

Date: July 2026

Product Embodied Carbon and EPDs

Product environmental data (PED) is a significant and evolving challenge that requires a coherent, policy-led framework supported by cross-sector alignment.

As identified in recent government research, product environmental data (PED) requests based on existing methodologies, including, but not limited to, Product Carbon Footprints (PCF), Product Environmental Profiles (PEP), TM65 and Environmental Product Declarations (EPD), are often inconsistent and not directly comparable, and do not always accommodate the diversity of energy infrastructure products on the market.

As PED requests expand, this inconsistency creates a fragmented landscape where approaches vary in scope, precision and market recognition.

This introduces competitive risk for manufacturers operating within the PED landscape, inconsistent market expectations, and uneven demands for environmental evidence across organisations, sectors, and geographies. Data use and analysis are further limited by uncertainty on emissions factor databases, information formats and communication, what can be disclosed and what is considered acceptable.

Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs) are often presented as part of the solution within this emerging landscape.

For many members, the creation of an EPD does not fully address all of these challenges, and by their very nature, EPDs are not well-suited to very broad product families and complex assemblies and supply chains. In addition, manufacturers are required to respond to a range of different formats and frameworks that can be fulfilled using varying assumptions, system boundaries and levels of detail. This creates inconsistency in both the assessment and interpretation of results.

There is a clear need for greater alignment in how PED is requested, assessed and used, supported by a clear and consistent policy framework.

Coordinated guidance, developed in collaboration with industry and underpinned by recognised cross-sector standards, can support consistent interpretation and effective implementation of the emerging policy framework. This would reduce duplication, improve data credibility and support a level playing field, enabling more scalable and proportionate approaches.

With a whole supply chain focus, BEAMA's Technical Sustainability Committee is well-positioned to support the development and implementation of PED alignment work, including the voluntary Embodied Emissions Reporting Framework, building upon our Product Carbon Initiative and bringing sector expertise to help ensure consistency and effective use of existing standards for life cycle information which support UK manufacturing and supply chains.