General principles

0 Introduction

0.1 This Japanese Industrial Standard has been prepared based on the first edition of ISO 14020 *Environmental labels and declarations — General principles* published in 1998 without modifying the technical contents.

0.2 Environmental labels and declarations are one of the tools of environmental management, which is the subject of the ISO 14000 series.

Environmental labels and declarations provide information about a product or service in terms of its overall environmental character, a specific environmental aspect, or any number of aspects. Purchasers and potential purchasers can use this information in choosing the products or services they desire based on environmental, as well as other, considerations. The provider of the product or service hopes the environmental label or declaration will be effective in influencing the purchasing decision in favour of its product or service. If the environmental label or declaration has this effect, the market share of the product or service can increase and other providers may respond by improving the environmental aspects of their products or services to enable them to use environmental labels or make environmental declarations, resulting in reduced environmental stress from that product or service category.

1 Scope

This Standard establishes guiding principles for the development and use of environmental labels and declarations. It is intended that other applicable standards in the JIS Q 14020 series be used in conjunction with this Standard.

This Standard is not intended for use as a specification for certification and registration purposes.

NOTE Other Standards in the series are intended to be consistent with the principles set forth in this Standard. Other standards currently in the JIS Q 14020 series are ISO 14021, ISO 14024 and ISO/TR 14025 (see Bibliography).

2 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this Standard, the following terms and definitions apply.

2.1

environmental label

environmental declaration

claim which indicates the environmental aspects of a product or service

NOTE An environmental label or declaration may take the form of a statement, symbol or graphic on a product or package label, in product literature, in technical bulletins, in advertising or in publicity, amongst other things.

2.2

life cycle

consecutive and interlinked stages of a product system, from raw material acquisition or generation of natural resources to the final disposal

[JIS Q 14040:1997]

NOTE "Product" includes any goods or service.

2.3

environmental aspect

element of an organization's activities, products or services which can interact with the environment