DIN EPD programme

Programme instructions of the DIN EPD programme

Version 1.0 for use

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DIN DIN Media

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1. Introduction

1. Introduction

This document constitutes the Programme instructions of the DIN EPD programme, hereinafter referred to as the "Programme instructions". It forms the basis for the overall implementation and management of an Environmental Product Declaration (EPD) programme. These Environmental Product Declarations are prepared in accordance with DIN EN ISO 14025:2011-10.

Environmental Product Declarations are based on Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) data and, where applicable, additional environmental information which provides statements on the environmental aspects and potential environmental impacts of a product. This data covers the entire life cycle of a product, starting with raw material extraction, through production and use, to waste treatment, recycling and end-of-life.

An EPD provides verified environmental information for products and their applications. It thereby supports scientifically based, transparent, and comparable purchasing and procurement decisions.

Reference should be made to the Programme instructions as follows:

Secretariat of the DIN EPD programme
Programme instructions of the
DIN EPD programme, Version 1.0
(DIN EPD programme website), (2026).

Certain terms with specific meanings are used in this document:

- → **"shall": indicates what is mandatory, i.e. a binding requirement.**
- → **"should": indicates a recommendation.**
- → **"can" or "may": indicates a permitted option.**

Normative basis

These Programme instructions of the DIN EPD programme comply with the requirements of DIN EN ISO 14025:2011-10. The development of EPDs follows the requirements for Life Cycle Assessment according to DIN EN ISO 14040:2021-02 and DIN EN ISO 14044:2021-02. EPDs are also developed according to DIN EN 15804:2022-03 for specific industry-related groups, provided the requirements in the Life Cycle Assessment have been met.

The assessment of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions shall also comply with the requirements of DIN EN ISO 14067:2019-02 for Product Carbon Footprints (PCFs), see 5.7. Reporting on individual environmental performance results. If a specific report on GHG emissions is created from the environmental information of an EPD, this corresponds to a PCF.

The following documents are cited in these Programme instructions. Some of their parts or their entire content represent requirements of this document. The latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

DIN EN ISO 14020
Environmental statements and programmes for products – Principles and general requirements

DIN EN ISO 14025
Environmental labels and declarations – Type III environmental declarations – Principles and procedures

DIN EN ISO 14026
Environmental labels and declarations – Principles, requirements and guidelines for communication of footprint information

DIN CEN ISO/TS 14027
Environmental labels and declarations – Development of product category rules

DIN ISO/TS 14029
Environmental statements and programmes for products – Mutual recognition of environmental product declarations (EPDs) and footprint communication programmes

DIN EN ISO 14040
Environmental management – Life cycle assessment – Principles and framework

DIN EN ISO 14044
Environmental management –Life cycle assessment – Requirements and guidelines

DIN EN ISO 14050
Environmental management – Vocabulary

DIN EN ISO 14067
Greenhouse gases – Carbon footprint of products – Requirements and guidelines for quantification

DIN EN ISO 14071
Environmental management – Life cycle assessment – Critical review processes and reviewer competencies

DIN EN 15804
Sustainability of construction works – Environmental product declarations – Core rules for the product category of construction products

DIN EN ISO/IEC 17029
Conformity Assessment – General principles and requirements for validation and verification bodies

2. Objective and scope of the DIN EPD programme

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2.1. Objective

The main objective of the DIN EPD programme is to neutrally support organizations in improving their Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs). It enables them to communicate quantified environmental information about the life cycle of their products in a transparent, comparable and understandable way. Use of the programme for verified Environmental Product Declarations according to DIN EN ISO 14025 is voluntary.

The programme aims to contribute to the transparent and credible communication of environmental information for products and their applications. This is achieved through technically sound, standardized, independently reviewed, and life cycle-based information. The aim is to enable companies and commercial end customers to make informed purchasing and procurement decisions. Individual pieces of information can also be relevant for communication to end consumers.

In addition, the programme should support organizations in meeting voluntary and/or mandatory (legal or contractual) requirements and specifications when providing information about the environmental performance of their products on national and international markets.

The DIN Group will promote cooperation and harmonization with other Environmental Declaration Programmes and initiatives (national, regional, sectors-specific, etc.) in the future, in order to expand the use and acceptance of EPDs and improve the comparability of statements on environmental impacts.

These include:

- **bilateral and multilateral mutual recognition with established programme operators, in particular ECO Platform**
- **leading and participating in international activities to harmonize PCRs and standardization, e.g. within the framework of ISO (International Organization for Standardization) and CEN (European Organization for Standardization)**
- **piloting further industry initiatives to share environmental information such as GHG emissions along the supply chain**
- **linking to aggregation models such as the Product Environmental Footprint (PEF) is possible in principle and is a long-term goal.**

2.2. Scope

The scope of the DIN EPD programme for the development of Environmental Product Declarations covers all types of products offered by organizations and should be internationally applicable. Products include both goods and services. For the sake of simplicity, only products are referred to below.

Published EPDs are available for different applications and intended audiences. They can be used for communication between companies (business-to-business) and, subject to meeting the additional requirements for developing EPDs according to DIN EN ISO 14025, also for communication between companies and end consumers (business-to-consumer). It should be noted that, due to their complexity, EPDs according to DIN EN ISO 14025 are less suitable for enabling non-commercial end consumers to make informed purchasing decisions in everyday life. An EPD published in the DIN EPD programme can refer to one or more products of a single company, or, as an average product, to a specific sector and a specific geographical area. Specific footprint reports, such as the PCF, can be published in parallel to an EPD as supplementary communication formats.

The EPDs produced in the DIN EPD programme shall be based on applicable, published and valid PCRs, which provide the rules and guidelines for defined product categories. As the operator of the DIN EPD programme, the DIN Group explicitly reserves the right to test and introduce novel services within its own administrative processes (see 3. Organization of the DIN EPD programme) that help to promote transparent and credible communication of product performance by ensuring that results are comparable, third-party verified, and based on the life cycle.

When developing an EPD, it is the responsibility of the EPD owners to ensure that all information provided complies with all relevant laws or regulations in the respective region.

The Secretariat of the DIN EPD programme reserves the right to refuse the publication of EPDs for certain product categories or countries for justified reasons, e.g. in the event of current or future sanctions issued by the United Nations (UN), the European Union (EU), or other organizations.

3. Organization of the DIN EPD programme

3. Organization of the DIN EPD programme

3.1. General

The organizational structure of the DIN EPD programme is designed to ensure the smooth implementation of:

- **programme management**
- **DIN PCR development**
- **EPD development**
- **EPD verification**

The corresponding tasks and responsibilities of the DIN Group are assigned to the Secretariat of the DIN EPD programme at DIN Media as the program operator and owner, DIN e. V., as well as to the committees involved in the PCR process and the verifiers, see Figure 1.

Organizational structure of the DIN EPD programme of the DIN-Group (according to DIN EN ISO 14025)

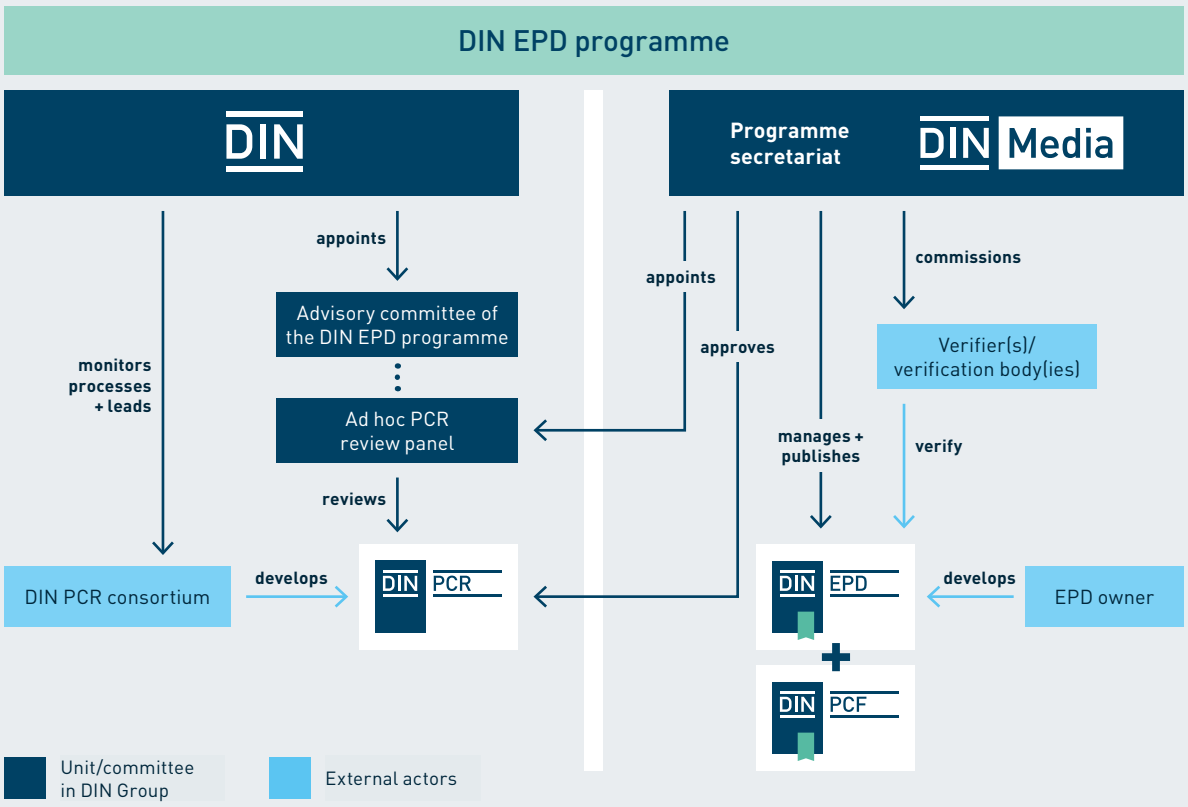

Figure 1: Organizational structure of the DIN EPD programme

3.2. Programme operator

The Secretariat of the DIN EPD programme serves as the programme operator and bears overall responsibility for the strategic direction, management, and operation of the DIN EPD programme.

3.3. The Secretariat of the DIN EPD programme

The Secretariat of the DIN EPD programme manages the DIN EPD programme and is responsible for its operation and management. Its tasks include the development of DIN PCRs and EPDs, as well as the approval/adoption of PCRs, verification procedures, public relations and customer support.

The Secretariat of the DIN EPD programme is an independent entity within DIN Media GmbH. It serves as a point of contact for users of the DIN EPD programme and is also responsible for the strategic direction of the DIN EPD programme. Its tasks include:

DIN EPD programme

- preparation, maintenance, and communication of the Programme instructions
- ensuring compliance with the Programme instructions
- monitoring changes in relevant documents and adapting the programme and Programme instructions as necessary
- conducting appropriate, open consultation for the development of the Programme instructions involving relevant stakeholder groups and the Advisory committee
- publishing the composition of the stakeholder groups involved in programme development
- establishing processes to ensure consistency of information and documents within the programme
- defining procedures to prevent misuse of references to the programme, its logo, DIN EN ISO 14025 and the EPDs published within the programme

Approval of PCRs

- providing templates and information for DIN PCR development
- managing and monitoring of PCR development, updating and approval processes
- ensuring that PCR development and updates are transparent and participatory and comply with DIN CEN ISO/TS 14027
- establishment of a transparent procedure for the definition of product categories
- setting up and supporting DIN PCR consortia, ad hoc PCR review panels and their chair
- establishment of a recognized and open consultation procedure for PCR development
- facilitating harmonization in PCR development
- creation of guidelines, checklists and other tools to support PCR development
- publishing reports from open consultations, as well as the individual decisions of the ad hoc PCR review panel, and the review of

PCRs on request

- ensuring the consistency and transparency of PCR review procedures
- defining additional tasks for the PCR review procedure, if required
- monitoring the validity period of PCRs and the timely initiation of the review process

Publication and management of EPDs

- creation and publication of templates for EPD development, as well as supporting instructions regarding the information to be provided
- management of EPDs and PCFs
- maintenance and updating of the DIN EPD programme website
- supporting manufacturers or manufacturer groups and associations in developing EPDs, e.g. in identifying the appropriate PCRs
- assigning document numbers for PCRs and EPDs within the programme, as well as publishing and updating them
- management and maintenance of the location where the DIN EPD programme publishes EPDs and PCRs

Verification

The Secretariat of the DIN EPD programme

- provides information material on the verification process and the checklist for EPD verification for verifiers
- handles recognition of verification bodies and independent verifiers and provides a public overview
- commissions verification bodies and independent verifiers to verify the EPDs
- checks the integrity and independence of the verification bodies and independent verifiers
- documents and reviews the competence of the verification body and independent verifiers on an annual basis
- reviews completed verifications and, in the case of initial verifications, also reviews ongoing verifications
- has the ability to monitor and continuously verify the verifiers' activities
- informs the verification body and the independent verifiers about changes to the DIN EPD programme
- ensures that approved independent verifiers remain active in the field of Environmental Product Declarations

Public relations and information

- public provision of explanatory materials
- conclusion of Mutual Recognition Agreements between the DIN EPD programme and other established programme operators
- handling complaints or feedback relating to published EPDs, adopted/approved PCRs or other documents
- informing the public about innovations in the DIN EPD programme

3.4. DIN PCR consortium

DIN PCR consortia are established to develop new PCRs. A DIN PCR consortium appoints a consortium leader after its foundation. The consortium leader shall have expertise in the specific product category and a high level of expertise in Life Cycle Assessment (LCA), PCR and EPD. Their task is to involve as many interested parties as possible in the development of a DIN PCR. They moderate the meetings of the DIN PCR consortium and ensure that all members of the consortium actively participate in the DIN PCR development process. They are elected by the DIN PCR consortium.

The DIN PCR consortia ensure that DIN PCRs are developed in accordance with the requirements of the Programme instructions of the DIN EPD programme and the template for DIN PCR development.

Tasks include:

- **developing and preparing a draft DIN PCR, which can be commented on during a four-week open consultation period**
- **responding to and processing the comments from the open consultation and updating the DIN PCR on the basis of this feedback**

DIN has an internal, defined process (based on the DIN SPEC PAS process) for establishing such consortia and for the development process of DIN PCRs.

3.5. Advisory committee

The DIN Group aims to ensure that PCRs are developed consistently and coherently in standardization in the future. To this end, an advisory committee will be established at DIN e. V., which will coordinate the national standardization activities for DIN PCR development, among other things. The members of this Advisory committee represent the interested parties, who together represent the expertise of the relevant sectors and also have a high level of expertise in Life Cycle Assessment (LCA), PCR and EPD. They should meet all the requirements specified in DIN EN ISO 14025 for the members of a PCR review panel. A representative of the Secretariat of the DIN EPD programme can be invited to the meetings of the Advisory committee.

The Advisory committee of the DIN EPD programme shall be headed by a chairperson. This person is elected by the Advisory committee and confirmed by the Programme secretariat.

Members of the Advisory committee can be dismissed by the chairperson and removed from the list of committee members in cases of insufficient engagement and contribution. In such cases, written justification is required. The Programme secretariat is to be informed if a member of the Advisory committee is dismissed.

3.6. Ad hoc PCR review panel

The procedure for reviewing PCRs complies with the requirements of DIN CEN ISO/TS 14027 and DIN EN ISO 14025. Each DIN PCR newly developed within the DIN EPD programme by DIN PCR consortia, as well as PCRs from other programme operators that are to be approved and adopted by the DIN EPD programme, shall be reviewed by an ad hoc PCR review panel, hereinafter referred to as a PCR review panel.

A PCR review panel is appointed by the Secretariat of the DIN EPD programme and consists of at least three persons who collectively have the required expertise. Members of the Advisory committee are qualified to be appointed to an ad hoc PCR review panel. Members of the PCR review panel shall be independent third parties.

The task of the PCR review panel is to ensure that a PCR meets the requirements of the DIN EPD programme. The panel is also responsible for the quality assurance of developed PCRs. Specific tasks include reviewing

- **the relevant scientific literature that is available or submitted during the preparation of the PCR draft,**
- **whether the PCR has been developed according to DIN EN ISO 14040 and DIN EN ISO 14044 or DIN EN ISO/TS 14027,**
- **whether the PCR follows the Programme instructions of the DIN EPD programme, and**
- **whether the Life Cycle Assessment-based data, together with the additional environmental and sustainability-related information, describe the significant environmental aspects of the product.**

3.7. Verifiers

General

Verifiers check the EPDs and ensure that they comply with the requirements of the PCR, the general Life Cycle Assessment, DIN EN ISO 14025 and the Programme instructions of the DIN EPD programme. They also check that the EPD is valid, scientifically sound, plausible and representative. In the following, the DIN EPD programme regulates the recognition of verification bodies and independent verifiers by the Secretariat of the DIN EPD programme. The requirements for verifiers, such as qualifications, further education and training, as well as their tasks, are defined below.

If the Programme secretariat tests new services (e.g. pre-verified tools) as pilot projects, the basic requirements for any necessary verification shall be derived from this chapter and implemented in a pragmatic manner. In addition, DIN EN ISO/IEC 17065 is to be taken into account when verifying processes.

Recognition of verification bodies

Verification bodies should be accredited for EPD verification according to DIN EN ISO/IEC 17029 and DIN EN ISO 14065. Verification bodies that hold this accreditation will be recognized by the Programme secretariat upon application and proof of accreditation. Verification bodies that are not accredited according to DIN EN ISO/IEC 17029 and DIN EN ISO 14065 can apply for recognition under the DIN EPD programme and shall explain in the appendix to their application to what extent they have already established corresponding processes even without accreditation according to DIN EN ISO/IEC 17029 and

DIN EN ISO 14065. Non-conformities with DIN EN ISO/IEC 17029 and DIN EN ISO 14065 shall be clearly indicated and explained. The verification requirements (see 5.4. Verification of an EPD) do not include all requirements of DIN EN ISO/IEC 17029 and DIN EN ISO 14065. The decision on approval is taken by the Secretariat of the DIN EPD programme.

Recognized verification bodies shall have the necessary resources and expertise for EPD verification. The Programme secretariat also assesses verification bodies to be recognized with regard to limits in expertise, e.g. in relation to specific sectors and/or product categories. Recognition can be limited, according to the competences of the verification body, to the verification of specific EPDs.

In addition to applying for recognition under the DIN EPD programme, all verification bodies should demonstrate and provide evidence of their sector-specific expertise. When appointing a verifier for the verification of a specific EPD, the technical expertise of this person shall be demonstrated. The Secretariat of the DIN EPD programme reserves the right to reject a verifier, even if the verification body has been recognized.

The verification body shall ensure that the person or team of employees carrying out the verification has sufficient experience in auditing EPDs. This experience does not have to be proven to the Programme secretariat in individual cases. The verifying body itself decides whether this experience exists. In doing so, it is generally guided by the requirements in the following section on the Approval of independent verifiers. Trainee auditors may be integrated into a verification team, but shall then be accompanied by experienced verifiers.

The Secretariat of the DIN EPD programme appoints and registers the verification body for the DIN EPD Programme and publishes the name of the organization, the contact details of a contact point and the logo on the DIN EPD Programme website.

Approval of independent verifiers

Independent verifiers can also be approved by the Secretariat of the DIN EPD programme for the verification of EPDs in the DIN EPD programme. Unless otherwise defined, the approval applies to all types of EPDs published in the DIN EPD programme. Regardless of this, technical expertise shall be proven and is advantageous for the selection of a verifier for an EPD verification.

Approval to perform verification under the DIN EPD programme is requested from the Secretariat of the DIN EPD programme. The Programme secretariat checks and confirms that the verifier has the necessary competences and skills, in particular:

- **the independence of the verifier (Requirements for verifiers),**
- **competences and skills (e.g. list and, if applicable, proof of Life Cycle Assessments (LCAs) and verifications performed)**
- **knowledge of the geographical area of application of the product group**
- **the most recent verifications supervised within the DIN EPD programme (in the case of initial approval as a verifier in an EPD programme by the Programme secretariat).**

When applying for approval, the following documents and evidence shall be submitted informally by the verifier to the Programme secretariat:

- **a curriculum vitae documenting compliance with general and specific competence requirements and any formal qualifications or training related to Life Cycle Assessment, Environmental Product Declarations and/or auditing activities**
- **evidence of knowledge and experience relating to a specific product group, its relevant standards and, if applicable, a specific geographical area**
- **a description of the verifier's own processes for managing verification activities, in particular with regard to:**
  - **the management, storage and maintenance of confidential customer data and information**
  - **a declaration on maintaining independence during verification activities and in the role as verifier, including measures to eliminate or minimize potential threats to independence, and an indication of other current activities with potential conflicts of interest, such as Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) consulting or similar**
  - **management, assessment and resolution of comments on potential non-conformities.**
- **other relevant references.**

All documents shall be submitted in German or English.

The Secretariat of the DIN EPD programme reserves the right to review the first three EPD verifications performed in the DIN EPD Programme to ensure that all requirements are met. The review of a verification by the Programme secretariat should not delay the publication of the EPD by more than ten working days.

For initial approval, the Secretariat of the DIN EPD programme may, depending on the experience of the verifier, require up to two verifications to be carried out under the supervision of an experienced verifier approved by the DIN EPD programme. This experienced verifier shall have verified at least five EPDs within the DIN EPD programme. The Programme secretariat decides on the approval of the supervised verifier in the DIN EPD programme on the basis of the supervision report. In individual cases, exceptions may be made to the procedure described in this section. To ensure quality, the Programme secretariat can carry out additional reviews of individual verifiers.

Feedback or complaints regarding the approval of individual verifiers are handled according to the procedures described in Subsection VI.2.

The Secretariat of the DIN EPD programme appoints and registers the verifier for the DIN EPD programme and publishes their name and contact details on the DIN EPD programme website. Verifiers are responsible for providing up-to-date contact information for publication on the DIN EPD programme website.

The approval of individual verifiers can be withdrawn due to non-fulfilment of requirements, misconduct or other reasons.

Requirements for verifiers

General

An EPD can be verified by an individual or a team of people within a verification body. These are hereinafter referred to as verifiers. Verifiers shall meet the requirements regarding

→ independence and
→ competence.

I. Independence of verifiers

The verification process shall be carried out independently. This means that verification is not influenced by commercial, financial or other interests or that there are no other conflicts of interest. The verifier shall ensure that they perform activities independently. In addition, verifiers are specifically questioned about their own independence by the Programme secretariat. These questions shall be answered truthfully. Based on the answers, the Programme secretariat assesses independence of the verifier.

If a threat to independence is identified, measures are to be taken to eliminate or minimize any negative impact on the verifier's activities.

Potential threats to independence include self-interest, self-review, familiarity or trust, and intimidation.

To ensure independence, the following activities by the verifier are not permitted:

- **providing consultancy and verification services for the same EPD(s)**
- **performing other activities in the DIN EPD programme, such as membership of the PCR review panel or participation in the consortium of the relevant PCR**
- **providing verification services for clients (e.g. EPD owners) with whom the verifier has a relationship that constitutes an unacceptable threat to their independence, and**
- **providing consultancy services for organizations with which the verifier has a relationship that constitutes an unacceptable threat to their independence.**

Non-permitted consulting services include, but are not limited to:

- **performing Life Cycle Assessments or calculating PCFs**
- **EPD development and**
- **developing pre-verified tools for producing EPDs that are subject to verification.**

The Secretariat of the DIN EPD programme shall be informed if pressure is exerted on the verifier by the customer, or is perceived as such.

II. Competence

Verifiers shall have sufficient competences and skills to carry out verification. Competences refer to knowledge that enables a verifier to understand an EPD in its overall context and to check it in terms of methodology. They can be divided into general skills and those that relate specifically to the verification of EPDs.

General competences include:

- **knowledge of industry and product-related environmental issues; there should be at least three years of professional experience in the relevant industry. The Secretariat of the DIN EPD programme may decide on exceptions.**
- **process and product knowledge and/or experience, including relevant standards, within**

the product sector in which the verification is carried out. The declaration of competence in a specific product category is covered by a self-declaration of competence for each verification task.

- knowledge and experience in the preparation and verification of Life Cycle Assessments (LCAs) according to DIN EN ISO 14040 and DIN EN ISO 14044
- knowledge and experience of the relevant environmental labelling standards, including DIN EN ISO 14020, DIN EN ISO 14025 and DIN EN 15804, as well as knowledge of DIN EN ISO 14071 for Life Cycle Assessments (LCAs) and DIN EN ISO 14067 for the assessment of greenhouse gas emissions from products
- experience with Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) software (the Programme secretariat reserves the right not to recognize experience with specific LCA software if this software is not used by the customers of the DIN EPD programme)
- knowledge of the general legal framework (e.g. Construction Products Regulation, Ecodesign Directive) in which the EPD is developed
- an academic degree (in the case of equivalent qualifications, the Programme secretariat may also approve verifiers without an academic degree).

Specific competences include:

→ completed LCAs: documented experience as a Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) practitioner of at least three years and at least three completed Life Cycle Assessments (LCAs). These Life Cycle Assessments (LCAs) shall cover several impact categories, and at least one shall have been critically reviewed according to DIN EN ISO 14071 or have formed the basis for a verified EPD. The Secretariat of the DIN EPD programme may take verification experience into account if not all of the above criteria are met.

→ verified Life Cycle Assessments: at least two documented and independent critical reviews of Life Cycle Assessments (LCAs) carried out according to DIN EN ISO 14071. One of the critical reviews shall have included the assessment of several environmental impacts. The review of EPDs or PCFs in other programmes, as well as scientific peer reviews of Life Cycle Assessments (LCAs), can also be taken into account. The Secretariat of the DIN EPD programme reserves the right not to credit verifications in specific programmes if the quality of these programs is deemed insufficient.

Participation in verification or training programmes can count towards documented experience. In addition, individual verifiers can participate in verification programmes as trainees to gain verification experience. Such observed or supervised verification is considered equivalent to conducting a critical Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) verification and reduces the requirements set out above.

In addition to the competences required for approval, before undertaking a verification task, the verifier shall ensure that they have knowledge and experience of the product types, industry and relevant standards of the product covered by the EPD and its geographical scope of application.

Further training and ongoing demonstration of competences

Verifiers should undergo continuous professional development and further develop, maintain and improve their competences through regular participation in EPD verifications. Approved verifiers shall keep themselves informed about developments within the EPD programme, they should be active in the field of Environmental Product Declarations and actively take on verification tasks. To maintain approval as a verifier approved by the DIN EPD programme, the verifier shall, annually, either

- **perform at least one EPD or PCF verification under the DIN EPD programme or another appropriate Environmental Product Declaration programme (it is to be taken into account if no verification has been assigned to the verifier during the year), or**
- **carry out a Life Cycle Assessment study that leads to an EPD.**

Based on the above points, the Secretariat of the DIN EPD programme will decide on the continuation of approval.

The verifier should keep themselves informed about changes in the DIN EPD programme, for example via information provided by the Secretariat of the DIN EPD programme (e.g. on the website or by email to verifiers approved under the DIN EPD programme) or through information events organized by the Programme secretariat. Verifiers are responsible for submitting proof of their status as verifiers on an annual basis. Based on the latest information, the Programme secretariat checks the competences required by the Programme instructions on an annual basis. Inactive verifiers may no longer perform verification tasks and will be removed from the list on the DIN EPD programme website.

If a verifier no longer wishes to perform active verification tasks, they shall contact the Secretariat of the DIN EPD programme to be removed from the list on the DIN EPD programme website.

Supervisions (trainee audits)

Life Cycle Assessment experts can gain verification experience by participating as trainee auditors in an EPD verification conducted in accordance with the principles and procedures of the Programme instructions, together with an approved verifier ("supervisor"). The trainee in an EPD verification should carry out the verification themselves, with the support of the supervisor (trainee audit). On request, the Secretariat of the DIN EPD programme will provide information as to whether and how supervision can take place. The Programme secretariat reserves the right to suspend supervisions if no suitable verifications are currently planned. It also decides whether an approved verifier can assume the supervision function. The supervisor shall have carried out at least five verification assignments as part of the DIN EPD programme or in another

EPD programme recognized by the Programme secretariat. In this context, recognition means mutual recognition (MRA) according to "Publication of EPDs in other EPD programmes".

Exceptions may only be defined by the Secretariat of the DIN EPD programme.

In the case of a supervised verification or trainee audit, Life Cycle Assessment experts can participate in an EPD verification carried out by the supervisor. Part of the verification process is then carried out jointly by the trainee and the supervisor. The supervisor submits a supervision report to the Secretariat of the DIN EPD programme after completion of the audit, which, in addition to the points mentioned above, contains the following:

- **assessment of at least the competence requirements**
- **documentation of all major and minor deficiencies, and**
- **identification of aspects that require further improvement.**

Tasks of the verification body

A verification body recognized by the DIN EPD programme has the following tasks:

- **providing up-to-date contact information for verifiers active in the DIN EPD programme**
- **disseminating information about the EPD programme within the team of verifiers**
- **on request, providing proof that the individual verifiers are still active in the field of Environmental Product Declarations**
- **informing the Programme secretariat if they are no longer active in the field of Environmental Product Declarations or are no longer actively seeking verification assignments within the DIN EPD programme.**

Tasks of verifiers (including those working for a verification body)

Verification is to be carried out once it has been assigned and shall comply with Section 5.4. of these Programme instructions.

4. DIN PCR: procedure for developing and updating a DIN PCR

4. DIN PCR: procedure for developing and updating a DIN PCR

4.1. Fundamentals and structure of PCRs in general

Fundamentals

Product Category Rules (PCRs) contain rules and guidelines for standardized assessment methods that support the development of EPDs for specific product categories. Specific PCRs may apply to individual products, in which the characteristics of the respective product are described in more detail. When developing an EPD, PCRs are to be used together with the Programme instructions and the relevant reference standards. The aim of a PCR is to achieve consistent results when assessing the environmental impacts of products in the same product category, in order to promote comparability within a product category as far as possible.

Overarching PCRs and specific PCRs

Product category rules can cover broad product categories; referred to as overarching PCRs. For a more detailed description of individual product types, they can be supplemented by specific PCRs, which contain further rules and guidelines for the respective subcategory. This system of overarching and supplementary specific PCRs is particularly suitable for industries with a broad and diverse range of product categories where it would be impractical to cover the many methodological aspects in a single PCR. For example, it might not be possible to determine a functional unit due to a broad range of products. Therefore, in overarching PCRs, the environmental effects may be specified per declared unit, whereas in a specific PCR, a functional unit should be specified.

In addition, a specific PCR can – in addition to the overarching PCR – contain rules and guidance on other methodological aspects that are of particular importance within its scope.

A specific PCR should follow the same version of the Programme instructions as the overarching PCR. However, if the overarching PCR is updated to a newer version of the Programme instructions, the specific PCR can remain valid in conjunction with the updated overarching PCR. If the requirements in the overarching PCR change and then differ from the specific PCR, the requirements in the specific PCR take precedence.

The use of overarching and supplementary specific PCRs is particularly useful in industries that aim to harmonize methodological aspects between product categories as far as possible. They make it possible to summarize general principles and common methodological guidelines in the overarching PCR, and thus in a single document instead of dealing with them in many separate PCRs.

4.2. Initiation of DIN PCR development

If the programme operator does not yet have a PCR for a product for which an EPD is to be developed, it is necessary to develop a corresponding PCR for relevant product groups.

A new PCR developed within the DIN EPD programme according to the procedures described in this chapter is referred to as a DIN PCR. The DIN PCR can be initiated and developed by an interest group, for example the manufacturer, or on the initiative of the DIN EPD programme itself. Any relevant PCR projects planned in standardization committees at DIN, CEN or ISO are to be taken into account when deciding on a new DIN PCR project. At least one manufacturing company or a relevant industry association should be involved in the development of a DIN PCR.

The template for developing a DIN PCR describes the contents of a DIN PCR. It can be revised by the Secretariat of the DIN EPD programme with the involvement of the PCR review panel. Alternatively, the Programme secretariat can adopt a DIN PCR template that has been developed at DIN, CEN or ISO level as a template for the DIN EPD programme. The template for developing a DIN PCR is available for information purposes on the DIN EPD programme website.

Within the DIN EPD programme, PCRs should be compliant with the Programme instructions and the template for DIN PCR development.

The process for DIN PCR development described in the following sections contains requirements from DIN CEN ISO/TS 14027 and aims to ensure that all environmentally relevant aspects of the product life cycle are taken into account.

The DIN PCR shall be developed on the basis of at least one Life Cycle Assessment study for the product. A corresponding LCA study shall consider the entire product life cycle, including the life cycle stages that are later defined in the DIN PCR. It shall have been carried out according to DIN EN ISO 14044.

The DIN PCR shall comply with the content requirements of DIN EN ISO 14025. It should include:

- **a description of the permitted treatment of product variants within the DIN PCR**
- **rules for developing scenarios for the individual life cycle stages, where appropriate.**

Definition of the product category

Products or services with similar characteristics and functionalities are grouped together in a product category, for which harmonized requirements for the content of the EPD can be established.

Product categories for which specific DIN PCRs are to be developed can be proposed by intere sted parties, such as manufacturers, or by the Secretariat of the DIN EPD programme. The product category is then reviewed by the Programme secretariat and, where applicable, by relevant bodies within DIN e.V., and the scope of the DIN PCR is defined.

A key element in defining a product category is determining which products, in terms of their function, can be assessed using the same methodological rules. The following aspects should be taken into account:

- **functional or technological similarity of the products**
- **interchangeability of the products**
- **primary and secondary functions of the products**
- **results from screening studies or existing Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) literature for the product group, and**
- **established product classes (e.g. ICS classes at ISO, UN CPC codes).**

The product category should be defined in such a way that the development of the DIN PCR is practically feasible, taking into account existing PCRs and the aim of achieving comparability, the market situation, the industry structure and potential applications.

The scope is defined by the initiator in consultation with the Programme secretariat, if necessary, and can be changed at a later date (see Subsection 4.6. Revision and withdrawal of a DIN PCR).

The definition of the product category shall be unambiguous and understandable so that it is clear which products are included and which similar or related products are excluded from the scope. The list of excluded products does not need to be exhaustive.

The programme operator has the right to refuse, with justification, the development of a DIN PCR for certain product categories.

Review of existing PCRs

Before developing a new DIN PCR, the Secretariat of the DIN EPD programme shall take existing PCRs available on the DIN EPD programme website and those from other programme operators into account, in order to avoid overlaps in scope. If a new DIN PCR is developed despite overlaps in scope, this is to be justified. The new DIN PCR should align with the existing PCR as far as possible.

It is preferable to recognize an existing PCR, including one from other EPD programmes, to developing a new DIN PCR. The DIN EPD programme can approve and adopt PCRs that have been developed by other programme operators according to DIN EN ISO 14025 and meet the requirements of the DIN EPD programme, see Section 4.7. Adoption of PCRs from other EPD programme operators and institutions.

If an existing PCR is not adopted and a new DIN PCR with an overlapping scope is developed, this should align with the existing PCR and include justification as to why its development was deemed necessary.

If no existing PCR is available for the product category and there are no objections from the Programme secretariat, DIN PCR development can continue according to the steps described below.

4.3. Development of a DIN PCR

The Secretariat of the DIN EPD programme provides a template for developing a DIN PCR. This template for DIN PCR development is available on the DIN EPD programme website.

For its development, the Programme secretariat passes the DIN PCR to a DIN PCR consortium. The consortium shall consist of at least three organizations from different interest groups. The consortium leader should invite a selection of interested parties (e.g. environmental associations) to participate. Competitors shall not be excluded.

The Programme secretariat supports and monitors the process by:

- **monitoring the DIN PCR development and approval processes**
- **ensuring that the process is transparent and participatory, and complies with DIN CEN ISO/TS 14027**
- **establishing the DIN PCR consortium and the ad hoc PCR review panel.**

The project is announced on the DIN EPD programme website together with the following relevant information:

- **provisional title and scope of the DIN PCR**
- **name, organization and contact details of the chairperson of the DIN PCR consortium**
- **list of members of the DIN PCR consortium, and**
- **a provisional schedule for the development of the DIN PCR.**

Once a draft DIN PCR has been developed, it is submitted to an open consultation for comment. The open consultation is conducted using a transparent procedure. For this purpose, the Programme secretariat sends the draft DIN PCR to representatives of relevant stakeholders. The feedback from the open consultation, including any revision needs identified by the PCR review panel, is incorporated into the draft DIN PCR by the DIN PCR consortium, if necessary with the support of the Programme secretariat.

The DIN PCR that has been developed undergoes a final review by the PCR review panel. For this purpose, all relevant background documents are submitted to the PCR review panel. The final DIN PCR shall refer to the supporting data and studies, which, however, do not need to be published. The decision of the PCR review panel, including a statement on the approval or rejection of the DIN PCR and the corresponding justification, is documented in a review report.

If the PCR review panel cannot reach agreement on DIN PCR approval, a majority decision is taken and documented in the PCR review report. In the event of a tie, the chair of the PCR review panel decides on the recommendation to approve or reject. In principle, the Secretariat of the DIN EPD programme has the right to veto approval of a DIN PCR (but not does not have the right to veto a rejection by the PCR review panel), but should follow the recommendation for approval as set out in the PCR review report. If a DIN PCR is rejected, the Programme secretariat shall formulate and document justification. An appropriate justification is not limited to the risk of non-compliance with technical/methodological rules, but can also relate to political, economic, social and technological factors, for example.

The Programme secretariat can terminate the development process of a DIN PCR if its progress is repeatedly delayed by the DIN PCR consortium or if review comments are not taken into account. Prerequisite for this is that the funded time budget for the development of the DIN PCR has demonstrably been exhausted as a result of the delays described above. After successful review by the ad hoc PCR review panel, the DIN PCR is returned to the Programme secretariat for approval. The Programme secretariat includes the final DIN PCR in the DIN EPD programme and publishes it. The consortium members involved in the development of the DIN PCR who have approved the final DIN PCR are named in the final document.

All consortium members who voted in favour of publication of the DIN PCR are listed in the DIN PCR document by name together with their associated organization. As an exception, consortium members who object to being named and demonstrate circumstances that justify a legitimate interest in not being named are not listed in the DIN PCR document.

DIN e.V. retains the copyright to the draft and final DIN PCR and ensures that it is published, updated as necessary, and made available to all organizations for the development and registration of EPDs.

The final DIN PCR is published on the DIN EPD programme website and is then deemed to be the current document.

4.4. Publication of a DIN PCR

The DIN EPD programme maintains a publicly accessible overview of valid and outdated PCRs that have been developed or approved by the DIN EPD programme. Outdated PCRs shall be publicly available on the DIN EPD programme website and labelled as "withdrawn" for as long as valid EPDs are published under the PCR.

DIN PCRs developed within the DIN EPD programme and adopted PCRs are assigned a document number by the Programme secretariat and made available on the DIN EPD programme website together with relevant supplementary information. This information includes:

- **name of the DIN PCR**
- **document number and version number of the DIN PCR. The document and version numbers are regarded together as a "registration code" in the sense of the terminology of DIN CEN ISO/TS 14027.**
- **definition of the product category**
- **synonyms for the name of the product category or other relevant keywords. The name of a product category can have different meanings for different geographical regions or cultures. This should be taken into account when listing synonyms for the product category name.**
- **if relevant, classification in a product classification system (e.g. ICS classes at ISO, UN CPC code(s))**
- **related or similar products not covered by the DIN PCR, with reference to other PCRs covering these products, if relevant**
- **period of validity**
- **name of the chairperson of the DIN PCR consortium**
- **participating organizations**
- **life cycle stages considered**
- **geographical coverage of the DIN PCR**
- **name and contact details of the programme operator.**

DIN Media holds the exclusive publication rights for DIN PCRs developed within the DIN EPD programme. Exceptions can be permitted under a Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA); see Section 4.7. Adoption of PCRs from other EPD programme operators and institutions. The aim is to ensure that all interested parties always have access to the current version of the EPD and to avoid version conflicts.

4.5. Validity of a DIN PCR

The validity period for a DIN PCR can be up to five years. The Programme secretariat can define a standard validity period. Shorter validity periods can be appropriate, e.g. for new or future products. Deviations from the standard validity period are to be justified in the DIN PCR. A revision is required after the validity period has expired. Documents that are not revised in good time are rendered inapplicable and can no longer be used for developing an EPD. Documents under revision can continue to serve as the basis for an EPD.

Updates to the Programme instructions do not affect the validity period of a published DIN PCR.

Specific DIN PCRs are also valid for five years after the publication date of the current version. For a specific DIN PCR to be applicable, the overarching DIN PCR shall also be valid. If the overarching DIN PCR has been updated, the specific DIN PCR is applicable in conjunction with the updated overarching DIN PCR, even if it refers to an earlier version. If the expiry date of the overarching DIN PCR is extended, the validity period of the specific DIN PCRs can be extended up to five years after the original version date or the last review/update of the specific DIN PCR.

The Programme secretariat can decide on exceptions to this in justified cases. In particular, the Programme secretariat can directly adopt PCRs for methodological pilots for a limited period of up to three years.

An outdated DIN PCR shall not be used to develop and register a new EPD or to update a published EPD in order to extend its period of validity.

4.6. Revision and withdrawal of a DIN PCR

DIN PCRs shall be reviewed in a timely manner to determine whether updates are necessary, in order to ensure that they are up to date, consistent and applicable. The Programme secretariat initiates the systematic review of the need for revision and, for this purpose, contacts the DIN PCR consortium, which carries out the review. At least one DIN PCR user should be involved in the DIN PCR revision process. The Programme secretariat supports the revision process with a checklist outlining procedures.

The DIN PCR consortium reviews the DIN PCR and decides whether its validity should be extended, or whether it should be revised, withdrawn or replaced by another PCR. In addition, an application can be made to convert it into a standard.

Extension of validity

If it is determined during the review that the DIN PCR still corresponds to the state of the art, conforms to applicable standards and there are no significant overlaps or contradictions with other PCRs, its validity can be extended. In this case, the content remains unchanged. The DIN PCR consortium confirms and documents validity, and the DIN PCR can continue to be used as the basis for new EPDs.

Revision

A DIN PCR can be revised due to new or amended standards, methodological developments or regulations requiring clarification. Provided that the changes are not significant and the proposed changes or additions are well

justified, the DIN PCR can be updated without extending its validity period. This is possible in the case of editorial changes, clarifications and minor corrections of errors.

If, as part of a review, an extensive update process is initiated, e.g. for system boundaries, data requirements or environmental indicators, this is implemented by the DIN PCR consortium. In this case, the Programme secretariat can extend the validity period of the current version by the time expected to be required to complete the DIN PCR update. However, the validity should not be extended to more than one year beyond the previous expiry date.

Withdrawal of a DIN PCR

A DIN PCR can be withdrawn if it is rarely used, is methodologically outdated or is completely covered by other PCRs. After withdrawal, no new EPDs may be developed on the basis of this DIN PCR; however, existing EPDs usually remain valid until the regular expiry date.

Consolidation

A DIN PCR can be replaced by another PCR if several similar PCRs are combined or superseded by a more generic PCR in conjunction with specific PCRs. Only the new DIN PCR is then applicable for users. In addition, DIN PCRs can be combined into a new document to reduce redundancies, increase comparability and make the PCR landscape clearer. In this case, the previous DIN PCRs lose their validity in favour of the new, consolidated provisions. Under certain circumstances, the validity period of the DIN PCR to be replaced can be extended by the duration of the revision process, but by no more than one year.

Conversion into a standard

The application for conversion into a standard can be submitted if a DIN PCR is considered to have reached a sufficient level of consensus to serve as the basis for a formal standardization procedure at national, European or international level. If the project is accepted by a standardization body, the further development of the DIN PCR as a programme document ends and its contents are transferred to the standardization process.

In exceptional cases, a DIN PCR can also be suspended temporarily, for example if fundamental methodological questions are unresolved or a comprehensive revision is imminent. During this period, its application is restricted or not permitted.

The revised DIN PCR documents are submitted to the PCR review panel for review and to the Programme secretariat for final approval, after which the updated DIN PCR is published.

The development and update steps of specific DIN PCRs generally follow the same process as for the development and update of overarching DIN PCRs.

When no further valid EPDs are published under a withdrawn DIN PCR, the DIN PCR should be deactivated. DIN PCRs that have been removed from publication can be made available by the Programme secretariat on request. The Programme secretariat will inform the DIN PCR consortium.

If an update process is initiated within one year of withdrawal, the DIN PCR can be published again.

4.7. Adoption of PCRs from other EPD programme operators and institutions

The Secretariat of the DIN EPD programme can adopt PCRs with relevant scopes from other programmes. For this purpose, it initiates a regulated adoption procedure. The Programme secretariat can conclude a Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) for PCRs with the respective programme operator. Information on MRAs should be available on the DIN EPD programme website.

Any person who identifies a PCR whose adoption could be relevant can contact the Programme secretariat. The Programme secretariat will decide whether to initiate an adoption process.

In order for a PCR from another EPD programme to be adopted, the PCR review panel checks whether it meets the requirements of the DIN EPD programme and the DIN PCR development template. If this is the case, the Programme secretariat can grant adoption. If a PCR does not meet the requirements, the Programme secretariat can define which conditions proposed by the PCR review panel, in accordance with the Programme instructions of the DIN EPD programme, shall be fulfilled in addition to the existing PCR so that the EPDs developed in accordance with this can be adopted in the DIN EPD programme. The Programme secretariat should follow the proposals of the PCR review panel.

An adopted PCR can then be used to develop and register EPDs within the DIN EPD programme.

If an adopted specific PCR is updated by its original EPD programme and has undergone a sufficient consultation and review process, only a review of acceptable quality by the PCR review panel will take place within the DIN EPD programme.

DIN/DKE, CEN/CENELEC or ISO/IEC standards published via DIN can be adopted directly into the DIN EPD programme at the discretion of the Programme secretariat. If a DIN/DKE, CEN/CENELEC or ISO/IEC standard published via DIN relates to the same product group as a DIN PCR, the DIN PCR should be withdrawn under normal circumstances. For EPDs published under this DIN PCR, the Section 5.5. Validity of an EPD applies.

4.8. Costs

The development of a DIN PCR within the DIN EPD programme incurs costs, which are to be paid by the DIN PCR consortium. Up-to-date information on the costs and the general terms and conditions is available on the DIN EPD programme website. The costs are reviewed annually and any changes are published. Changes will be communicated well in advance.

5. EPD: procedure for developing and updating an EPD

5. EPD: procedure for developing and updating an EPD

5.1. Fundamentals and types of EPDs

Fundamentals

Environmental Product Declarations of the DIN EPD programme follow DIN EN ISO 14025 and meet the requirements of DIN EN ISO 14020. They are precise, specific, well-founded and verified. The environmental statements made are clear, transparent and not misleading. The aim is to ensure the comparability of products within the same product categories, within the limitations specified in ISO 14025.

Environmental Product Declarations within the DIN EPD programme contain information on the environmental impacts in accordance with the relevant PCR. An overview of the relevant environmental impacts can be found in the DIN PCR development template. Applicable PCRs can contain additional or deviating requirements. If not all of the environmental impacts listed above are included in the EPD, the EPD shall be labelled accordingly so that it is transparent which environmental impacts are reported.

The PCF can also be published within the DIN EPD programme in connection with an EPD.

The content of the EPD shall:

- be verifiable, accurate, relevant and not misleading in accordance with the rules and guidelines of DIN EN ISO 14020 (Environmental statements and programmes for products – Principles and general requirements) and shall not give rise to misinterpretation, and
- not contain assessments, judgements or direct comparisons with other products or companies.

A template for EPD and PCF development will be available on the DIN EPD programme website; other layouts and formats are only permitted in exceptional cases.

EPD development within the DIN EPD programme includes the following main steps:

1. selection of the PCR (Subsection 5.2. Selection of the PCR)
2. performance of a Life Cycle Assessment study on the basis of the selected PCR (Subsection 5.3. Conducting a Life Cycle Assessment study on the basis of the selected PCR)
3. compilation of information using the EPD report format (Subsection here)
4. verification (Subsection 5.4. Verification of an EPD), and
5. publication (Subsection 5.6. Publication of an EPD)

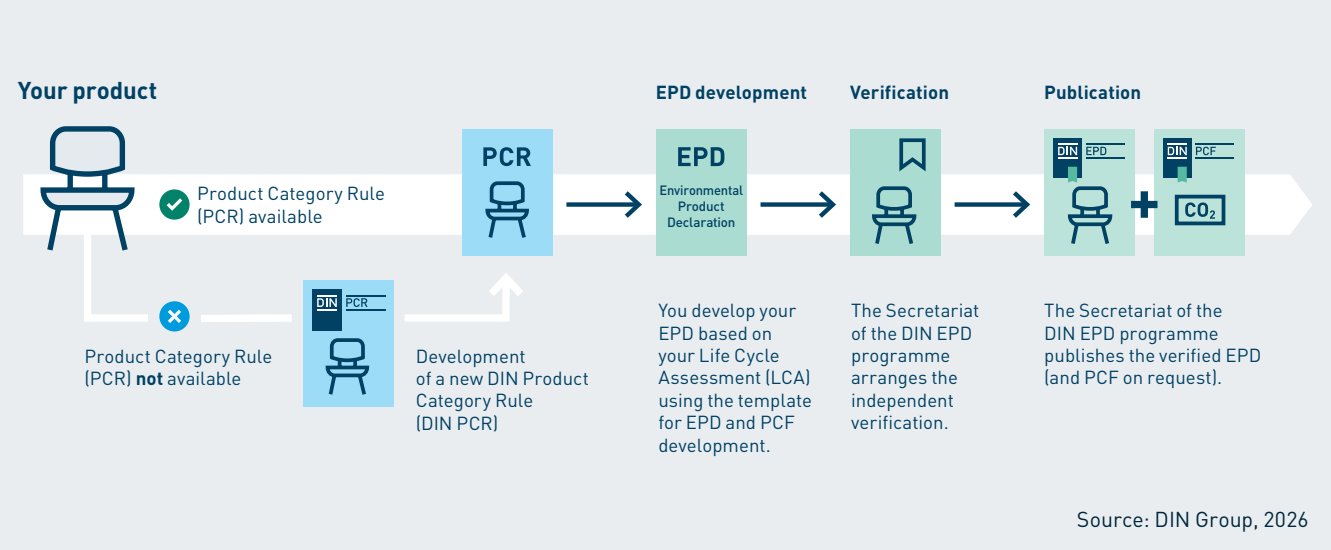

Figure 2: DIN EPD programme workflow

In addition, published EPDs may be corrected and amended. An EPD remains published until it is withdrawn by the EPD owner or by the Secretariat of the DIN EPD programme (Subsection 5.6. Publication of an EPD).

The Life Cycle Assessment-based information in an EPD can refer to different system boundaries. An EPD shall clearly state which system boundaries it covers and that it complies with the requirements of the respective PCR:

- a cradle-to-gate EPD includes the provision of raw material, transport and manufacture, including the associated processes. This type of EPD is suitable for passing on environmental information within supply chains.
- an EPD can also contain information on the complete life cycle (cradle-to-grave). This includes information on further transport, use, maintenance and end-of-life.
- information on end-of-life shall also be reported on the basis of the underlying PCR or DIN EN 15804 for construction products.

EPD types

Environmental Product Declarations can be submitted by manufacturers as well as by groups of manufacturers or associations. They can refer both to individual products and to product groups of a manufacturer or sector. The DIN EPD programme can be supplemented by further EPD types in the future. Exceptions to the EPD types listed shall be approved by the Programme secretariat. Where there is interest in developing such new types, the Programme secretariat can provide advice.

→ **Product-specific EPD:** this type of EPD is developed by a company for a single product that has been in production for at least one year. It can also include a service that has been provided by or for the EPD owner for at least one year.

→ **Association EPD:** the DIN EPD programme actively promotes cooperation with industry associations. The Programme secretariat advises on the joint development of new association EPDs within the DIN EPD programme.

→ **Portfolio EPD:** companies with extensive portfolios of very similar products can develop a portfolio EPD within the DIN EPD programme. This indicates a variance to a reference product within the portfolio. This kind of EPD can include several production sites, provided that the products from different sites are not marketed as different products and/or are not otherwise distinguishable for downstream customers.

EPD owner

The respective manufacturer or the respective group of manufacturers, the EPD owner, carries out the development and subsequent update of an EPD. An EPD owner can be a producer (for EPDs of goods), a service provider (for EPDs of services), a retailer (e.g. a retailer or wholesaler) or a trade/industry association.

The EPD owner is the sole owner and bears responsibility and liability for the EPD. They bear full responsibility for all their activities and for the use of the EPD. They are solely responsible for all claims, including product liability claims, that could arise in connection with the use, manufacture and sale of the relevant products.

The tasks of the EPD owner for EPD development
include the following points:

- compilation of all Life Cycle Assessment data, performance of the Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) and preparation of the background report and the EPD
- compilation of all other information that shall be included in the EPD in accordance with the requirements of the Programme instructions and the PCR
- monitoring and updating of the EPD during the period of validity to maintain the validity of the EPD
- communication with the Programme secretariat about:
  - commissioning the verification
  - information on the results of the EPD verification
  - application for publication of the EPD and submission of the relevant documentation
  - information on contact and billing details
  - timely payment of the invoice
  - use of the logo in compliance with the terms of use
  - information about the withdrawal or archiving of the EPD

The EPD owner is solely responsible for the accuracy, completeness and plausibility of all data, evidence and information provided, including the Life Cycle Assessment data, background reports and other information published in the EPD.

The DIN Group and the Secretariat of the DIN EPD programme accept no liability for damage resulting from incorrect, incomplete or misleading information provided by the EPD owner. The role of verification is limited to a plausibility and conformity check; no material guarantee is given for the accuracy of the data.

Publication of the EPD does not establish any liability on the part of the DIN Group towards third parties for the content provided by the EPD owner.

5.2. Selection of the PCR

The use of an applicable and valid specific PCR is mandatory if it has been published or adopted by the DIN EPD programme.

The PCR on which an EPD is based shall be published on the DIN EPD programme website and be valid at the time the EPD is verified. The Secretariat of the DIN EPD programme can assist in the search for the appropriate PCR and should be consulted if there is any doubt regarding the applicability of the PCR to the product concerned. The Programme secretariat can in turn seek support from the Advisory committee of the DIN EPD programme.

A PCR can be developed (see Section 4. EPD: procedure for developing and updating an EPD) if no PCR exists for the product category concerned.

If an applicable specific PCR exists in the DIN Group, this shall be used together with the applicable overarching PCR. If more than one PCR is applicable, the EPD owner can select one of them. The selection should be made in such a way that the PCR fits the scope of the product group and is specific to the product function. The selected PCR shall then be applied consistently. In addition, the EPD shall state which PCR (including version number and publication date) was used and which programme operator is responsible.

5.3. Conducting a Life Cycle Assessment study on the basis of the selected PCR

Development of a Life Cycle Assessment study – General

The development of EPDs shall follow the basic rules of Life Cycle Assessment. The environmental performance of the product shall be described for the defined life cycle (cradle-to-gate or cradle-to-grave).

The Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) can be carried out by the organization itself (internally) or with the help of a consultant with expertise in Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) and Environmental Product Declarations. The Life Cycle Assessment study shall meet the following requirements:

- it complies with the internationally recognized principles, frameworks, methods and practices for Life Cycle Assessment set out in DIN EN ISO 14040 and DIN EN ISO 14044.
- it complies with the PCR applicable to the specified product category.
- it fulfils the content and format requirements set out in the Programme instructions by using the template for EPD and PCF development of the DIN EPD programme.
- it shall contain information and details on Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) calculation rules and results.
- any exclusion of data based on cut-off criteria shall be justified quantitatively (e.g. via sensitivity analyses, conservative assumptions or plausibility considerations).

- for all reported environmental performance indicators, the characterization methods used, including the respective sources, shall be stated.
- for EPDs according to DIN EN 15804, the current version of the characterization method published by the Joint Research Centre (JRC) shall be used (currently the EF 3.1 characterization method). A transition period of one year from the date of publication of the updated characterization method applies.
- for EPDs valid in Europe that are not developed according to DIN EN 15804, the current version of the characterization method published by the JRC should also be used. A transition period of one year from the date of publication of the updated characterization method applies.

The above requirements shall be documented in the background report. The Programme secretariat provides a template for the preparation of the background report. Its use is mandatory, except in justified cases. Exceptions include, for example, methodological pilots, special product areas or similar; however, even in such cases, the template should be adhered to as far as possible.

Where rules in the relevant documents used to develop an EPD are contradictory, the hierarchy of the PCR and the corresponding standards shall be followed. Rules in higher-level documents take precedence over rules in lower-level documents. In general, calculations should be carried out conservatively. If there is uncertainty regarding available data or the strictness of a rule, a conservative approach should be chosen.

The contents and formats of the EPD are presented in the template for EPD and PCF development on the DIN EPD programme website.

Development of a Life Cycle Assessment study – Methodology

All data, product information and other information to be reported are specified in the template for EPD and PCF development. This template shall be used. Deviations with regard to the data, product information and other information to be reported can be decided by the Secretariat of the DIN EPD programme and are to be noted accordingly as a deviation in the EPD.

In particular, the template contains requirements and information on the functional or declared unit, the system boundaries and the impact categories to be reported.

The system boundaries are described using modules A-D (for details, see template for EPD and PCF development).

A: raw material acquisition, pre-processing and manufacturing stage
B: use stage
C: end-of-life stage
D: resource recovery stage

The following impact categories shall be reported (for details, see template for EPD and PCF development):

- climate change, total
- ozone depletion
- photochemical ozone formation, human health
- acidification
- eutrophication, terrestrial
- depletion of abiotic resources – minerals and metals
- depletion of abiotic resources – fossil fuels

Each module shall include electricity generation and the production of the energy sources used in the module. For a verifiable PCF according to DIN EN ISO 14067, further impact categories shall be reported (for details, see template for EPD and PCF development). In addition, the treatment of waste generated in the module, up to the end-of-waste status or end-of-life, is to be included. This excludes the waste treatment of the product itself, which is dealt with in Module D.

For LCA allocation and for the generation of electricity or the production of the energy sources used, the requirements of the ECO Platform apply in this programme, see

Verification Guidelines for ECO EPD programmes (Version 08)

LCA Calculation Rules and Specifications for EPDs (Version 02)

Any exceptions to the ECO Platform rules regarding LCA allocation, electricity generation and production of the energy sources used shall be decided by the Secretariat of the DIN EPD programme and noted as deviations in the EPD. This can be the case for methodological pilots, for example.

EPD background report

The results of the LCA study and other information provided in the EPD are compiled in the EPD background report, which forms the basis for verification. The background report is confidential.

The report includes, among other things:

- general information such as who commissioned the Life Cycle Assessment, the life cycle assessor, the date of the report
- confirmation that the LCA study was carried out according to the requirements of the DIN EPD programme
- objective and scope of the Life Cycle Assessment (LCA)
- life cycle inventory analysis
- life cycle impact assessment
- results of the assessment, including conclusions and limitations
- documentation of further information

In addition, the background report includes details of the Life Cycle Assessment method applied and its results. This includes information on:

- goal of the study
- application of the PCR
- system boundaries and scope of the study
- functional unit
- cut-off criteria
- data quality level
- allocation procedures
- interpretation of the results

5.4. Verification of an EPD

Content of the verification

In the verification process, verifiable evidence is used to confirm that the data and information used in the EPD meet the specified requirements. Within the DIN EPD Programme, it is specifically checked whether a newly developed EPD complies with the requirements of the PCR, the Programme instructions of the DIN EPD programme and DIN EN ISO 14025. Templates for background reports, the EPD and the checklist for EPD verification are made available to the verifiers.

On the basis of the Programme instructions, the PCR and the relevant standards, verification includes:

- checking the EPD based on the Programme instructions, a valid PCR and DIN EN ISO 14025 including:
  - plausibility
  - the underlying data used for the LCA calculations, including aspects such as accuracy, completeness, representativeness and consistency (the template for the background report provided by the Programme secretariat contains a table that the EPD owner is to use to indicate the quality of the data; this information is also to be critically reviewed)
    - for this purpose, the EPD owner may provide screenshots of the Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) software used, or alternatively, transfer all data required for verification directly to the background report
  - the assessment methodology and its conformity with the calculation rules
  - the life cycle inventory analysis and its conformity with the calculation rules
  - the presentation of the environmental impact results, especially the 100-year global warming potential (GWP 100) for the PCF according to DIN EN ISO 14067, if specified
  - the presentation of additional information (if applicable), and
  - all other information contained in the declaration.
- a verification report documenting checks
- a completed checklist as the verification report; the checklist provided by the Programme secretariat shall be used; if verification is to be carried out according to DIN EN 15804, the ECO Platform "Verification Guidelines" shall also be followed (see Our documents – Eco Platform or available on request from the Secretariat of the DIN EPD programme)
- information that the publication of the EPD is a mandatory part of the EPD development process
- fulfilling all obligations during the validity period of the EPD, as specified during the initial verification, e.g. participating in the monitoring of the EPD after consultation with the EPD owner to confirm whether an update is required; this includes, among other things, certificates to be submitted after their expiry and clear processes according to which the EPD owner shall check annually whether individual environmental impacts deviate more than 10 % from the declared values
- appropriate management, evaluation and clarification of all comments on possible deviations that have arisen during EPD verification.

The verification of data, assessment methodology and presentation of results is risk-based. The verification effort should focus primarily on the data, assumptions and modelling that have a significant influence on the results or where there is the greatest risk of deviations or incorrect data. Particular attention should be paid to the following aspects:

- information on emission-intensive materials or components (e.g. drivers of environmental impacts per product or product group)
- the main scenarios of the individual life cycle modules that are relevant for the results
- the grouping of products, particularly in the case of an EPD for several products, including the underlying assumptions regarding the representativeness of the grouped products.

In addition, spot checks of further data, assumptions and modelling shall be carried out. An appropriate proportion of the verification effort (approx. 10-20 % of the time spent) shall be set aside for these spot checks. If there are no indications of deviations in the background report, the sample size can be adjusted. A reduced sample size shall be justified by the verifier in the verification report.

The verification checklist provided by the Programme secretariat can be used as the verification report.

The verification shall be carried out remotely (desktop verification). The decision to carry out an on-site check can be made by the Secretariat of the DIN EPD programme in justified exceptional cases. EPD owners can also apply for an on-site check. A reason for this could be, for example, that they want to avoid commercially sensitive information and data being shared outside a controlled environment (e.g. a production site or similar). The costs for an on-site check are borne by the EPD owner. A remote check shall be carried out in such a way that it ensures the same level of reliability and quality as an on-site check. Digital media such as video conferencing can be used.

Verification procedure

If an EPD is to be published in the DIN EPD programme, the EPD owner applies to the Secretariat of the DIN EPD programme to approve and register the EPD. The Programme secretariat organizes the verification process and commissions an independent verifier for this purpose, thus ensuring the independence of the verification.

The EPD owner then submits the complete documentation for the verification of the EPD to the Secretariat of the DIN EPD programme.

This includes:

- the EPD itself. The template provided by the Programme secretariat shall be used. The final document shall be checked; it is therefore not sufficient to check only the first draft
- the EPD background report (template provided by the Programme secretariat shall be used)
- any supplementary evidence of the Life Cycle Assessment (LCA), and
- copies of the evidence defined in the corresponding PCR.

These documents are submitted to the Secretariat of the DIN EPD programme. Upon receipt of the documents, the Programme secretariat commissions an independent verifier to carry out the verification and informs the EPD owner.

The verifier shall ensure that confidential data is only stored in secure systems that are protected by passwords, encryption or other security measures. It shall be ensured that unauthorized persons do not have access to the data.

During the first step, the verifier checks whether all the necessary documents have been submitted in full. If documents are missing, the EPD owner will be requested to submit them within four weeks. If the documentation remains incomplete despite the reminder, the verifier will inform the Secretariat of the DIN EPD programme in writing, whereupon the process can be stopped. The EPD owner will be notified.

Within four weeks of submission of the complete documentation, the verifier will provide feedback directly to the EPD owner. Otherwise, the Programme secretariat can commission another verifier. Subsequently, unanswered questions should be clarified and any necessary adjustments made to the EPD. The EPD owner is obliged to respond to the feedback within four to six weeks. Otherwise, the verification can be discontinued. In this case, the EPD owner shall bear the costs incurred up to that point.

The deadlines mentioned above for feedback from verifiers and EPD owners also apply to any second correction loop required during verification.

Verification shall be limited to a total of two correction loops; changes can be approved by the Secretariat of the DIN EPD programme. Unless otherwise agreed, the EPD owner shall bear the costs of any further correction loops.

With regard to all deadlines mentioned in this section, the following applies: changes to response times are possible in consultation with the Programme secretariat, e.g. over Christmas and during holiday periods or in other justified cases. If the EPD does not meet requirements, the verifier will inform the Programme secretariat and provide justification. The Programme secretariat checks this information and decides whether the EPD is to be deemed unverifiable. In this case, it will not be published and the EPD owner will be informed.

If verification is successful, the verifier submits the verified documents and the verification report to the Secretariat of the DIN EPD programme. The Programme secretariat then initiates the final review and confirms the positive assessment within 14 days. If the Programme secretariat reaches a negative assessment and has further questions or comments, the verifiers and EPD owners can make corrections.

Once verification has been completed and the EPD has been finalized, the Programme secretariat assigns a document number to the EPD, issues the corresponding logo and validity (see Subsection 5.5. Validity of an EPD) and publishes the EPD on the DIN EPD programme website. The verifier confirms successful verification with their signature.

If new information subsequently comes to light that significantly affects the verification, the Programme secretariat will check whether it has to be withdrawn and will inform the EPD owner accordingly. The Secretariat of the DIN EPD programme of the DIN EPD programme may use a technical translation agency to translate EPDs into other languages after verification. Both language versions are deemed verified.

5.5. Validity of an EPD

An EPD is valid after successful verification and approval by the Programme secretariat. The reference is the version date of the document.

The validity period is generally five years. Shorter validity periods are also permitted, for example if decided by the EPD owner or in the case of methodological pilots for EPDs. The Secretariat of the DIN EPD programme shall approve the justification. It can decide to shorten the validity period, for example if certificates are only valid for one year, as is often the case with green electricity. At the end of the validity period, re-verification is required. The process for annual internal monitoring is intended to ensure that the EPD is up to date during its period of validity. The internal monitoring process is initiated by the Programme secretariat and carried out by the EPD owner. The EPD owner is obliged to provide the Programme secretariat with information on annual monitoring, see also Chapter 5.8. Updating an EPD.

The publication of a new version of the PCR or the Programme instructions has no influence on the validity of EPDs that have already been published. Changes to PCR rules shall be implemented after an appropriate transition period.

5.6. Publication of an EPD

Following completion of the EPD documentation by the EPD owner and after it has been successfully verified, the Programme secretariat registers the EPD in the DIN EPD programme. An EPD is published as soon as possible and no later than within 30 days.

The publication of EPDs follows a dedicated standard that ensures the formal coherence, scientific neutrality and international connectivity of the DIN EPD programme. The aim is to ensure the comparability of EPDs not only at data level, but also in terms of document structure and visual presentation. The use of verified extracts (e.g. PCF) is subject to the same conditions as the EPD.

The publication standard of the DIN EPD programme includes the following points:

Structural and visual neutrality

To avoid misinterpretation of environmental performance due to differing graphical emphasis, each publication follows a defined structural scheme. The essential key points include:

- → **information architecture:** by specifying placeholders and data fields, it is ensured that information can be found in the same place in all Environmental Product Declarations. This reduces barriers to manual and system-based data evaluation.
- → **visual integrity:** the scientific statement of an Environmental Product Declaration and the quality of the verified data are the most important assets of every Environmental Product Declaration in the DIN EPD programme and are reflected in the visual guidelines of the DIN Group. To ensure objectivity,

the typography, colour scheme and layout of the Environmental Product Declaration are predefined. For product and company presentation, each EPD owner is allocated the same designated area within the Environmental Product Declaration. Individual design by the EPD owner that goes beyond the designated areas is not possible.

→ **accessibility:** Environmental Product Declarations are published as accessible documents in order to guarantee unrestricted access to environmental product information for all market participants.

Internationalization and language

While the DIN EPD programme operates in a clearly international context, particularly within the EU, it also has a strong national dimension. Each Environmental Product Declaration is published in two languages, in German and English. Translation of EPDs into additional languages is supported. All language versions translated by the Sprachendienst (language service) at DIN Media are deemed to be verified.

Data formats

Environmental Product Declarations are published at least in PDF format. Publication in other formats is possible, provided that the content does not differ between formats.

To support the ongoing digital transformation of Environmental Product Declarations and expand it to other sectors, we aim to provide additional, particularly machine-readable, formats.

Product-specific extracts (Product Carbon Footprint)

In addition to the complete Environmental Product Declaration, a separate PCF extract can be provided by the Programme secretariat. As the PCF serves as the primary environmental indicator in many sectors, this extract enables low-threshold communication of the environmental impact on the valid scientific basis of the EPD. For further details, see 5.7. Reporting on individual environmental performance results.

Extracts of other indicators can be published as methodological pilots within the DIN EPD programme.

Publication location

The DIN Media webshop serves as the location where the DIN EPD programme publishes EPDs and PCRs.

Publication rights

EPDs developed within the DIN EPD programme may only be published in the DIN EPD programme. DIN Media holds the exclusive publication rights. Publication elsewhere by the EPD owner or by third parties is not permitted. Independent hosting of EPDs, regardless of the format, is not permitted.

Use by the EPD owner

EPD owners are entitled to use their Environmental Product Declarations and their extracts for their own communication. The integrity of the source shall be observed. To ensure that the information is up to date and revision-proof, use should preferably take the form of a direct link to the publication platform of the DIN EPD programme and, if necessary, directly to the

relevant document. Direct transmission of EPDs to third parties (e.g. in the context of tenders) is permitted where direct linking is not possible, provided that the EPD owner ensures that the version used is the valid version at the time of transmission.

Publication of EPDs in other EPD programmes

EPDs developed within the DIN EPD programme are intended to be published only within the DIN EPD programme. DIN Media holds the exclusive publication rights. EPDs may only be published and made publicly available elsewhere or on other platforms of DIN EPD programmes with the express permission of the Programme secretariat. In the case of an MRA, other programmes can also refer to EPDs in the DIN EPD programme. If EPDs are published elsewhere, the DIN EPD programme website and the latest version of the EPD shall be referenced. The valid main document of the EPD is always the one published by the DIN EPD programme. The aim is to ensure that all interested parties always have access to the current version of the EPD and to avoid version conflicts.

Withdrawal of EPDs

When an EPD is withdrawn, it means that it is no longer publicly available on the DIN EPD Programme website. Reasons for withdrawal can include:

- the EPD owner not complying with the conditions, or
- the EPD contains errors that are not corrected by the EPD owner within a reasonable period of time.

Withdrawn EPDs are deemed invalid and may no longer be used, even if the validity period specified in the EPD has not yet expired. Withdrawn EPDs can be republished by the Programme secretariat if the reasons for the withdrawal have been resolved.

If the validity period has expired and the EPD is to remain publicly accessible, corresponding costs will be incurred. An EPD can be updated and thus extended within one year of the expiry date. Otherwise, it is to be published as a new EPD.

Handling confidential data

EPDs should not contain confidential business data. Confidential data can be part of the background report. If confidential data is included in specific LCI data from the Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) background report on which an EPD is based, this data is only made available to the verifiers for the purpose of verification, who are contractually obliged to treat the data confidentially. The employees of the Programme secretariat are also obliged to treat the data confidentially.

5.7. Reporting on individual environmental performance results

When an EPD is published, verified PCFs according to DIN EN ISO 14067 can be published upon the EPD owner's request. These are also published on the DIN EPD programme website together with the associated EPD. A PCF may only be published if an EPD is published for the same product. The Secretariat of the DIN EPD programme holds the exclusive publication

rights for the PCFs. When creating the extract, it is essential that it follows the same requirements and processes defined in the respective PCR.

A PCF shall contain at least the following information and is developed by the Secretariat of the DIN EPD programme on the basis of the EPD background report, using the template for EPD and PCF development:

- reference to the underlying EPD (including the document number)
- information about the owner of the document (including contact information)
- information about the product
- information on the life cycle stages covered
- description of the declared or functional unit
- statement on the respective environmental impact based on the corresponding results as specified in the EPD
- declaration on the cover sheet that this is a PCF which does not comply with DIN EN ISO 14025, but follows other reference standards/ documents (e.g. applicable PCR) that require the declaration of a range of indicators
- a statement that: "This Product Carbon Footprint (PCF) addresses only one environmental aspect and does not assess any other environmental aspects of the product"

Any presentation of the results in the PCF shall comply with the rules for presenting these results as set out in the PCR used to develop the underlying EPD. The life cycle stages shall be indicated, whereby the results should be separated by life cycle stage and clearly distinguished. It shall also be clear whether aggregated life cycle results can be presented.

5.8. Updating an EPD

During its period of validity, an EPD shall be reviewed annually by the EPD owner to determine whether any changes are necessary, whether the information provided contains errors, or whether changes in technology or other circumstances have led to the following:

- a deterioration of 10 % or more in the aggregated results across the life cycle stages covered for any of the declared environmental performance indicators, or
- significant changes to the declared product information. A "significant change" has occurred if the function of the product or the manufacturing processes have changed. In addition, significant changes include changes to the manufacturing location, service life, product composition in a group EPD, content declaration (e.g. new material/new substance, modified composition) or additional environmental, social or economic information.
- if there is an improvement of 10 % or more in the aggregated results across the life cycle stages covered for any of the declared environmental performance indicators, the EPD can be updated.
- if the change relates to the LCA model used, an update can be carried out if data is available for a year that corresponds to the standard period for data collection.

Alternatively, the EPD owner can define a suitable procedure in the background report, on the basis of which he/she decides annually whether the changes exceed 10 % or not. This procedure is to be approved by the verifier.

If such changes occur, the EPD owner shall inform the Secretariat of the DIN EPD programme. The Programme secretariat then decides whether the EPD needs to be updated. If, despite the decision of the Programme secretariat, the EPD is not updated by the EPD owner, the EPD shall be withdrawn. If necessary, a new EPD is to be produced. The original language version of the EPD is deemed the reference version.

In case of doubt, the Programme secretariat decides whether a change is voluntary, necessary or significant. It keeps an archive of the old versions of an EPD.

Changes and updates can be carried out as part of the annual monitoring process. An updated EPD shall be verified again, unless only editorial changes have been made. Only the changed information shall be checked by the verifier or the verification body. Correction loops are not planned. The Secretariat of the DIN EPD programme should, if possible, commission the same verifier or the same verification body to conduct re-verification. The EPD is given a new publication date and the revision or change history is shown.

If an updated EPD is successfully verified again, it is given a new validity period based on the new publication date.

5.9. Costs

Depending on the complexity of the product, the publication of EPDs within the DIN EPD programme incurs costs which are to be paid by the EPD owner. Current information on the costs and the general terms and conditions are available on the DIN EPD programme website and on request. Depending on effort, data availability or complexity, additional fees can apply. The costs are reviewed annually and any changes are published. Changes will be communicated well in advance.

6. Management of the DIN EPD programme

6. Management of the DIN EPD programme

For the development and verification of EPDs within the framework of the DIN EPD programme, the following documents in their respective current versions are authoritative:

- the Programme instructions of the DIN EPD programme
- the overarching PCR
- the specific PCR for individual products, if applicable
- the template for EPD and PCF development
- the background report for the EPD

The current version of the Programme instructions is publicly available on the DIN EPD programme website.

The maintenance of the Programme instructions comprises four central areas:

1. Revision and updating of the Programme instructions: after publication of a new version of the Programme instructions, the process-related changes in the DIN EPD system and any new templates should be implemented within 90 days (approximately three months). During this time, the templates and guidance already published remain valid.
2. Development, management and updating of EPDs, the contents of EPDs and the LCA rules: existing EPDs are subject to grandfathering. If the publication of new Programme instructions necessitates the development of new PCRs, changes to EPDs and LCA rules, these changes shall be taken into account when updating the corresponding EPDs. EPD owners can follow newer rules (in the Programme instructions and/or a PCR) even if they verify according to an older PCR, provided that the new rules do not contradict the requirements of the old PCR.
3. EPD verification procedures: if changes to the EPD verification procedure are necessary after publication of new Programme instructions, these should be taken into account for new verifications within 90 days (approximately three months).
4. DIN PCR development, management and updating: if, after publication of a new version of the Programme instructions, changes are required in the process for DIN PCR development, management or content, these changes shall be taken into account in all new DIN PCR developments or updates that are initiated. Information on transition periods between different versions of the Programme instructions will be published on the DIN EPD programme website.

6.1. Updating and version control of the Programme instructions of the DIN EPD programme

Updates to the Programme instructions are implemented by the Programme secretariat. The Programme instructions shall be reviewed at least every four years to determine whether changes are required. In this way, changes in market conditions, regulations or changes in standards and specifications can be reflected.

If necessary, further updates can be implemented at shorter intervals. All updates and the current version of the Programme instructions are made publicly available by the Programme secretariat on the DIN EPD programme website. Technical experts and interested parties should be involved in extensive update processes.

Changes are shown visibly and made traceable in the version history of the Programme instructions.

The impact of changes to the Programme instructions on PCRs and EPDs are to be examined. PCRs and EPDs that were developed in accordance with previous versions of the Programme instructions remain valid. When updating the PCR or EPD, the current version of the Programme instructions shall be taken into account.

6.2. Feedback or complaints

Any interested party can contact the Secretariat of the DIN EPD programme with feedback or complaints regarding EPDs, PCRs or other documents published on the DIN EPD Programme website, regarding verifiers, or concerning decisions made within the framework of the programme.

Such a complaint shall:

- not be submitted anonymously
- contain a clear description of the scope and nature of the complaint
- include a reference to the rule in the Programme instructions, DIN EN ISO 14025, PCR or another reference that is the subject of the complaint
- or provide reference to the specific verification within the framework of the EPD programme.

The Programme secretariat should respond to complaints promptly and take action.

The costs of a complaint are borne by the complaining organization.

Complaint concerning an EPD

The Programme secretariat can remove the document in question from the DIN EPD programme website temporarily, or for the entire duration of the investigation until corrective action has been completed by the document owner. The Programme secretariat can involve the verifier who verified the EPD. It shall first check the background report. If the complaint concerns a serious contradiction between the EPD and the Programme instructions and no corrective measures are taken, or are not taken within the agreed period, the EPD can be permanently removed from publication and archived by the Programme secretariat. It thereby loses its validity.

If the complaint is directed against the decision of an independent verifier or against the Programme secretariat, the Legal Department of the DIN Group will be consulted for clarification. In the event that the final decision by the DIN Group is not acceptable to the objector or complainant, or if no agreement is reached, the objector or complainant can pursue legal action.

If a manufacturer objects to the withdrawal of an EPD announced by the Programme secretariat, which would mean that it can no longer be used, the manufacturer will be given the opportunity to present their position. A hearing will not take place if the reason for declaring the EPD invalid is the expiry of its period of validity. The Programme secretariat will make a final decision on the matter after taking note of the objection.

Complaint concerning a PCR

Complaints regarding a PCR shall be examined by the Programme secretariat. It can consult the DIN PCR consortium or standards committee/body that developed the PCR. The Programme secretariat shall then present the complaint to the PCR review panel. The PCR review panel can recommend to the Consortium or standards committee/body that the PCR be amended. The PCR review panel can withdraw the approval/

adoption of a PCR in the DIN EPD system or dismiss the complaint. The complainant shall receive a written response.

Complaint regarding the approval of verifiers or verification bodies

In the event that the application for approval of a verifier or recognition of a verifying body has been rejected, the applicant can resubmit an application after a period of twelve months from the date on which the decision was communicated. An exception to this period can be decided by the Programme secretariat. Feedback or complaints regarding the approval of individual verifiers or recognition of verification bodies are to be addressed to the Programme secretariat.

6.3. Prevention of misuse

Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs) from the DIN EPD programme and the corresponding logo may only be used in accordance with the terms of use. The terms of use are available on the DIN EPD programme website.

The EPD logo from the DIN EPD programme is to be used exclusively by the Programme secretariat, it is not an Ecolabel according to DIN EN ISO 14024 and shall not be used in any way that could lead to confusion.

6.4. Mutual recognition with other programmes

The DIN Group may maintain Multilateral Recognition Agreement (MRAs) with other EPD programmes. These allow PCRs from other programme operators to be adopted or EPDs to be published in parallel. MRAs contain at least the following:

1. the scope of mutual recognition (e.g. restriction to certain product categories or EPDs)
2. the structure of the licence fees
3. procedures for harmonization of PCRs and DIN PCR development
4. procedures for review/verification
5. procedures for the registration, publication and updating of EPDs
6. procedures for ensuring that mutual recognition is maintained
7. procedures for processes and claims upon termination of the MRA.

An MRA does not necessarily mean that the EPDs of different programmes are comparable. However, the aim is to harmonize the rules of the DIN EPD programme with other PCR developers to ensure the comparability of EPDs whenever appropriate and necessary.

The use of the logo of another programme depends on the respective conditions and the respective MRA.

The list of current MRAs is available on the DIN EPD programme website.

6.5. Language

The reference language of the DIN EPD programme is English. All important documents of the DIN EPD programme are made available in English and German and translated into other languages, if necessary. In the event of discrepancies between the versions, the English version shall prevail.

Terms, definitions and abbreviated terms

EPD	Environmental Product Declaration (EPD)
LCA	Life Cycle Assessment
MRA	Mutual and/or Multilateral Recognition Agreement
PCF	Product Carbon Footprint
PCR	Product Category Rule
GHG emissions	greenhouse gas emissions
Secretariat of the DIN EPD programme	The Programme secretariat manages the DIN EPD programme and is responsible for the operation and administration of the programme, the development and recognition of (DIN) PCRs and EPDs, the verification processes, public relations work and customer support.
EPD owner	The respective manufacturer or the respective manufacturer group, the EPD owner, develops and subsequently updates the EPD. An EPD owner can be a producer (for EPDs of goods), a service provider (for EPDs of services), a retailer (e.g. a retailer or wholesaler) or a trade/industry association.
Verification body	Verification body recognized by the Secretariat of the DIN EPD programme that assigns internal verifiers to an EPD in accordance with the requirements of the DIN EPD programme and ensures that they are qualified for the task.
Verifiers	Verifiers check the EPDs and PCFs, and ensure that they comply with the requirements of the PCR, the general Life Cycle Assessment, DIN EN ISO 14025 and the Programme instructions of the DIN EPD programme. They also check that the EPD is valid, scientifically sound, plausible and representative. The DIN EPD programme regulates the approval of verification bodies by the Programme secretariat.
Independent verifier	Independent verifiers can be approved by the Secretariat of the DIN EPD programme for the verification of EPDs in the DIN EPD programme. The DIN EPD programme regulates the approval of independent verifiers by the Secretariat of the DIN EPD programme.
Open consultation	Phase of four weeks in which the DIN PCR can be commented on.
DIN PCR consortium	DIN PCR consortia are established to develop new DIN PCRs. A DIN PCR consortium appoints a consortium leader after its foundation. The DIN PCR consortium ensures that the DIN PCR is developed in accordance with the requirements of the Programme instructions of the DIN EPD programme and the template for DIN PCR development.

Version history

Date changed	Version number	Changes
07/10/2025	Draft	Draft for public comment
31/03/2026	1.0	For use

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