c-PCR-XXX (to PCR 2019:14)

Version: 20XX-YY-ZZ

*Note: This document is a PCR template to be used in c-pcr development. It is not a c-PCR**.*



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how to use the c-PCR template

*This section is intended as instructions for the PCR Moderator and PCR Committee and shall be deleted when preparing the c-PCR.*

This document is a template for developing complementary Product Category Rules (c-PCR), to PCR 2019:14, in the International EPD® System.

The text in this c-PCR template includes:

1. Headings and text which are common for all c-PCRs regardless of product category, e.g. the “General introduction” section. These should be kept as they are, but exceptions are possible, as is further described in this document and in the General Programme Instructions (GPI).
2. Instructions written *in italics.* They shall be decided upon during the c-PCR development and be replaced by specific requirements (or deleted as appropriate) in the c-PCR. When indicated, this is also used to indicate administrative information that will be added by the Secretariat before publication.

The GPI includes further requirements on and guidance for developing c-PCRs.

The c-PCR shall not repeat any requirements or guidance in PCR 2019:14.

version history of c-pcr template

*This section shall be deleted when preparing the c-PCR.*

Version 2021-05-24

Original version of this c-PCR template, to be used to develop c-PCRs complementing PCR 2019:14 and compliant with version 4.0 of the GPI.

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# Introduction

## General

This document constitutes complementary Product Category Rules (c-PCR) developed in the framework of the International EPD® System: a programme for type III environmental declarations[[1]](#footnote-2) according to ISO 14025:2006, ISO 14040:2006, ISO 14044:2006, and product-specific standards such as EN 15804 and ISO 21930 for construction products. Environmental Product Declarations (EPD) are voluntary documents for a company or organisation to present transparent, consistent and verifiable information about environmental performance of their product (goods or services).

The rules for the overall administration and operation of the programme are the General Programme Instructions (GPI), publicly available at [www.environdec.com](http://www.environdec.com). PCRs and c-PCRs complement the GPI and the normative standards by providing specific rules, requirements and guidelines for developing an EPD for one or more specific product categories (see Figure 1). A PCR/c-PCR should enable different practitioners using the PCR/c-PCR to generate consistent results when assessing products of the same product category.

Figure 1 This c-PCR in relation to the hierarchy of standards and other documents.

Within the present c-PCR, the following terminology is adopted:

* The term “shall” is used to indicate what is obligatory, i.e. a requirement.
* The term “should” is used to indicate a recommendation, rather than a requirement. Any deviation from a “should” requirement shall be justified in the PCR development process.
* The terms “may” or “can” is used to indicate an option that is permissible.

For definitions of further terms used in the document, see the normative standards.

A PCR and its c-PCRs are valid for a pre-determined period of time to ensure that it is updated at regular intervals. The latest version of the PCR and its c-PCRs are available at [www.environdec.com](http://www.environdec.com).Stakeholder feedback on PCRs and c-PCRs is very much encouraged. Any comments on this c-PCR may be sent directly to the PCR Moderator and/or the Secretariat during its development or during its period of validity.

Any references to this document shall include the PCR registration number, name and version.

The programme operator maintains the copyright of the document to ensure that it is possible to publish, update, and make it available to all organisations to develop and register EPDs. Stakeholders participating in c-PCR development should be acknowledged in the final document and on the website.

## Role of this document

This document provides complementary product category rules (c-PCR) to PCR 2019:14 Construction products available at [www.environdec.com](http://www.environdec.com). This document cannot be used by itself but shall be used together with PCR 2019:14 and the European standard EN 15804:2012+A2:2019 (called EN 15804 in short). If a c.PCR is available for a product category, it shall be used.

See Figure 2 for an illustration on how PCR 2019:14 and this c-PCR relate to each other and the EPDs that may be based on them.

+ Complementary PCR (c-PCR)

PCR 2019:14 Construction products

EPD based on a declared unit. Any scope allowed.

Any type of EPD allowed by the c-PCR, including EPDs using a functional unit (if allowed by the c-PCR).

No c-PCR available

Figure 2 Overview of using PCR 2019:14 directly to develop an EPD, or how to use it together with a c-PCR.

# General information

## Administrative information

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name: | *Name of the PCR* |
| Registration number and version: | *Added by the Secretariat* |
| Programme: | The International EPD System |
| Programme operator: | EPD International AB, Box 210 60, SE-100 31 Stockholm, Sweden.  Website: [www.environdec.com](http://www.environdec.com/)  E-mail: [info@environdec.com](mailto:info@environdec.com) |
| PCR Moderator: | *Name, organisation and e-mail address of the appointed PCR Moderator* |
| PCR Committee: | *Names of organisations participating in the preparation of the PCR* |
| Date of publication and last revision: | *Added by the Secretariat* |
| Valid until: | *Added by the Secretariat* |
| Schedule for renewal: | This document will be revised together with the PCR for Construction products. In case a c-PCR is developed by a CEN Product TC, the standard will replace this c-PCR, with a transition period of at least 90 days under which both are valid. |
| Standards conformance: | * General Programme Instructions (GPI) of the International EPD System, version 4.0, based on ISO 14025:2006, ISO 14040:2006 and ISO 14044:2006 * EN 15804:2012+A2:2019 * ISO 21930:2017. This standard is used in selected sections, such as allocation, when it provides additional but not contradictory rules to EN 15804.   All EPDs based on this PCR shall be compliant with EN 15804:2012+A2:2019. If additional rules are followed, e.g. additional indicators, this PCR may also be used to develop an EPD compliant with ISO 21930:2017. |
| PCR language(s): | This PCR was developed and is available in English. In case of translated versions, the English version takes precedence in case of any discrepancies. |

## Scope

### Product category definition and description

This c-PCR for the assessment of the environmental performance of *name of product category* and the declaration of this performance by an EPD*.* The product category corresponds to UN CPC XXX *Name of CPC classification(s)*.

*Provide a detailed description of the products included in the product category. Examples of products included and excluded from the scope of the PCR/c-PCR should be given. Synonyms to the name of the product category and its included products should be listed.*

*The UN CPC classification hierarchy shall be presented, as well as a link to https://unstats.un.org/unsd/*classifications*/Family/Detail/1074 for additional information. Other relevant classification schemes may also be included.*

*The product category covered by a PCR/c-PCR shall, as far as possible, relate to the function of the product, i.e. that the same functional unit may be applied to products within its scope. If justified, a PCR/c-PCR may, however, allow different functional units for different products within the product category.* *The product category definition should be made so that the development of the PCR/c-PCR is practical and feasible accounting for existing PCRs/c-PCRs, the market situation, industry structure, potential EPD applications, and the size of the stakeholder group affected. The scope should be decided during PCR/c-PCR development in a discussion between the PCR Moderator, the PCR Committee, the Secretariat, and the Technical Committee, with the aim to reach consensus, as far as possible. The scope of the product category of a PCR/c-PCR may be reconsidered during PCR/c-PCR development (e.g. as a response to comments made during the open consultation), when PCRs/c-PCRs are updated, or when new PCRs /c-PCRs are proposed, to adapt to market developments.*

### Type of EPD and information modules included

Following the requirements in Section 2.2.2 of PCR 2019:14, an EPD based on this c-PCR is may be a type *insert the type of EPD allowed by this PCR (see PCR 2019:14 for guidance to the various scopes)* EPD, including *insert the includes modules according to the type,* or a type *insert the second type of EPD allowed by this PCR, if any* EPD, including *insert the includes modules according to the second type [add further types allowed by the c-PCR; if several, a bullet list may be suitable]*. Section 4.2 below provide more information on each life-cycle stage concerning the product category in scope.

### Geographical scope

This c-PCR may be used globally.

*PCRs/c-PCRs developed in the International EPD® System should have a global scope, e.g. to be as applicable as possible and to avoid creating unnecessary trade barriers.*

*The geographical scope of the PCR/c-PCR may, however, be more limited when relevant. In such cases, the above sentence shall be replaced by a list of the geographical region(s) for which the PCR/c-PCR is valid. The geographical scope stated shall match the scope of the guidance given in the PCR/c-PCR, e.g., scenarios for the use phase and end-of-life, production processes, examples of databases to use for generic data, references to standards, impact categories, etc. Any other scope than a global one must be clearly justified in the PCR/c-PCR development process and is subject to approval by the Secretariat.*

### EPD validity

See PCR 2019:14.

# PCR review and background information

This c-PCR was developed in accordance with the PCR development process described in the GPI of the International EPD® System, including open consultation and review.

## Open consultation

### Version 20XX-YY-ZZ

This c-PCR was available for open consultation from *date* until *date*, during which any stakeholder was able to provide comments by contacting the PCR Moderator and/or the Secretariat.

*Add information about any physical or web-based meetings held during the open consultation phase, if applicable.*

Stakeholders were invited via e-mail or other means to take part in the open consultation and were encouraged to forward the invitation to other relevant stakeholders. The following stakeholders provided comments during the open consultation and agreed to be listed as contributors in the c-PCR and at [www.environdec.com](http://www.environdec.com).

* *List of stakeholder names and affiliation*

*In case of multiple major revisions of the c-PCR, information about each open consultation should be added as sub-sections (3.1.2, 3.1.3, etc.).*

## PCR review

### Version 20XX-YY-ZZ

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| PCR review panel: | The Technical Committee of the International EPD® System. A full list of members is available at [www.environdec.com](http://www.environdec.com). The review panel may be contacted via [info@environdec.com](mailto:info@environdec.com).  Members of the Technical Committee were requested to state any potential conflict of interest with the PCR Committee, and if there were conflicts of interest they were excused from the review. |
| Chair of the PCR review: | *Added by the Secretariat* |
| Review dates: | *Added by the Secretariat* |

*In case of multiple major revisions of the PCR, information about each review should be added as sub-sections (3.2.2, 3.2.3, etc.).*

## Existing PCRs for the product category

As part of the development of this c-PCR, existing PCRs/c-PCRs and other internationally standardised methods that could potentially act as c-PCRs were considered to avoid unnecessary overlaps in scope and to ensure harmonisation with established methods of relevance for the product category. The existence of such documents was checked among the following EPD programmes and international standardisation bodies:

* International EPD® System. [www.environdec.com](http://www.environdec.com).
* *List of other EPD programmes and international standardisation bodies that have potentially issued methods that could act as PCRs, including link to website. Guidance is available at* [*www.environdec.com*](http://www.environdec.com) *on where to search for existing PCRs.*

Table 1 lists the identified PCRs and other standardised methods.

Table 1 Existing PCRs/c-PCRs and other internationally standardized methods that were considered to avoid overlap in scope and to ensure harmonisation with established methods.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| NAME OF PCR/c-PCR/STANDARD | PROGRAMME/  STANDARDISATION BODY | REGISTRATION NUMBER, VERSION NUMBER/DATE OF PUBLICATION | SCOPE |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

*Full references to existing PCRs/c-PCRs shall be given in Section 7.*

*The adoption of an existing PCR/c-PCR shall be preferred over developing a new PCR/c-PCR. If existing PCRs/c-PCRs are identified but not used, this shall be justified. Existing PCRs/c-PCRs that cover a part of the life cycle of the product in question, should be referenced for harmonisation across product categories and in supply chains.*

*Existing PCRs/c-PCRs available in other programmes shall also be considered, including PCRs/c-PCRs that are under development. The International EPD® System may recognise and adopt PCRs/c-PCRs prepared by other programme operators operating in accordance with ISO 14025 if they fulfil the requirements of the GPI. If a PCR/c-PCR with a relevant scope is identified in another programme, the Secretariat shall be contacted to plan the next step.*

*If other internationally standardised methods exist that act as PCRs/c-PCRs or give guidance on PCR development for certain product categories, and the guidelines are widely accepted and used by the market, it may be possible to develop and certify EPDs according to such a standard or guideline even though it is not fully compliant with the International EPD® System. The decision to adopt such documents shall be made by the Secretariat.*

*If existing PCRs/c-PCRs and/or relevant internationally standardised methods were identified but not adopted, the reason for why the present PCR/c-PCR was developed shall be described in Section 3.4. Also, any attempts made to harmonise or align this PCR with existing PCRs/c-PCRs and/or internationally standardised methods shall be described.*

*If no existing PCRs/c-PCRs or relevant internationally standardised methods were identified, the above table may be replaced by the statement: “No existing PCRs/c-PCRs or other relevant internationally standardised methods with overlapping scope were identified.”*

## Reasoning for development of c-PCR

This c-PCR was developed to provide requirements and guidelines additional to those in PCR 2019:14 and EN 15804, for developing EPDs for the product category. The c-PCR thereby enables different practitioners to generate consistent results when assessing the environmental impact of products of the same product category, and thereby it supports comparability of products within a product category.

*Add any other justification for development of the c-PCR, if relevant, and any limitations in the intended target audience of EPDs based on this c-PCR.*

## Underlying studies used for c-PCR development

The methodological choices made during the development of this c-PCR (declared/functional unit, system boundary, allocation methods, impact categories, data quality rules, etc.) were primarily based on the following underlying studies:

* *List the underlying life cycle assessments (LCAs) conducted in accordance with ISO 14044, scientific papers and other relevant studies, including any supporting studies performed in parallel to the c-PCR development. Full references to the underlying studies shall also be given in Section 7. If the c-PCR is an update of a previously published c-PCR, the underlying studies of the previous versions of the c-PCR shall also be listed.*

*Note that the GPI requires PCRs/c-PCRs to be based on one or more LCAs representing the full product life cycle conducted in accordance with ISO 14044 and other relevant LCA-based footprint studies, including any supporting studies performed in parallel to the PCR development.*

# Goal and scope, life cycle inventory and life cycle impact assessment

This section provides specific rules, requirements and guidelines for developing an EPD for the product category as defined in Section 2.2.1.

## Declared/functional unit

*The functional/declared unit(s) and reference flow(s) to use in the EPD shall be specified in the c-PCR.*

*Example of text if a declared unit is required/recommended: “The 1 kg of product and its packaging (the weight of the packaging is not included in this 1 kg). The reference flow in the LCA shall be defined at the point where the product arrives at the customer gate, i.e. any losses occurring before then must be taken into account.”*

*If a declared unit is required/recommended, the following text should be added: “This c-PCR uses a declared unit instead of a functional unit as all functional and qualitative aspects are not possible to capture in the same unit. These aspects should be taken into consideration when comparing EPDs based on this c-PCR.”*

*The c-PCR may allow several declared/functional units, for different subcategories of products. The c-PCR may also allow the declaration of results for two different declared/functional units in the same EPD, although this is not recommended; this must be justified in the c-PCR development process.*

*Make sure to harmonise the guidance on declared/functional unit with other similar or related PCRs/c-PCRs.*

*If a declared unit is used, any reference to functional unit should be removed from the document, and vice-versa.*

*The c-PCR may define qualitative or performance-related aspects to declare in the EPD that are outside of the declared/functional unit.*

*Further guidance to help define the declared/functional unit, taken from the GPI:*

*The declared or functional unit is the reference unit to which the environmental performance of the product is related. Functional unit is defined as a quantified performance of a product and a declared unit is defined as a quantity of a product. The declared/functional unit to use for a specific product category shall be specified in the c-PCR.*

*The declared/functional unit shall be clearly defined and measurable. In practice, the declared/functional unit consists of a qualitatively defined function or property (e.g. for paint, a surface covered with a certain level of brightness, or other quality) and its quantification via one or several units (e.g. 1 m2 covered for 10 years). The declared/functional unit should be expressed in SI units (kg, J, meters, etc.), however, other units may be used if they are considered more relevant to address the information (e.g. kW for power and kWh for energy). Conversion factors shall be provided to convert from declared/functional unit to one unit of product, where relevant.*

*If the function of the product in the use phase is known and can be clearly defined, a functional unit shall be used. Examples of functional units are:*

* *for transportation modes or services: transportation of a given number of passengers over a given distance, e.g. transport of 1 passenger for 1 km,*
* *for cleaning items or services: cleaning of a given item or area for a given time, e.g. 1 m2 building area kept cleaned for a period of 1 year,*
* *for products applied on surfaces: coverage of given surface area over a given time. e.g. 1 m2 wall surface covered for 10 years, and*
* *for energy products: provision of a certain type and quantity of energy, e.g. 1 kWh of electricity delivered to the customer.*

*If the function of the product in the use stage is unknown, if the product can be used for several different functions, or if the function cannot be clearly defined, a declared unit may be used. A declared unit may, for example, be suitable for intermediate products which can be further processed, or combined with other products, into different end products. Although a declared unit is defined as a quantity of the product rather than its quantified performance, the definition of declared unit shall be relevant in relation to the typical applications the product. Examples of declared units are:*

* *an item or an assemblage of items, e.g. 1 brick, 1 mobile phone,*
* *mass of a product, e.g. 1 kg of cement, and*
* *volume of a product, e.g. 1 litre of water, 1 m3 of ready-mixed concrete.*

*Note that the use of a declared unit may reduce comparability between EPDs. To increase comparability between EPDs based on a declared unit, it is therefore important to specify technical properties of relevance for the application/use of the product.*

## system boundaries

EPDs that are developed based on this c-PCR shall cover *insert the scope of the c-PCR (e.g. product stage (A1-A3), construction process stage (A4-A5), use stage (B1-B7), end-of-life stage (C1-C4) as well as benefits and loads beyond the system boundary (D)*. *The scope(s) allowed by this c-PCR, and requirements for excluding information modules, must be aligned with PCR 2019:14 and EN 15804.*

The following subsections describe the covered information modules and the respective processes. For detailed information on each module, see EN 15804 (Section 6.3.5). Here only specific descriptions related to this c-PCR are provided.

*Below subsections may need to be adjusted to the scope of the c-PCR by listing processes which are typical for the product category. Please consider lists of processes in similar or related PCRs/c-PCRs, for harmonisation purposes. Available c-PCRs can be used as inspiration for writing below subsections.*

### Product stage: modules A1-A3

See PCR 2019:14 and Section 6.3.5.2 of EN 15804.

*Additional and more specific requirements may be listed.*

### Construction process stage: modules A4-A5

See PCR 2019:14 and Section 6.3.5.3 of EN 15804.

*Additional and more specific requirements may be listed.*

### Use stage: modules B1-B7

See PCR 2019:14 and Section 6.3.5.4 of EN 15804.

*Additional and more specific requirements may be listed.*

### End-of-life (EoL) stage: Modules C1-C4

See PCR 2019:14 and Section 6.3.5.5 of EN 15804.

*Additional and more specific requirements may be listed.*

### Benefits and loads beyond the system boundary: module D

See PCR 2019:14 and Section 6.4.3.3 of EN 15804.

*Additional and more specific requirements may be listed.*

### Other boundary setting

See PCR 2019:14 and EN 15804.

*Additional and more specific requirements may be listed.*

## System diagram

*Insert a system diagram illustrating the processes that are included in the product system, divided into life-cycle stages and information modules.*

*Figure 2* *System diagram illustrating the processes that are included in the product system, divided into life-cycle stages and information modules.*

*The system diagram should indicate important omissions of life-cycle stages and processes.*

## Cut-off rules

See PCR 2019:14 and EN 15804.

*Additional and more specific requirements may be listed.*

## Allocation rules

See PCR 2019:14 and EN 15804.

*Additional and more specific requirements may be listed.*

## Data quality requirements

See PCR 2019:14 and EN 15804.

*Additional and more specific requirements may be listed.*

### Data quality requirements and other modelling guidance per life-cycle stage

*This section may be included if there is a need for additional and more specific requirements, or guidance, beyond those of PCR 2019:14 and EN 15804. If no such requirements or guidance is needed, this section may be removed.*

*To harmonise across product categories, data quality requirements in PCRs of similar and/or related product categories PCRs shall be considered in the development of this section.*

## Environmental performance indicators

See PCR 2019:14 and EN 15804.

*Additional and more specific requirements may be listed here.*

*To better characterise the environmental performance of a product category, the c-PCR may require or recommend the declaration of environmental performance indicators not included in PCR 2019:14 and EN 15804. Such additions shall be justified in the c-PCR development process.* *To harmonise across product categories, recommendations and requirements on indicators in PCRs/c-PCRs of similar and/or related product categories shall be considered. In the end, all environmentally relevant indicators for the product category shall be included.*

*The inclusion of additional environmental performance indicators should be based on:*

* *the results and interpretation of the supporting LCA studies, including the use of normalisation and weighting of results to determine the most relevant impact categories,*
* *a literature review (LCA and non-LCA) of relevant impacts for the product category,*
* *a review of key environmental concerns regarding the product category, e.g. from NGOs, civil society, customers, and other stakeholders, for the geographical applicability of the c-PCR, and*
* *a review of requirements in other standards or methodological guidelines of relevance for the product category, to which harmonisation is desirable.*

*The selection of indicators shall focus on their environmental relevance for the product category. The selection shall also consider the scope of the EPD, regional aspects or requirements, and the maturity of the methods to ensure that they are not misleading. In addition, they shall only apply to those life-cycle stages in which the information is appropriate. If a c-PCR requires or recommends other indicators than those in the default list, it shall list the inventory and/or impact assessment methods to use, including references to the original source and specification of the version of methods and characterisation factors. Such indicators should be based on international standards or similar documents developed in a transparent procedure.*

*If the selection of indicators is based on an effort to harmonise with international standards or other external documents outlining product category rules, the c-PCR shall include a statement saying that the alignment/adoption of indicators from the external product category rules does not imply that the EPDs can be claimed to be aligned or compliant with the external product category rules. Alignment/compliant with external product category rules requires alignment/compliant of the entire method applied, and not just the selection of indicators.*

*The c-PCR may also indicate and justify issues that need to be addressed in more detail in future updates of the c-PCR.*

## Including multiple products in the same EPD

See PCR 2019:14.

*Additional and more specific requirements may be listed.*

# Content and format of EPD

See PCR 2019:14.

*Additional and more specific requirements may be added to below subsections. For example, more product-specific guidance on the sections on content declaration (see Section 5.4.4 of PCR 2019:14), environmental performance (see Section 5.4.5 of PCR 2019:14) or additional environmental, social and economic information (see Sections 5.4.6 and 5.4.7 of PCR 2019:14 ) may be done.*

## EPD language

See PCR 2019:14.

## Unit and quantities

See PCR 2019:14.

## Use of images in EPD

See PCR 2019:14.

## EPD reporting format

See PCR 2019:14.

# List of abbreviations

In addition to abbreviations listed in PCR 2019:14, Section 6:

*List any abbreviations not included in PCR 2019:14. The abbreviations shall be provided in alphabetical order.*

# References

CEN (2019) EN 15804:2012+A2:2019, Sustainability of construction works – Environmental product declarations – Core rules for the product category of construction products.

EPD International (2019) PCR 2019:14 Construction products, version 1.2.

EPD International (2021) General Programme Instructions of the International EPD® System. Version 4.0, dated 2021-03-29. [www.environdec.com](http://www.environdec.com).

ISO (2006a) ISO 14025:2006, Environmental labels and declarations – Type III environmental declarations – Principles and procedures.

ISO (2006b) ISO 14040:2006, Environmental management – Life cycle assessment – Principles and framework.

ISO (2006c) ISO 14044: 2006, Environmental management – Life cycle assessment – Requirements and guidelines.

ISO (2017) ISO 21930:2017, Sustainability in buildings and civil engineering works -- Core rules for environmental product declarations of construction products and services.

*List any further references referred to in this c-PCR. The references shall be provided in alphabetical order.*

# Version history of c-PCR

VERSION 20XX-YY-ZZ

*Add description of the c-PCR version, e.g. “Original version of the c-PCR”.*

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1. Type III environmental declarations in the International EPD® System are referred to as EPD, Environmental Product Declarations. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)