

An introduction to EPDs (Environmental Product Declaration)

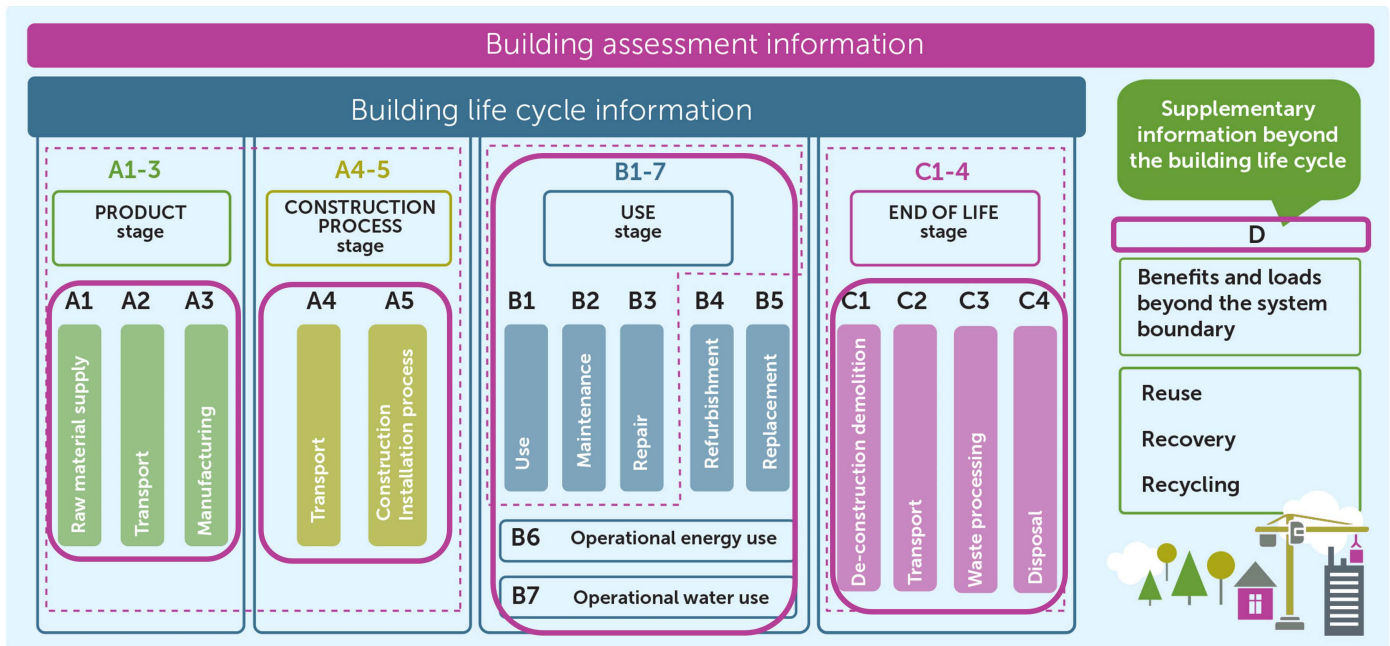
An **ENVIRONMENTAL PRODUCT DECLARATION** (EPD) is a comprehensive report that quantifies environmental information on the life cycle of a product to enable comparisons between products fulfilling the same function.

EPDs are based on life cycle assessment methodologies. This allows for an evaluation of the environmental impacts associated with all the stages of a product's life, typically described as 'cradle to grave'. The lifecycle stages typically include data on the product's raw material extraction, manufacturing processes, transportation, use, and disposal or recycling.

EPDs 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.

EPDs can be developed for a wide range of products across various industries including building materials, consumer products, food & beverages however there are very few EPDs for electrical, electronic and HVAC-R equipment

An EPD is divided into the following stages : A1, A2, A3, A4, A5, B1-B7 C1-C4 , D



Generally, an EPD 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 an EPD available to cover the product. Overall, an EPD 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 EPDs, 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 an EPD, including:

General

- **There is a very limited amount of EPDs available** for electrical, electronic and HVAC-R equipment as the process is not best suited to these products, where a PEP is preferable
- **The amount of information** displayed in a published EPD can be extensive, with some EPDs running in excess of 50 pages
- **Display of information** can be problematical as there is no universal reporting template which can hinder comparison exercises
- **Cost and time** to implement EPDs within an organisation can be problematical
- **Raising awareness** of the value of EPDs 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](#).

