



**International
Standard**

ISO 13315-1

**Environmental management for
concrete and concrete structures —**

**Part 1:
General principles**

*Management environnemental du béton et des structures en
béton —*

Partie 1: Principes généraux

**Second edition
2024-01**

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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 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).

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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 71, *Concrete, reinforced concrete and prestressed concrete*, Subcommittee SC 8, *Environmental management for concrete and concrete structures*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 13315-1:2012), which has been technically revised.

The main changes are as follows:

- the Scope has been revised to be succinct and partially moved to other clauses;
- references to ISO 13315-2 that was subsequently developed have been added to [Figure 1](#), [Figure 2](#), [Clause 3](#) and [4.4.2](#);
- references to ISO 13315-4 that was subsequently developed have been added to [Figure 1](#), [Figure 2](#), [Clause 3](#) and [4.5](#);
- references to ISO 13315-6 that was subsequently developed have been added to [Figure 1](#), [Figure 2](#), [Clause 3](#) and [4.7](#);
- references to ISO 13315-8 that was subsequently developed have been added to [Figure 1](#), [Figure 2](#), [Clause 3](#) and [4.9](#).

A list of all parts in the ISO 13315 series can be found on the ISO website.

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

Environmental issues are serious subjects for the human race. The nature of the problem has been clearly recognized and the concept of "sustainable development" which can be regarded as an environmental revolution, has been created. This concept means development that meets the needs of not only present but also future generations without endangering the natural systems that support life on earth, the atmosphere, the waters, the soils and the living things, and at the same time acknowledging that global economic growth is a basis for future global welfare. The incorporation of the concept of sustainability is necessary in every aspect of social, economic, and cultural activities. The construction industry, which consumes enormous amounts of resources and energy to provide the infrastructure for the diversified activities of mankind, has a strong impact on the environment.

The ISO 14000 series on environmental management for goods and services as a system for improving the impact on the environment has already been published. This series of International Standards provides general rules for assessing the impact on the environment, as well as for environmental labels/declarations based on such an assessment. ISO 21931 and ISO 21930 are formulated to tailor this series to construction works and construction products and services, respectively.

Concrete is widely used as one of the key materials for constructing infrastructures such as buildings, bridges, dams, tunnels, etc., with its consumption being the second largest on the planet after water. While construction activities using concrete naturally entail adverse environmental impacts, they also provide environmental beneficial impacts. Improved infrastructures alleviate traffic congestion and prevent natural disasters. The development of compact cities can control the expansion of adverse environmental impacts. Industrial wastes and byproducts from other industries are used as materials, fuels, and supplementary materials for producing cement. Accurate assessment of environmental impacts is therefore essential for minimizing adverse environmental impacts derived from construction activities using concrete while maximizing beneficial environmental impacts.

Concrete structures consume large amounts of aggregates, cement and steel, which emit large amounts of CO₂ in their production processes. Concrete utilizes industrial waste and byproducts, and uses different aggregates in different regions. Concrete is delivered to the construction site in the form of partially finished products. Concrete structures are built in a wide variety of forms with specific requirements, used in various environments for a long time, and demolished, recycled and disposed of in various forms. The ISO 13315 series is intended to provide the basic rules on environmental management for concrete and concrete structures having such characteristics. It is also intended to contribute to continued improvement of the environmental impacts resulting from the activities related to concrete and concrete structures. This series ensures consistency with the existing environmental ISO 14000 series, as well as ISO 21930 and ISO 21931. [Figure 1](#) shows the relationship between the ISO 13315 series and other existing ISO standards. [Figure 2](#) shows the basic framework of the ISO 13315 series.

The ISO 13315 series covers all people involved in concrete and concrete structures: owners, designers, concrete manufacturers, constructors, users, certification bodies and those who develop environmental standard specifications.

ISO 13315-1:2024(en)

ISO 14020: Environmental statements and programmes for products — Principles and general requirements
 ISO 14021: Environmental labels and declarations — Self-declared environmental claims (Type II environmental labelling)
 ISO 14024: Environmental labels and declarations — Type I environmental labelling — Principles and procedures
 ISO 14025: Environmental labels and declarations — Type III environmental declarations — Principles and procedures
 ISO 14031: Environmental management — Environmental performance evaluation — Guidelines
 ISO 14040: Environmental management — Life cycle assessment — Principles and framework
 ISO 14044: Environmental management — Life cycle assessment — Requirements and guidelines
 ISO 14050: Environmental management — Vocabulary
 Other related ISO 14000 series standards

ISO 21930: Sustainability in buildings and civil engineering works — Core rules for environmental product declarations of construction products and services
 ISO 21931-1: Sustainability in buildings and civil engineering works — Framework for methods of assessment of the environmental, social and economic performance of construction works as a basis for sustainability assessment — Part 1: Buildings
 ISO 21931-2: Sustainability in buildings and civil engineering works — Framework for methods of assessment of the environmental, social and economic performance of construction works as a basis for sustainability assessment — Part 2: Civil engineering works

ISO 13315: Environmental management for concrete and concrete structures
 Part 1: General principles
 Part 2: System boundary and inventory data
 Part 4: Environmental design of concrete structures
 Part 6: Use of concrete structures
 Part 8: Environmental labels and declarations

Figure 1 — Relationship between the ISO 13315 series and other existing ISO environmental standards

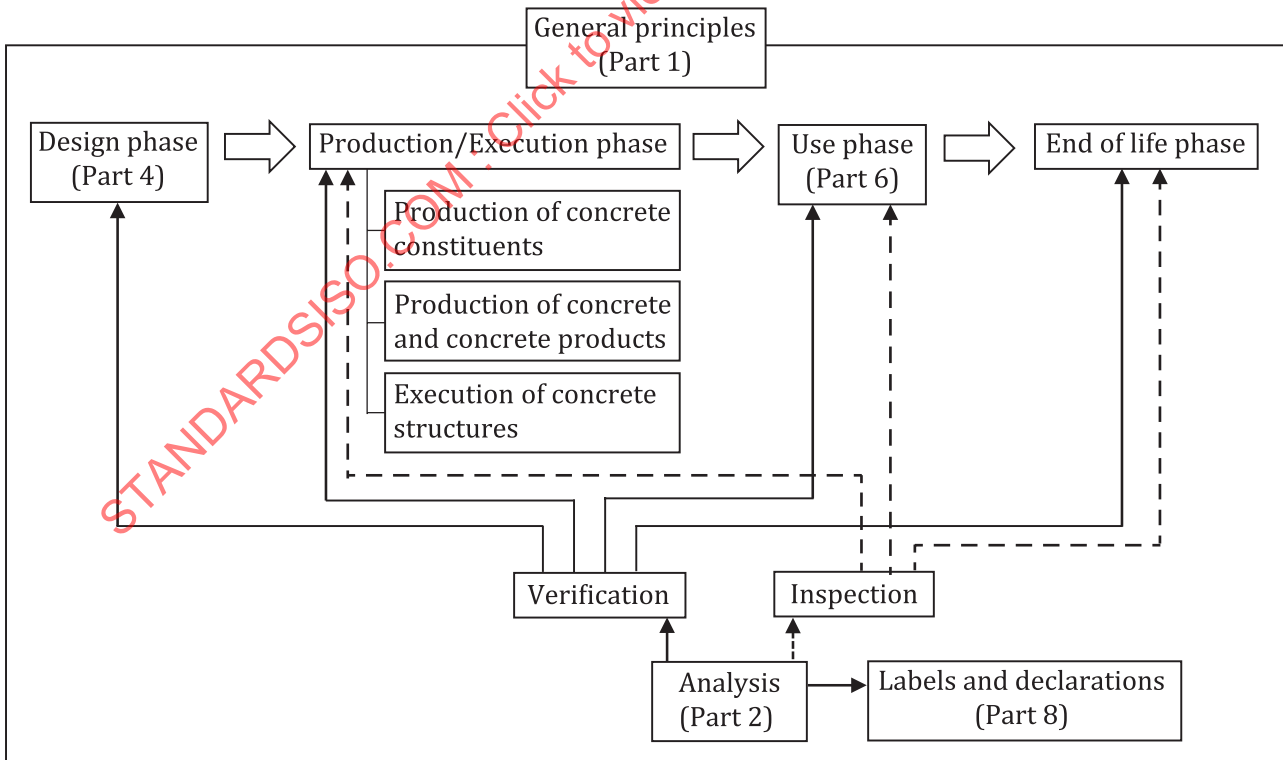


Figure 2 — Basic framework of the ISO 13315 series of standards

Environmental management for concrete and concrete structures —

Part 1: General principles

1 Scope

This document provides a framework and basic rules on environmental management related to concrete and concrete structures. This includes the assessment of the environmental impacts and methods of implementing environmental improvement based on the assessment.

This document is used for the environmental consideration in activities related to the production of concrete constituents, the production, recycling and disposal of concrete, and the design, execution, use and demolition of concrete structures. It is applied for their entire lifecycles, respective stages of the lifecycles, or certain ranges of the lifecycles. This document is applicable to newly produced concrete and newly constructed concrete structures, and also existing concrete and concrete structures.

This document applies to single concretes, concrete families, single concrete structures, and concrete structure complexes. For materials other than concrete, the related ISO standards are applied where available. In the case where no ISO standard is available, such materials are appropriately dealt with referring to this document and the normative references.

This document covers global, regional and local environments. This document does not directly deal with the environmental impacts resulting from the operation of equipment installed in concrete structures. However, the special properties of concrete and concrete structures affecting the operational efficiency of such equipment are considered in this document.

This document covers secondary effects of the production of concrete and execution of concrete structures.

NOTE The secondary effects of the production of concrete include the future possibility of leaching of heavy metals from concrete or the absorption of heavy metals from the environment, the effect of waste treatments on the environment, etc.

This document covers the economic and social effects of environmental consideration in the production of concrete and execution of concrete structures.

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 13315-2, *Environmental management for concrete and concrete structures — Part 2: System boundary and inventory data*

ISO 13315-4, *Environmental management for concrete and concrete structures — Part 4: Environmental design of concrete structures*

ISO 13315-6, *Environmental management for concrete and concrete structures — Part 6: Use of concrete structures*

ISO 13315-8, *Environmental management for concrete and concrete structures — Part 8: Environmental labels and declarations*

ISO 14040, *Environmental management — Life cycle assessment — Principles and framework*

ISO 14044, *Environmental management — Life cycle assessment — Requirements and guidelines*

ISO 14050, *Environmental management — Vocabulary*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO 13315-2, ISO 13315-4, ISO 13315-6, ISO 13315-8, ISO 14050, and the following apply.

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

byproduct

secondary substance produced by an industrial process

3.2

client's brief

working document which specifies at any point in time the relevant needs and aims, resources of the client and user, the context of the project and any appropriate design requirements

3.3

concrete demolition material

material generated in demolition of concrete structures

3.4

ecosystem

system of interrelations among nature, animals and human beings

3.5

environmental monetary cost

costs necessary to fulfil environmental requirements

3.6

environmental design

design of a structure in which *environmental impacts* (3.7) are considered

3.7

environmental impact

any change, which can be adverse or beneficial, to the environment, wholly or partially resulting from concrete-related activities

3.8

environmental performance

quantitative or qualitative results of environmental influence from activities related to concrete and concrete structures

3.9

execution

activities carried out for the physical completion of the work, and the inspection and documentation thereof

EXAMPLE Procurement, scaffolding, formwork, reinforcing, concreting, curing, erection of precast elements, etc.

3.10

global environment

environment that is affected by global climate change, ozone depletion, changes in ecosystems, resource use and other factors on a global scale

3.11

inspection

examination to determine whether *environmental performance* (3.8) attained in a product or an activity satisfies specified requirements

3.12

local environment

environment that is affected by noise, vibration, dust and other factors in a built environment

3.13

regional environment

environment that is affected by air pollution, soil contamination, or water pollution on an intermediate scale

EXAMPLE City, province and country.

3.14

sustainability

state in which components of the ecosystem and their functions are maintained for present and future generations

Note 1 to entry: Sustainability is the goal of sustainable development and can result from the application of the concept of sustainable development.

Note 2 to entry: "Components of the ecosystem" includes plants and animals, as well as humans and their physical environment. For humans, this includes a balancing of key elements of human needs: the economic, environmental, social and cultural conditions for societies' existence.

3.15

soil contamination

phenomenon in which soil is polluted by deleterious substances

3.16

verification

process to check whether environmental performances estimated in a product or an activity satisfy specified requirements

3.17

waste

unusable substances emitted from activities related to concrete and concrete structures

3.18

water pollution

phenomenon in which water is polluted by deleterious substances

4 General framework

4.1 General

The concept of sustainability through environmental management shall be considered in various activities related to the production of concrete and execution of concrete structures. In addition to the environmental aspect, sustainability has economic and social aspects which influence one another. Consideration of the environmental aspect can relate to the economic aspect such as environmental monetary cost. Consideration of the environmental aspect can relate to the social aspect, which involves issues of intergenerational ethics, such as securement of the quality of society and life, inheritance of tradition and culture, and consensus building for preserving ecosystems. The economic and social aspects of environmental consideration should

therefore be clearly recognized in activities related to the production of concrete and execution of concrete structures, and these aspects may be appropriately considered based on the required priorities.

Environmental management of concrete and concrete structures shall be implemented with the aim of minimizing the adverse environmental impacts and maximizing the beneficial environmental impacts.

The objects of environmental management shall include the environmental impacts generated in the entire lifecycle of concrete and concrete structures or its phases including design, production, execution, use and end of life phase.

The basic flow of environmental management for concrete and concrete structures is shown in Figure 3. Environmental management shall be carried out with the plan-do-check-act process at the respective phases of the concrete structures or through the lifecycle. This includes determining or confirming the types and values of environmental performance requirements; analysing the environmental performance of concrete, concrete structures and related activities, and verifying that the environmental performances satisfy or dissatisfy the required values; inspecting actual environmental performance during the respective phases or after them; and taking appropriate measures in the event of problems. The activities and their results shall be documented, and the documents shall be stored.

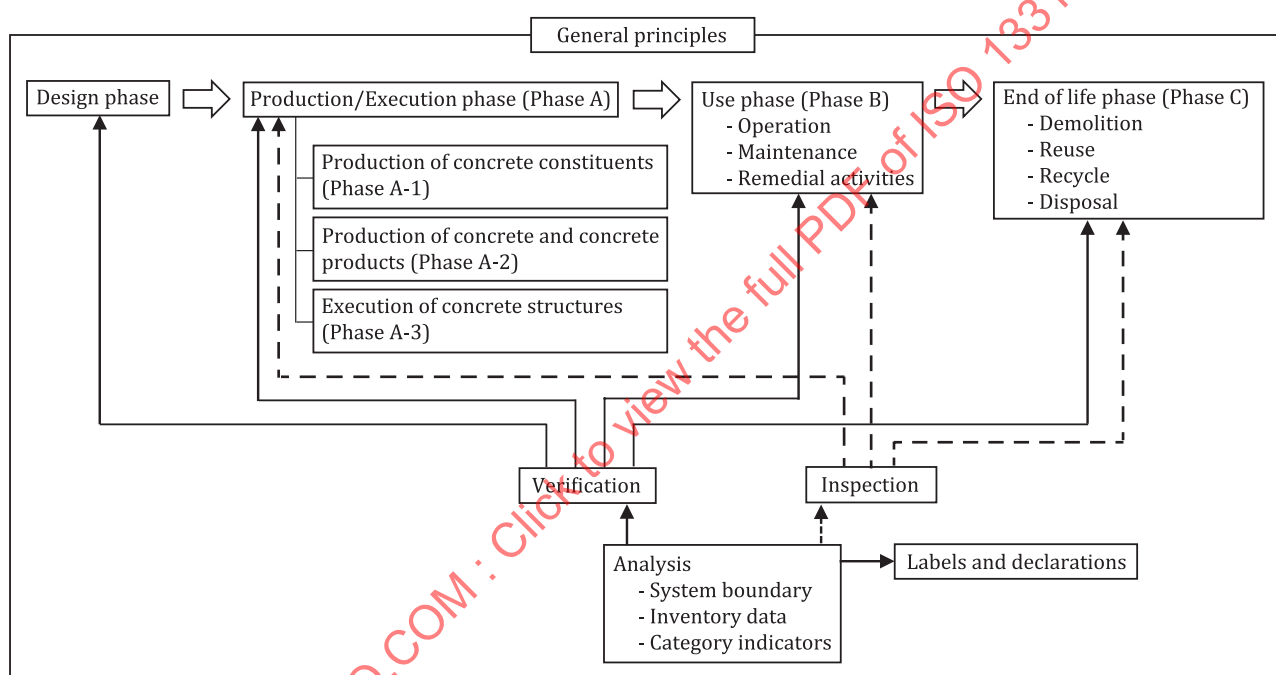


Figure 3 — Basic flow of environmental management for concrete and concrete structures

4.2 Phases in the lifecycle

The lifecycle of concrete and concrete structures consists of the following phases:

- Design phase (see 4.5): phase in which the specifications of concrete structures are determined to satisfy the environmental performance requirements based on the client's brief and legislation, and they are documented.
- Production/execution phase (Phase A, see 4.6): phases including the production of concrete constituents (Phase A-1), the production of concrete and concrete products (Phase A-2), and the execution of concrete structures (Phase A-3).
- Use phase (Phase B, see 4.7): phase of operation and maintenance and remedial activities of concrete structures.
- End of life phase (Phase C, see 4.8): phase of demolition of concrete structures, reuse of some elements, and recycling and disposal of concrete.

4.3 Environmental impact categories

The following items shall be considered as environmental impacts of concrete and concrete structures:

- global climate change;
- natural resources use (materials, water and fuel);
- stratospheric ozone level;
- land use and habitat alteration;
- eutrophication;
- acidification;
- air pollution:
 - photochemical oxidant creation,
 - particulate matter air pollution,
 - other air pollution (toxics, etc.),
 - indoor air pollution;
- water pollution;
- soil contamination;
- pollution due to radioactive substances;
- impacts due to waste generation;
- noise and vibration.

When assessing the environmental impacts, it is necessary to appropriately judge if the range of the impact is limited to the local environment of the concrete structure or whether it reaches the regional or global environment.

NOTE 1 The elements of environmental impacts generated at each phase of the lifecycle of concrete structures are shown in [Annex A](#).

NOTE 2 The indoor pollution of buildings and the environments for workers in concrete producing plants and on concrete structure construction sites are not specifically covered by this document. ISO 16814 is available for reference as a standard for the indoor pollution of buildings.

NOTE 3 In buildings, global warming substances are mainly emitted from energy consumption due to the operation of heating, ventilating and air-conditioning equipment.

NOTE 4 The beneficial effects such as thermal mass and other functions of concrete and concrete structures can be taken into account.

4.4 Analysis

4.4.1 General

The analysis refers to the calculation of the impact category indicators of concrete and concrete structures under certain system boundaries using appropriate indicators.

The analysis shall be carried out in accordance with ISO 14040, ISO 14044 and the following procedure:

- determination or confirmation of the system boundaries and impact category indicators;

- preparation of data corresponding to the impact category indicators;
- calculation of impact category indicators.

The analysis shall be conducted to verify the environmental performance of concrete or a concrete structure at each phase of its lifecycle and to inspect it at each phase except for the design phase. For the assessment of environmental performance, the system boundaries and indicators shall be appropriately determined. If the system boundaries and indicators have already been determined, their validity shall be verified.

The environmental performance shall either be assessed for the entire lifecycle, or a phase or phases of a lifecycle.

When using a specific tool such as an LCA software, this tool shall be described and should only be used after thoroughly understanding its characteristics.

4.4.2 System boundary

To determine the system boundary, the geographic range, time range and the range of relevant industries shall be defined. It is necessary to reasonably define the ranges of input and output for the assessment of environmental performance of concrete and concrete structures for the lifecycle, or a phase or phases of lifecycle, as well as the service lives when assessing the environmental performance of concrete structures for their lifecycle.

NOTE ISO 14040 and ISO 14044 serve as a reference for system boundary. A general framework, principles and requirements for determining system boundaries related to concrete and concrete structures are described in ISO 13315-2.

Concrete can utilize byproducts from other industries, such as ground granulated blast-furnace slag, fly ash and silica fume. Recycled concrete aggregate can be output to other industries. Therefore, the system boundary between relevant industries should be appropriately determined.

The determined system boundaries shall be clearly documented to show their validity.

4.4.3 Inventory data

Inventory data shall be acquired for all activities during the lifecycle of concrete and concrete structures within the determined system boundary with objectiveness and transparency.

NOTE The general framework, principles and requirements for acquiring inventory data related to concrete and concrete structures are described in ISO 13315-2.

Inventory data shall be determined based on existing or acquired information. When direct acquisition is difficult, inventory data may be acquired by determining alternative data and converting them.

In any event, the means and conditions of acquiring the inventory data, and the information sources where required, shall be clearly documented in writing.

4.4.4 Category indicators

Category indicators specifically express the environmental performances in regard to the environmental impacts given in 4.3. Category indicators that can express the magnitude of environmental impacts qualitatively or quantitatively shall be employed.

When using two or more category indicators, the environmental performance may be assessed by each category indicator. Assessment may also be conducted by integrating multiple category indicators.

The conditions and methods of acquiring data to calculate the indices corresponding to the category indicators shall be specified. The data sources shall also be specified as required.

4.5 Design phase

The environmental performance requirements for concrete or concrete structures shall be established to conform to the client's brief while taking legal regulations into consideration, and shall be indicated by suitable indicators.

Meanwhile, the environmental performance that the resulting concrete structure would possess shall be calculated by the methods specified in [4.4](#) from the performance of concrete and the specifications of the concrete structure established to materialize the client's brief.

NOTE The general framework, principles and requirements for carrying out an environmental design of concrete structures are described in ISO 13315-4.

The above-mentioned performance requirements and the performances that the structure would possess shall be compared to verify whether or not the estimated performance satisfies the required performance. When the expected performance is proven to satisfy the performance requirements, the details of the design shall be documented. When the expected performance is proven to dissatisfy the performance requirements, the performance of concrete and/or the specifications of the concrete structure shall be corrected so that the environmental performance that the concrete or concrete structure would possess can satisfy the performance requirements. In case the original requirements are not satisfied, the requirements may be changed through the assessment of the consequences. In case the accomplishment of the project is judged to be unfeasible, a decision to quit the project may be made.

The details on the performance of concrete and/or the specifications of the concrete structure at the design phase provide vital information for the activities in the respective phases. For this reason, all information related to the performance settings and verification shall be appropriately documented and stored.

The structural design and durability design of a concrete structure should be conducted integrally with the environmental design. A structure shall also be designed in such a way that it has an aesthetic appearance, with appropriate integration into its surroundings including the landscape.

4.6 Production/execution phase

When producing concrete or executing a concrete structure, the production plan and execution plan shall be formulated after confirming or establishing the performance requirements, and the environmental impacts generated from the production/execution processes shall be calculated. The calculated performance shall be proven to satisfy the performance requirements. The calculation shall conform to [4.4](#). The production of concrete and execution of the concrete structure shall conform to the production/execution plan. The actual environmental impacts shall be confirmed during and after the production/execution. Should the actual environmental impacts dissatisfy the performance requirements, measures shall be taken to improve the environment. It is necessary to make use of the experience in the future production/execution as it is impossible to recover the generated impacts. The environment-improving effect shall be confirmed during and after the completion of the improvement measures, and a series of activities shall be repeated until the performance requirements are satisfied.

The environmental impacts embodied in concrete shall be calculated through the processes of collecting/mining/ manufacturing of constituents and transporting them to concrete plants, and producing concrete and transporting it to construction sites. The environmental impacts embodied in reinforcing material shall be calculated as well.

The production and transportation of concrete shall be carried out to reduce the use of natural resources, energy consumption and waste generation and to minimize damage due to noise, vibration, dust and water pollution.

The execution of concrete structures shall be carried out to reduce energy consumption and waste generation during the procurements, scaffolding, formwork, reinforcing, concreting, curing, erection of precast elements, etc., and to minimize damage due to noise/vibration, dust, air pollution, water pollution and soil contamination.

All activities related to [4.6](#) shall be appropriately documented and stored.

4.7 Use phase

An examination shall be conducted to determine whether the required performance established in the environmental design is achieved in the use phase of the concrete structure, and appropriate measures shall be taken if they are not satisfied. The examination shall be conducted again when there are changes in the requirements or standards related to operation, or when the environmental performance of the structure is changed following maintenance and remedial activities.

NOTE 1 Remedial activities include all activities related to repair, rehabilitation, refurbishment, renewal, renovation, retrofitting, strengthening and protection against corrosive agents.

NOTE 2 The principles and procedures of environmental management for maintenance and remedial activities of concrete structures and environmental management during the operation of concrete structures are described in ISO 13315-6.

When work not established in the design phase is to be carried out in the maintenance and remedial activities, a work plan shall be formulated, and the environmental impact generated from the work plan shall be calculated. The calculated environmental impact shall be proven to satisfy the newly established performance requirements. The calculation shall be done to conform to 4.4. The work shall be carried out following the work plan that satisfies the performance requirements. The environmental impacts that result from the work shall be confirmed during and after the work. Should the actual environmental impact not satisfy the performance requirements, measures shall be taken to improve the environment. The environment-improving effect shall be confirmed during and after the completion of the improvement measures and a series of activities shall be repeated until the performance requirements are satisfied.

When part or all of the functions of the structure are suspended for maintenance and remedial activities, measures shall be taken to reduce the resulting environmental impact. Consideration shall be given to, for instance, the environmental impacts of the substitute facilities and equipment during such stoppage and traffic congestion due to repair of road structures.

Operational energy including heating and cooling shall be included.

All activities related to 4.7 shall be appropriately documented and stored.

4.8 End of life phase

In the stage of demolition of concrete structures, the stage of reuse of elements and the stage of recycling of concrete demolition material or final disposal of waste, the demolition of concrete structures, the reuse of elements and the recycling or final disposal of concrete demolition waste shall be carried out after establishing or confirming at the respective stages or all of these stages:

- the required values of the degrees of noise, vibration, dust and the amount of waste to be disposed of;
- the environmental impact of the related activities;
- that the environmental impacts are above or below the required values.

After these activities have been carried out, the results shall be inspected, and, in the event of a problem, appropriate measures shall be taken. The activities carried out at each stage and their results shall be appropriately documented and stored.

When demolishing concrete structures, demolition shall be carried out so that the demolition work minimizes harm to the neighbouring community and the arrangement of the resulting waste materials does not hamper the recycling work. Consideration shall be given so that minimal negative impacts occur after final disposal.

Concrete demolition material shall be recycled by methods that minimize energy use and do not generate large amounts of waste, minimizing harm to the neighbouring community due to noise, vibration and dust. The materials and products resulting from recycling shall have the performance suitable for their use.

Concrete demolition material and waste shall be transported while minimizing harm to the areas along the transportation route due to noise, vibration and dust.

When concrete demolition material cannot be recycled, it shall be disposed in a final disposal site where measures have been taken to prevent soil and water contamination and damage to the landscape. When waste contains irremovable hazardous substances, it shall be appropriately disposed of by a method that ensures safety.

Concrete structures or concrete elements may be left in-situ at the end of their lives if safety, environmental impacts, and other related impacts are appropriately evaluated and it is deemed acceptable.

4.9 Labels and declarations

The results of environmental impact assessment for concrete and concrete structures can form a basis for environmental labels and environmental declarations.

NOTE The general principle, procedures and requirements for environmental labels and declarations for concrete and concrete structures are described in ISO 13315-8.

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Annex A
(informative)

**Phases and environmental impact factors to be considered in lifecycle
of concrete and concrete structures**

[Table A.1](#) provides the phases and environmental impact factors to be considered in lifecycle of concrete and concrete structures.

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Table A.1 — Phases and environmental impact factors to be considered in lifecycle of concrete and concrete structures

Phase	Sub-phase	Global climate change	Natural resources use	Strato-spheric ozone level	Land use/habitat alteration	Eutrophication	Acidification	Air pollution	Water pollution	Soil contamination	Pollution due to radioactive substances	Impacts due to waste generation	Noise/vibration	Environmental impact improvement
Design	Design													Consideration of environmental benefit and load mitigation by service life extension Multifunctional design
PM: particulate matter VOC: volatile organic compound ODP: ozone depletion potential ^a Aggregate includes natural aggregate, semi-artificial aggregate, artificial aggregate, recycled aggregate, slag aggregate, etc. ^b Reinforcement includes inorganic, organic, and metallic reinforcement.														