

Tourism and related services — Guidelines on developing environmental specifications for accommodation establishments

1 Scope

This Technical Specification provides guidelines for developing specifications aimed at reducing the negative impacts and increasing the positive impacts of accommodation establishments on the environment.

This Technical Specification does not apply to campsites.

2 Terms and definitions

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

2.1

accommodation

provision of at least sleeping and sanitary facilities

[SOURCE: ISO 18513:2003, 2.1.1]

2.2

accommodation establishment

establishment providing tourist *accommodation* ([2.1](#))

2.3

additionality

difference between what an individual consumes at home and in an *accommodation establishment* ([2.2](#))

2.4

environment

surroundings in which an *accommodation establishment* ([2.2](#)) operates, including air, water, land, natural resources, flora, fauna, humans, and their interrelationships

Note 1 to entry: Surroundings in this context extend from within an accommodation establishment to the global system.

[SOURCE: ISO 14001:2015, 3.2.1, modified]

2.5

environmental aspect

element of an *accommodation establishment's* ([2.2](#)) activities or products or services that can interact with the *environment* ([2.4](#))

Note 1 to entry: A significant environmental aspect has or can have a significant *environmental impact* ([2.6](#)).

[SOURCE: ISO 14001:2015, 3.2.2, modified]

2.6

environmental impact

change to the *environment* ([2.4](#)), whether adverse or beneficial, wholly or partially resulting from an *accommodation establishment's* ([2.2](#)) *environmental aspects* ([2.5](#))

[SOURCE: ISO 14001:2015, 3.2.4, modified]

2.7

grey water

waste water from household baths and showers, handbasins and kitchen sinks but excluding waste water and excreta from water closets

[SOURCE: ISO 6107-7:2006, 21]

2.8

specification

document stating requirements

[SOURCE: ISO 9000:2015, 3.8.7, modified]

3 Principles

3.1 General

This clause provides guidelines for new and, when reviewed, existing specifications, which:

- should consider the principles of this Technical Specification;
- should emphasize the importance of taking actions to implement these principles;
- may contain explanations for exceptions where parts of this Technical Specification have not been adopted and/or applied.

3.2 Reduce the negative impacts and strengthen the positive impacts of tourism on the environment

3.2.1 Conserve the natural environment and biodiversity

Biological diversity and the integrity of landscapes can be affected by tourism positively or negatively. Accommodation establishments can contribute to conservation or can damage the natural resources.

a) Positive impacts can be produced by:

- conserving or restoring natural areas and areas of scenic beauty, whether owned by the accommodation establishment or not;
- extractive activities that are sustainable and increase the viability of natural populations, relative to traditional extractive activities;
- environmental education of individuals, staff, and neighbouring communities.

b) Negative impact can be produced by:

- inappropriate earth movement or destruction of natural habitats during construction;
- destruction or alteration of scenic landscapes;
- direct or indirect extractive activities (inappropriate harvesting, use, display, or sale of plants and animals);
- blocking migratory paths for animals;
- light and noise pollution;
- physical pollutions (air, water and soil pollutions);
- introduction of invasive species or species that compete for resources with the natural habitat;