

IRAN

Iran National Standards Organization (INSO)

Carbon footprint as a tool to limit greenhouse gases

Overview

Iran is experiencing unprecedented climate-related problems such as drying of lakes and rivers, dust storms, record-breaking temperatures and long-running droughts. Yet despite the generally low precipitation, the country has also recorded intensive floods. As a signatory to the Paris Agreement, Iran has pledged a 4 % cut in emissions by 2030 relative to business-as-usual, or above if given international support. To meet this target, it needs practical policies to cut CO₂ emissions intensity in power generation and the manufacturing of products and services.

That is why INSO, the Iranian national institution for standardization, has developed a standard for calculating the carbon footprint of products (CFP). It used as a basis for its work ISO 14067, *Greenhouse gases – Carbon footprint of products – Requirements and guidelines for quantification and communication*, the International Standard that helps evaluate the carbon emissions embodied in product value chains and the role of life-cycle assessment in curbing them.

Published in 2019, the national standard details principles, requirements and guidelines for the quantification and communication of CFPs based on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and removals over the life cycle of a product. Requirements and guidelines for the quantification and communication of a partial carbon footprint of products (partial CFP) are also provided. Communication of the CFP to the intended audience is based on a CFP study report that provides an accurate, relevant and fair representation of the CFP.

All organizations, governments, communities and other interested parties can benefit from providing clarity and consistency in quantifying and communicating their carbon footprint. Examples of organizations that already apply this standard are producers, owners and commissioners of the CFP study.

Organizations may wish to communicate a CFP for many reasons, which may include:

- Providing information to consumers for decision-making purposes
- Enhancing climate change awareness and consumer engagement on environmental issues
- Demonstrating an organization's commitment to tackle climate change
- Supporting the implementation of policies on climate change management

In addition to the total number of CO₂-eq emissions from the product process, the standard helps quantify emissions from the treatment of fossil and biogenic carbon, electricity use, or occurring as a result of direct land use change, soil carbon change and carbon storage in products. It also covers aircraft emissions, as well as non-CO₂ emissions and removals from livestock, manure and soils.

The standard is currently for use on a voluntary basis but, because of the amount of greenhouse gas emissions in different products, there is an urgent call to make it mandatory. The issue is being studied in the National Working Group on Climate Change in order to create the essential infrastructure and policy that will allow its mandatory application.

Outcomes and benefits

The publication of this national standard means a step forward in GHG quantification by using a new range of system boundaries, but also because it provides transparent communication and comparison. Though recently published, it is already making a difference and has been considered an important tool for obtaining a reliable indication of areas in which greenhouse gases can be reduced.

By establishing a recognized reference framework, the standard provides a transparent quantification and reporting of GHGs “from cradle to grave” – that is, throughout the whole life cycle of the product. This helps to discern which stage is responsible for most of the emissions and provides valuable information on how to correctly identify opportunities for improvement, such as alternative product design or sourcing options, production and manufacturing methods, raw material choices, recycling and other end-of-life processes. It also makes tracking the performance of these GHG reduction strategies easier to manage.

Carbon footprint is becoming popular to differentiate products in a competitive market. Hence, providing correct and consistent communication of CFPs is supporting the comparability of products in a free and open market. It also makes reliable and comparable parameters available to consumers, who are encouraged to contribute to GHG reductions through improved purchasing, product use and end-of-life decisions.

Partners involved

Iran’s national standard for the carbon footprint of products was developed by INSO in collaboration with the Department of Environment and other relevant organizations, such as the Civil Aviation Organization, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Oil and Ministry of Energy.

Timeline

The standard was in development for about a year before being published in 2019.

References

- [ISO/TC 207/SC 7](#), *Greenhouse gas management and related activities*