



HARMONIZATION OF PRODUCT CATEGORY RULES PRESENTATION AV PPP – PCR PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME

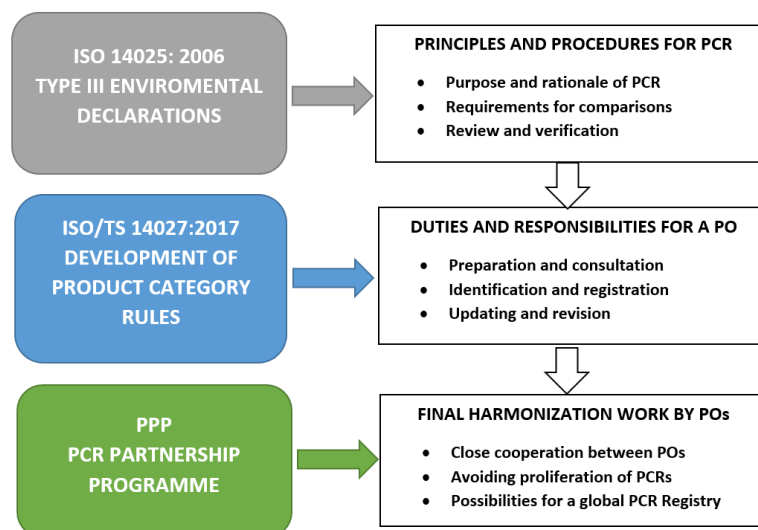
Product Category Rules, PCR, is a set of specific rules, requirements and guidelines for developing Environmental Product Declarations, EPD. PCR is the vehicle to secure comparability between the environmental performance of products – the unique feature of EPDs.

Why specific efforts to harmonize PCRs?

At the time for starting the work on the standard of EPD, ISO 14025, there were no EPD programmes and no PCRs on the market. Hence, there were no different PCR approaches to standardize, which usually is the motive for standardization as such. Therefore, the introduction of ISO 14025 clearly states that *“harmonization of PCR should be encouraged between EPD programmes to meet the principle of comparability”*. This should include mutual recognition of rules with respect to PCR development, PCR review and verification procedures, administrative procedures and declaration format.

Another important statement in ISO 14025 is that *“Programme operators can facilitate harmonization when developing PCR for a product category by considering readily available PCR documents in the same product category”*. To help meeting these requirements ISO developed a supporting document – ISO/TS 14027: Development of Category Rules.

However, still another step was found necessary when making practical use of ISO 14025 and ISO/TS 14027 to achieve harmonization to the full. Here, the PCR Partnership Programme offers complementary activities to make true harmonization possible.



The PPP initiative

ISO 14025 on EPDs recommends POs to make use of available PCRs as the preferred option to avoid unnecessary double-work and proliferation of PCRs for the same product category which will lead to market confusion and less interest of making use of EPDs.

The rationale of the PPP-initiative for EPD Programme Operators (PO) is to recommend to start and maintain a close contact once original available PCRs are being used by several POs. This will lead to a lot of advantages in internal daily work by POs. Some of these advantages are described below.



Programme Operator (PO1) developing original available PCRs

- Establishing a record of POs that are making use of its PCRs
- Getting information from POs applying its PCRs on relevant changes to be made
- Getting insight into reasons for eventual additions identified by POs during their adaptations of a PCR
- Getting information from POs about their interest to join a work on establishing a global PCR Registry

Programme Operators (POs) wanting to apply or adapt original available PCRs

- Getting access of information from PO1 necessary to be able to fully justify the use or non-use of available PCRs
- Getting information from PO1 of relevant changes in applied or adapted PCRs during their validity periods
- Getting information from PO1 about relevant internal discussions if questions arise during verification of EPDs based on available PCRs



The start of a global PCR Registry?

The ISO/TS 14027 on development of PCR states *“the ease of finding and accessing PCRs may help avoid duplication of effort and enable greater harmonization across PCR development. Ideally, PCRs shall be discoverable and accessible via a central repository”*. Attempts have been made to establish PCR registries but found difficulties for any single organization to keep such a registry continuously updated as PCRs can easily be modified during their validity periods which is quite an undertaking to keep track on.

The PPP initiative can overcome these difficulties by the recommended close contact between POs constantly sharing information about modifications and updates when making use of the same PCRs. If the PPP initiative can attract a number of POs to cooperate it could well lead to a first active PCR network serving as a platform for establishing a global PCR Registry.

For more information visit: <https://www.environdec.com/News-archive/new-pcr-partnership-programme-established-for-operators-and-pcr-developers/>