

Environmental Product Declaration (EPD)

The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) uses Environmental Product Declarations (EPD) to evaluate the properties which are relevant to environmental impacts of a product. EPDs report objective, quantifiable environmental and third-party verified data. They serve as a type III declaration regarding ISO 14025 *Environmental labels and declarations*. In that context, type I are independent eco-labels, and type II are self-declared eco-labels, which do not take the life cycle into consideration.

EPDs aim to consider the entire life cycle of the product. For that reason, an EPD can vary in terms of assumptions and information, why they are not usually suitable for direct comparisons of products in general. They rather represent a basis for planning in the construction, or automotive industry to comprehend and evaluate products for a specific project.

EPDs are created by defining the covered product with the appropriate Product Category Rules (PCR). PCRs provide guidance that enables a life cycle assessment for a specific product category. They include:

- Description of the product category,
- Functional unit: the amount, weight and service life
- System boundaries, i.e. which processes and stages of the product's life cycle need to be considered,
- Cut-off criteria,
- Allocation rules,
- Use phase and end-of-life options
- Impact categories

PCRs are verified by an independent, third-party panel. The PCR outlines and defines the requirements of an EPD and the contained data.

By using the appropriate PCR, a manufacturer can assess the life cycle of a product and compile this information in an EPD. The EPD must be verified by an independent third party and will then be published and made available online.

The ISO 14025 type III declaration scheme intends to provide assistance in planning sustainable projects.