

Explaining the new International System Requirements and subsequent steps for their full realization

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The international EPD[®] system – presentation of new
requirements and improvement of competitive opportunities
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Background - the need of revision

- The realisation of the Intend project
- The publication of ISO 14025
- Several years of practical experiences with customers from a number of countries in Europe and the Far East (Japan and South Korea)
- Clearer customer demands
- An increased understanding and interest of EPDs in the public policy sector
- The focus on harmonisation work within the international EPD network - GEDnet

Rationale for the revision

- Good timing with the aftermath of the ISO 14025 standardisation process,
- the need for a new identification of the EPD[®] system being an international programme,
- use the Intend document “Requirements for an international EPD scheme” as the basis for the revision,
- adjust the structure of the document and the terminology to the extent possible with ISO 14025,
- the need for facilitating the PCR process,
- enabling possibilities for SMEs to work with EPDs, and
- strengthen the market value of the “book-keeping approach” based on modularity.

Suggested list of contents

- **1.1 Introduction**
- **1.2 Objectives**
- **1.3 Principles**
- **1.4 Programme structure and organisation**
- **1.5 EPD registration, management and use**
- **Section 1 Application of LCA methodology**
- **Section 2 Development of Product Category Rules, PCR**
- **Section 3 Declarations requirements and format**
- **Section 4 Review and verification**
- **Annex A Classification system for PCR**
- **Annex B PCR Guide**
- **Annex C List of characterisation factors**
- **Annex D Guide to communicating EPD information**
- **Annex E Guide to interpreting EPD information**

Suggested amendments to the Intend Requirements

1. The launch of a PCR classification system – the PCR Module Initiative (PMI)
2. Introduction of a cooperative effort with a PCR moderator
3. An improved market-based approach for the open consultation procedure
4. Introduction of "Sector EPDs" for industrial branches
5. Internal verification via "EPD process certification"
6. Addition of a staged approach for SME's – "On the way to EPD"
7. Guidance on interpreting and communicating EPDs

1. A PCR classification system the "PCR Module Initiative" - PMI

- The search for an international product classification system with a "life cycle approach"
- UN-based system for statistical division of product categories – CPC (Central Product Classification)
- A structure of PCR document in two dimensions – "horizontal" (along a products value chain) and "vertical" for further product specifications
- Offers a hierarchic structure indicating "PCR responsibilities" among EPD partners
- Helps to identify data quality requirements in adjacent PCR modules
- Facilitate PCR work for all involved parties

2. Introduction of a cooperative effort with a PCR moderator

- The need for a closer cooperation between "PCR developers" and the programme operator (PO) necessary for an EPD programme with international applicability
- PCR moderator as a "lead person" in the PCR development work
- Help in creating the open consultation group, draft the PCR document, guide people when using the *Global PCR Forum*, collect comments, revise draft PCR document and finalise the approved PCR document
- Help to act as a "PCR clearing-house" for the product category during the market use of the document

3. A market-based approach for the open consultation procedure

- The need for a general-accepted and recognised Open Consultation (OC) procedure
- The appointment of a *Product Category Stakeholder Consultation Group* including experts from academia and private enterprises, branch organisations and public institutions
- Market and make better use of the *Global PCR Forum*
- Maintain continuous contact with the consultation group and inform them about the ongoing EPD development within the specific product category

4. Introduction of "Sector EPDs" for industrial branches

- Interest from industrial associations and branch organisations to support market introduction of EPDs based on product-type EPDs called "Sector EPDs"
- The main rationale being the use for planning purposes (designers and architects) and as a sector bench-mark for separate product manufacturers
- The principal procedure to prepare a Sector EPD is basically the same as for a product-specific PCR but with other data quality requirements for the manufacturing phase and its subsequent verification
- Correct marketing important (Sector EPDs not available on the market and can not be used for purchasing)

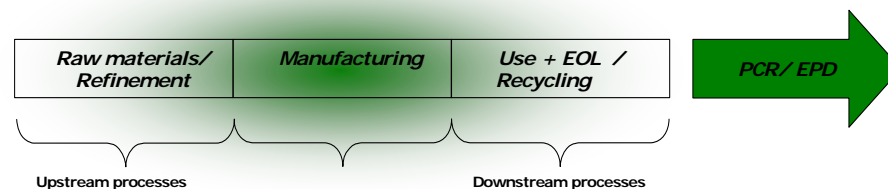
5. Internal verification via "EPD process certification"

- ISO 14025 states: "*EPDs shall be independently verified either internally or externally*" where an External verification can be carried out by a person or a body
- Internal verification via so-called "EPD process certification" where an organisation by an accredited certification body are allowed to internally carry out the creation new EPDs within a group of products linked to a reference PCR and to update existing EPDs¹
- Important for organisations wanting to EPD-register several products and handle recurrent updates
- Cost-effective procedure for organisations having EMS

¹ Discussed and checked with SWEDAC

6. Addition of a staged approach for SME's – "On the way to EPD"

- The need to adjust the EPD work to the realities prevailing in many small and medium-sized enterprises
- Introduce a staged EPD approach successively building up the data required for a full EPD according to the reference PCR
- A "simplified EPD" only valid as long as reasonable work is carried out to acquire a full EPD



7. Guide on interpreting and communication EPDs

- The need to find a reporting format for EPDs adjusted to specific audiences and market needs
- EPD = a verified pool of information based on which tailor-made shorter presentations can be done
- A specific concern devoted to meeting the information requirements inherent in the different tools identified within the IPP concept
- Start up a close dialogue with purchasing authorities for better use of EPDs in green procurement
- Align with "front organisations" in a learning process how to best generally communicate EPD information

Business plan for the revision and deliverables

- "First reading" of the *International EPD General Programme Instructions* by the Swedish TC and Italian Auxilliary Competent Body (January - February 2007)
- Open consultation (February-March 2007)
- "Second reading" and approval by the International EPD Competent Body (April-May 2007)
- Discussion of a new institutional framework for the International EPD[®] system and invitation to other parties to join the work (April 2007)
- Launch of a regular electronic international EPD newsletter with broad circulation (May-June 2007)
- Setting up a transition period for the gradual enforcement of the international EPD[®] system (May-...)

Thank you for your attention

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