

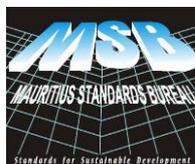
MAURITIAN
STANDARD

MS ISO
59004:2024

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**Circular economy — Vocabulary,
principles and guidance for
implementation**

ICS: 01.040.03; 01.040.13; 03.100.01; 13.020.20



**Mauritius Standards Bureau
Moka**

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National foreword

This Mauritian Standard is identical with the International Standard **ISO 59004:2024**, *Circular economy — Vocabulary, principles and guidance for implementation*. It was adopted by the Mauritius Standards Bureau on the recommendation of the **Circular Economy Standards Committee**. The standard was approved by the **Standards Council** on 25 September 2024 and notified in the Government Gazette on **12 October 2024***.

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*Mauritius Standards Bureau
Villa Road
Moka
Mauritius*

*Telephone + (230) 433 3648
Fax + (230) 433 5051/ 433 5150
E-mail msb@intnet.mu*

Contents

	Page
Foreword	v
Introduction	vi
1 Scope	1
2 Normative references	1
3 Terms and definitions	1
3.1 Terms related to a circular economy.....	1
3.2 Terms related to solutions.....	4
3.3 Terms related to resources.....	5
3.4 Terms related to organizations and other interested parties.....	8
3.5 Terms related to value creation models and design and development.....	9
3.6 Terms related to measurement and assessment.....	13
4 Circular economy vision	14
5 Circular economy principles	15
5.1 General.....	15
5.2 Principles.....	16
5.2.1 Systems thinking.....	16
5.2.2 Value creation.....	16
5.2.3 Value sharing.....	16
5.2.4 Resource stewardship.....	16
5.2.5 Resource traceability.....	16
5.2.6 Ecosystem resilience.....	16
5.3 Considerations of adopting the principles.....	16
5.3.1 General.....	16
5.3.2 Design and development.....	16
5.3.3 Collaboration for management of information and resources.....	17
5.3.4 Risk and opportunity management.....	17
5.3.5 Relationship between value creation and resource use.....	17
5.3.6 Awareness of stocks and flows.....	17
6 Actions that contribute to a circular economy	18
6.1 General.....	18
6.2 Actions that create added value.....	18
6.2.1 General.....	18
6.2.2 Design for circularity.....	18
6.2.3 Circular sourcing.....	19
6.2.4 Circular procurement.....	19
6.2.5 Process optimization.....	20
6.2.6 Industrial, regional or urban symbiosis.....	20
6.3 Actions that contribute to value retention.....	20
6.3.1 General.....	20
6.3.2 Reduce, reuse and repurpose.....	21
6.3.3 Maintenance and repair.....	21
6.3.4 Performance-based approaches.....	21
6.3.5 Sharing to intensify use.....	21
6.3.6 Refurbishing.....	22
6.3.7 Remanufacturing.....	22
6.4 Actions that contribute to value recovery.....	22
6.4.1 General.....	22
6.4.2 Reverse logistics.....	22
6.4.3 Cascading of resources.....	23
6.4.4 Recycling.....	24
6.4.5 Waste management.....	24
6.4.6 Material recovery.....	24
6.4.7 Energy recovery.....	24

ISO 59004:2024(en)

6.5	Actions to regenerate ecosystems	25
6.6	Actions to support a circular economy transition	25
6.6.1	General	25
6.6.2	Education and research	25
6.6.3	Innovation	26
6.6.4	Collaboration and networks	26
6.6.5	Helping users change their behaviour	26
6.6.6	Policy and legal system	26
6.6.7	Financial services	26
6.6.8	Digitalization	27
6.7	Guidance for resource management actions	27
7	Implementation guidance	28
7.1	Overview	28
7.1.1	Implementation process	28
7.1.2	Incorporating circular economy principles in the implementation process	29
7.1.3	Levels of implementation	29
7.1.4	Structure of the guidance for implementation	29
7.2	Context and reference situation assessment	30
7.2.1	Overview	30
7.2.2	Assess the reference situation	30
7.2.3	Assess the importance of a circular economy for the organization	31
7.2.4	Assess the system conditions for transitioning towards a circular economy	31
7.2.5	Identify the risks and opportunities of a circular economy for the organization	32
7.3	Circular economy purpose, mission, vision and goals definition	32
7.3.1	Create a purpose, mission and a vision that align with the circular economy principles	32
7.3.2	Establish circular economy goals aligned with the organization's purpose, mission and vision	32
7.4	Circular economy strategic priorities and action plan development	33
7.4.1	Overview	33
7.4.2	Generate ideas and prioritize actions	33
7.4.3	Establish a circular economy strategy	33
7.4.4	Explore a value creation model	33
7.4.5	Assess feasibility	34
7.4.6	Develop an action plan for the circular economy	34
7.4.7	Develop pilot projects	35
7.5	Circular economy implementation	35
7.5.1	Overview	35
7.5.2	Raise awareness and build capacity for action	35
7.5.3	Test and iterate value creation model(s)	36
7.5.4	Execute the action plan for a circular economy	36
7.6	Circular economy monitoring, reviewing and reporting	36
	Annex A (informative) List of drivers	38
	Annex B (informative) Non-exhaustive list of examples of actions	40
	Annex C (informative) Considering a sustainable development perspective in actions	44
	Bibliography	50
	Index	52

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 document 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).

ISO draws attention to the possibility that the implementation of this document may involve the use of (a) patent(s). ISO takes no position concerning the evidence, validity or applicability of any claimed patent rights in respect thereof. As of the date of publication of this document, ISO had not received notice of (a) patent(s) which may be required to implement this document. However, implementers are cautioned that this may not represent the latest information, which may be obtained from the patent database available at www.iso.org/patents. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

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

For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), see www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 323, *Circular economy*.

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.

Introduction

0.1 Background

The global economy is “linear” as it is mainly based on extraction, production, use and disposal. This linear economy leads to resource depletion, biodiversity loss, waste and harmful losses and releases, all of which collectively are causing serious damage to the capacity of the planet to continue to provide for the needs of future generations.^[27] Moreover, several planetary boundaries have already been reached or exceeded.

There is an increased understanding that a transition towards an economy that is more circular, based on a circular use of resources, can contribute to meeting current and future human needs (welfare, housing, nutrition, healthcare, mobility, etc.). Transitioning towards a circular economy can also contribute to the creation and sharing of more value within society and interested parties, while natural resources are managed to be replenished and renewed and in a sustainable way, securing the quality and resilience of ecosystems.

Organizations recognize many potential reasons to engage in a circular economy (e.g. delivering more ambitious and sustainable solutions; improved relationships with interested parties; more effective and efficient ways to fulfil voluntary commitments or legal requirements; engaging in climate change mitigation or adaptation; managing resource scarcity risks, increasing resilience in the environmental, social and economic systems), while contributing to satisfying human needs.

The ISO 59000 family of standards (see [Figure 1](#)) is designed to harmonize the understanding of the circular economy and to support its implementation and measurement. It also considers organizations, such as government, industry and non-profit, in contributing to the achievement of the United Nations (UN) Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development^[28].

ISO 59004, *Circular economy — Vocabulary, principles and guidance for implementation*

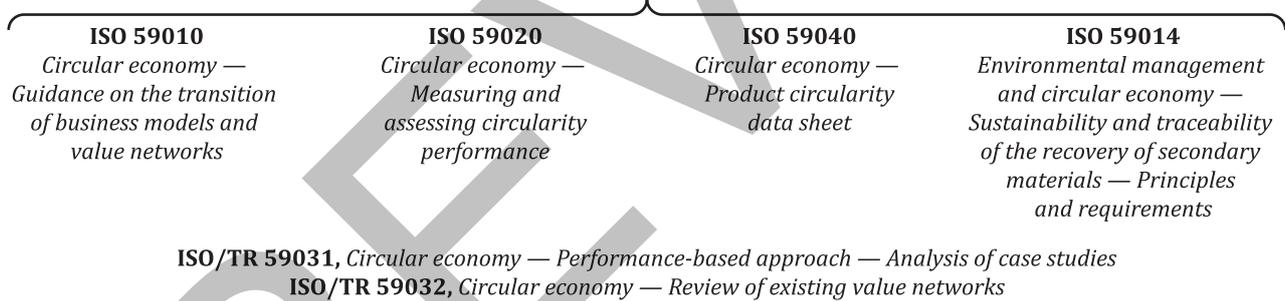


Figure 1 — ISO 59000 family of standards

0.2 Relationship between this document, ISO 59010 and ISO 59020

This document, ISO 59010 and ISO 59020 are interconnected, as shown in [Figure 2](#), and support organizations in implementing a transition towards a circular economy.

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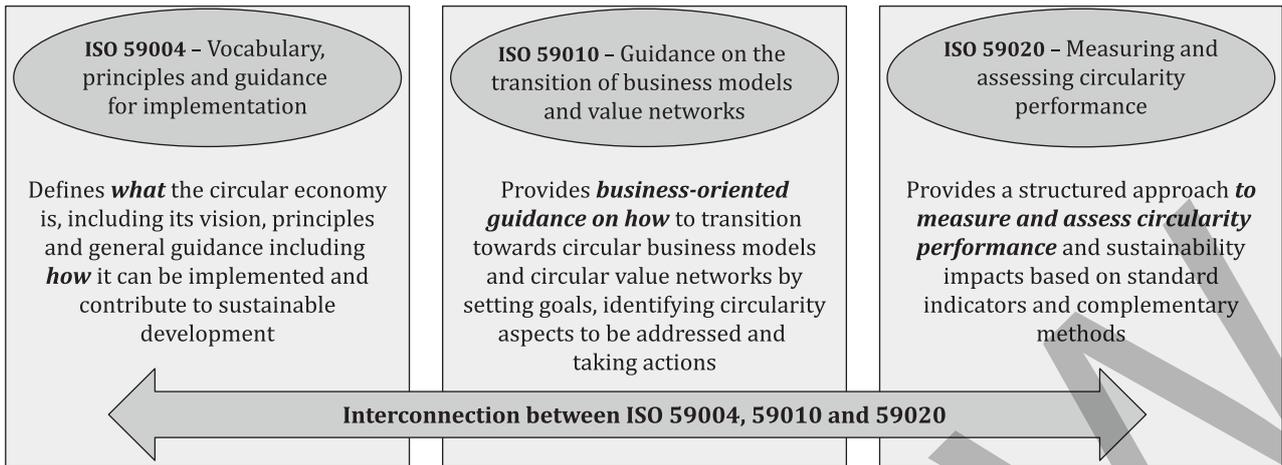


Figure 2 — Relationship between this document, ISO 59010 and ISO 59020

0.3 Purpose and the outline of this document

This document gives guidance for any kind of organization. It describes the main terms and definitions (see [Clause 3](#)), a circular economy vision (see [Clause 4](#)), the circular economy principles (see [Clause 5](#)), provides practical guidance on actions that contribute to a circular economy (see [Clause 6](#)) and guidance to implement a circular economy in any kind of organization (see [Clause 7](#)).

PREVIEW

Circular economy — Vocabulary, principles and guidance for implementation

1 Scope

This document defines key terms, establishes a vision and principles for a circular economy, and gives guidance, including possible actions, for an organization to implement.

It is applicable to organizations seeking to understand and commit or contribute to a circular economy while contributing to sustainable development. These organizations can be either private or public, acting individually or collectively, regardless of type or size, and located in any jurisdiction, or position within a specific value chain or value network.

2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

3 Terms and definitions

ISO and IEC maintain terminology databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <https://www.electropedia.org/>

3.1 Terms related to a circular economy

3.1.1

circular economy

economic system (3.1.2) that uses a systemic approach to maintain a *circular flow of resources* (3.1.6), by recovering, retaining or adding to their *value* (3.1.7), while contributing to *sustainable development* (3.1.11)

Note 1 to entry: *Resources* (3.1.5) can be considered concerning both stocks and flows.

Note 2 to entry: The inflow of *virgin resources* (3.3.2) is kept as low as possible, and the circular flow of resources is kept as closed as possible to minimize *waste* (3.3.6), *losses* (3.3.7) and *releases* (3.3.8) from the economic system.

3.1.2

economic system

system (3.1.22) by which a society organizes and allocates *resources* (3.1.5)

Note 1 to entry: The economic system can vary depending upon the geographic region or governmental jurisdiction.

Note 2 to entry: This can include the regulation of resources and the production, use and disposal of these resources.

3.1.3

social system

system (3.1.22) by which human beings are expected to undertake different types of tasks in order to achieve common goals within a society