

# SVENSK STANDARD

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### **Hållbarhet hos byggnadsverk – Värdering av byggnaders miljöprestanda – Beräkningsmetod**

### **Sustainability of construction works – Assessment of environmental performance of buildings – Calculation method**

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EUROPEAN STANDARD

**EN 15978**

NORME EUROPÉENNE

EUROPÄISCHE NORM

November 2011

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ICS 91.040.99

English Version

## Sustainability of construction works - Assessment of environmental performance of buildings - Calculation method

Contribution des ouvrages de construction au  
développement durable - Evaluation de la performance  
environnementale des bâtiments - Méthode de calcul

Nachhaltigkeit von Bauwerken - Bewertung der  
umweltbezogenen Qualität von Gebäuden -  
Berechnungsmethode

This European Standard was approved by CEN on 13 August 2011.

CEN members are bound to comply with the CEN/CENELEC Internal Regulations which stipulate the conditions for giving this European Standard the status of a national standard without any alteration. Up-to-date lists and bibliographical references concerning such national standards may be obtained on application to the CEN-CENELEC Management Centre or to any CEN member.

This European Standard exists in three official versions (English, French, German). A version in any other language made by translation under the responsibility of a CEN member into its own language and notified to the CEN-CENELEC Management Centre has the same status as the official versions.

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EUROPEAN COMMITTEE FOR STANDARDIZATION  
COMITÉ EUROPÉEN DE NORMALISATION  
EUROPÄISCHES KOMITEE FÜR NORMUNG

**Management Centre: Avenue Marnix 17, B-1000 Brussels**

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## Foreword

This document (EN 15978:2011) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 350 “Sustainability of construction works”, the secretariat of which is held by AFNOR.

This European Standard shall be given the status of a national standard, either by publication of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by May 2012, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by May 2012.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. CEN [and/or CENELEC] shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

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## Introduction

The purpose of this European Standard is to provide calculation rules for the assessment of the environmental performance of new and existing buildings.

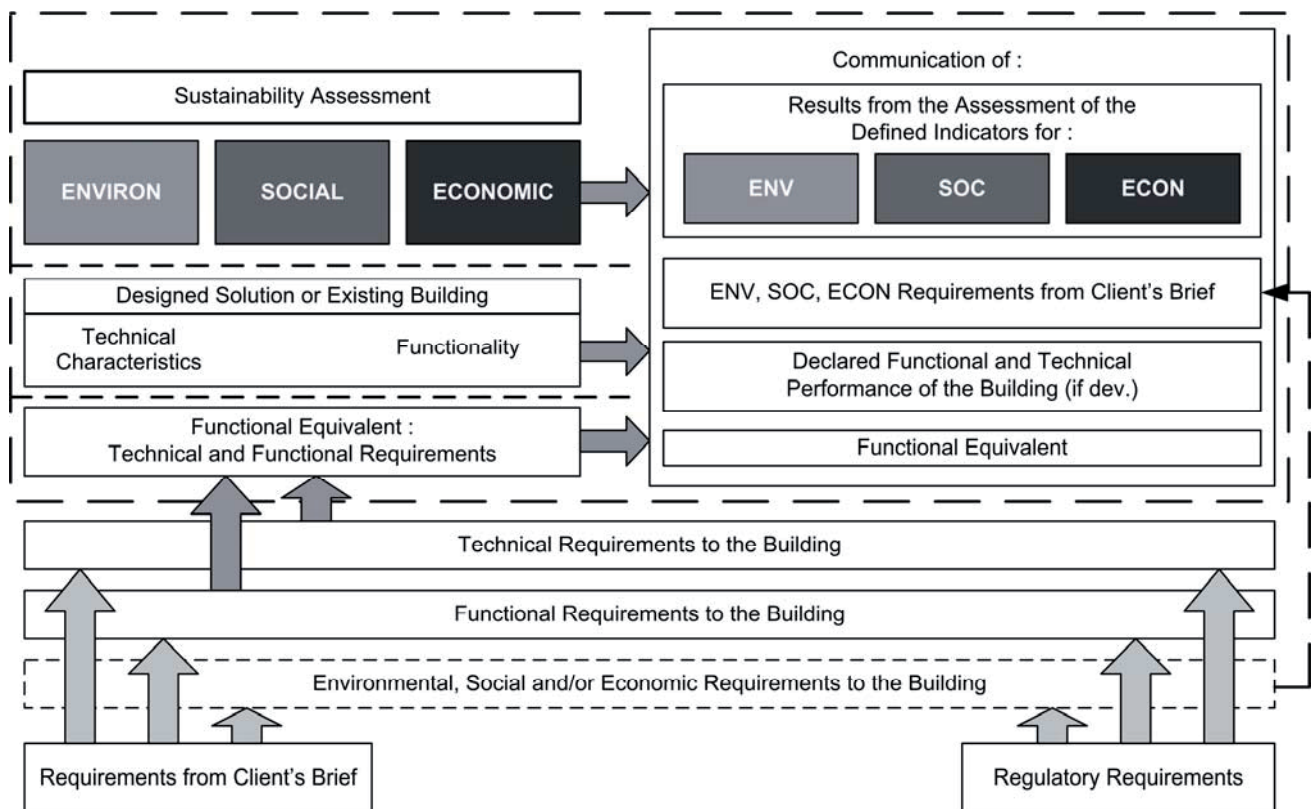
This European Standard is part of a suite of European Standards, Technical Specifications and Technical Reports for the assessment of the environmental performance of buildings that together support quantification of the contribution of the assessed building to sustainable construction and sustainable development.

The environmental performance of a building is only one aspect of its sustainability. The social and economic performance of the building are also aspects of sustainability that should be assessed as part of a sustainability assessment. These are described in the framework standards (EN 15643-1, -2, and EN 15643-3, -4).

**NOTE** The environmental assessment at building level requires information from products and services (EN 15804).

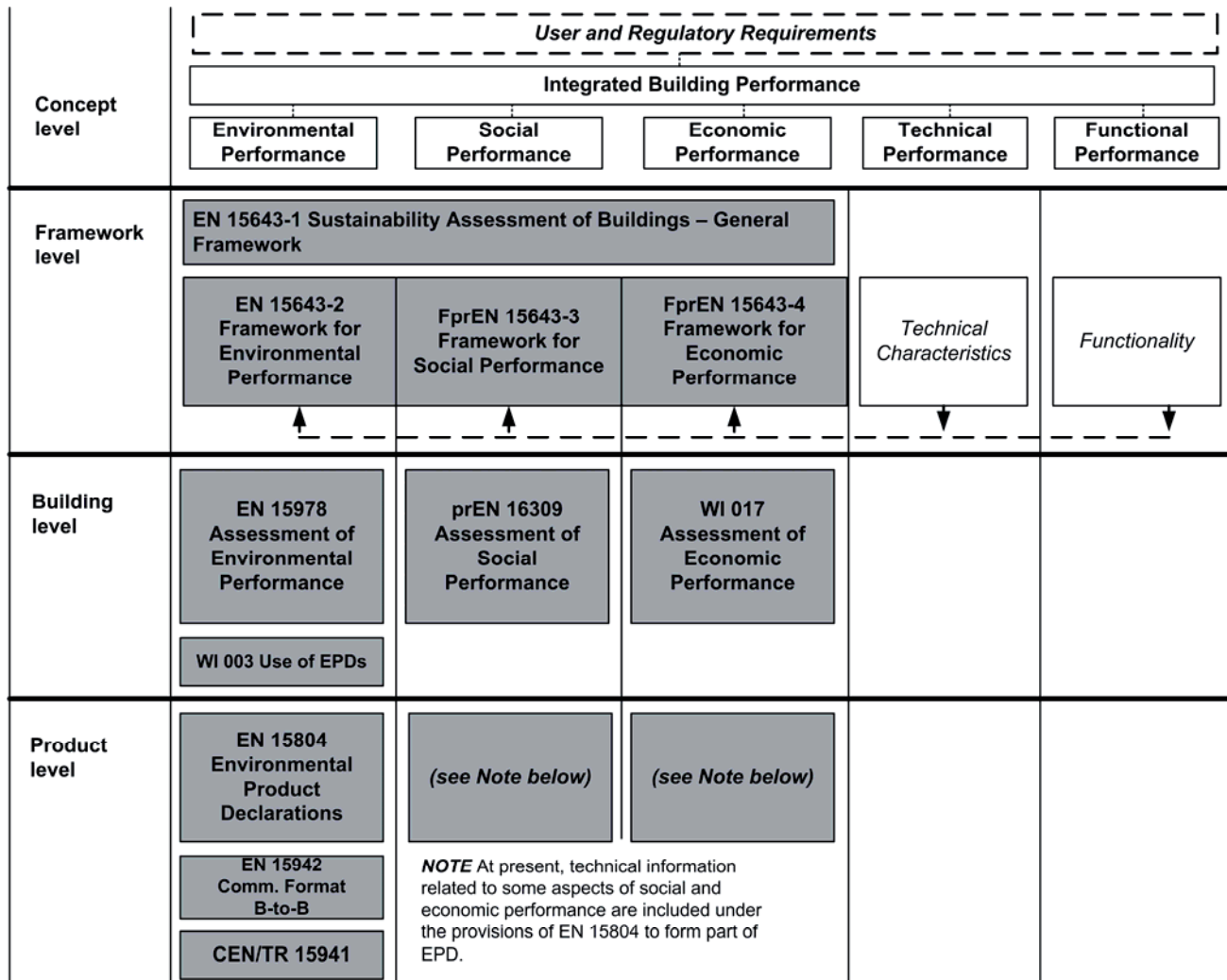
The evaluation of technical and functional performance is beyond the scope of this European Standard. Technical and functional characteristics are taken into account here by reference to the functional equivalent, which also forms a basis for comparison of the results of assessments.

This European Standard is intended to support the decision-making process and documentation of the assessment of the environmental performance of a building. Although the assessment results are based on realistic scenarios, they may not fully reflect the actual and future performance of the building. Figure 1 illustrates how the assessment of the environmental performance takes place within the concept of the sustainability assessment of buildings.



**Figure 1 — Concept of sustainability assessment of buildings**

In this European Standard, the assessment method for the quantitative evaluation of the environmental performance of the building is based on a life cycle approach. The general requirements for sustainability assessment of buildings are described in EN 15643-1 (the general framework standard). Other requirements for the assessment of environmental performance are given in EN 15643-2. Other standards developed by CEN/TC 350 in this area, and how they are related to this European Standard, are shown in Figure 2.



**Figure 2 — Work program of CEN/TC 350**

NOTE The grey boxes represent the work programme as presented in EN 15643-1.

## 1 Scope

This European Standard specifies the calculation method, based on Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) and other quantified environmental information, to assess the environmental performance of a building, and gives the means for the reporting and communication of the outcome of the assessment. The standard is applicable to new and existing buildings and refurbishment projects.

The standard gives:

- the description of the object of assessment;
- the system boundary that applies at the building level;
- the procedure to be used for the inventory analysis;
- the list of indicators and procedures for the calculations of these indicators;
- the requirements for presentation of the results in reporting and communication;
- and the requirements for the data necessary for the calculation.

The approach to the assessment covers all stages of the building life cycle and is based on data obtained from Environmental Product Declarations (EPD), their "information modules" (EN 15804) and other information necessary and relevant for carrying out the assessment. The assessment includes all building related construction products, processes and services, used over the life cycle of the building.

The interpretation and value judgments of the results of the assessment are not within the scope of this European Standard.

## 2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application 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.

EN 15603, *Energy Performance of Buildings — Overall energy use and definition of energy ratings*

EN 15643-1, *Sustainability of construction works — Sustainability assessment of buildings — Part 1 General Framework*

EN 15643-2, *Sustainability of construction works - Assessment of buildings - Part 2: Framework for the assessment of environmental performance*

EN 15643-3, *Sustainability of construction works - Assessment of buildings - Part 3: Framework for the assessment of social performance*

EN 15643-4, *Sustainability of construction works - Assessment of buildings - Part 4: Framework for the assessment of economic performance*

EN 15804, *Sustainability of construction works - Environmental product declarations - Core rules for the product category of construction products*

ISO 15392, *Sustainability in Building Construction - General Principles*

ISO 15686-1:2010, *Building and constructed assets — Service life planning — Part 1: General principles*