

71

ISO 14000

environmental assessment systems

ISO 14000 is the series of environmental assessment methods developed by the International Organisation for Standardisation, covering systems for environmental management, certification and eco-labelling. The series defines three types of eco-labels. Type I labels (ISO 140024) are arguably the most valuable – for both producer and consumer – as they denote selective, multi-criteria-based, third-party-certified endorsement of a product. Type III labels (ISO 14025) provide quantified but non-selective product information based upon independent verification against established benchmarks. Less valuable are Type II labels (ISO 14021), which are self-declared claims. Appreciating the relative merit of different labels will enable you to maximise the environmental benefit of your procurement decisions. For information about ISO 14000 go to www.iso.org. For more on eco-labelling go to www.gen.gr.jp.

