

ENVIRONMENTAL PRODUCT DECLARATIONS (EPD) - WHERE TO FIND

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This paper is the third in a series of ASBP industry briefing papers focussing on Environmental Product Declarations (EPD). The aim is to generate a greater understanding of sustainable construction products and the methods of assessing sustainability. In doing this, we hope to enable industry to deliver better buildings that utilise information provided by Environmental Product Declarations.

Introduction

What are Environmental Product Declarations (EPD)?

EPD provide a standard way of declaring the impacts of manufacturing and using products through Life Cycle Assessment (LCA). Construction products are assessed using a single set of Product Category Rules (PCR) ensuring consistent reporting for similar products. EPD should be independently verified by an expert familiar with the product category.

What type of EPD are available for construction products?

In Europe, EN 15804:2012+A1:2013 is the standard which is currently used by all construction product EPD programmes. This standard is also used by some programmes in North America, and in Australasia, India and Latin America.

An amendment to the standard, EN 15804:2012+A2:2019 will come in to force gradually, with +A2 EPD providing more, and different environmental indicators. During a transition period, EPD will probably provide both types of indicators.

Outside of Europe, some construction product EPD programmes use ISO 21930, both the 2007 version and the revised 2017 version. The 2017 version is very close to the EN 15804+A1 standard and EPD could be compared if necessary. EPD to the 2007 version do not have the same product category rules and should not be compared with EN 15804 EPD.

How many EPD are there?

At the start of 2019 there were over 7000 EPD to EN 15804 registered within EPD Programmes and available for download, although only a small proportion of them have been produced by UK companies or trade associations, mostly within the BRE and International EPD programmes.

Where can you find EPD?

ECO Platform is an association of European construction product EPD Programmes that sets standards for verification and mutual recognition between programmes for example. It provides member programmes with the opportunity to list EPD on their website.

ECO Platform Programme Operators member websites (all to EN 15804)

EPD Programme Operators are required in ISO 14025, the overarching standard for EPD, to publish EPD and most make their EPD available as downloadable PDFs on their websites.

- Austria: [Bau EPD](#)
- Belgium: [B-EPD](#) (FOD Volksgezondheid)
- Denmark: [EPD Danmark](#)
- Finland: [RT EPD](#) (The Building Information Foundation RTS)
- France: [FDES](#) (Alliance HQE- GBC / Programme FDES INIES)
- France: [PEP EcoPassport](#) (electronic items)
- Germany: [IBU](#) (Institut Bau und Umwelt)
- Ireland: [EPD Ireland](#) (IGBC)
- Italy: [EPD Italia](#) (ICMQ)
- Netherlands: [MRPI](#) (Milieurelevante Product informatie)

- Norway: [EPD Norge](#) (Norwegian EPD Foundation)
- Poland: [ITB](#)
- Portugal: [DAP Habitat](#) (CentroHabitat)
- Slovenia: [ZAG EPD](#) (Zavod za gradbeništvo Slovenije)
- Spain (Catalonia): [DAPconstrucción](#) (CAATEEB)
- Spain (national): [Global EPD](#) (Aenor)
- Sweden: [International EPD](#) (EPD International)
- Switzerland: [SÜGB](#)
- Turkey: [EPD Turkey](#)
- UK: [BRE Verified EPD](#) (BRE Global)

Affiliated EPD Programmes to ECO Platform members (all to EN 15804)

- Australia and New Zealand: [EPD Australasia](#)
- India: [EPD India](#)
- Latin America: [EPD Latin America](#)

Trade Association EPD Programme Operators (all to EN 15804)

- [Cembureau](#)
- [Eurima](#)
- [European Aluminium Association](#)

Manufacturing EPD Programme Operators (all to EN 15804)

- [Stora Enso](#)
- [Tata Steel](#)

Other Programme Operators (EN 15804)

- Germany: [IFT Rosenheim](#)
- USA: IERE Earthsure
- USA: [NSF](#)
- USA: [UL Environment](#)

EPD Programmes to ISO 21930

- Canada: [CSA EPD](#) (ISO 21930)
- USA: [SCS Global](#) (ISO 21930)

EPD Programmes to ISO 14025

- USA: [ASTM](#)
- USA: [NSF](#)
- US Trade Association - [NRMCA](#)

Digital availability of EPD

Digitised Data

Many EPD programmes are now providing their EPD data in a digitised format, so that it can be used within BIM and Building LCA tools e.g. [IBU.data](#), [International EPD Data hub](#), [inies webservice](#) and [EPD Norge.digi](#).

Some are providing the digital data free, others charge and/or require the data use to be approved. Other sources include [LCA Data Hub](#), [EPD Registry](#) and [Metsims](#). [Declare](#) and [Quartz](#) also provide EPD data alongside other environmental information.

Generic Databases

Some countries have produced national databases of LCA data for construction products which can provide generic data for products without EPD, as well as EPD. Most of these databases are also digitised. This includes [Ökobaudat \(Germany\)](#), [BRE IMPACT \(UK\)](#), [inies](#) and the [Nationale Milieudatabase \(Netherlands\)](#).

Conclusion

The UK Government has committed to reducing UK Carbon emissions to net zero by 2050 through a legally binding amendment to the Climate Change Act.

Meeting this goal requires us to rapidly address the embodied carbon which accounted for 33.6 million tonnes of CO₂ in 2010, emphasising the need for credible and verifiable EPD for all products.

The Green Construction Board's 2013 Low Carbon Routemap for the Built Environment proposed that EPD would be mandatory by 2022.

Aside from embodied carbon, EPD have the ability to inform many aspects of sustainability at a product and building level as well as influencing many aspects of the entire supply and value chain. The need for credible and verified EPD has never been greater.

Find out more about The Alliance for Sustainable Building Products and the ASBP Natural Fibre Insulation Group at www.asbp.org.uk.