
**Tractors and machinery for
agriculture and forestry —
Sustainability —**

**Part 1:
Principles**

*Tracteurs et matériels agricoles et forestiers — Durabilité —
Partie 1: Principes*



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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).

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. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see www.iso.org/patents).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation on the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the WTO principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: [Foreword - Supplementary information](#)

The committee responsible for this document is ISO/TC 23, *Tractors and machinery for agriculture and forestry*.

ISO 17989 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Tractors and machinery for agriculture and forestry — Sustainability*:

- *Part 1: Principles*

Introduction

International concern over human impact on the health of the environment (e.g. acid rain, ozone layer depletion, air, water and soil pollution, ground compaction, soil erosion) and the consumption of the limited natural resources have encouraged organizations that are involved in the design, development and marketing of machinery to give attention to how a machine can impact the environment. Social issues, such as a safe workplace, and economic issues, such as a manufacturing organization considering increasing the number of workers to increase production rates, shall be balanced by organisations. This rise in attention is driven not only by issues relating to social responsibility of manufacturers, but also purchasers of machinery who themselves can have concerns about the impact that their machine has on the environment, as well as legislative bodies that are in positions to mandate certain actions intended to reduce the adverse impact of machinery on the environment. In order to address these concerns, application of the principles of sustainability has been regarded as appropriate strategy.

The sustainability concept was developed in the forestry sector when more and more wood was used as source of energy (before the use of coal started) and has a long tradition in agriculture as agricultural and forestry production are linked to the land.

Today, sustainability standards are used in agriculture with the aim of achieving a fair balance between the three sustainability aspects:

- economic aspects, such as:
 - cost-effectiveness;
 - liquidity;
 - stability / steady economic condition.
- environmental aspects, such as:
 - climate effects;
 - resource consumption;
 - biodiversity;
 - soil protection;
 - water and air pollution.
- social aspects, such as:
 - work and employment (education, training, safety);
 - social involvement.

It is recognized that a product's design and its use over its lifetime can have a significant impact on the quality and sustainability of the environment in which it operates. Taking steps during a product's design and development stage that are aimed at reducing the impacts of the product is an important factor in sustaining the environment. In this sense, designing for sustainability can be seen as a process and set of considerations that are integrated into a product's design and development activities in support of reducing the negative impacts and improving the performance of the product. The design and use of agricultural and forestry machinery, being very closely tied to the environment in the production of food, fibres, fuel and lumber for humans and livestock, is no exception to this objective.

Standards which provide designers and manufacturers of agricultural and forestry machinery with guidelines for the incorporation of sustainability into a machine's design and development are desired and would be useful in advancing the state of the art of sustainability in design in this industry sector, and could provide machinery purchasers with the means of fairly comparing the impacts of competing products.

ISO 17989-1:2015(E)

This part of ISO 17989 is the first of a series of standards that specifies principles related to sustainability and recommends to regard 'sustainability' as a management task to be addressed to the manufacturer. Other parts of this series are planned to address specific product families and to specify approaches related to sustainability in the design and use of products/machines.

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Tractors and machinery for agriculture and forestry — Sustainability —

Part 1: Principles

1 Scope

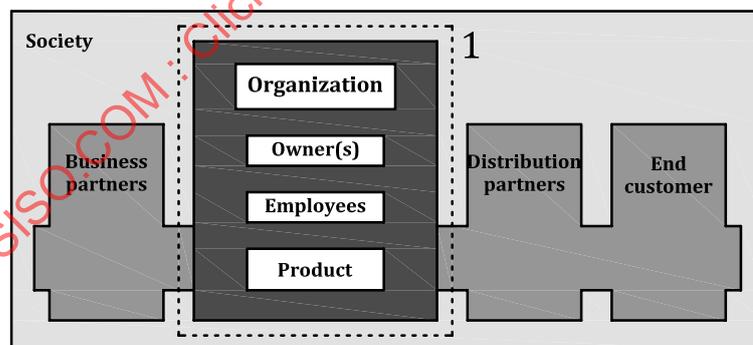
This part of ISO 17989 provides guidelines to assist designers and manufacturers of tractors and machinery for agriculture and forestry to integrate sustainability principles, practices and considerations into their organizations and processes. This part of ISO 17989 is specifically applicable to equipment used in the production of food, fibres, fuel and lumber for humans and livestock.

NOTE This part of ISO 17989 includes three different levels for the application: principles, recommendations and additional information (annexes).

This part of ISO 17989 is addressed to the organization management and provides guidance for considering sustainability aspects relevant for the organization and the product life cycle. It defines the factory gate as the system boundary ([Figure 1](#)).

This part of ISO 17989 is not applicable to contractual or regulatory purposes or to registration and certification.

Except when they are closely related to sustainability, this part of ISO 17989 does not address issues of occupational health and safety or operator safety aspects of a machine's design. Designers can find guidance on these issues in other International Standards.



Key

1 system boundary

Figure 1 — System boundary specifying also the scope of ISO 17989-1

2 Terms and definitions

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

**2.1
design and development**

set of processes that transforms requirements into specified characteristics or into the specification of a product, process or system

Note 1 to entry: The terms “design” and “development” are sometimes used synonymously and sometimes used to define different stages of the overall design and development process.

Note 2 to entry: A qualifier can be applied to indicate the nature of what is being designed and developed (e.g. product design and development or process design and development).

[SOURCE: ISO 9000:2005, definition 3.4.4]

**2.2
end-of-life machine**

machine that has completed its useful life and is taken out of service for disposal, recycle or reuse

[SOURCE: ISO 10987:2012, definition 3.7]

**2.3
energy efficiency**

effectiveness of converting energy into useful work

[SOURCE: ISO 10987:2012, definition 3.11]

**2.4
environment**

surroundings in which an organization or product operates, including air, water, land, natural resources, flora, fauna, humans, and their interrelation

[SOURCE: ISO 14001:2004, definition 3.5, modified]

**2.5
environmental aspect**

element of an organization’s activities or products or services that can interact with the environment

[SOURCE: ISO 14001:2004, definition 3.6 modified]

**2.6
environmental impact**

any change to the environment, whether adverse or beneficial, wholly or partially resulting from an organization’s activities, products, or services

[SOURCE: ISO 14001:2004, definition 3.7 modified]

**2.7
environmental label
environmental declaration**

claim which indicates the environmental aspects of a product or service

[SOURCE: ISO 14020:2000, definition 2.1]

**2.8
life cycle**

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

[SOURCE: ISO 14044:2006, definition 3.1]

2.9**life cycle assessment**

compilation and evaluation of impacts over a product's life cycle

Note 1 to entry: The life cycle to be assessed includes raw material selection, manufacturing, transportation, use, maintenance and end-of-life.

2.10**life cycle thinking**

consideration of all relevant environmental aspects of a product during the entire product life cycle

2.11**manufacturing organization**

organization, corporation, firm, enterprise, authority or institution, or part or combination thereof, whether incorporated or not, public or private, that has its own functions and administration

[SOURCE: ISO 14031:2013, definition 3.20 modified]

2.12**product**

machine, attachment or system that performs a specific function and that is placed on the market for sale or distribution or placed into service

Note 1 to entry: A product can be software, hardware or processed material (e.g. lubricant).

2.13**sustainability**

balance between social, environmental and economic needs that optimizes the current quality of life without sacrificing future quality of life

[SOURCE: ISO 10987:2012, definition 3.1]

2.14**end customer**

synonym for farmer, contractor, product owner or operator

3 Principles

This concept shows that sustainability is characterized by a high degree of complexity which can affect the organization and its processes. The amount and importance of stakeholders, their interests, and their needs clarify that sustainability relates to the organization as a whole. Therefore, sustainability shall be seen as management task.

In order to satisfy this concept, the following principles shall be applied:

- identification of stakeholders and their interests (see [4.1](#));
- shaping of the organization policy (see [4.2](#));
- identification of relevant performance indicators (see [4.3](#));
- installation of the process that allows the optimization of performance (see [4.4](#));
- information to stakeholders (see [4.5](#));
- application of assessment procedures (see [4.6](#)).

4 Recommendations for the application of the principles

4.1 Stakeholders and their interests

Stakeholders are to be understood as persons or groups with requests or demands concerning the organization, which are affected by or can influence organization decisions. With respect to their interests, stakeholders can be divided into the following groups:

- Owners and employees are primarily organization-oriented, i.e. their concern centres on long-term successful organization management and development; for additional information, see [Annex A](#).
- Business partners (suppliers), distribution partners (dealers, agents) and end customers are primarily product and after sales oriented, i.e. for them the benefits, advantages and total costs of a product are of particular importance; for additional information, see [Annex B](#).
- Other stakeholders such as analysts/lenders, scientists, politicians/society as well as communities and residents at the locations.

Dialogue with the stakeholders permits the organization to recognize early general trends and developments as well as opportunities and risks. With regard to sustainability, such a dialogue provides the possibility of inventorying, continuously updating and evaluating the topics that are important to stakeholders. Topics evaluated from the stakeholder and organization perspectives tend to display a high level of agreement. The resulting matrix ([Figure 2](#)) is the starting point for the development of a sustainability strategy.

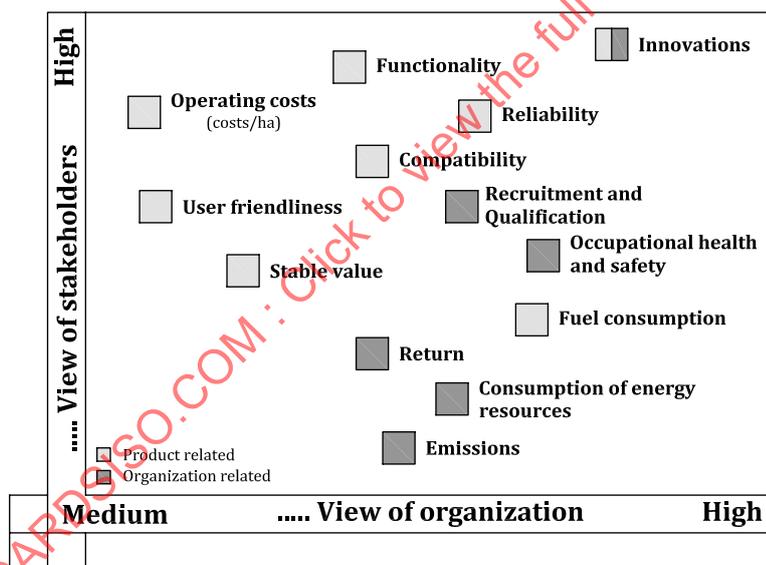


Figure 2—Topic matrix: Importance of topics from the organization and stakeholder perspectives (example)

4.2 Organization policy

Organization policy defines not only the field of activity and fundamental goals, but also in particular the self-image and values of the organization (corporate culture). Codes of conduct describe interactions both within the organization and with external stakeholders.

Since sustainability affects all internal and external organization matters in the sense of taking into account the interests of all identified stakeholders, organization management shall also assume a position in this regard and adapt the values of the organization. The formulations chosen are less important than whether the convictions and associated messages of management are successfully transmitted.

4.3 Performance indicators

The multidimensional 'sustainability' concept shall be made manageable and comprehensible, so that it can be applied in the organization. Based on the topics identified within the framework of the stakeholder dialogue, specific targets and performance characteristics and indicators are to be determined, to which specific measures can be assigned. [Figure 3](#) shows the derivation of specific targets and performance indicators.

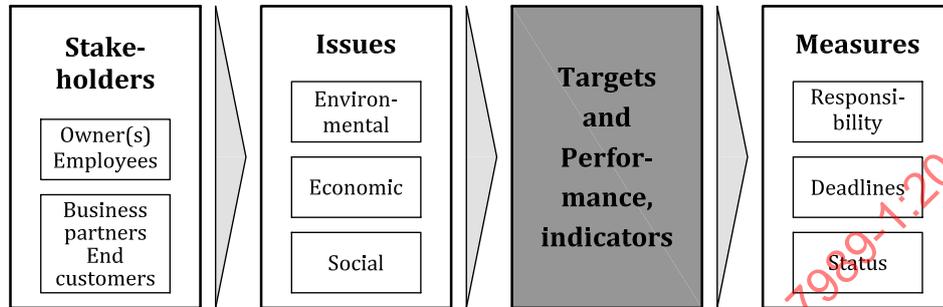


Figure 3 — Derivation of sustainability targets and indicators

According to the principle of sustainability (see [Clause 3](#)), the performance indicators should address economic, environmental and social aspects. The performance indicators can deal with the following:

- **Economic performance indicators, e.g.:**
 - Economic performance;
 - Market presence;
 - Indirect economic impacts.
- **Environmental performance indicators, e.g.:**
 - Materials;
 - Energy;
 - Water;
 - Biodiversity;
 - Emissions, effluents and waste;
 - Products and services;
 - Compliance;
 - Transport.
- **Social performance indicators, e.g.:**
 - Labour practices;
 - Human rights;
 - Society;
 - Product responsibility.

With respect to the interests of owners and employees and other stakeholders, the performance indicators should be identified, defined and specified by using two different approaches:

- stakeholder approach (see Annex A);
- life cycle approach (see Annex B).

4.4 Process for optimization of performance

For the optimization of the performance, a continuous improvement process may be implemented within the organization. The structure of this process should correspond to Figure 4.

NOTE The continuous improvement process for quality is shown in ISO 9001.

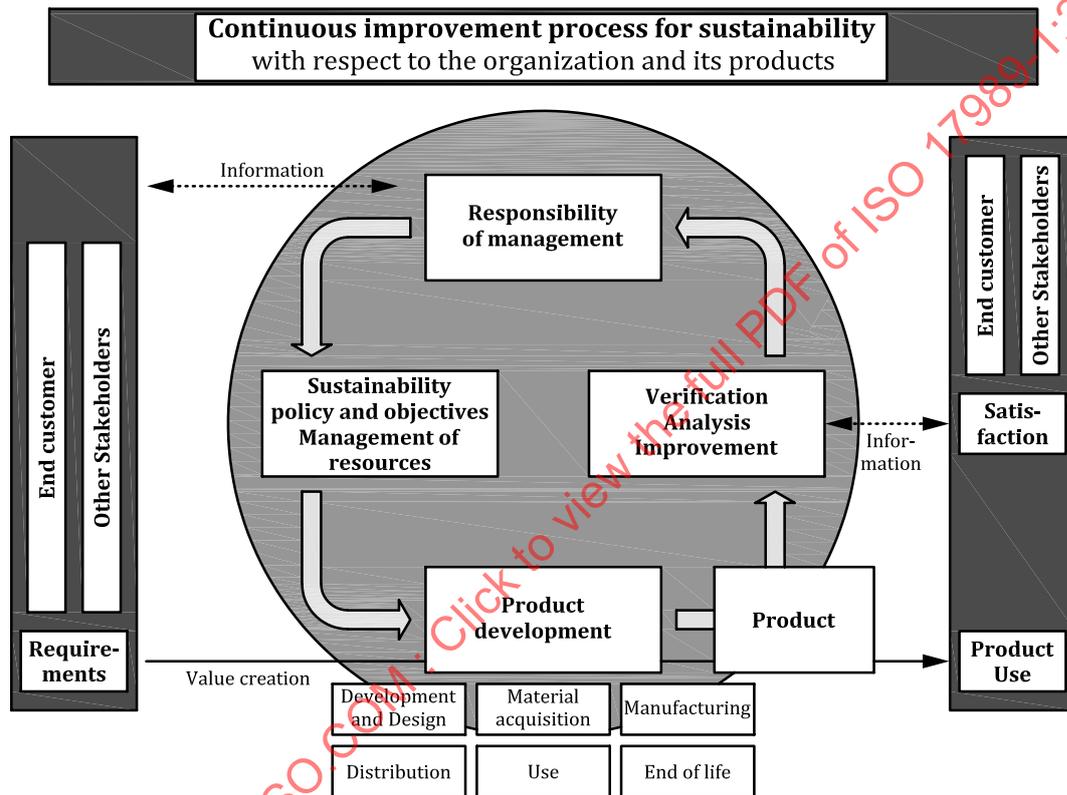


Figure 4 — Continuous improvement process for sustainability

4.5 Information to stakeholders

4.5.1 General

Reporting concerning the sustainability performance of an organization can take place:

- internally, with the objective of promoting employee awareness, motivation and identification, thus keeping the process going; and
- externally, with the objective of informing business and distribution partners, end customers, financial partners, the public and politicians concerning the organization’s principles (sense of responsibility, future orientation, etc.) and current sustainability status.

Depending upon the target group and message, various formats can be considered (e.g. website, business reports, press releases and employee information).

4.6 Reports

4.6.1 General

Information on the organization's vision, mission, strategies, operations and products with respect to sustainability can be provided to the public. This information may be included in other documents (for example business reports) or published as separate brochures, leaflets, etc.

4.6.2 Labels and declarations

If provided, the information on labels and declarations should:

- be readable and intelligible; and
- be comprehensible and verifiable;

4.6.3 Additional information

If provided, additional information should be appropriate and sufficient to explain the nature of the claim or data that is being presented by the label or declaration and should:

- provide detailed information on one or more aspects of sustainability; and
- refer to other sources of information.

EXAMPLES Additional information can be explanatory brochures, free telephone numbers, internet sites, or other public access means.

4.7 Assessment

The assessment may be part of the organization's continuous improvement process (see [4.4](#)). Information is provided by ISO 9001.

Annex A (informative)

Stakeholder approach – Examples for performance indicators

See [Table A.1](#).

Table A.1 — Examples for performance indicators

Stakeholder	Aspect	Performance indicators
Owners	Economic	Rate of return, cost-effectiveness, liquidity, steady economic condition, turnover per employee, market shares, expenditures for product development and innovations, ...
	Environmental	Consumption of resources such as energy, water, air and raw material, use of hazardous substances, amount and disposal of wastes, avoidance of manufacturing related pollutions, ...
	Social	Involvement in local, regional social structures, availability and qualification of staff, working conditions, accidents at work, prestige of the organization and its products, ...
Employees	Economic	Job security, salary, ...
	Environmental	Comfortable and healthy work place and working conditions, ...
	Social	Career opportunities, employee engagement, development of competence, methods, tools and processes, training, flexible working times, ...

Annex B (informative)

Life-cycle approach

B.1 General

Life cycle thinking includes consideration of the impacts of a machine through all stages of the product's life.

These stages include:

- conception / development / design;
- material acquisition;
- manufacturing;
- distribution;
- use;
- maintenance;
- end-of-life.

A life cycle assessment (LCA) is useful in identifying the sustainability aspects and potential adverse impacts throughout a product's life cycle from raw material acquisition through production, use and end of life treatment.

LCA can assist all parties involved in the production of an agricultural or forestry product in:

- identifying the significant impacts in all or certain phases of a product's life;
- identifying opportunities to reduce the impacts in certain phases of a product's life;
- identifying the most relevant sustainability indicators of the product's performance;
- identifying those performance indicators that are seen as value added information by product customers, society (general), and that are useful in making a sustainability performance claim or producing an environmental declaration or label.

ISO 14040 and ISO 14044 should be referenced for principles, framework and requirements to be used in preparing and carrying out an LCA for a product.

Examples of how the individual life cycle stages could provide contributions with respect to sustainability are provided in [Annex C](#).

B.2 Principles related to life cycle stages

B.2.1 Efficient use of natural resources

In designing a machine, efforts should be made to reduce the depletion of natural resources where economically and socially possible. This process involves:

- selecting design solutions that serve to improve the efficient use of resources during all stages of the machine's life;

- when LCA verifies better environmental performance giving preference to the use of renewable resources;
- when LCA verifies better environmental performance giving preference to construction materials that can be recovered and recycled during end-of-life treatment of the machine.

B.2.2 Minimization of pollution

Minimization of release to the air, ground or water of substances or materials that are documented as being hazardous, toxic or otherwise harmful to the environment shall be taken into consideration during all life cycle phases of a product. When feasible, such substances or materials should be replaced by other, less harmful substances and materials.

The design should take into consideration:

- reduction or treatment of engine exhaust and other air emissions to levels that are technically and economically feasible and meet the minimum requirements of national and regional regulations where such regulations exist;
- use of materials that can be recycled and reused as an alternative to land disposal or incineration;
- reduction, and possible elimination of the potential for the release of harmful chemical substances during the use, service or disassembly of the machine;
- provision in operator instructions regarding steps that the operator can take to prevent or reduce pollution.

B.2.3 Efficient use

'Use' is an important life cycle stage because this stage can provide the most significant contributions to the sustainability demands the end customer is faced with:

- economic requests such as cost-effective operations;
- environmental requests such as reduction of resource consumption, protection of soil, water, air, flora, fauna and humans;
- social requests such as safe workplaces, quality controlled production of food, energy and fibre.

To increase and to optimize the contribution of the use stage, the following parameters should be considered:

- efficiency of the product (machine, service);
- efficiency of operating the machine;
- efficiency of the (agricultural) process;
- use of renewable fuels and lubricants.

B.2.4 Communication to customers and public

Communication promotes an awareness of sustainability and is useful to purchasers and operators of the product, as well as society (general) that have an interest in understanding how and to what degree the product can impact the environment. Examples of such communication are:

- including, in operator's manuals, information regarding steps the machine operator can take to reduce impact on the environment (e.g. work site operating recommendations; instructions regarding proper disposal of waste lubricants; instructions regarding proper disposal of lead-acid batteries) and operating costs as well as to ensure the safety of the operator and bystanders,

- including, in a product's published specifications, data regarding environmental, economic and safety performance of the product;
- including, with a product, an environmental label or declaration.

B.2.5 Examples for (detailed) performance indicators

See [Table B.1](#).

Table B.1 — Examples for (detailed) performance indicators

Life cycle phase	Aspect	Performance indicator
Development / Design	Economic	Development times, hourly rates, taxes, regulations and tariffs, number of patents ...
	Environmental	Degree of efficiency, duration of life, retrofitting, ...
	Social	Labour content, ...
Material acquisition	Economic	Costs per unit, taxes, regulations and tariffs ...
	Environmental	Availability, recyclability and hazardousness of materials, ...
	Social	Conditions of employment and work, ...
Manufacturing	Economic	Processing times (order / delivery), taxes, regulations and tariffs ...
	Environmental	Consumption of energy and water, emissions, wastes, ...
	Social	Working conditions, accidents at work, ...
Distribution	Economic	Taxes, regulations and tariffs
	Environmental	Packaging, means of transport, ...
	Social	After sales support
Use	Economic	Performance, acquisition, running and service costs, taxes, regulations and tariffs ...
	Environmental	Impacts to air, water and soil, ...
	Social	Safety of operator, ...
End-of-life	Economic	Residual value, costs for disassembling, taxes, regulations and tariffs ...
	Environmental	Retrofitting, recyclability, hazardous substances, disposal, ...
	Social	