INFOMATICS

UNDERSTANDING
ISO 14046: 2014

Infomatics Consultancy
Web: www.iso-consultants.com
Email: info@iso-consultants.com

WHAT IS ISO 14046?

ISO have recently released a new Water Footprint Standard (ISO 14046) to communicate the importance of evaluating water management and supply. With water being a highly scarce global resource due to drought, climate change, contamination and pollution, ISO 14046 promotes efficient measurement to create better management of water.

ISO 14046 is a new international standard that will specify the principles, requirements and guidelines of assessing and reporting water footprints. This will apply to products, processes and organisations based on life cycle assessments (LCA).

ISO 14046:2014 provides principles, requirements and guidelines for conducting and reporting a water footprint assessment as a stand-alone assessment, or as part of a more comprehensive environmental assessment.

Only air and soil emissions that impact water quality are included in the assessment, and not all air and soil emissions are included.

The result of a water footprint assessment is a single value or a profile of impact indicator results.

Whereas reporting is within the scope of ISO 14046:2014, communication of water footprint results, for example in the form of labels or declarations, is outside the scope of ISO 14046:2014.

Providing ISO 14046 consulting, Training, implementation and Certification facilitation services across the world.

Drivers for Certification

- Assess and prepare for the future risks to your water use
- Identify ways to reduce the environmental impacts of your water use
- Improve efficiency at product, process and organizational levels
- Share knowledge and best practice with industry and government
- Meet customer expectations of increased environmental responsibility

ISO 14046
Water
Footprint System

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ISO 14046
Water Footprint System

What is a water footprint?

A water footprint is a way of assessing not only the use of water, but potential environmental impacts related to water. ISO 14046 can be conducted and reported as a stand-alone assessment (where only potential environmental impacts related to water are assessed) or as part of a life cycle assessment (where consideration is given to all relevant potential environmental impacts, and not only those related to water).

A water footprint is a way of assessing potential environmental impacts related to water. And ISO 14046 gives you the option to assess your water footprint as a standalone study where only the impacts relating to water are considered. It also allows you to consider this as part of a life cycle assessment where all environmental impacts are considered.

The Importance and Advantages of ISO 14046 Certification:

- It helps in identifying the actual amount of water consumed on an individual basis for personal as well as for the purpose of manufacturing of goods and services.
- It helps people, and society as a whole, to contribute efforts towards the optimum conservation of water.
- Every drop of water is analyzed and judged on the platform of its usage. This tool helps in keeping track of the water used andgivesyou a framework to assess the quantity of water required to carry out essential functions.
- Through this assessment tool, water can be effectively channelized to where it can be used optimally, such as drought stricken regions.

ISO 14046 is not intended:

- To be adopted or applied in a manner that results in barriers to trade that contradict World Trade Organization requirements.
- To provide a basis for legal actions, complaints, defences orclaims in any international, domestic or other proceeding.
- To be cited as evidence of the evolution of customary international law.
- For regulatory use.

Water footprint- A positive influence on trade:

- Water is a scarce and valuable commodity which, in terms of trade and economics, is sometimes referred to as “blue gold”. Managing it efficiently is key to achieving the common goal of sustainability.
- Recognizing the economic and social benefits to trade that International Standards canbring, ISO 14046 can have a positive impact by providing a harmonized framework for the quantification and reporting of water footprints.
- ISO 14046 has been developed by experts from all over the world, including some from liaison organizations that have worked in the relevant domainfor a long time.They recognize that building the technical capacity for assessing water footprint in developing countries would bring about competitive market opportunities.

A water footprint assessment can help in:

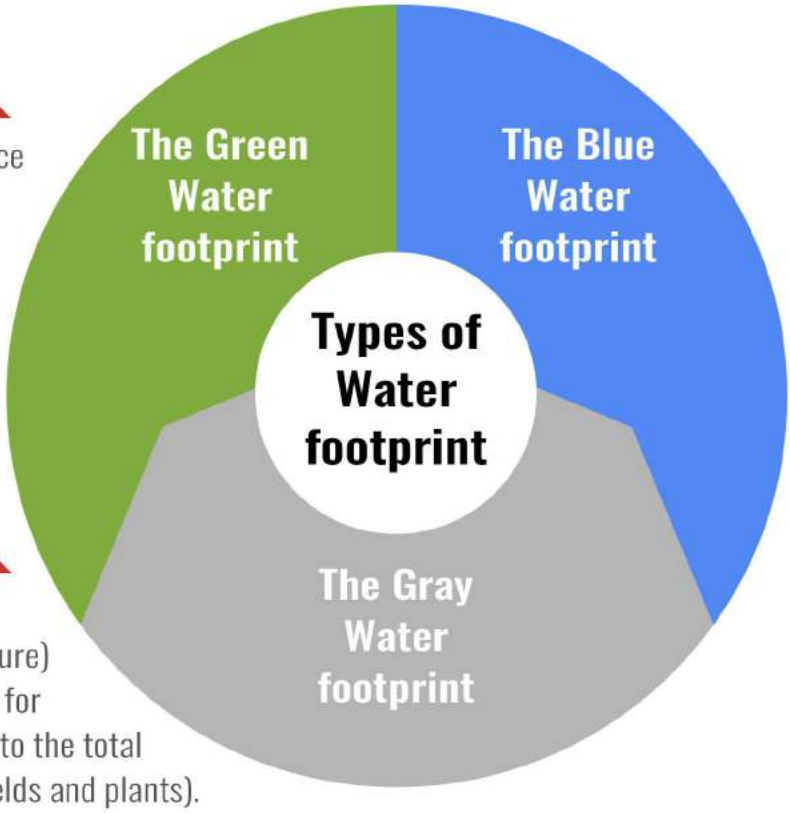
- Estimatingthe magnitude of potential environmental impacts related to water.
- Identifying ways to reduce potential water-related impacts of products at various lifecycle stages, and of processes and organizations.
- Facilitating water efficiency and optimization of water management at product, process and organizational levels.
- Providing scientifically consistent and reliable information for reporting.

Types of Water footprint:

Types of water footprint can be categorized in blue, green and grey water footprint. These categories help to compare different water use patterns in the organization.

The blue water footprint:

This refers to consumption of blue water resources (surface and groundwater) to produce goods and services. 'Consumption' refers to loss of water from the available ground-surface water body in a catchment area. Losses occur when water evaporates, returns to another catchment area or the sea or is incorporated into a product.



The green water footprint:

The green water footprint refers to consumption of green water resources (rainwater stored in the soil as soil moisture) to produce the goods and services. This is mainly relevant for agricultural products (e.g. crops or trees), where it refers to the total rainwater evapotranspiration during crop growth (from fields and plants).

The grey water footprint:

The grey water footprint refers to pollution and is defined as the volume of freshwater that is required to assimilate the load of pollutants given natural background concentrations and existing ambient water quality standards.

The water footprint of a business

The WaterFootprint of a business unit consists of two parts-the operational water footprint and the supply-chain water footprint.

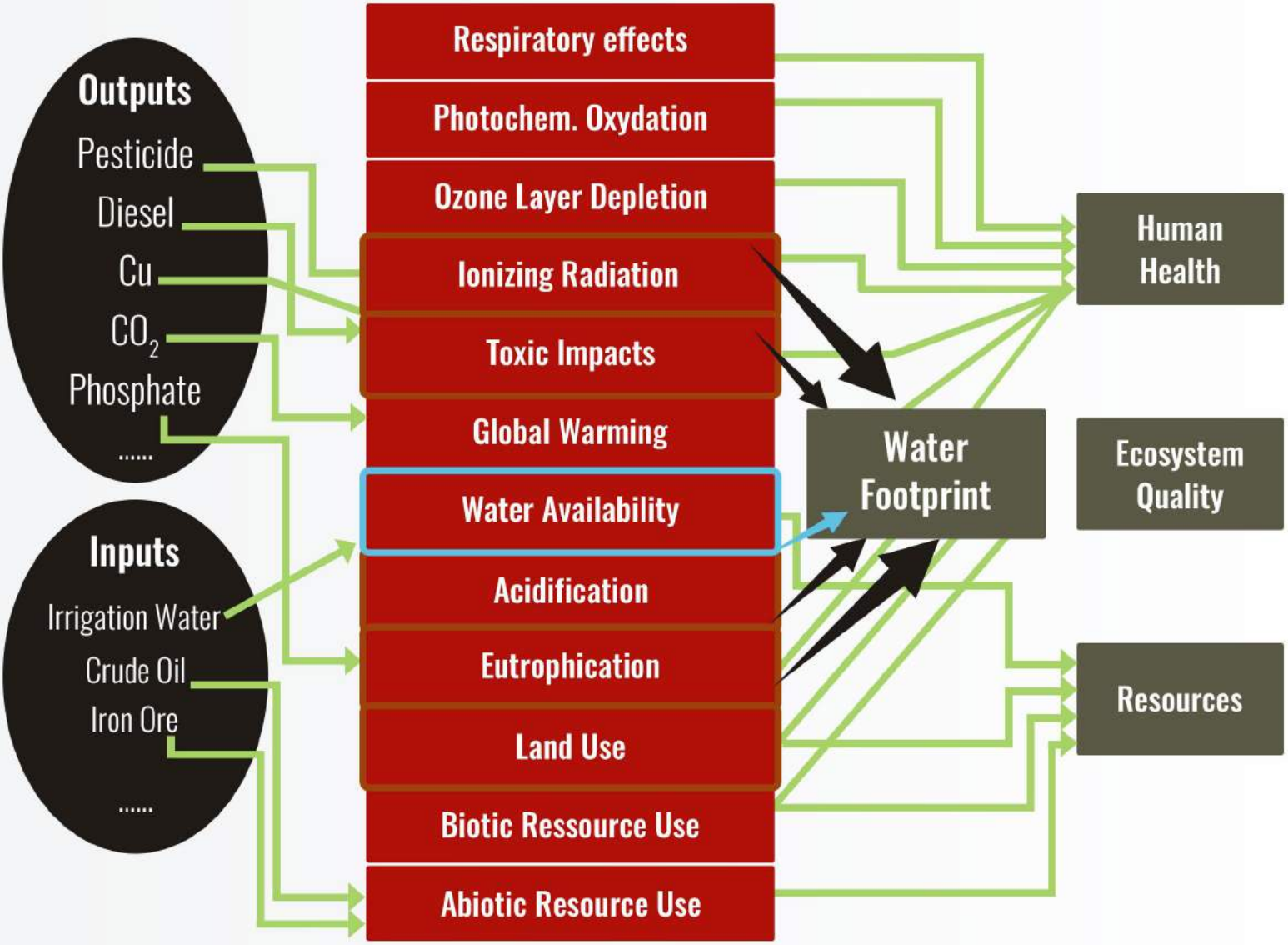
1. Operational water footprint:

The operational water footprint is the amount of freshwater used at a specific business unit, i.e. the direct fresh water use.

2. Supply-chain water footprint:

The supply-chain water footprint is the amount of freshwater used to produce all the goods and services that form the input of production at aspecific business unit, i.e. the indirect freshwater use.

Representation of a water footprint with respects to LCA (Life Cycle Assessment) impact categories:



We partner with your organization to achieve ISO 14046 certification

We are a team of highly skilled, qualified and motivated consultants and trainers having vast industrial experience. We partner with organizations across the world to implement and achieve ISO 14046 certification. Our consulting approach is highly professional, time bound and effective, resulting in ease of implementation, and adds value to the business processes of the client organization. We provide ISO 14046 training, consulting implementation and certification services in India, USA, UK, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Europe and African countries.

When applying ISO 14046, societal, environmental, legal, cultural, political and organizational diversity should be considered, as well as differences in economic conditions.

Our dedicated approach to your success and a host of comprehensive services are all aimed towards helping your organization achieve ISO 14046 certification.

We enable organizations to align themselves for certification by:

- Systematically examining their threats and vulnerabilities.
- Conducting a gap analysis and reviewing existing information and systems.
- Identifying applicable laws and regulations.
- Establishing information quality policy and objectives.
- Designing and developing coherent strategies.
- Identifying documentation requirements.
- Training personnel.
- Providing assistance to successfully conduct an Internal audit and management review.
- Helping the organization seek certification for ISO 14046.

In addition to consulting (online & onsite), we provide the following trainings:

- ISO 14046 overview training
- ISO 14046 for the SME
- Developing ISO 14046documentation
- Internal auditor training

Contact us at **info@iso-consultants.com** to get your organization **ISO 14046** Accredited.