

Environmental Product Declaration (EPD) Starter Pack

UK STANDARDS AND GLOSSARY



Key UK & International Standards for EPDs

EN 15804

The primary European standard for construction product EPDs. Defines lifecycle stages, impact categories, reporting rules and comparability requirements. Mandatory for UK construction product EPDs.

ISO 14025

Defines how Type III environmental declarations (EPDs) must be structured, verified and published.

ISO 14040 & ISO 14044

Standards that define how Life Cycle Assessments (LCAs) must be conducted. Set the methodology behind the EPD's data and calculation approach.

EN 15978

Standard for Whole Life Carbon Assessment (WLCA) of buildings. Links project-level carbon reporting with product-level EPD data.

RICS Whole Life Carbon Methodology

Industry-accepted WLCA guidance used in UK planning (including the London Plan). Relies heavily on product-specific EPD data for embodied carbon assessment.

Product Category Rules (PCRs)

Product-specific rules that define how an LCA and EPD must be completed for a material or product group. Ensure consistency and fair comparison.

Programme Operator Rules

Additional technical requirements set by the chosen programme operator (e.g., BRE, The International EPD System, UL Environment).



EPD Glossary: Essential Terms Explained

Environmental Product Declaration (EPD)

A standardised, third-party-verified document reporting the environmental impacts of a product over its lifecycle.

Life Cycle Assessment (LCA)

The analytical study that quantifies environmental impacts from raw materials to end-of-life. The LCA provides the data that goes into the EPD.

Product Category Rules (PCRs)

Detailed rules for calculating and reporting impacts for a specific product type (e.g., concrete, insulation, steel). Ensure EPDs are comparable.

Programme Operator

An organisation responsible for reviewing, verifying and publishing EPDs in compliance with standards (e.g., BRE, Environdec).

Life Cycle Stages (A1–C4 + D)

Standardised stages defined in EN 15804:

- A1–A3: Product stage (raw materials, transport, manufacturing)
- A4–A5: Construction stage
- B1–B7: Use stage
- C1–C4: End-of-life stage
- D: Benefits and loads beyond the lifecycle (e.g., recycling credits)

Whole Life Carbon Assessment (WLCA)

A building-level assessment that quantifies total embodied and operational carbon. Depends on product-level EPD data for accurate results.

Verification

Review by an independent expert who confirms the EPD follows standards and the LCA is accurate. Required for all published EPDs.

Declared Unit / Functional Unit

The measurement basis for the EPD (e.g., 1 kg, 1 m², 1 m³). Used to compare products consistently.

Cut-off Rules

Rules defining which materials, inputs or emissions can be excluded from the LCA. Must follow PCR and standard requirements.

Ready to move beyond definitions and start developing your EPD?

Understanding the standards and terminology is the first step - but turning that knowledge into verified, procurement-ready EPDs is where the real value begins. Whether you're developing your first declaration or planning an EPD portfolio across multiple product lines, we can help you:

- Select the correct PCRs and programme operator
- Structure your data in line with EN 15804 and ISO requirements
- Build compliant, verification-ready LCAs
- Develop scalable, future-proof EPDs for the UK construction market

Speak to our EPD specialists about turning these concepts into a fully verified declaration for your product.

