*PCR Registration number to be added by the secretariat*

*Version NUMBER to be added by the secretariat*

valid until 20XX-YY-ZZ *(to be added by the secretariat)*

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

A cover image of the PCR will be added by the Secretariat.

The PCR Committee may propose a cover image by submitting it to the Secretariat. The image shall be representative for the scope of the PCR, be of high resolution, and its use as cover image shall be approved by the copyright holder.

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how to use the PCR template

*This section is intended as instructions for the PCR Moderator and PCR Committee and shall be deleted before the first draft is submitted to the Secretariat.*

This document is a template for developing Product Category Rules (PCR) in the International EPD System.

The text in this PCR template includes:

1. Headings and text which are common for all PCRs regardless of product category, for example the “General information” section.
2. Instructions are written *in italics.* They shall be decided upon during the PCR development and be replaced by specific requirements (or deleted as appropriate) in the PCR. When indicated, this is also used to indicate administrative information that will be added by the Secretariat before publication.

Section 9 in the GPI includes further requirements on and guidance for developing PCRs.

PCRs developed based on this template are to comply with the General Programme Instructions (GPI) version 5.0.0. Note that the GPI shall be the main reference for PCR development and the PCR shall be developed in accordance with the rules in the GPI and, for rules on the environmental performance indicators, at the website ([www.environdec.com](http://www.environdec.com)). The PCR should refer to Section 7 of the GPI for rules on EPD content and format, and Annex A of the GPI and the website for the general LCA method, and not repeat any content of the website or the GPI. The PCR may, however, include additions, specifications and deviations to the rules set in the GPI and at the website, when relevant for the product category. Any nonconformity with the GPI and the website shall be clearly justified and is subject to approval during the PCR review.

Please make sure to follow the format of this PCR template, including font, font size, etc., and formats for figure and table captions, references, bullet lists, etc. If you refer to sections within the document, make sure to use the cross-reference function. Note that British English shall be used.

version history of pcr template

*This section shall be deleted when preparing the first PCR draft.*

Version 2021-03-29

Original version of this PCR template, compliant with Version 4.0 of the GPI.

Version 2021-06-21

Updated version of this PCR template, with minor editorial changes.

Version 2022-04-20

Updated version of this PCR template, with minor editorial changes.

Version 2022-07-08

Updated version of this PCR template, with new and clarified rules on EPDs of multiple products (which will be implemented in the next version of the GPI but are valid already now) and minor editorial changes.

Version 2022-09-22

Updated version of this PCR template, with minor editorial changes.

Version 2022-11-01

Updated version of this PCR template, with minor editorial changes, new rules on how to define the electricity market (which will be implemented in the next version of the GPI but are valid already now with a 6-month transition period), a clarification that the environmental performance section may include additional indicators, if justified, and a clarification that the additional environmental information shall, as default, not include LCA results, but that there are exceptions.

Version 2022-11-04

Updated version of this PCR template, with minor editorial changes.

Version 2023-01-03

Updated version of this PCR template, with minor editorial changes and clarified rules on electricity modelling.

Version 2023-01-25

Updated version of this PCR template, with updated rules on modelling of infrastructure and capital goods.

Version 2024-06-19

Updated version of this PCR template, to comply with GPI 5.0.0.

# Introduction

This document constitutes Product Category Rules (PCR) developed in the framework of the International EPD System: a programme for Environmental Product Declarations (EPD)[[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. EPDs are voluntary documents for a company or an industry association to present transparent, consistent, and verifiable information about the environmental performance of their products (goods or services).

The General Programme Instructions (GPI), publicly available on [www.environdec.com](http://www.environdec.com), includes the rules for the overall administration and operation of the programme and the basic rules for developing EPDs registered in the programme. A PCR complements the GPI and the normative standards by providing specific rules, and guidelines for developing an EPD for one or more specific product categories (see Figure 1), thereby enabling the generation of consistent EPDs within a product category. A PCR should not repeat the rules and guidelines of the GPI, but include additions, specifications and deviations to the rules set in the GPI. As such, a PCR shall be used together with the GPI.

*For PCRs of non-construction products, the fifth level in Figure 1 (“(EN 15804 / ISO 21930)”) may be deleted, and the figure caption shall be adapted accordingly.*

*If the PCR is a main PCR (see Section 9.1 in the GPI), below Figure 1 shall be replaced with the below alternative figure, and the following text shall be included (otherwise it shall be removed):*

This PCR is a main PCR that may be complemented with one or several complementary PCR (c-PCR). If there is an applicable and valid c-PCR, it shall be used in case it has been valid for at least 90 days when the EPD is verified[[2]](#footnote-3). If it has been valid for less than 90 days, it is optional to use the c-PCR. The valid c-PCRs can be found on [www.environdec.com](http://www.environdec.com).

Figure 1. The hierarchy between PCRs, standards, and other documents. EN 15804 and ISO 21930 are normative standards for construction products only.

*Alternative figure in case the PCR is a main PCR:*

The present PCR uses the following terminology:

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

For definitions of other terms used in the document, see the GPI and normative standards.

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

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

# General information

## Administrative information

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name: | *Name of the PCR* |
| Registration number and version: | *To be 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: [support@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 working group for developing the PCR* |
| Publication date: | *To be added by the Secretariat*  See Section 8 for a version history of the PCR. |
| Valid until: | *To be added by the Secretariat*  The validity may change. See [www.environdec.com](http://www.environdec.com) for the latest version of the PCR and the latest information on its validity and transition periods between versions. |
| Development and updates: | The PCR has been developed following ISO 14027, including public consultation and review. The rules for the development and updating processes are described in Section 9 of the GPI.  The PCR is valid for a pre-determined time period to ensure that it is updated at regular intervals. When the PCR is about to expire, the PCR Moderator shall initiate a discussion with the Secretariat on if and how to proceed with updating the PCR and renewing its validity. A PCR may be updated before it expires, based on changes in normative standards or provided significant and well-justified proposals for changes or amendments are presented.  When there has been an update of the PCR, the new version should be used to develop EPDs. For small updates (change of third-digit version number), the previous version is normally immediately removed from the PCR library on [www.environdec.com](http://www.environdec.com) and there is no transition period. For medium updates (change of second-digit version number), the previous version of the PCR is valid in parallel during a transition period of at least 90 days, but not exceeding its previously set validity period. For large updates (change of first-digit version number), the previous version is valid in parallel during a transition period of at least 180 days, but not exceeding its previously set validity period.  Stakeholder feedback on PCRs is very much encouraged. Any comments on this PCR may be sent directly to the PCR Moderator and/or the Secretariat during its development or during its period of validity. |
| Standards and documents conformance: | General Programme Instructions of the International EPD System, version 5.0.0, based on ISO 14025 and ISO 14040/14044.[[3]](#footnote-4)  *List all other standards and documents to which the PCR conforms, e.g., EN 15804 and ISO 21930 for construction products.* |
| PCR language(s): | At the time of publication, this PCR was available in English *and (add other languages the PCR has been translated to)*. If the PCR is available in several languages, these are available on [www.environdec.com](http://www.environdec.com). In case of translated versions, the English version takes precedence in case of any discrepancies. |

## Scope of PCR

### Product category definition and description

This document provides Product Category Rules (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 should be given. Synonyms to the name of the product category and its included products should be listed.*

*The scope of the PCR according to 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. The scope should also be defined using other product classification schemes of relevance for the product category.*

*The product category covered by a PCR shall, as far as possible, relate to the function of the product, so that the same declared unit or functional unit (which is preferred) may be applied to products within its scope. If justified, a PCR may, however, allow different declared/functional units for different products within the product category.* *Note that both primary and secondary functions of the product should be considered. In addition, the following aspects should be considered when defining the product category:*

* *exchangeability of products, e.g., in the way that an increase in price for a product on the market leads to an increase in the price of other products,*
* *results from screening study/existing LCA literature for the product group,*
* *UN CPC code(s), and*
* *product category definition used in similar or related contexts, e.g., in international standards, criteria used for Type I environmental labels or green public procurement.*

*The product category definition should be made so that the development of the PCR is practical and feasible accounting for existing PCRs, the market situation, industry structure, potential EPD applications, and the size of the stakeholder group affected.*

*The scope of the PCR should be as broad as possible – accounting for above mentioned aspects – while avoiding overlaps with other PCRs.*

*The scope should be decided during 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 may be reconsidered during PCR development (e.g., as a response to comments made during the open consultation), when PCRs are updated, or when new PCRs are proposed, to adapt to market developments.*

*See Section 9.2.1 of the GPI for further guidance on defining the scope of the PCR.*

### Geographical scope

This PCR may be used globally.

*PCR documents 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 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 is valid. The geographical scope stated shall match the scope of the guidance given in the PCR, e.g., scenarios for the use and end-of-life stages, 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 development process and is subject to approval by the Secretariat.*

### EPD validity

An EPD becomes valid as of its version date (see Section 8.4.5 of the GPI). When an EPD is originally published, the validity period is normally five years starting from the version date or until the EPD has been de-registered from the International EPD System. Shorter validity periods are also accepted, for example if decided by the EPD owner.

For rules on when an EPD shall be updated and re-verified during its validity, see Section 6.8.1 of the GPI. For validity periods in case of updates of EPDs, see Section 6.8 of the GPI.

The version date and the period of validity shall be stated in the EPD.

Publication of a new version of the PCR or the GPI does not affect the validity of already published EPDs.

# Review and background information

This 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 1.0.0

This 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.

*Above dates shall be given in the following format: 20YY-MM-DD.*

*Add information about any physical or web-based meetings held during the open consultation, 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 PCR and on [www.environdec.com](http://www.environdec.com):

* *List of stakeholder names and affiliation (to be added after the open consultation).*

*In case no stakeholders provided comments and agreed to be listed as contributors, the above sentence shall be adjusted accordingly (“No stakeholders provided comments during the open consultation and agreed to be listed as contributors in the PCR and on* [*www.environdec.com*](http://www.environdec.com)*.”) and the bullet list shall be removed.*

*In case of multiple major revisions of the PCR (1.0, 2.0, etc.), information about each open consultation should be added as sub-sections (3.2.1, 3.2.2, etc.).*

## PCR review

### Version 1.0.0

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| PCR review panel: | The Technical Committee of the International EPD System. A full list of members is available on [www.environdec.com](http://www.environdec.com). The review panel may be contacted via [support@environdec.com](mailto:support@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: | *To be added by the Secretariat* |
| Review dates: | *To be added by the Secretariat* |

*In case of multiple major revisions of the PCR (1.0, 2.0, etc.), information about each review should be added as sub-sections (3.1.1, 3.1.2, etc.).*

## Existing PCRs for the product category

As part of the development of this PCR, existing PCRs and other internationally standardised methods that could potentially act as 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, including addresses to their websites, that have potentially issued methods that could act as PCRs.*

All programmes and bodies that have been checked shall be listed above, not only those for which documents were found. Guidance is available on [www.environdec.com](http://www.environdec.com) on where to search for existing PCRs. Note that checking relevant EPD programmes and international standardisation bodies for documents that could potentially act as PCRs is a mandatory part of the PCR development process.

Table 1 lists the identified PCRs and other standardised methods.

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

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name of PCR/standard, incl. registration number** | **Programme/standardisation body** | **Version number/date of publication** | **Scope** |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

*Full references to existing PCRs shall be given in Section 8.*

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

*Existing PCRs available in other EPD programmes shall also be considered, including PCRs that are under development. The International EPD System may recognise and adopt PCRs prepared by other programme operators operating in accordance with ISO 14025 if they fulfil the requirements of the GPI. If a 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 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 on whether or not to adopt such documents shall be made by the Secretariat.*

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

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

## Reasoning for development of PCR

This PCR was developed to enable publication of EPDs for the product category defined in Section 2.2.1 based on ISO 14025 and ISO 14040/14044 *(add other relevant standards on which the PCR is based*). The PCR 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 PCR, if relevant, and any limitations in the intended target audience of EPDs based on this PCR.*

## Underlying studies used for PCR development

The methodological choices made during the development of this 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 PCR development. Full references to the underlying studies shall also be given in Section 8. Make sure to use the same reference format as other references in Section 8. If the PCR is an update of a previously published PCR, the underlying studies of the previous versions of the PCR shall also be listed.*

*Note that the GPI requires 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 studies, including any supporting studies performed in parallel to the PCR development.*

# LCA method

This section provides rules for the LCA method used to develop an EPD for the product category as defined in Section 2.2.1. The basic rules of the LCA method are set in Annex A of the GPI, and this section only includes additions, specifications and deviations to the rules set in the GPI. Guidance and examples of applying the LCA method are also available on [www.environdec.com/methodology](http://www.environdec.com/methodology).

*Remember that no LCA method rules in the GPI should be repeated. If repeated, it may be in the form of a reminder of a rule that is of specific importance for the product category or of a rule that has been found to be frequently violated in non-compliant EPDs of the product category.*

## Modelling approach

See Section A.1 of the GPI.

*Here the PCR may add specifications of Section A.1 in the GPI, of specific relevance for the product category.*

## Declared/functional unit

*The functional/declared unit(s) and reference flow(s) to use in the EPD shall be specified in the PCR. Before defining these, the PCR Committee shall read Section A.2 of the GPI, which includes definitions of terms and guidance for setting functional/declared unit and reference flow. Note that it is recommended to use a functional unit, particularly for end products. If a functional unit is used, it shall be considered whether or not it is suitable to define reference service life as part of the functional unit (see Section 4.2.1).*

*An example of text to use if a declared unit is used: “The declared unit shall be defined as 1 kg of product and its packaging (the weight of the packaging is not included in this 1 kg). The reference flow corresponds to the declared unit and shall be defined at the point where the product arrives at the customer gate, i.e., any losses occurring before then shall be accounted for.”*

*If a declared unit is used, the following text should be added (it is encouraged to adopt the text to the specific product category): “This PCR uses a declared unit instead of a functional unit. This is because the relevant functional aspects are not known or are not possible to capture in one or a few predefined functional units. All relevant functional aspects shall, however, be considered when comparing EPDs based on this PCR.”*

*The PCR may allow different declared/functional units, for different subcategories of products within the scope of the PCR. The PCR may also allow the declaration of results for two different declared/functional units in the same EPD, if the additional sets of results are separately declared in a subsection of the environmental performance section. But as this is not recommended, it shall be clearly justified in the PCR development process.*

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

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

*The PCR may define qualitative or performance-related functional aspects of the product to declare in the EPD that are outside of the declared/functional unit. Rules for declaring such aspects may be set here or in Section 4.2.1. Any product aspects that are required to declare in the EPD should also be listed in Section 6.4.4: if not listed, Section 6.4.4 shall include a reference to where they are listed shall be included (e.g., to this section or Section 4.2.1).*

*For definitions of declared/functional unit, the PCR shall refer to Section A.2 of the GPI.*

### Technical specification, lifespan and reference service life (RSL)

*If relevant, a PCR may establish rules of declaring technical specifications of the product, for example as part of describing its function. The technical specification shall include sufficient information for a user of the EPD to assess the technical performance and usefulness of a product in each relevant context.*

*The technical specification shall include an estimated product lifespan, if relevant. This may be a technical lifespan of the product, i.e., the average time for which the product has been designed or proven to last, and/or an actual lifespan, i.e., the average time for which the product has been shown to be in use. Product lifespans shall be expressed in relevant units such as years, operating hours, or kilometres travelled. Note that the technical lifespan is not identical or related to guarantee time whether legally binding or offered voluntary. The PCR may set rules on whether the product lifespan shall be defined for the product, and rules or guidance on how to estimate it, e.g., in terms of requirements on evidence. Note that the selection of product lifespan for a specific product shall be verifiable.*

*Note that the product lifespan is not necessarily of the same length as the reference service life (RSL) of the product category to which the product belongs. The RSL of a product category is the reference time to which the performance of all products of a product category shall be related as part of the definition of the functional unit. If relevant, an RSL may be defined in the PCR. For example, a PCR may specify the RSL of product category to be 10 years (e.g., because that is a typical technical lifespan for the product category) and the functional unit to be to fulfil a certain function over that RSL. If a product then has a (proven) technical lifespan of 5 years, two such products (or a replacement product or refurbishment of the product, depending on product) are needed to fulfil the functional unit. Likewise, if a product has a (proven) technical lifespan of 20 years, only half such a product is needed to fulfil the functional unit.*

*The RSL shall refer to the declared technical and functional performance of the product, be specified under defined reference in-use conditions, and be justified and verifiable. For further guidance on RSL of construction products, see EN 15804.*

*RSL is only relevant to define if a functional unit is used and it is expressed as a function fulfilled during a set time period (the RLS). If a declared unit or another type of functional unit is used, it is not relevant to define an RSL.*

*If relevant, the PCR shall refer to Section A.2.1 of the GPI for more information on the definitions of lifespan and RSL.*

*The headline of this section shall be adopted to its content in the specific PCR. For example, if RSL is not used, “RSL” shall be removed from the headline. If it is not relevant to have any rules or guidance on technical specifications, lifespan or RSL, the section can be removed, or it can be stated that it is not applicable for this PCR.*

## System boundary

The scope of this PCR and EPDs based on it is *insert the scope of the PCR (e.g. cradle-to-gate, cradle-to-gate plus end-of-life, cradle-to-grave, or several if several options are permitted)*.

*The system boundary of the product life cycle determines the processes to be included or excluded in the LCA. Which system boundary that shall, should or may be applied for a specific product category shall be set in the PCR. See the GPI for further guidance on setting system boundaries (do not repeat text from the GPI in the PCR).*

*All environmentally relevant processes from “cradle to grave” should be included, so that at minimum 95% of the total energy use, mass of product content, and environmental impact is accounted for (see Section 4.5).*

*For intermediate products or other products for which further processing and/or the end use is unknown, the system boundary may be limited to “cradle to gate”. If end-of-life treatment is excluded, the following criteria shall be fulfilled (the first three criteria are adapted from EN 15804, and the fourth criteria is adapted from ISO 14025):*

* *the product is physically integrated with other products in subsequent life-cycle process (e.g., during installation in a building) so they cannot be physically separated from them at end of life,*
* *the product or material is no longer identifiable at end-of-life as a result of a physical or chemical transformation process,*
* *the product or material does not contain biogenic carbon, and*
* *the EPD shall not be used for business-to-consumer communication.*

*If deviations from a “cradle to grave” system boundary are allowed for a product category, and if deviations from the above criteria for excluding end-of-lite treatment are made, these shall be described in the PCR and justified in the PCR development process.*

*For more information on the setting of system boundaries, see Section A.3 of the GPI.*

*Note that system boundaries, and to which module or life-cycle stage a certain process belongs, should not depend on the ownership or operational control of the process. For example, if the life-cycle stages A-C or upstream-downstream are used, the processes in A3 or core, respectively, are not necessarily the processes that are under operational control of the EPD owner.*

### Life-cycle stages and information modules

Because of different data quality rules and the presentation of results, the product life cycle shall be divided into the following life-cycle stages and information modules:

* Product stage, modules A1-A3:
  + A1: Raw material extraction and processing (e.g., mining, agricultural and forestry operations), production of intermediate materials and components (e.g., including transformation processes such as rolling, drawing and extrusion), processing of secondary material input (e.g., recycling processes), production of distribution and consumer packaging, etc.
  + A2: Transports to the manufacturer of the product
  + A3: Manufacturing of the product[[4]](#footnote-5) *The footnote may need to be adopted to better reflect the circumstances for the specific product category.*
* Distribution and installation stage, modules A4-A5:
  + A4: Transport of the product to the building/installation site/user, including storage of product (e.g., warehouse and retail operations)
  + A5: Installation of the product, for example in a building as part of the construction of the building (e.g., including transports and waste processing of material and product losses arising in A5)
* Use stage, modules B1-B7:
  + B1: Use/application/operation of the product (e.g., including direct emissions associated with its use)
  + B2: Maintenance of the product
  + B3: Repair of the product
  + B4: Replacement
  + B5: Refurbishment
  + B6: Energy use in use/application/operation
  + B7: Water use in use/application/operation
* End-of-life stage, modules C1-C4:
  + C1: De-construction/demolition/deinstallation
  + C2: Transport to waste processing and/or disposal
  + C3: Waste processing for reuse, recovery and/or recycling
  + C4: Disposal

In addition, consequences of recovered material/energy beyond the product cycle shall be reported in module D.

In the EPD, the environmental performance of each of the life-cycle stages and module D shall be reported separately, and in aggregated form for the life-cycle stages (modules A-C).

Section A.3.1 of the GPI outlines rules for how to assign generation of electricity and production of fuels, steam and other energy carriers used, and losses arising, in each information module.

Sections 4.3.1.1–4.3.1.3 further describe the processes to include or exclude for each life-cycle stage.

*Based on the characteristics of the product category and market needs, a PCR may require division into other life-cycle stages and information modules than those above or allow that not all life-cycle stages are included (see the introductory text of Section 4.3), which requires modifications of the above text. See Section A.3.1 of the GPI for guidance on setting such rules.*

*If the product life cycle is not divided into modules A-C, and module D is not allowed to be declared, this shall be justified in the PCR development process.*

*A PCR may require or recommend results for certain information modules or processes to be separately declared from the other information modules and processes of the life-cycle stage, if relevant for the product category. This shall be justified in the PCR development process and will require modification of the above text.*

*Below subsections shall specify processes of each life-cycle stage and information module. These subsections shall be adjusted to the scope of the PCR. For harmonisation purposes, lists of processes in similar or related PCRs shall be considered. For PCRs of services, the guidance in the below subsections may not apply and needs to be adjusted.*

*Note that generation of electricity and production of fuels, steam and other energy carriers shall be assigned to the information module in which the energy carrier is used. Also note that each module shall include the waste processing of waste generated in the module up to the end-of-waste state or final disposal; except waste processing of the product itself, which is included in module C. Related, note the way of assigning losses described in Figure 3 of Section A.3.1 of the GPI. Any deviations to the rules in the GPI shall be clearly described in the PCR and be justified in the PCR development process.*

*For more information on the division into life-cycle stages, see Section A.3.1 of the GPI.*

* + - 1. Modules A1-A3: Product stage

*Here the PCR shall describe typical processes of each information module of this life-cycle stage.*

* Module A1:
  + Process 1
  + Process 2
  + Process n
* Module A2:
  + Process 1
  + Process 2
  + Process n
* Module A3:
  + Process 1
  + Process 2
  + Process n

*According to Section A.3.1 of the GPI, production of packaging is typically included in module A1. But if part of the production of the consumer packaging (see ISO 21067-1:2016, Section 2.2.7) is part of the manufacturing process, it may be more relevant to include it as part of module A3. Such deviations from the GPI shall be defined in the PCR.*

Processes not listed here may also be included. All elementary flows at resource extraction shall be included, except for the flows that fall under the general cut-off rule in Section 4.5.

*Also excluded processes that are specific for this life-cycle stage (in addition to the generally excluded processes listed in Section 4.3.1.5 below) should be further specified in the PCR. Any exclusion of life-cycle stages, information modules and unit processes shall be justified in the PCR development process.*

#### Modules A4-A5: Distribution and installation stage

*Here the PCR shall describe typical processes of each information module of this life-cycle stage.*

* Module A4:
  + Process 1
  + Process 2
  + Process n
* Module A5:
  + Process 1
  + Process 2
  + Process n

Processes not listed here may also be included. All elementary flows at resource extraction shall be included, except for the flows that fall under the general cut-off rule in Section 4.5.

*Also excluded processes that are specific for this life-cycle stage (in addition to the generally excluded processes listed in Section 4.3.1.5 below) should be further specified in the PCR. Any exclusion of life-cycle stages, information modules and unit processes shall be justified in the PCR development process.*

#### Modules B1-B7: Use stage

*Here the PCR shall describe typical processes of each information module of this life-cycle stage.*

* Module B1:
  + Process 1
  + Process 2
  + Process n
* Module B2:
  + Process 1
  + Process 2
  + Process n
* Module B3:
  + Process 1
  + Process 2
  + Process n
* Module B4:
  + Process 1
  + Process 2
  + Process n
* Module B5:
  + Process 1
  + Process 2
  + Process n
* Module B6:
  + Process 1
  + Process 2
  + Process n
* Module B7:
  + Process 1
  + Process 2
  + Process n

Processes not listed here may also be included. All elementary flows at resource extraction shall be included, except for the flows that fall under the general cut-off rule in Section 4.5.

*Also excluded processes that are specific for this life-cycle stage (in addition to the generally excluded processes listed in Section 4.3.1.5 below) should be further specified in the PCR. Any exclusion of life-cycle stages, information modules and unit processes shall be justified in the PCR development process.*

#### Modules C1-C4: End-of-life stage

*Here the PCR shall describe typical processes of each information module of this life-cycle stage.*

* Module C1:
  + Process 1
  + Process 2
  + Process n
* Module C2:
  + Process 1
  + Process 2
  + Process n
* Module C3:
  + Process 1
  + Process 2
  + Process n
* Module C4:
  + Process 1
  + Process 2
  + Process n
  + Process n

Processes not listed here may also be included. All elementary flows at resource extraction shall be included, except for the flows that fall under the general cut-off rule in Section 4.5.

*Also excluded processes that are specific for this life-cycle stage (in addition to the generally excluded processes listed in Section 4.3.1.5 below) should be further specified in the PCR. Any exclusion of life-cycle stages, information modules and unit processes shall be justified in the PCR development process.*

#### Excluded processes

See Section A.3.1.1 of the GPI.

*Here the PCR may add additions, specifications, or deviations to the excluded process in Section A.3.1.1 of the GPI. This shall be clearly stated and be justified in the PCR development process.*

### Other boundary setting rules

See Section A.3.2 of the GPI for rules on setting boundaries to nature as well as geographical and temporal boundaries. See Section A.4 of the GPI and Section 4.5 below for rules on setting boundaries to other product systems.

*The PCR may provide additional rules and guidance on boundary setting related to nature, time, and geography, if relevant.*

## Process flow diagram

*Insert a process flow diagram illustrating the processes that generally shall, should or may be included in EPDs for the product category. The diagram shall illustrate the product life-cycle stages and, if applicable, information modules that the processes belong to. The diagram should also illustrate important omissions of life-cycle stages and processes.*

*Figure 2.* *Process flow diagram illustrating the processes that shall be included in the product system, divided into the life-cycle stages.* *The illustration of processes to include may not be exhaustive.*

*Note that the diagram serves as an illustration of Section 4.3. As such, it shall not introduce any new rules, guidance, terms, or concepts, that are not used in Section 4.3, and it shall be fully consistent with Section 4.3 and other sections of the PCR.*

*The original file of the diagram (e.g., in ppt format) shall be submitted to the Secretariat together with the draft PCR, to enable the Secretariat to make editorial changes of the diagram.*

## Cut-off rules

See Section A.3.3 of the GPI.

*Here specifications or deviations to the cut-off rules of the GPI may be set. Deviations shall be clearly justified in the PCR development process. If the product life cycle is not divided into product life cycle-stages A to C, and the underlying information modules, the PCR shall clarify the cut-off rule in relation to the product life cycle division used (e.g., that the 5% rule applies per upstream, core and downstream stage).*

## Allocation rules

See Section A.4 of the GPI.

*Here, the PCR should, for example, specify the allocation method to use in each key process of the product category where a co-product allocation problem may be expected. This may be done in the below Table 2 (if the table is not used, it shall be removed). This should follow the allocation hierarchy in Section A.4.1 of the GPI; deviations shall be justified in the PCR development process. If economic allocation is allowed by the PCR, it should describe the reference values to be used.*

### Allocation of co-products

See Section A.4.1 of the GPI.

*Here, for example, the PCR should specify the allocation method to use in each key process of the product category where a co-product allocation problem may be expected, for example in the below Table 2 (if the table is not used, it shall be removed). This* s*hould follow the allocation hierarchy in Section A.4.1 of the GPI; deviations shall be justified in the PCR development process. If economic allocation is allowed by the PCR, it shall explain the reference values to be used.*

For key processes in the product system, Table 2 provides specifications of the allocation method to use.

Table 2. Allocation method for key processes in the product system.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Process** | **Main product and co-products** | **Allocation method** |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

### Allocation of waste

See Section A.4.2 of the GPI.

*Here the PCR may, for example, provide further guidance on allocation of specific waste treatment processes of relevance for the product category. This guidance should follow the rules in Section A.4.2 of the GPI; deviations shall be justified in the PCR development process.*

## Data and data quality rules

See Section A.5 of the GPI.

See Section 4.8 for further rules related to data and data quality per life-cycle stage and module D.

*Here and in below subsections the PCR may include specifications, additions, and deviations to the general rules on data and data quality set in the GPI. For example, the PCR should clarify the processes for which primary data is required or may set stricter rules for using primary data in certain upstream processes. Any deviations to the rules in the GPI shall be justified in the PCR development process.*

*Remember that no rules in the GPI should be repeated.*

### Data categories

See Section A.5.1 of the GPI.

### Data quality requirements for primary data

See Section A.5.2 of the GPI.

### Data quality requirements for representative secondary data

See Section A.5.3 of the GPI.

### Data quality assessment and declaration

See Section A.5.4 of the GPI.

### Examples of databases for secondary data

Table 3 lists examples of databases and datasets to be used for secondary data. Note that a data quality assessment shall be performed also for data listed in the table, and that other data that fulfil the data quality requirements may also be used.

Table 3. Examples of databases and datasets to use for secondary data.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Process** | **Geographical scope** | **Dataset** | **Database** |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

*The PCR may list examples of certain databases or datasets to use as representative secondary data for specific unit processes.* *Such data shall have been analysed during PCR development to meet the requirements of the International EPD System for data quality, representativeness, review, scope of documentation, etc. Publicly available and free data of high quality should have priority in any listing of data. The geographical scope of the PCR should also be considered when listing data.*

## Other LCA rules

See Section A.6 of the GPI.

For specific LCA rules per life-cycle stage, see Section 4.9.

*Here and in below subsections the PCR may include specifications, additions, and deviations to the other LCA rules set in the GPI. Any deviations to the rules in the GPI shall be justified in the PCR development process.*

*Remember that no rules in the GPI should be repeated.*

### Mass balance

See Section A.6.1 of the GPI.

### Electricity modelling

See Section A.6.2 of the GPI.

### Biogas modelling

See Section A.6.3 of the GPI.

## Specific rules per life-cycle stage and module D

See Section A.7 of the GPI.

Below are further data quality requirements and other LCA rules per life-cycle stage, and for module D, of relevance for the product category.

*Here and in below subsections the PCR should include specifications and additions to the general rules in the GPI of relevance for the product category. Furthermore, the PCR may include deviations to the GPI rules, which shall be justified in the PCR development process.*

*Examples of when specifications are needed are if some life-cycle stages are included in the scope of the PCR or if the product does not include packaging. Depending on the scope of the PCR and its division into life-cycle stages, the headings of the below subsections may need to be adjusted. If the PCR is on a service, the rules per life-cycle stage as outlined in the GPI shall be adjusted accordingly. To harmonise across product categories, data quality requirements in PCRs of similar and/or related product categories shall be considered.*

### Product stage, A1-A3

*See Section A.7.1 of the GPI and add relevant specifications, additions, and deviations here.*

*If relevant, the PCR may list other key assumptions to be made for the modelling of the A1-A3 processes, such as agricultural modelling for PCRs of food products. In case of extensive modelling guidance, the division into sections may need to be adjusted to increase readability.*

*If a valid PCR already exists in the International EPD System for some of the upstream processes (typically in module A1), a reference to that specific PCR should be made and the rules should be harmonised, to facilitate using EPDs of upstream products as data sources. If relevant, the PCR may list other key assumptions to be made for the modelling of the core processes, such as agricultural modelling for PCRs of food products and guidance on creation of usage scenarios for consumer products. In case of extensive modelling guidance, the division into sections may need to be adjusted to increase readability.*

*If no additions are made to the GPI, this section should say: “This PCR does not provide any additions to the rules and guidance in the GPI on the modelling of the product stage.”*

### Distribution and installation stage, modules A4-A5

*See Section A.7.2 of the GPI and add relevant specifications, additions, and deviations here. For example, as this stage is most often based on scenarios, the PCR may provide specific guidance for setting up such scenarios for the product category or provide default scenarios, globally or for certain countries or markets.*

*If no additions are made to the GPI, this section should say: “This PCR does not provide any additions to the rules and guidance in the GPI on the modelling of the construction/installation stage.”*

### Use stage, modules B1-B7

*See A.7.3 of the GPI and add relevant specifications, additions, and deviations here. For example, as this stage is most often based on scenarios, the PCR may provide specific guidance for setting up such scenarios for the product category or provide default scenarios, globally or for certain countries or markets.*

*If no additions are made to the GPI, this section should say: “This PCR does not provide any additions to the rules and guidance in the GPI on the modelling of the use stage.”*

### End-of-life stage, modules C1-C4

*See A.7.4 of the GPI and add relevant specifications, additions, and deviations here. For example, as this stage is most often based on scenarios, the PCR may provide specific guidance for setting up such scenarios for the product category or provide default scenarios, globally or for certain countries or markets.*

*If no additions are made to the GPI, this section should say: “This PCR does not provide any additions to the rules and guidance in the GPI on the modelling of the end-of-life stage.”*

### Consequences for recovered material/energy beyond the product life cycle (MODULE D)

*See A.7.5 of the GPI and add relevant specifications, additions, and deviations here. For example, as this stage is most often based on scenarios, the PCR may provide specific guidance for setting up such scenarios for the product category or provide default scenarios, globally or for certain countries or markets.*

*If no additions are made to the GPI, this section should say: “This PCR does not provide any additions to the rules and guidance in the GPI on the modelling of module D.”*

## Environmental performance indicators

See Section A.8 of the GPI.

*To better characterise the environmental performance of a product category, the PCR may require or recommend the declaration of environmental performance indicators not included in the default list; such additions shall be justified in the PCR development process. Likewise, the PCR may allow or recommend the exclusion of indicators in the default list, if they are considered irrelevant for the product category; such deviations shall be justified in the PCR development process.*

*To harmonise across product categories, rules on indicators in PCRs of similar and/or related product categories shall be considered. In the end, the PCR shall make sure that the EPD includes all indicators which are environmentally relevant for the product category and for which there exist sufficient life-cycle inventory data and robust impact assessment methods.*

*The inclusion of additional environmental performance indicators, or exclusion of indicators in the default list, shall 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 of relevant impacts for the product category (the review may cover LCA and non-LCA literature),*
* *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 PCR, and*
* *a review of requirements in other standards or methodological guidelines of relevance for the product category, to which harmonisation is desirable, such as EN 15804 for construction products or available product environmental footprint category rules (PEFCRs).*

*The selection of indicators shall focus on their environmental relevance for the product category. The selection shall also consider the scope of the PCR, regional aspects or requirements, and the maturity of the methods to ensure that they are not misleading. To harmonise across product categories, rules on indicators in PCRs of similar and/or related product categories shall be considered. If a PCR requires or recommends other indicators than those in the default list, it shall describe 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 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 said 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.*

*If a suitable LCA indicator and method does not exist for an environmentally relevant aspect of the product category, it should be considered if the aspect can be covered by the section on additional environmental information (see Section 6.4.6).*

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

## SpecIfic rules per EPD type

### Multiple products from the same company

See Section A.9.1 of the GPI.

*The PCR may set further guidance and rules, of specific relevance for the product category, for EPDs of multiple products from the same company*.

### Sector EPD

See Section A.9.2 of the GPI.

*The PCR may set further guidance and rules, of specific relevance for the product category, for sector EPDs.*

### EPD owneD by a trader

See Section A.9.3 of the GPI.

*The PCR may set further guidance and rules, of specific relevance for the product category, for EPDs owned by traders.*

### EPD of product not yet on the market

See Section A.9.4 of the GPI.

*The PCR may set further guidance and rules, of specific relevance for the product category, for EPDs of products not yet on the market.*

### EPD of product recently on the market

See Section A.9.5 of the GPI.

*The PCR may set further guidance and rules, of specific relevance for the product category, for EPDs of products recently on the market.*

# Content of LCA report

Data for verification shall be presented in the form of an LCA report – a systematic and comprehensive summary of the project documentation that supports the verification of an EPD. The LCA report is not part of the public communication.

See Section 8.3.1 of the GPI for rules on the content of the LCA report.

Note that there may be rules on the content of the LCA report elsewhere in the GPI or in this PCR.

*Here the PCR may include specifications, additions, and deviations to the general rules for the content of the LCA report set in the GPI. Any additions shall be of specific relevance for the product category, and any deviations to the rules in the GPI shall be justified in the PCR development process.*

*Additional rules on the content of the LCA report may concern aspects of the LCA model that are particularly relevant to provide transparency on for the product category (e.g., to facilitate for verifiers) but which are not suitable to report in the EPD (e.g., to not overload the EPD with information or because of confidentiality reasons).*

# Content and format of EPD

See Section 7 of the GPI.

*In addition to rules and guidance of the GPI on the content and reporting format of EPDs, each of the below subsections may specify further rules and guidance of specific relevance for the product category, for example reflecting certain applications of the EPD information. Here it is important to harmonise with the rules and guidance on EPD content and format in PCRs of similar or related product categories.*

*Remember that the rules and guidance in the GPI should not be repeated.*

## EPD languages

See Section 7.1 of the GPI.

## Units and quantities

See Section 7.2 of the GPI.

## Use of images in EPD

See Section 7.3 of the GPI.

## Sections of the EPD

See Section 7.4 of the GPI.

### Cover page

See Section 7.4.1 of the GPI.

### General information

See Section 7.4.2 of the GPI.

### Information about EPD owner

See Section 7.4.3 of the GPI.

### Product information

See Section 7.4.4 of the GPI.

### Content declaration

See Section 7.4.5 of the GPI.

*Here the PCR may, for example, set additional requirements for the content declaration of relevance for the product category, e.g., which materials and substances to declare. Moreover, a content declaration may not be appropriate for EPDs for intangible products, such as services, which then shall be specified in the PCR of such a product category.*

### LCA information

See Section 7.4.6 of the GPI.

### Environmental performance

See Section 7.4.7 of the GPI.

The EPD shall declare the environmental performance indicators listed or referred to in Section 4.10, per declared/functional unit, per life-cycle stage and module D.

*Above text shall be adjusted if results are to be declared per module/process instead of per life-cycle stage, if certain life-cycle stages shall, should or may be separately declared, or if results of the life-cycle stages shall, should or may be additionally reported in aggregated form. Note that results of consequences beyond the system boundary (module D) shall not be allowed to be aggregated with the results of the product life cycle.*

### Additional environmental information

See Section 7.4.8 of the GPI.

*The PCR may specify the additional environmental information that may, should or shall be declared in the EPD, and adjust and amend the guidance and rules in the GPI accordingly. Methods used to report such information shall be specified or referenced. Note that any additional environmental information shall be substantiated and verifiable, and be derived using appropriate methods and be specific, accurate, not misleading, and relevant to the specific product, and that quantitative information is preferred over qualitative information.*

*A justification for the choice of additional environmental information shall be included in the PCR. If the PCR deviates from requirements in the GPI, this shall be justified in the PCR development process.*

*If a suitable LCA indicator and method have not be found for an environmentally relevant aspect of the product category, and thus not included in Section 4.10, it should be considered if the aspect can instead be covered in this section.*

*Note that this section is not for declaring LCA-based results. Such results shall be included in the environmental performance section (Section 6.4.7), based on the LCA method outlined in Section 4.*

### Additional social and economic information

See Section 7.4.9 of the GPI.

*The PCR may specify which additional social or economic information that may, should or shall be declared in the EPD, and adjust and amend the guidance and rules in the GPI accordingly. Methods used to report such information shall be specified or referenced. Note that any additional social or economic information shall be substantiated and verifiable, and be derived using appropriate methods and be specific, accurate, not misleading, and relevant to the specific product, and that quantitative information is preferred over qualitative information.*

*A justification for the choice of additional social or economic information shall be included in the PCR. If the PCR deviates from requirements in the GPI, this shall be justified in the PCR development process.*

### Information related to sector EPDs

See Section 7.4.10 of the GPI.

*If the PCR sets additional rules sector EPDs, these shall be included in Section 4.11.2. If these rules concern information that shall be declared in the EPD, the present section shall refer to Section 4.11.2.*

### Version history

See Section 7.4.11 of the GPI.

### Abbreviations

See Section 7.4.12 of the GPI.

### References

See Section 7.4.13 of the GPI.

# List of abbreviations

CPC Central product classification

EPD Environmental product declaration

GPI General Programme Instructions

ISO International Organization for Standardization

LCA Life cycle assessment

PCR Product category rules

RSL Reference service life

UN United Nations

*Adjust and amend list according to the PCR. All abbreviations used in the PCR shall be listed.* *The abbreviations shall be provided in alphabetical order.*

# References

CEN (2021) EN 15804:2012+A2:2019/AC:2021, Sustainability of construction works – Environmental product declarations – Core rules for the product category of construction products.

EPD International (2024) General Programme Instructions for the International EPD System. Version 5.0.0, dated 2024-06-19. Available on [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 (2015a) ISO 14001:2015, Environmental management systems – Requirements with guidance for use.

ISO (2015b) ISO 9001:2015, Quality management systems – Requirements.

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

ISO (2018b) ISO/TS 14067:2018, Greenhouse gases – Carbon footprint of products – Requirements and guidelines for quantification and communication.

*Adjust and amend list according to the PCR. Only references referred to in the PCR shall be included. Make sure any added references use the correct reference format (see above) and are listed in alphabetical order. Make sure to use the latest version of all standards referred to – be particularly careful on this in case of updates of existing PCRs.*

# Version history of PCR

*This section shall include a version history and the main differences compared to earlier versions of the PCR document.*

Version 1.0.0, 20YY-MM-DD

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

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| --- |
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|  |
| Cover image © *to be added by the Secretariat in the PCR* |

1. Termed type III environmental declarations in ISO 14025. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. This does not apply when the EPD is re-verified during its validity, unless the validity period is extended. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. Some rules influencing EPD development are independent of the GPI version referred to in the PCR. For example, the latest rules on EPD verification procedures in the GPI shall be followed within 90 days of its publication. See Section 5.1 in the GPI for a description of the four categories of rules and when they shall be followed. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. These are often, but not always, the processes under operational control of the EPD owner. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)