
**Packaging and the environment —
Energy recovery**

Emballage et environnement — Récupération d'énergie

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ISO copyright office
Case postale 56 • CH-1211 Geneva 20
Tel. + 41 22 749 01 11
Fax + 41 22 749 09 47
E-mail copyright@iso.org
Web www.iso.org

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

The main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards. Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

ISO 18605 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 122, *Packaging*, Subcommittee SC 4, *Packaging and environment*.

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Introduction

Packaging plays a critical role in almost every industry, every sector and every supply chain. Appropriate packaging is essential to prevent loss of goods and, as a result, decrease impact on the environment. Effective packaging makes a positive contribution towards achieving a sustainable society by, (e.g.):

- a) meeting consumers' needs and expectation for the protection of goods, safety, handling and information;
- b) efficiently using resources and limiting environmental impact;
- c) saving costs in the distribution and merchandising of goods.

An environmental assessment of packaging may include the manufacturing and distribution system, the wastage of packaging material and goods, the relevant collection systems, as well as recovery or disposal operations. This group of ISO standards and supporting reports provides a set of procedures which aim to:

- d) reduce environmental impact;
- e) support innovation in products, packaging and the supply chain;
- f) avoid undue restrictions on the use of packaging;
- g) prevent barriers and restrictions to trade.

Packaging is designed to provide a number of functions for users and producers such as: containment, protection, information, convenience, unitization, handling, delivery or presentation of goods. A major role of packaging is prevention of damage to or loss of goods. (See ISO 18601:2012, [Annex A](#) for a list of the functions of packaging.)

ISO 18601 defines the interrelationships within the family of ISO standards which cover the environmental impact of packaging throughout its life cycle (see [Figure 1](#)). These standards will help define whether the selected packaging can be optimized and whether the packaging needs to be modified to ensure it can be reused or recovered after use. [ISO 18605:2013](#)

Demonstration that the requirements of these standards are met can be performed by a first party (manufacturer or supplier), a second party (user or purchaser), or by the support of a third party (independent body).

Public claims on the environmental attributes of packaging may be addressed by different methods. Some of these are technical aspects on reuse or recovery, others relate to access by the population to reuse or recovery systems or the amount of packaging placed on the market for recovery. This series of standards addresses the technical aspects of the packaging. It does not address the requirements of ISO 14021 needed to support a claim or label.

This International Standard does not use the term “and/or” but, instead, the term “or” is used as an inclusive disjunction, meaning one or the other or both.

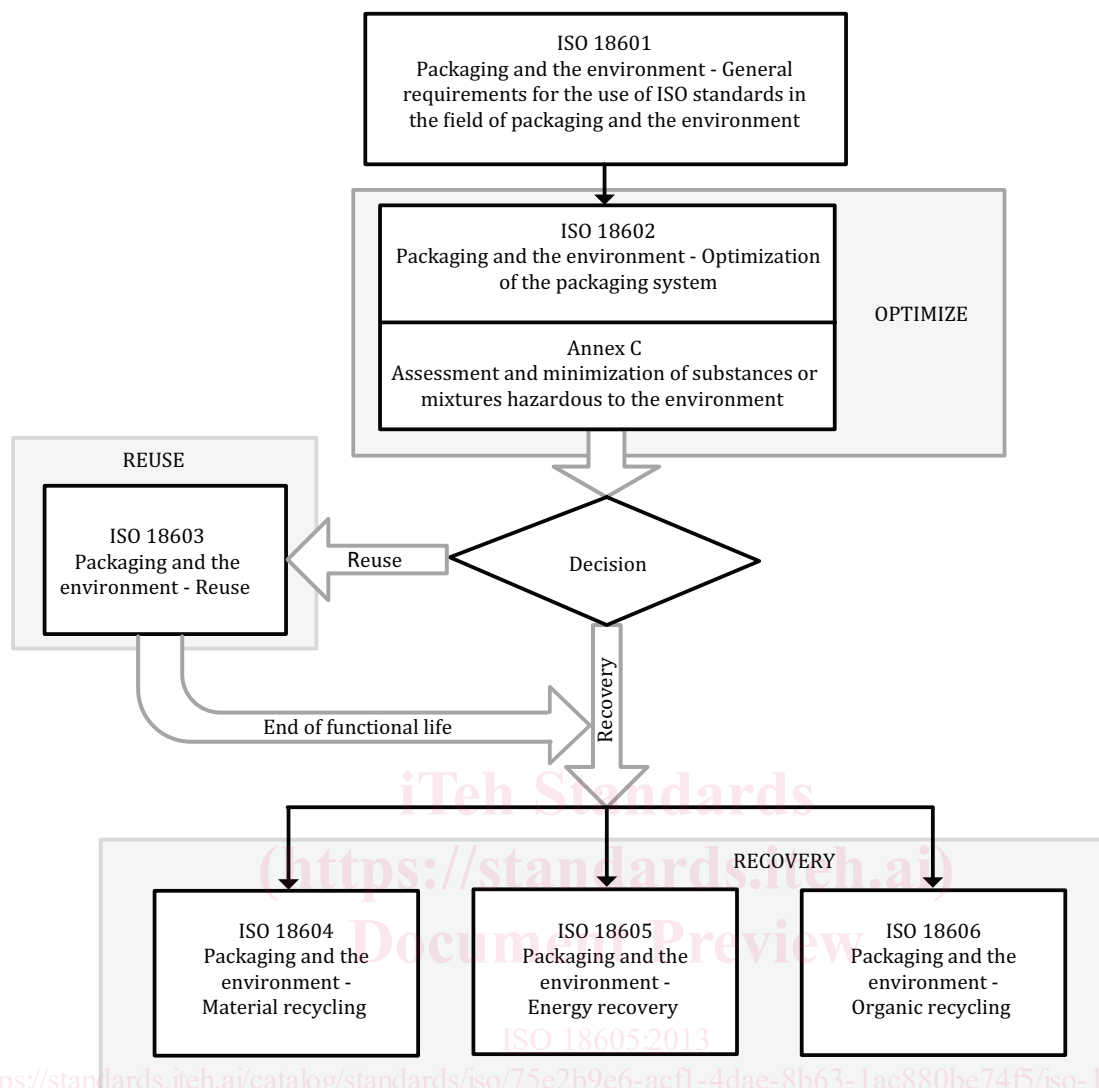


Figure 1 — Relationship of the Packaging and environment standards

Packaging and the environment — Energy recovery

1 Scope

This International Standard specifies the requirements for packaging to be classified as recoverable in the form of energy recovery and sets out assessment procedures for fulfilling the requirements of this International Standard.

This International Standard is a part of a series of International Standards. The procedure for applying it is contained in ISO 18601.

2 Normative references

The following documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 18601:2012, *Packaging and the environment — General requirements for the use of ISO standards in the field of packaging and the environment*

ISO 21067:2007, *Packaging — Vocabulary*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO 18601, ISO 21067 and the following apply.

3.1

net calorific value at constant volume

absolute value of the specific energy of combustion, for unit mass of a solid fuel burned in oxygen under conditions of constant volume and such that all the water of the reaction products remains as water vapour (in a hypothetical state at 0,1 MPa), the other products being as for the gross calorific value, all at the reference temperature

Note 1 to entry: For the purpose of this document, 'fuel' as indicated above means used packaging.

[SOURCE: ISO 1928:2009, definition 3.1.3]

3.2

required energy

H_a

energy necessary to adiabatically heat the post combustion substances of a material and excess air from ambient temperature to a specified final temperature

3.3

calorific gain

positive difference between the energy released on combustion of a material and H_a

3.4

theoretical minimum net calorific value

$Q_{\text{net, min, theor}}$

fraction of the energy released on combustion sufficient to adiabatically heat the post-combustion substances of a material or product and excess air from a specified ambient temperature to a specified final temperature

3.5

available thermal energy

fraction of the energy released on combustion in a real industrial system which is transferred for example to the steam cycle of a boiler, i.e. the total released energy minus the thermal losses

3.6

combustion

incineration

oxidation reaction covering both organic materials and metals

Note 1 to entry: Modern incineration plants are able to decouple energy efficiently and use it in the form of energy recovery. The term “incineration” in normal usage means the process of reducing solid waste volume by combustion with or without energy recovery. For the purpose of this International Standard, they refer only to the incineration process with energy recovery.

3.7

energy recovery

production of useful energy through direct and controlled combustion

Note 1 to entry: Solid-waste incinerators producing hot water, steam or electricity are a common form of energy recovery.

[SOURCE: ISO 15270:2008, definition 3.11]

4 Specification of minimum net calorific value

The theoretical minimum net calorific value, $q_{\text{net,min,theor.}}$, is material specific. It depends on the temperature and other conditions required by the combustion process. In this International Standard it is identified as H_a and may be determined by the method described in [Annex A](#). This Annex specifies the theoretical minimum net calorific value through the technical concept of calorific gain.

The real minimum net calorific value, $q_{\text{net,min,real.}}$, is set to allow optimization of energy recovery in a real industrial system and is defined in [Annex B](#).

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5 Requirements

To allow optimization of energy recovery in a real industrial system, the theoretical calorific gain shall be well above zero. To claim energy recovery q_{net} shall be equal to or greater than $q_{\text{net,min,real.}}$, as defined for various incineration conditions listed in [Table B.2](#) in [Annex B](#).

NOTE 1 Packaging composed of at least 50 % (by weight) of organic content, e.g. wood, cardboard, paper and other organic fibres, starch, plastics, provides calorific gain and meets the requirement of q_{net} equal to or greater than $q_{\text{net,min,real.}}$, as defined for various incineration conditions listed in [Table B.2](#) in [Annex B](#).

NOTE 2 Packaging consisting of more than 50 % by weight of inorganic constituents, e.g. inorganic fillers and layers, is recoverable in the form of energy, provided q_{net} is equal to or greater than $q_{\text{net,min,real.}}$, as defined for various incineration conditions listed in [Table B.2](#) in [Annex B](#).

NOTE 3 Packaging consisting of more than 50 % by weight of inorganic components, of which the primary constituent is not energy recoverable, e.g. glass or rigid metal containers with a plastic closure, is not deemed to be energy recoverable.

NOTE 4 Thin gauge aluminium (typically up to 50 μm thick) contributes to q_{net} of the packaging and is deemed to be energy recoverable. Aluminium over 50 μm is not deemed to be energy recoverable.

NOTE 5 Substances hazardous to the environment are addressed in ISO 18602. Other aspects regarding packaging not suitable for energy recovery are also discussed in [Annex C](#).

6 Procedures

6.1 Application

The application of this International Standard to any particular packaging shall be as specified in ISO 18601.

6.2 Assessment

Packaging may be assessed for energy recoverability by calculation from data given in [Annex B](#) or use of the methodology in [Annex A](#).

6.3 Demonstration of meeting the requirements

In order to demonstrate that the requirements stated in [Clause 5](#) in ISO 18601:2012 have been met, a written statement shall be prepared. [Annex D](#) in this International Standard may be used as guidance.

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Annex A (informative)

Determination of calorific gain and specification of the theoretical minimum net calorific value

The determination of calorific gain is based on standard procedures for calculating the adiabatic final temperature in combustion chemistry and thermodynamics.

The net calorific value, q_{net} , of a material is the amount of heat released when it burns and when all water remains in the gas phase. In order to be recoverable in the form of energy, packaging should provide a calorific gain in the energy recovery process. For the purpose of this International Standard, this is assumed to be fulfilled when q_{net} exceeds the amount of required energy, H_a , to raise adiabatically the temperature of the post-combustion substances (including excess air) from ambient temperature to the specified final temperature. A calorific gain is obtained when Formula (1) is fulfilled:

$$q_{\text{net}} - H_a > 0 \quad (1)$$

The net calorific value of a packaging consisting of different components or constituents can be calculated according to Formula (2):

$$q_{\text{net}} = \sum_{i=1}^n f_i q_{\text{net},i} \quad (2)$$

where

q_{net} net calorific value of the packaging;

f_i mass fraction of component or constituent "i" in the packaging;

$q_{\text{net},i}$ net calorific value of component or constituent "i" in the packaging.

A combustible packaging may contain non-combustible components or constituents of inert or reactive nature, which may have a negative effect on calorific gain.

The theoretical minimum net calorific value specified as H_a can be determined by the application of Formulae (3) and (4):

$$q_{\text{net,min,theor.}} = H_a = \sum_{i=1}^n f_i H_{a,i} \quad (3)$$

where

H_a the energy required to heat adiabatically combustion products, residues and excess air from T_0 to T_a ;

$H_{a,i}$ the energy required to heat adiabatically combustion products, residues and excess air from T_0 to T_a of component or constituent "i" of the packaging.