

IEC ACEA, 2026

ACEA Advisory Committee on Environmental Aspects

IEC International Electrotechnical Commission

About ACEA

- ACEA is the Advisory Committee on Environmental Aspects
- Its core focus is the protection of the natural environment against detrimental impacts from electrotechnical products and systems

Find ACEA at www.iec.ch/acea

IEC membership rule: 2/3 TCs and 1/3 NCs

Members nominated by TCs

- ❑TC 10
- ❑TC 20
- ❑TC 22
- ❑TC 23
- ❑TC 34
- ❑TC 47
- ❑TC 59
- ❑TC 62
- ❑TC 82
- ❑TC 91
- ❑TC 100
- ❑TC 111
- ❑TC 114

Members nominated by NCs

- ❑NL
- ❑CA
- ❑CN
- ❑DE
- ❑ FR
- ❑ GB
- ❑ JP
- ❑ KR

About ACEA

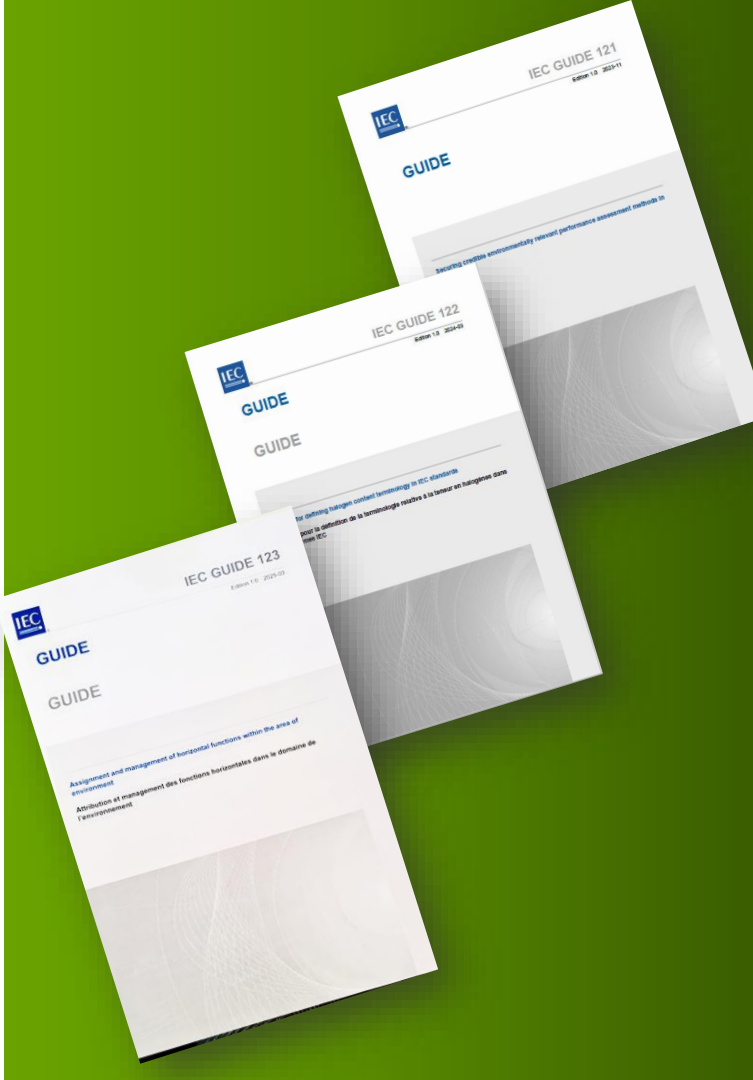
- ACEA:
  - reports to and advises the SMB on environmental aspects,
  - ensures that IEC standards writers take environmental protection concerns into account in their standards,
  - coordinates IEC work on ENV aspects to ensure consistency through IEC publications,
  - develops Guides that are mandatory to TCs and standards writers, and
  - assigns environment horizontal functions.

Environmental aspects:

- Environmentally conscious design
- Substance and material analytical testing, management, and declaration
- Environmental performance assessment and labelling
- Greenhouse gases emissions
- End-of-life treatment
- Climate change
- Circular economy and material efficiency

ACEA Guides | Published

- **IEC Guide 121:2023 –** Guide for securing credible environmentally relevant performance assessment methods in standards
- **IEC Guide 122:2024 –** Guide for defining halogen content terminology in IEC standards
- **IEC Guide 123:2025 –** Assignment and management of horizontal functions within the aspect environment
- **IEC Guide 109:2026 (ED.4)** – Environmental aspects - Inclusion in electrotechnical product standards



ACEA Guides | Under development

- **IEC Guide 126 Ed.1 (WD)** – Guidance to the development of product specific rules to assess the carbon footprint of products
  - First WD circulated to all relevant TCs in April 2026.
  - Second WD to be circulated to all relevant TCs Q3 2026



ACEA Guides | Explained

IEC Academy Webinar on the ACEA Guide 121 (28 May 2024)
Securing credible environmentally relevant performance assessment methods in standards **LINK**

IEC Academy Webinar on the ACEA Guide 122 (9 Sep 2024)
Defining halogen content terminology in IEC standards **LINK**





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When should committees contact ACEA?

- For the assignment of environment horizontal functions
  - … and so be allowed to develop environment horizontal publications
- For support when requesting another committee to prepare new or review existing environment horizontal publications
- When needing assistance integrating environmental matters in your publications
- When support is needed in coordinating existing or new activities, or solving conflicts on matters related to environmental aspects
  - within your committee,
  - across IEC committees or
  - between IEC and another SDO(s)

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How do I know ACEA is relevant for my committee?

Committees participating in ACEA are typically

- TCs, SCs, SyCs that (wish to) address aspects associated with the environment in their activities and publications
- NCs interested in aspects related to the environment

Still not sure?

- TCs, SCs, SyCs or NCs who want to know more about ACEA's activities are welcome to request attendance as guest at an ACEA meeting
- Please contact the ACEA Chair and/or Secretary

How to become a member?

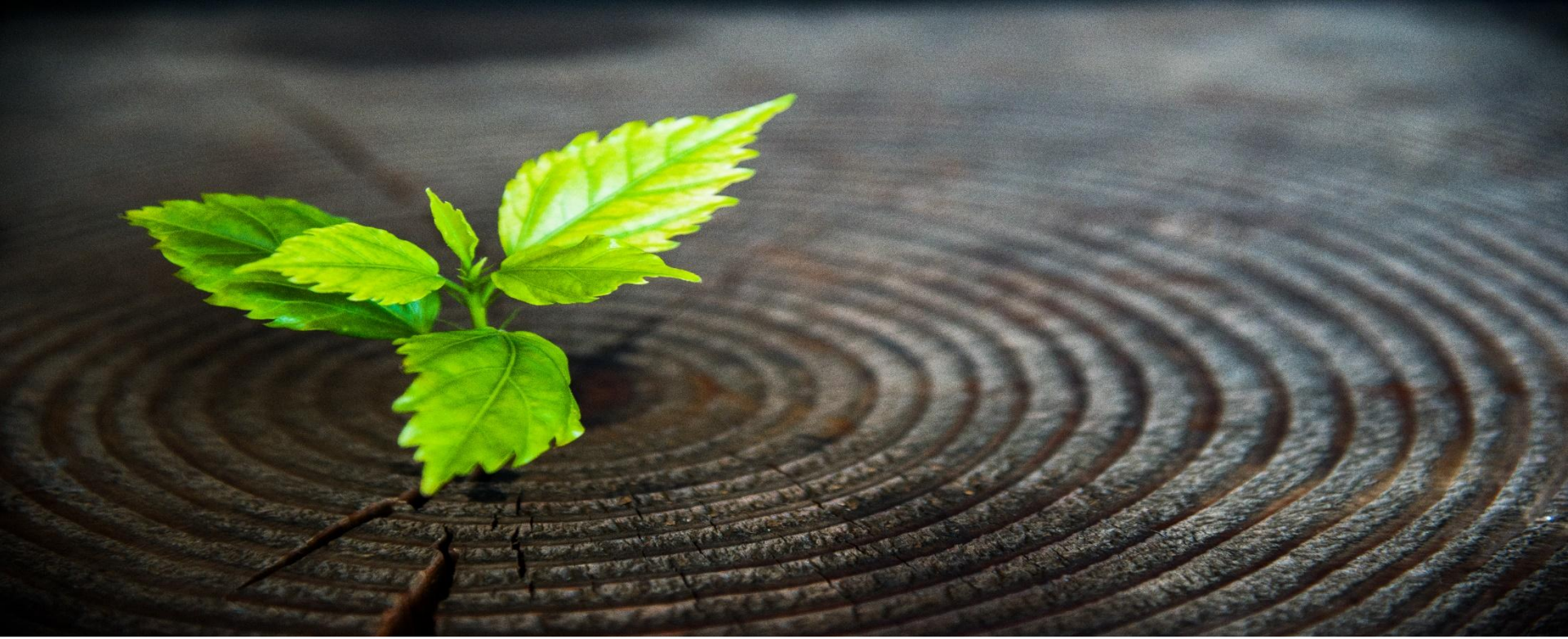
TCs, SCs, SyCs:

- Committee decision to nominate a representative
- Send the approved decision, name of representative and CV to the ACEA secretariat (see www.iec.ch/acea > Structure > Officers)
- ACEA secretariat organizes approval by the SMB

NCs:

- NC decision to nominate a representative
- Send motivation letter, name of representative and CV to the ACEA secretariat (see www.iec.ch/acea > Structure > Officers)
- ACEA secretariat organizes approval by the SMB





For more information see:
www.iec.ch/acea

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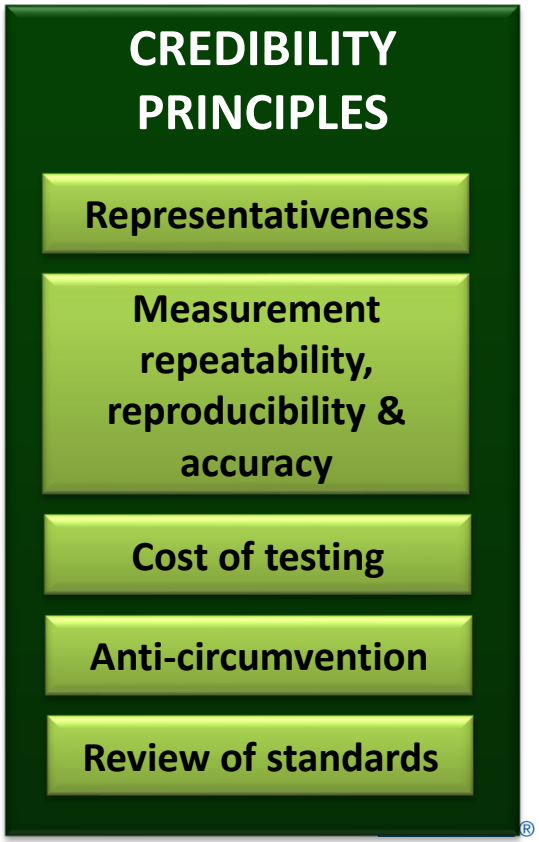
IEC International Electrotechnical Commission

About ACEA Guide 121 (“Credibility Guide” for short)

ACEA Guide 121:2023 - Securing credible environmentally relevant performance assessment methods in standards

- The Guide explores the concepts of (real-life) representativeness and anti-circumvention in addition to classic measurement principles (reproducibility, repeatability, and accuracy), and cost
- Addresses the importance of keeping standards up to date and so avoid circumvention
- It applies to “environmentally relevant” performance assessment methods addressing direct and indirect impact of products on the environment.



Future – Guide 121 Ed.2 revision under consideration

New aspects to potentially be included in Ed. 2:

- Scope to be extended beyond test provisions; e.g. by inspection
- Include requirements on use of Artificial Intelligence
- Jointly with ISO?
- Other?

Timeline:

- Discussion at the next ACEA meeting (May 2026)
- Investigate support of IEC TCs/SCs on the Guide revision (Sep-Nov 2026)
- Session “experience on use of the Guide” at the ACEA Workshop in Hamburg (IEC GM, Nov 2026)
- Approval of the revision of the Guide by IEC SMB (Dec 2026)
- Start revision activities (≥Jan 2027)

IEC Guide 122 – What it is and does

- The Guide shows how halogen content terminology is used in IEC standards
- It provides recommendations how to apply terms associated with halogen content in a consistent way
- It provides recommendations how to address halogen terminology in existing and new standards
- It does not contain requirements (‘shalls’)
- The Guide currently does not apply limits (thresholds) to the various terms

IEC Guide 122:2024 – Guide for defining halogen content terminology in IEC standards

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About the ACEA Guide 123 ED1

- Guide 123 ED1 defines provisions for the implementation of IEC Guide 108 ED3 within the area of environment by ACEA and IEC committees
- Addresses the concept of horizontal functions and horizontal publications and their relationship with product publications in the area of environment
- The assignment by ACEA of an environment horizontal function (ENV-HF) to a committee is a pre-condition for that committee to prepare environment horizontal publications
- Product committees, on the other hand, are required to implement the requirements of such environment horizontal publications in their product publications

Why bother:

- Ensuring consistency of IEC publications
- Avoiding duplication and contradictory requirements
- Reducing the size and cost of IEC publications
- improving mutual understanding among engineers, scientists and managers of various technical disciplines