

An introduction to PEPs (Product Environmental Profile)

A **PRODUCT ENVIRONMENTAL PROFILE** is a comprehensive environmental assessment that provides detailed information about the environmental impact of a particular product or product range throughout its entire life cycle.

The environmental information included in a PEP covers all the stages of the lifecycle, typically described as 'cradle to grave', with the lifecycle divided into specific stages ranging from the Manufacturing stage through to the End-of-life stage.

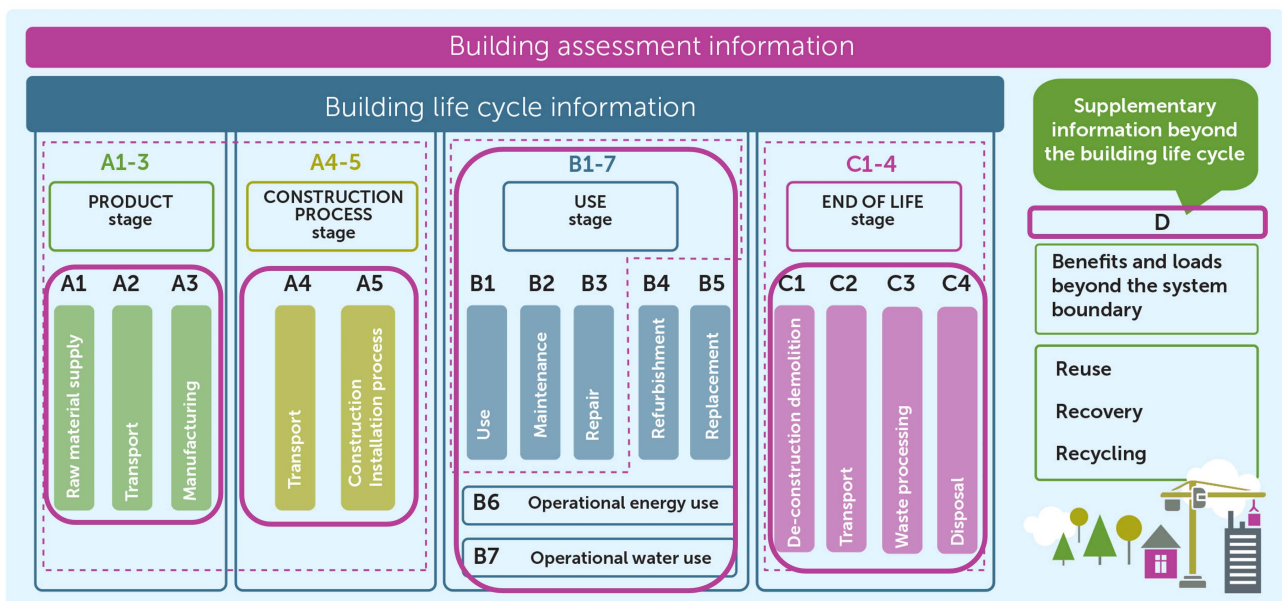
PPEPs also include information relating to reuse, recovery and/or recycling, however the inclusion of this information is optional.

PEPs are considered as Type III Environmental Declarations. This means that they are 3rd party verified in compliance with the ISO 14025 standard, to ensure both consistency and reliability.

The PEP ecopassport® Program is specific to electrical, electronic and HVAC-R equipment used in the construction industry.

PEP ecopassport® is the international programme operator.

A PEP is divided into the following mandatory stages: A1, A2, A3, A4, A5, B1-B7 C1-C4, D



Generally, a PEP will be requested to answer questions regarding embodied carbon. Whereby an EPD is usually product specific, the PEP methodology allows for a system-based PEP.

There is no requirement, or need, to provide other types of environmental declarations if there is a PEP available to cover the product. Overall, a PEP can help enhance brand reputation by allowing for transparency in reporting environmental impacts of a company's products.



There are many benefits involved in producing PEPs, including:

General:

- **Provision of relevant and reliable data** on the environmental impacts of the equipment throughout its life cycle
- **3rd party verified process**, based on transparent and scientifically-validated methods to help clients choose between products
- **Leverage Competitive Advantage** by assessing and communicating the environmental performance of your products which can help to enhance brand reputation and customer loyalty
- **Improvement of Environmental Performance** offers insight into 'problem areas' which can help target strategies to optimise resource use and minimise waste and energy generation
- **Support compliance with upcoming regulatory requirements** for environmental declarations or environmental product labelling
- **Supply Chain Management** can encourage the demand for products with lesser impact on the environment

There are also limitations to a PEP, including:

General:

- **The number of PEPs needs to grow** considerably in order to achieve environmental goals
- **Display of information** can be problematical as there is no universal reporting template which can hinder comparison exercises
- **Cost and time** to implement PEPs within an organisation can be problematical
- **Raising awareness** of the value of PEPs and their position against other environmental declarations

Find out more

BEAMA and our members have joined forces to increase awareness of the complexities of embodied carbon data for MEP (mechanical, electrical, and plumbing) products.

For more information about the Product Carbon Initiative click here.

