EPD
INTERNATIONAL EPD SYSTEM

ABSORBENT HYGIENE PRODUCTS

PRODUCT CATEGORY CLASSIFICATION: UN CPC 32193

PCR 2011:14

VERSION 4.0.0 FOR OPEN CONSULTATION. DO NOT USE OR CITE.

VALID UNTIL 20XX-YY-ZZ *(TO BE ADDED BY THE SECRETARIAT)*

DRAFT FOR OPEN CONSULTATION

INTRODUCTION TO OPEN CONSULTATION

This draft PCR document is available for open consultation from 2025-05-15 until 2025-07-10. Feel free to forward the draft to any other stakeholder you might think is relevant, including colleagues and other organisations.

This is an updated of an existing version of this document, which will have a prolonged validity. We are therefore interested in comments from stakeholders on:

- General
  - Alignment with PCRs available in other programmes for type III environmental declarations, industry-specific LCA guides or similar.
- Scope of PCR
  - Product category definition and description
  - Classification of product category using CPC codes
- Goal and scope, life cycle inventory and life cycle impact assessment
  - Functional unit/declared unit
  - System boundary
  - Allocation rules
  - Data quality requirements
  - Recommended databases for generic data
  - Impact categories and impact assessment methodology
- Additional information

Comments may be provided directly to the PCR Moderator. There is a template for comments on www.environdec.com that may be used.

For questions about the PCR, please contact the PCR moderator. For general questions about the International EPD® System, EPD or PCR development, please contact the Secretariat via support@environdec.com.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1 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] 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, 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.

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]. 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.

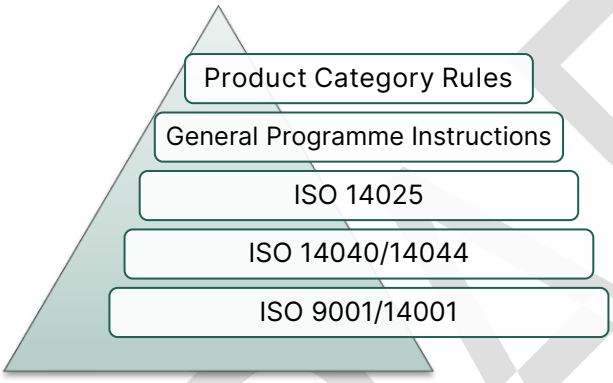

Figure 1. The hierarchy between PCRs, standards, and other documents.

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.

[1] Termed type III environmental declarations in ISO 14025.

[2] This does not apply when the EPD is re-verified during its validity, unless the validity period is extended.

2 GENERAL INFORMATION

2.1 ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Name:	Absorbent Hygiene Products
Registration number and version:	*To be added by the Secretariat*
Programme:	EPD INTERNATIONAL EPD SYSTEM
Programme operator:	EPD International AB, Box 210 60, SE-100 31 Stockholm, Sweden. Website: www.environdec.com E-mail: support@environdec.com
PCR Moderator:	Brieuc Lits, EDANA, brieuc.lits@edana.org
PCR Committee:	EDANA, BASF, Essity, Fitesa, FiberTex Personal Care, Focus Hotmelt, Mega Disposables, Reifenhäuser, Stora Enso.
Publication date:	*To be added by the Secretariat* See Section 9 for a version history of the PCR.
Valid until:	*To be added by the Secretariat* The validity may change. See 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 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]
PCR language(s):	At the time of publication, this PCR was available in English. If the PCR is available in several languages, these are available on www.environdec.com. In case of translated versions, the English version takes precedence in case of any discrepancies.

2.2 SCOPE OF PCR

2.2.1 PRODUCT CATEGORY DEFINITION AND DESCRIPTION

This document provides Product Category Rules (PCR) for the assessment of the environmental performance of Absorbent Hygiene Products and the declaration of this performance by an EPD. The product category corresponds to United Nations Central Product Classification (UN CPC) 32193.

Absorbent Hygiene Products are a subset of products from UN CPC/division 32/subclass 32193: toilet paper, handkerchiefs, towels, serviettes, napkins for babies, tampons, and similar household, sanitary or hospital articles, and articles of apparel, of paper pulp, paper, cellulose wadding or webs of cellulose fibres.

UN CPC hierarchy:

- Section 3 - Other transportable goods, except metal products, machinery and equipment
  - Division 32 - Pulp, paper and paper products; printed matter and related articles
    - Group: 321 – Pulp. paper and paperboard
      - Class: 3219: Other paper and paperboard products

Note that in this PCR, the following products groups are excluded:

- toilet paper, handkerchiefs, towels, serviettes, and articles of apparel, of paper pulp, paper, cellulose wadding or webs of cellulose fibers, and
- non-disposable/multi-use products (except products with multi-use parts, such as washable mesh-pants).

Further information about the classification system at:

https://unstats.un.org/unsd/classifications/Family/Detail/1074

2.2.2 GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

This PCR may be used globally.

2.2.3 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.

[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.

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.

3 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.

3.1 OPEN CONSULTATION

3.1.1 VERSION 1.0.0

This PCR was available for open consultation from date 2011-02-03 until date 2011-03-23, during which any stakeholder was able to provide comments by posting on the PCR forum on www.environdec.com or by contacting the PCR moderator.

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.

3.1.2 VERSION 2.0

This PCR was available for open consultation from date 2014-11-10 until date 2015-01-01, during which any stakeholder was able to provide comments by posting on the PCR forum on www.environdec.com or by contacting the PCR moderator.

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.

3.1.3 VERSION 3.0

This PCR was available for open consultation from 2019-09-30 until 2019-11-26, during which any stakeholder was able to provide comments by posting on the PCR forum on www.environdec.com or by contacting the PCR moderator.

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. No stakeholders provided comments during the open consultation, and agreed to be listed as contributors to the PCR and at www.environdec.com.

3.1.4 VERSION 4.0.0

Version 4.0.0 of 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:

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

3.2 PCR REVIEW

3.2.1 VERSION 1.0

PCR review panel:	The Technical Committee of the International EPD System. A full list of members is available on www.environdec.com. The review panel may be contacted via 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.

3.2.2 VERSION 2.0

PCR review panel:	The Technical Committee of the International EPD System. A full list of members is available on www.environdec.com. The review panel may be contacted via 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:	Maurizio Fieschi
Review dates:	2014-12-08 until 2015-01-29

3.2.3 VERSION 3.0

PCR review panel:	The Technical Committee of the International EPD System. A full list of members is available on www.environdec.com. The review panel may be contacted via 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:	Maurizio Fieschi
Review dates:	2019-12-19 until 2020-01-14

3.2.4 VERSION 4.0.0

PCR review panel:	The Technical Committee of the International EPD System. A full list of members is available on www.environdec.com. The review panel may be contacted via 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*

3.3 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.
- GlobalEPD,
- IBU
- EPD Norway

No relevant PCRs were found in these programmes.

3.4 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. 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.

3.5 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:

- Environment Agency (2005) Life Cycle Assessment of Disposable and Reusable Nappies in the UK.
- Environment Agency (2008) An updated lifecycle assessment study for disposable and reusable nappies

4 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.

4.1 MODELLING APPROACH

The LCA modelling approach of the International EPD System is attributional LCA. This primarily means that specific or average data shall be used, i.e., no marginal data. See Section A.1 of the GPI.

4.2 DECLARED/FUNCTIONAL UNIT

The functional unit is one day of absorbent product use. The functional unit shall include the specification of a reference flow in terms of the number of product units used per day and the citation of an appropriate reference study. Reference studies used in determining the rate of product use shall be based on a broad and representative consumer use study for the product in question and shall be available to the audience of the EPD. If different reference studies are available these studies shall be declared in the EPD and reported in the LCA study for the product being investigated. If an acceptable source of information regarding the number of products used per day is unavailable, a declared unit shall be used. It means the reference flow and functional unit shall be one product unit.

In addition, or if an acceptable source of information regarding the number of products used per day is unavailable in the EPD, data may also be shown using the declared unit of one product. The functional unit or declared unit shall be declared in the EPD and the environmental impact shall be given per defined unit.

A description of the function of the product should be included in the EPD, if relevant.

4.2.1 TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

The category consists of the following three groups of absorbent hygiene products:

- baby diapers
- feminine sanitary protection, and
- adult incontinence care products.

All products within these three categories, regardless of their design or composition, are covered by this PCR.

Baby diapers, sanitary pads, pantyliners and adult incontinence products typically consist of a top layer (nonwoven or perforated film), an absorbent core (fluff pulp and/or super absorbers), a back sheet (plastic film, nonwoven) and a fastening system (tape, belt or Velcro).

A tampon typically consists of a cover stock, an absorbent core and a string. Some types of tampons also include an applicator.

The adult incontinence care products covered by this PCR are all products classified in ISO 9949-2 (1993). Within each product group, the following types can be distinguished:

Product group	Products
Feminine sanitary protection	Sanitary towels, alt. sanitary napkins
	Pantyliners, alt. panty shields
	Tampons
Baby diapers	Baby diapers
	Pant diapers

	Training pants
	Swimming pants
Adult incontinence products	All-in-one products: contains both the absorbent core and the outer shell with fastening (tapes, hook & loop, belts) (see 1), insert pads (need additional product for fastening (see 2)
	Pants/briefs
	Liner pads
	Male pouches
	Mesh briefs supports
	Bed protection, under pads

- All-in-one
- Insert pad
- Pant/brief

Depending on product type, both physical size and absorption capacity can vary. The product group and the variant of the product type shall be stated (e.g. baby diaper 5 – 10 kg, adult incontinence insert pad - large - extra dry).

4.3 SYSTEM BOUNDARY

The International EPD System uses an approach where all attributional processes from "cradle to grave" should be included using the principle of "limited loss of information at the final product". This is especially important in the case of business-to-consumer communication.

The scope of this PCR and EPDs is cradle-to-grave as it is finished goods that are reported in the EPD.
For the disposable products covered by this PCR, the use phase is not relevant since the products are typical single use, i.e. used for a very short time and disposed of immediately afterwards.

4.3.1 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:

- Upstream processes, (product stage) corresponding to module A1
  - A1: Raw material extraction and processing (e.g., mining, agricultural and forestry operations), production of intermediate materials and components or processing of secondary material input (e.g., recycling processes), production of distribution and consumer packaging, etc.
- Core processes, (product stage) corresponding to modules A2 and A3:
  - A2: Transports to the manufacturer of the product
  - A3: Manufacturing of the product[4]

[4] These are often, but not always, the processes under operational control of the EPD owner.

- Downstream processes, (distribution) corresponding to module A4, (use stage) corresponding to module B1, (end-of-life stage) corresponding to stages C2 and C4:
  - A4: Transport of the product to warehouse and retail operations
  - B1: Use of the product
  - C2: Transport to waste processing and/or disposal
  - 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 Fel! Hittar inte referenskälla.–Fel! Hittar inte referenskälla. further describe the processes to include or exclude for each life-cycle stage.

4.3.1.1 Upstream processes, module A1:

The following attributional processes are part of the product system and classified as upstream processes needed for the manufacture of absorbent hygiene products:

- Extraction and refinement of natural resources (e.g. forestry, agriculture and extraction of oil)
- Production processes of the energy wares used for upstream processes
- Electricity production according to the proper energy mix hypotheses (see Section 4.8.2)
- Production of raw materials (e.g. pulp, cotton and other fibres, film, nonwoven, laminates, superabsorbers, elastics, adhesives, etc.)
- Production of packaging materials; excluding pallets

A minimum of 99% of the total weight of the declared product including packaging shall be included.

4.3.1.2 Core processes, modules A2 and A3:

- Transportation of input materials to the core process
- Production processes of energy wares used for core processes
- Electricity production according to the proper energy mix hypotheses (see Section 4.8.2)
- Manufacturing of absorbent hygiene products
- Waste treatment of waste generated during manufacturing

Manufacturing processes not listed may also be included.

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.

4.3.1.3 Downstream processes, modules A4, B1, C2 and C4

The following attributional processes are part of the product system and classified as downstream processes:

- Transportation from final manufacturing to average customer (e.g. retailer) or distribution point
- Use (no data from this module)
- Transport to waste processing and/or disposal
- Waste management of used products, packaging included

The following downstream process is not relevant and excluded from the system:

- The use stage is not relevant for the disposable products covered by this PCR since the products are typical single use, i.e. used for a very short time and disposed of immediately afterwards with no activity data generated.

4.3.1.4 Excluded processes

See Section A.3.1.1 of the GPI.

The technical system shall not include:

- Manufacturing of production equipment, buildings and other capital goods
- Business travel of personnel
- Travel to and from work by personnel
- Research and development activities
- Pallets

4.3.2 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 4.6 below for rules on setting boundaries to other product systems.

4.4 PROCESS FLOW DIAGRAM

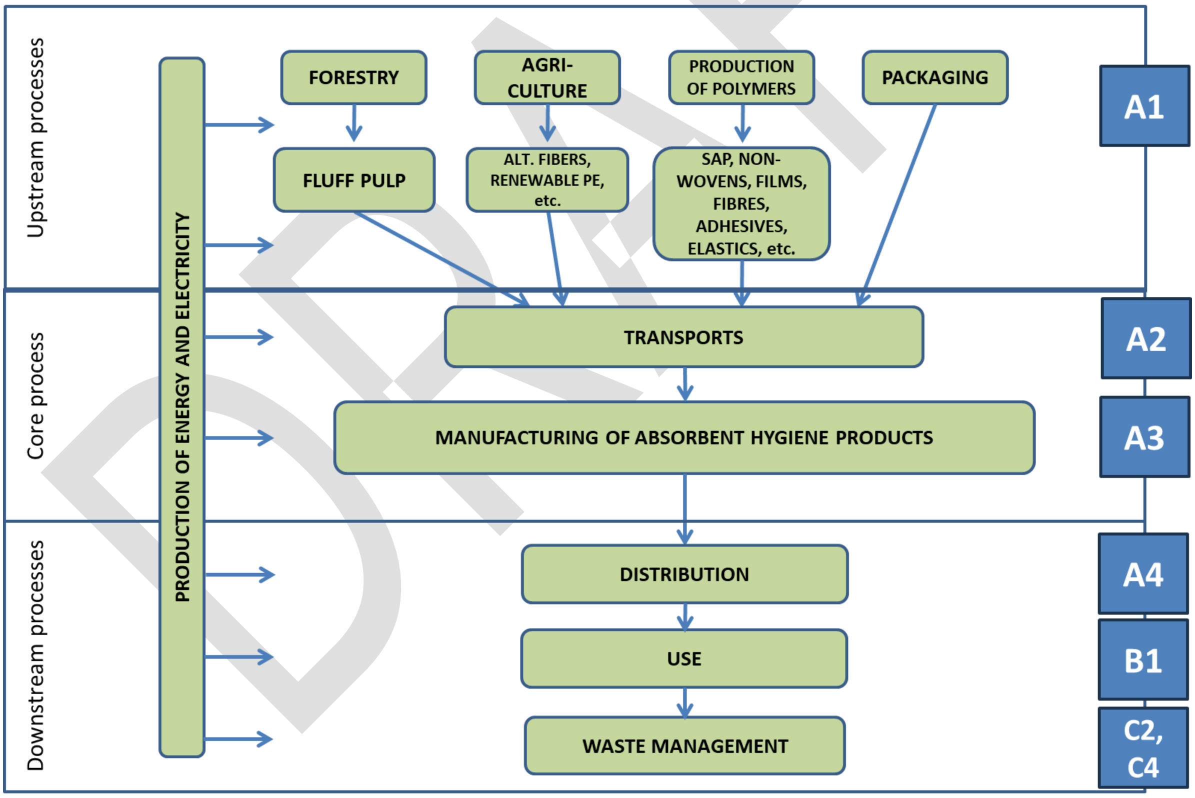

Figure 2. Process flow diagram illustrating the processes that shall be included in the product system, divided into the life-cycle stages. The illustration of processes to include may not be exhaustive.

4.5 CUT-OFF RULES

See Section A.3.3 of the GPI.

4.6 ALLOCATION RULES

See Section A.4 of the GPI.

4.6.1 ALLOCATION OF CO-PRODUCTS

See Section A.4.1 of the GPI.

4.6.2 ALLOCATION OF WASTE

See Section A.4.2 of the GPI.

4.7 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.

4.7.1 DATA CATEGORIES

See Section A.5.1 of the GPI.

4.7.2 DATA QUALITY REQUIREMENTS FOR PRIMARY DATA

See Section A.5.2 of the GPI.

4.7.3 DATA QUALITY REQUIREMENTS FOR REPRESENTATIVE SECONDARY DATA

See Section A.5.3 of the GPI.

4.7.4 DATA QUALITY ASSESSMENT AND DECLARATION

See Section A.5.4 of the GPI.

4.7.5 EXAMPLES OF DATABASES FOR SECONDARY DATA

Table 1 lists examples of databases and datasets that can 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 1. Examples of databases and datasets to use for secondary data.

PROCESS	GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE	RECOMMENDED DATASET	DATABASE
Energy mixes	Regional	-	Ecoinvent 3.10 or later
Transport	Global/European	-	Ecoinvent 3.10 or later
Plastics (and precursors)	Global/European	-	Ecoinvent 3.10 or later Plastics Europe
Packaging	Global/European	-	FEFCO

Other Chemicals	Global/European		Ecoinvent 3.10 or later
Waste statistics	OECD	OECD statistics	Latest version
Waste statistics	EU	Eurostat	Latest version
Waste processes for paper, PP, PE, PET, plastic mix, PU, viscose, $CaCO_3$, etc	Global, Europe	-	Ecoinvent 3.10 or later

4.8 OTHER LCA RULES

See Section A.6.1 of the GPI.

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

4.8.1 MASS BALANCE

See Section A.6.1 of the GPI.

Mass balance approaches (MBAs) cannot be used to claim the content of biobased, renewable, recycled, or other types of product content according to ISO 22095:2020 without being clear this content does not necessarily correspond directly to physical content in the product. However, the MBA can be used to claim an attributed specified characteristic of product or production. The MBA is an approach the industry sector for absorbent hygiene products sees as the most likely way to increase the use of renewable or recovered resources, and it is allowed to use in the EPDs of this PCR. Requirements and guidelines for use of MBA is for the time being finalized as international standard ISO/DIS 13662.

Note, the LCA calculation rules for use of MBA is currently discussed in the upcoming international standard ISO/WD 14077. This PCR should be updated when ISO 14077 is finalized. Another guiding document for the LCA calculation may be the Product Carbon Footprint guideline for Chemical Industry of TfS.

4.8.2 ELECTRICITY MODELLING

See Section A.6.2 of the GPI.

4.8.3 BIOGAS MODELLING

See Section A.6.3 of the GPI.

4.9 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.

4.9.1 UPSTREAM PROCESSES: PRODUCT STAGE, A1

This PCR does not provide any additions to the rules and guidance in the GPI on the modelling of the product stage.

4.9.2 DOWNSTRAM PROCESS DISTRIBUTION, MODULE A4

The following requirements apply to the downstream processes:

- The EPD shall include the transport from manufacture to an average customer (retailer shop or warehouse) or distribution platform. The type of transport and transport distance should be representative to actual conditions on the

market for which the EPD is valid. The transport distance may also be calculated as a fixed long transport, such as 1 000 km transport by lorry.

- Sea transports between continents may be calculated using the following tool: Sea-distances.org .
- The type of transport and transport distance should be representative to actual conditions on the market for which the EPD is valid.

4.9.3 DOWNSTREAM PROCESS USE STAGE, MODULE B1

For the disposable products covered by this PCR, the use stage is not relevant since the products are typical single use, i.e. used for a very short time and disposed of immediately afterwards. Use of additional products or appliances related to cleaning activities during e.g. diapering of babies (e.g. hot water or baby wipes) is explicitly excluded from the system boundaries.

In incontinence products made of an absorbing insert and mesh pants, the latter can be washed and reused. Since the washing phase would be highly variable and to maintain the EPD comparison principle, the use phase should be excluded.

4.9.4 DOWNSTREAM PROCESS END-OF-LIFE STAGE, MODULES C2 AND C4

Waste from absorbent hygiene products is classified as household waste according to the European Waste Catalogue. Key assumptions regarding the end-of-life stage scenario shall be documented in the EPD:

- The waste management of products shall be based on a default scenario of 100 % incineration.
  - Urine and faeces of the used absorbent hygiene product is excluded from calculations

If landfill is used as part of scenario in addition to default scenario (e.g., regional scenario or average European scenario), the following is applicable: Except for emissions of landfill gas or emissions from composting process, no further biogenic CO2-emissions shall be accounted for these two waste options, i.e., virtual emissions of remaining biogenic carbon shall not be added to the biogenic carbon inventory of the absorbent hygiene product. Amount of landfill gas is based on assumption of 50 % degradation of biodegradable materials (ref to be added, IPCC AR 6?)

As for consumer and transport packaging the parts according to Table 2 shall be assumed to be recycled. The part of the packaging that does not go to recovery shall be treated as in the default waste stream of the products.

Table 2 Recovery rates of packaging material for absorbent hygiene products

Type of packaging	Recovery rate (EU)
Consumer packaging plastic bag	18 %
Consumer packaging	40 %
Transport packaging	85 %

4.9.5 CONSEQUENCES FOR RECOVERED MATERIAL/ENERGY BEYOND THE PRODUCT LIFE CYCLE (MODULE D)

In case of recycling or other recovery (e.g. composting) impacts shall be borne by the product until it enters the facility gate where the process takes place. Benefits and credits of recovery are outside the system boundaries. An estimation of the avoided impacts due to such recovery could be made and declared separately.

4.10 ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

See Section A.8 of the GPI.

4.11 SPECIFIC RULES PER EPD TYPE

4.11.1 MULTIPLE PRODUCTS FROM THE SAME COMPANY

See Section A.9.1 of the GPI.

5 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.

6 CONTENT AND FORMAT OF EPD

See Section 7 of the GPI.

6.1 EPD LANGUAGES

See Section 7.1 of the GPI.

6.2 UNITS AND QUANTITIES

See Section 7.2 of the GPI.

6.3 USE OF IMAGES IN EPD

See Section 7.3 of the GPI.

6.4 SECTIONS OF THE EPD

See Section 7.4 of the GPI.

6.4.1 COVER PAGE

See Section 7.4.1 of the GPI.

6.4.2 GENERAL INFORMATION

See Section 7.4.2 of the GPI.

6.4.3 INFORMATION ABOUT EPD OWNER

See Section 7.4.3 of the GPI.

6.4.4 PRODUCT INFORMATION

See Section 7.4.4 of the GPI.

6.4.5 CONTENT DECLARATION

See Section 7.4.5 of the GPI.

6.4.6 LCA INFORMATION

See Section 7.4.6 of the GPI.

6.4.7 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 unit, per life-cycle stage and module D.

6.4.8 ADDITIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION

See Section 7.4.8 of the GPI.

6.4.9 ADDITIONAL SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC INFORMATION

See Section 7.4.9 of the GPI.

6.4.10 INFORMATION RELATED TO SECTOR EPDS

See Section 7.4.10 of the GPI.

6.4.11 VERSION HISTORY

See Section 7.4.11 of the GPI.

6.4.12 ABBREVIATIONS

See Section 7.4.12 of the GPI.

6.4.13 REFERENCES

See Section 7.4.13 of the GPI.

7 LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ADP	Abiotic depletion potential
AHP	Absorbent hygiene product
AP	Acidification potential
CaCo3	Calcium carbonate
CO_2	Carbon dioxide
CPC	Central product classification
CPV	Common Procurement vocabulary
EP	Eutrophication potential
EPD	Environmental product declaration
FEFCO	European Federation of Corrugated Board Manufacturers
GHS	Globally harmonized system of classification and labelling of chemicals
GWP	Global warming potential
INA	Indicator not assessed
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
NACE/CPA	Classification of products by activity
PE	Polyethylene
PET	Polyethylene Terephthalate
POCP	Formation potential of tropospheric ozone
PP	Polypropylene
PPP	Polluter pays principle
PU	Polyurethane
kg	kilogram
kWh	Kilowatt/hours
m^3	Cubic metre
MJ	Megajoule
LCA	Life cycle assessment
LCI	Life cycle inventory
PCR	Product Category Rules
REACH	Registration, Evoluation, Authorisation and Restriction
SI	The International System of Units
SO_2	Sulphur dioxide
UN	United Nations
UNSPSC	United Nations standard products and services code

ABSORBENT HYGIENE PRODUCTS

PRODUCT CATEGORY CLASSIFICATION: UN CPC 32193

8 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.

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.

9 VERSION HISTORY OF PCR

This section includes a version history, and the main differences compared to earlier versions of the PCR document.

VERSION 1.0.0, 2011-10-14

- Update of PCR for Absorbent Hygiene Products based on PCR 2007:06.

VERSION 1.01, 2013-07-25

- Compliance with to the General Programme Instructions, Version 2.01.
- Use of the latest template

VERSION 2.0, 2015-02-19

- Use of latest template
- Section 5 Units and quantities – clarification that scientific notation can be used as found appropriate
- Section 6 General system boundaries - Clarification that production of energy wares shall be reported in the different parts of the system respectively, upstream process and core process
- Section 6 General system boundaries – waste treatment of production waste and electricity generation in core process
- Section 7.1.3 Boundaries towards nature – example added for clarification
- Section 7.3 Allocation rules – Clarification that justification of choices in the underlying LCA shall be done in the LCA report and not in the EPD
- Section 8.2.1 Rules for generic data – Updated table for generic data
- Section 10.1 Use of resources – Requirements on the resource declaration are added
- Section 12 Validity of the EPD – clarification of follow up of data, agreement with verifier

VERSION 2.1, 2017-05-24

- Updated version during PCR validity to clarify that cotton products are included in the scope:
  - Section 2
  - System diagram in Section 6
  - Section 6.1
  - Section 8.2
  - Section 9.2
- Editorial changes

VERSION 3.0, 2020-02-12

- Update according to General Programme Instructions, Version 3.01
- Clarification of scope
- Update of system diagram in section 4.4
- Editorial changes

VERSION 3.01, 2020-06-03

- Section 5.4.5.1 was updated. The table with detault impact categories was removed, and instead the PCR only refers to www.environdec.com/impact-categories for the list of detault impact categories. The removed table erroneously included the impact category Land use change (in m^2*a), which is thus no longer listed as a default impact category in the PCR.

VERSION 3.0.2, 2022-04-20

- Editorial changes in Sections Fel! Hittar inte referenskälla. to Fel! Hittar inte referenskälla., to clarify the indicator list at www.environdec.com applies also for the indicators of resource use, waste production and other output flows.

VERSION 3.0.3, 2023-11-03

- Prolonged validity with one year due to the initiation of an updating process.
- Editorial changes.

VERSION 3.0.4, 2025-02-10

- Prolonged validity with another six months due to delayed updating process.
- Change of PCR Moderator.

ABSORBENT HYGIENE PRODUCTS

PRODUCT CATEGORY CLASSIFICATION: UN CPC 32193