



## EPD FAQs

### Q1. What is an EPD?

A1. An EPD is an independently verified and registered document that communicates transparent and comparable information about the life-cycle **environmental** impact of **products**.

### Q2. What is the purpose of an EPD?

A2. To provide manufacturers with a means of demonstrating their product's sustainability credentials.

### Q3. How does it do this?

A3. By showing the results of a Life Cycle Analysis (LCA) - see attached Appendix A - which details the full ("cradle to grave") environmental impact of all processes involved with the manufacture of a product. This includes extraction and processing of raw materials, transport, all elements of the manufacturing process, dismantling and waste disposal.

### Q4. This sounds like a lot of work - how are administration costs kept down?

A4. By examining only the worst case condition for a given product type (in most instances) and basing the LCA information on this.

### Q5. In that case, the LCA will relate to a particular product. How can this information be applied to widely differing products (with different materials, construction, etc)?

A5. Only weight is considered. LCA data is adjusted to give figures for 1 kg of product which can then be multiplied by the actual weight of product to give accurate figures for that particular product.

### Q6. How representative is the worst case sample?

A6. The worst case sample is determined from the examination of one or more ARGE members' products, taking into account their production processes and market share.

### Q7. How do I interpret the EPD information?

A7. By referring to Section 5 (LCA results) where for each module e.g. assembly (A5), waste processing (C3), figures are given for environmental impact (see examples below), as well as figures for resource use, and output flows and waste categories. Section 6 (Interpretation) shows, in the form of stacked bar chart, how much, in percentage terms, each individual module contributes to overall environmental impact.

**EXAMPLE 1:** Global warming potential of assembling a lock weighing 1.64 kg.

By referring to the environmental impact table in Section 5 of the locks EPD, it can be seen (ref. line 1, column 5) that the global warming potential of assembling 1 kg of

lock product is equivalent to  $6.01E-3$  (or  $0.000601$ ) kg of  $CO_2$ . So, for a 1.64 kg product, the global warming potential is equivalent to  $0.000601 \times 1.64 = 0.000986$  Kg of  $CO_2$ .

**EXAMPLE 2:** Ozone depletion potential of waste processing a door closer weighing 2.36 kg.

By referring to the environmental impact table in Section 5 of the door closers EPD, it can be seen (ref. line 2, column 11) that the ozone depletion potential of waste disposing 1 kg of door closer product is equivalent to  $4.52E-10$  (or  $0.00000000452$ ) kg of CFC11. So, for a 2.36 kg product, the ozone depletion potential is equivalent to  $0.000000001067$  kg of CFC11.

**Q8. How many EPD are available?**

A8. There are 14 EPD, as shown - see attached Appendix B, which are all available to DHF members who are ARGE EPD licence holders

**Q9. Will there be additional EPD?**

A9. The EPD product category list will be periodically reviewed to ensure that it is meeting the market requirements.

**Q10. What is the cost of a EPD?**

A10. The use of an ARGE EPD is ruled for each national territory within the EU by the related National Association. Thus it depends on the certain national sub-licence agreements between the National Association and their members (manufacturers).

**Q11. How will the marketplace accept DHF EPD?**

A11. DHF EPD have been written to comply with the format required by EN 15804. They are managed and verified by an international EPD programme holder, Institut Bauen und Umwelt e.V (IBU), who is a member of the European ECO platform. As such, DHF EPD will be recognised throughout Europe.

**Q12. BRE is the UK leader in green certification. How will BRE view DHF EPD?**

A12. BRE recognise and accept EPD managed by ECO platform member, IBU.

**Q13. What plans do DHF have for helping to promote EPD in the marketplace?**

A13. DHF will undertake an intensive marketing and press relations campaign aimed at builders, specifiers and architects to inform them that our member companies have EPD for their products. This will also include details of the benefits of using a product that is accompanied by an EPD.

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