



**Event sustainability management  
systems—Requirements with guidance  
for use**

**STANDARDS**  
Australia

Currently in preview, click buy full version

This Australian Standard® was prepared by Committee MB-018, Event Sustainability Management System. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 31 October 2013.

This Standard was published on 19 November 2013.

---

The following are represented on Committee MB-018:

- Association of Australian Convention Bureaux
  - Australian Centre for Event Management
  - Business Events Sydney
  - Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand
  - International Congress and Convention Association
  - International Special Events Society
  - Live Performance Australia
  - Office of Environment and Heritage, NSW
  - Sustainable Event Alliance
  - Venue Management Association
- 

This Standard was issued in draft form for comment as DR AS ISO 20121.

Standards Australia wishes to acknowledge the participation of the expert individuals that contributed to the development of this Standard through their representation on the Committee and through the public comment period.

---

#### **Keeping Standards up-to-date**

Australian Standards® are living documents that reflect progress in science, technology and systems. To maintain their currency, all Standards are periodically reviewed, and new editions are published. Between editions, amendments may be issued.

Standards may also be withdrawn. It is important that readers assure themselves they are using a current Standard, which should include any amendments that may have been published since the Standard was published.

Detailed information about Australian Standards, drafts, amendments and new projects can be found by visiting [www.standards.org.au](http://www.standards.org.au)

Standards Australia welcomes suggestions for improvements, and encourages readers to notify us immediately of any apparent inaccuracies or ambiguities. Contact us via email at [mail@standards.org.au](mailto:mail@standards.org.au), or write to Standards Australia, GPO Box 476, Sydney, NSW 2001.

---

Australian Standard<sup>®</sup>

**Event sustainability management  
systems—Requirements with guidance  
for use**

First published as AS ISO 20121—2013.

**COPYRIGHT**

© Standards Australia Limited

All rights are reserved. No part of this work may be reproduced or copied in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, without the written permission of the publisher, unless otherwise permitted under the Copyright Act 1968.

Published by SAI Global Limited under licence from Standards Australia Limited, GPO Box 476, Sydney, NSW 2001, Australia

ISBN 978 1 74342 626 5

## PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Standards Australia Committee MB-018, Event Sustainability Management System.

The objective of this Standard is to specify the requirements of an event sustainability management system to improve the sustainability of events. It is applicable to all types and sizes of organizations involved in the design and delivery of events, and accommodates diverse geographical, cultural and social conditions. At the same time it requires organizations to recognize their relationship with, and impact on, society's expectations of events.

This Standard is identical with, and has been reproduced from ISO 20121:2012, *Event sustainability management systems—Requirements with guidance for use*.

As this Standard is reproduced from an International Standard, the following applies:

- (a) In the source text 'this International Standard' should read 'this Australian Standard'.
- (b) A full point substitutes for a comma when referring to a decimal marker.

The term 'informative' has been used in this Standard to define the application of the annex to which it applies. An 'informative' annex is only for information and guidance.

## CONTENTS

1	Scope .....	1
2	Normative references .....	1
3	Terms and definitions .....	1
4	Context of the organization .....	5
4.1	Understanding of the organization and its context .....	5
4.2	Understanding the needs and expectations of interested parties .....	7
4.3	Determining the scope of the event sustainability management system .....	5
4.4	Event sustainability management system .....	8
4.5	Sustainable development principles, statement of purpose and values .....	8
5	Leadership .....	9
5.1	Leadership and commitment .....	9
5.2	Policy .....	9
5.3	Organizational roles, responsibilities and authorities .....	10
6	Planning .....	10
6.1	Actions to address risks and opportunities .....	10
6.2	Event sustainability objectives and how to achieve them .....	11
7	Support .....	12
7.1	Resources .....	12
7.2	Competence .....	12
7.3	Awareness .....	13
7.4	Communication .....	13
7.5	Documented information .....	14
8	Operation .....	15
8.1	Operational planning and control .....	15
8.2	Dealing with modified activities, products or services .....	15
8.3	Supply chain management .....	15
9	Performance evaluation .....	16
9.1	Performance against governing principles of sustainable development .....	16
9.2	Monitoring, measurement, analysis and evaluation .....	16
9.3	Internal audit .....	16
9.4	Management review .....	17
10	Improvement .....	18
10.1	Nonconformity and corrective action .....	18
10.2	Continual improvement .....	18
	<b>Annex A (informative) Guidance on planning and implementing this International Standard .....</b>	<b>19</b>
	<b>Annex B (informative) Supply chain management .....</b>	<b>35</b>
	<b>Annex C (informative) Evaluation .....</b>	<b>39</b>
	<b>Bibliography .....</b>	<b>42</b>

## INTRODUCTION

Events are sometimes, by their nature, high profile and transient, with both positive and negative social, economic and environmental impacts. This International Standard has been drafted to help organizations and individuals improve the sustainability of their event-related activities.

This International Standard specifies the requirements of an event sustainability management system to improve the sustainability of events. It is applicable to all types and sizes of organizations involved in the design and delivery of events and accommodates diverse geographical, cultural and social conditions. At the same time it requires organizations to recognize their relationship with and impact on society and society's expectations of events.

A management system standard challenges an organization to improve its process and thinking to lead to continual performance improvement and allows the organization the flexibility to be more creative about the delivery of event-related activities without detracting from the aim of the event. A management system standard is not a checklist or a reporting framework or a method of evaluating event sustainability performance.

This International Standard is intended to be applied flexibly and will allow organizations that have not formally addressed sustainable development to start to implement an event sustainability management system. Organizations with existing management systems will be able to integrate the requirements of this International Standard into their existing systems. All organizations will benefit from the process of continual improvement over time.

The complexity of the system and the extent of documentation and the resources devoted to it will be proportional to its defined scope, the size of the organization and the nature of the organization's activities, products and services. This is particularly the case for small and medium sized enterprises.

The success of the system depends on commitment from all levels and functions, especially from top management. In addition, in order for such a management system to be successful, it needs to be flexible and integrated within the event management process and not just regarded as a component to be added on. For maximum effectiveness, its influence needs to extend throughout the supply chain, as well as the identified stakeholders. Figure 1 provides an overview of the event sustainability management system model for this International Standard.

This International Standard can be used to prove compliance, as detailed in the Scope.

## AUSTRALIAN STANDARD

**Event sustainability management systems—Requirements with guidance for use****1 Scope**

This International Standard specifies requirements for an event sustainability management system for an, type of event or event-related activity, and provides guidance on conforming to those requirements.

This International Standard is applicable to any organization that wishes to:

- establish, implement, maintain and improve an event sustainability management system;
- ensure that it is in conformity with its stated sustainable development policy;
- demonstrate voluntary conformity with this International Standard by
  - first party (self-determination and self-declaration),
  - second party (confirmation of conformance by parties having an interest in the organization, such as clients, or by other persons on their behalf), or
  - an independent third party (e.g. a certification body),

This International Standard has been designed to address the management of improved sustainability throughout the entire event management cycle.

Additional guidance and information is provided in the annexes to support its implementation.

**2 Normative references**

There are no normative references.

**3 Terms and definitions**

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

**3.1****organization**

person or group of people that has its own functions with responsibilities, authorities and relationships to achieve its **objectives** (3.6)

Note 1 to entry: The concept of organization includes, but is not limited to, sole-trader, company, corporation, firm, enterprise, authority, partnership, charity or institution, or part or combination thereof, whether incorporated or not, public or private.

Note 2 to entry: For organizations with more than one operating unit, a single operating unit may be defined as an organization.