

PRODUCT TRANSPARENCY REPORTING

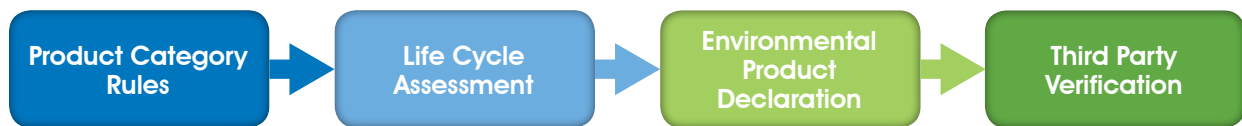


Product Category Rules, Life Cycle Assessments and Environmental Product Declarations

In a marketplace wary of green product hype, NSF International provides independent, science-based verification of environmental claims that achieve the highest levels of transparency.

Environmental product declarations (EPDs) offer an international standard of communication to objectively compare and describe a product's environmental impact throughout its entire life cycle from cradle to grave. An EPD report is based on a life cycle assessment (LCA), which is conducted in accordance with a product category rule (PCR).

As a program operator, NSF can assist your organization in developing product category rules for your industry, refer consultants to help develop your LCA and conduct LCA critical reviews, and provide EPD verifications across multiple product groups and industries.



PRODUCT CATEGORY RULE (PCR)

Product category rules (PCRs) allow for review and comparison of different environmental product attributes among products in a defined category. They define the parameters for conducting a life cycle assessment for a product group and include requirements for the resulting report, the EPD. PCRs and environmental product declarations (EPDs) help manufacturers differentiate their products in the marketplace and respond to increasing demands for more sustainable products and transparency of environmental claims.

As an American National Standards Institute (ANSI) eligible program operator, NSF's National Center for Sustainability Standards can guide industries, trade organizations or individual companies through an ISO 14025-compliant process to develop a PCR for their product categories.

LIFE CYCLE ASSESSMENT (LCA)

A life cycle assessment (LCA) is a transparent analysis of the environmental impacts of a product, system or service, including raw material acquisition, production, use and end of life. By identifying the critical impact categories, you can reduce environmental impacts where they are most beneficial and cost effective. In addition, ISO 14040-based LCAs can be used to meet green building rating system requirements such as LEED, Green Globes and the International Green Construction Code.

NSF has partner organizations that can also help you develop LCAs as well as assess, verify, offset or certify results.



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ENVIRONMENTAL PRODUCT DECLARATION (EPD)

An environmental product declaration (EPD) is an ISO 14025 standardized report of data collected in the life cycle assessment (LCA) as specified by the product category rules (PCRs). EPDs offer an international standard of communication to objectively compare and describe a product's environmental impact throughout its entire life cycle from cradle to grave. They are included in LEED and the International Green Construction Code and are increasingly required in international markets for consumer and commercial products.

Third-party EPD validation by NSF International proves that the data was collected in accordance with the applicable PCR and meets all ISO requirements. Verification of EPDs allows manufacturers to:

- > Benchmark against other EPD reports
- > Identify areas for improvement of their environmental attributes
- > Provide customers with a way to choose between products based on environmental attributes
- > Help eliminate greenwashing by bringing transparency and credibility to the sustainability marketplace
- > Save money by adopting more sustainable operational practices and business approaches

By taking these steps, manufacturers can assess the position of their products in the marketplace and respond to increasing demands for environmentally sustainable products and transparency in environmental claims.

Collection of LCA data helps identify areas for improvement of their environmental attributes and adoption of more sustainable operational practices and business approaches. Customers can more easily select products based on their environmental attributes using data that is objective, neutral and transparent.

CONTACT US

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