Environment, energy and climate

Water Footprint: ISO 14046:2014

One day to assess the water footprint of a product, process or site under ISO 14046:2014, beyond the volume consumed. Withdrawals, consumption, local scarcity, degradation of quality through discharges: you learn to frame the study, collect the right flows and read the results to decide on the actions that matter in a water-stressed country.

Duration : 1 day

Objectives

1. Explain the principle of the water footprint under ISO 14046:2014 and its link with life cycle assessment
2. Distinguish water withdrawal, consumption and discharge, and the scarcity and degradation indicators
3. Define the goal, scope and boundaries of a water footprint assessment
4. Build the inventory of water flows of a site or product
5. Interpret results to prioritise water savings, reuse and treatment of discharges

Programme

Day 1 — morning

• Why a water footprint: water stress in Morocco, abstraction permits, buyer and funder expectations

• ISO 14046:2014: principles, requirements, link with ISO 14040 / 14044

• Full or partial water footprint; scarcity, eutrophication and ecotoxicity indicators

• Goal, scope, functional unit, geographical and temporal boundaries

Day 1 — afternoon (workshop)

• Inventory: boreholes, mains, process water, washing, cooling, water contained in products, discharges

• Scarcity characterisation factors according to the location of the site and suppliers

• Workshop: water balance of a workshop or product on your site and first indicators

• Interpretation, limits and communication of results; knowledge test

Teaching methods

• Water balance built from your meters, invoices and borehole readings

• Mapping of water uses on a site plan

• Agri-food cases: clean-in-place, raw material washing, cooling

• Discussion of options: reuse of wash water, loss reduction, recycling

• Final test on withdrawal, consumption and scarcity

Assessment and documents

Knowledge test at the end of the day, feedback survey at D+1. Numbered training certificate, verifiable online, for each participant; the company receives the training report and the water balance drawn up in the workshop.

Bilingual materials for every participant; each classroom course comes with its digital twin on OmniLearn.

Good to know

To control discharges and their self-monitoring, see “Industrial Wastewater: Treatment and Monitoring”. For the full methodological framework, see “Life Cycle Assessment: ISO 14040 / 14044”.

Practical information

Duration	1 day
Audience	Environment and CSR managers, utilities, production and agronomy managers, R&D
Prerequisites	No prerequisites
Group size	Groups of 6 to 12 participants, in-company
Format	In-company, face to face on your site
Language	French, Darija or English; bilingual materials
Funding	OFPPT special training contracts (TFP), GIAC, Maroc PME: we prepare the applications with you, at no extra cost.
Programme customisation	Programme adapted to your procedures, your equipment and your audience

Frequently asked questions

Is the water footprint the volume of water consumed by the site?

No, it is broader. Volume is a starting point; the footprint under ISO 14046:2014 takes into account the scarcity of water where it is withdrawn and the effects of discharges on its quality. A cubic metre withdrawn in an already deficit basin does not weigh the same as elsewhere.

Can we calculate the water footprint of a site rather than a product?

Yes. The standard applies to products, processes and organisations. For a first exercise, the site or a workshop is often simpler: meter and borehole data are available there.

Do we need life cycle assessment skills?

No. The useful LCA notions are introduced during the day. Participants who want to carry out full studies can then take the two-day course on ISO 14040 / 14044.

Is ISO 14046:2014 still current?

Yes. The 2014 edition remains in force; it is under systematic review at ISO, with no new edition announced to date.