
Sustainability in buildings and civil engineering works — General principles

*Développement durable dans les bâtiments et ouvrages de génie
civil — Principes généraux*

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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.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

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This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 59, *Buildings and civil engineering works*, Subcommittee SC 17, *Sustainability in buildings and civil engineering works*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 15392:2008), which has been technically revised.

The main changes compared to the previous edition are as follows:

- The title and scope of the document have been updated to reflect that it applies to both buildings and civil engineering works.
- This scope of the document has been clarified to state that it identifies and establishes general principles for the contribution of buildings, civil engineering works and other types of construction works to sustainable development.
- The list of objectives for applying the concepts to sustainability and promoting sustainable development has been expanded to include additional considerations.
- The list of nine general principles has been updated to: continual improvement, equity, global thinking and local action, holistic approach, involvement of interested parties, long-term consideration and resilience, responsibility, risk management, and transparency.
- A description and additional explanatory information has been added for each principle.
- The concept of resilience was added as a key consideration as part of the principle of long-term consideration.
- The former “precaution and risk” principle was changed to “risk management” and includes the concepts of precaution, prevention, elimination, reduction and mitigation.
- Application of the general principles as they relate to the three pillars of sustainability, economic, social and environmental, along with integrated consideration of all aspects has been expanded.

- A new section providing basic guidance for the application of each principle has been added.
- [Annex A](#) was updated with new designations, titles and short description of the suite of documents under ISO/TC 59/SC 17.
- Informative Annex B 'Products of the building and construction sector' was replaced by a new informative [Annex B](#) 'Guidance provided by the ISO 15686 series for service life planning in buildings and constructed assets'.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

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