



A perspective on EPD and the Product Environmental Footprint

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IVL Swedish Environmental Research Institute

- ❶ Independent, owned by a foundation, SIVL
- ❷ Jointly established by the Swedish State and the business sector 1966
- ❸ Our operation span over the entire field of sustainability
- ❹ Consultancy, development and research projects in all main sectors
- ❺ Operating in Europe, Asia, Africa and America
- ❻ Offices in Stockholm, Gothenburg, Malmö and Beijing, China, and have continuously projects and personnel in New Delhi, India
- ❼ 270 employees
- ❽ Subsidiaries; EPD International, BASTA and IVL China




The policy mandate
Background

European Council Conclusions 20 December 2010:

The Council invites the Commission to *“develop a common methodology on the quantitative assessment of environmental impacts of products, throughout their life-cycle, in order to support the assessment and labelling of products”*

2013: EU Commission Communication on Single Market for Green Products

The European Commission proposes the **Product Environmental Footprint** (and OEF) as a common way of measuring environmental performance


The [approach is tested between 2013-2016](#) together with more than 280 volunteering companies and organisations. The aim is to understand the real potential of the methods **before proposing new policies.**



Background to the International EPD System


International EPD® System

- Established in 1998 for communication of LCA results
- “Invented” EPD before ISO 14025 was finalised
- Gave the program the name of Environmental Product Declarations: the abbreviation EPD, and registered the trademark **EPD®** on several markets
- Developed the concept of **PCR (Product Category Rules)** to enable sector specific requirements and to enable harmonisation and alignment within product/service groups




Background to EPD and Product Environmental Footprint

- The ISO TR 14025 on Environmental product declarations was developed from 1993 to 2000
- Global companies such as ABB, Ericsson, IKEA and Electrolux were engaged in EPD
- Early EPDs registered were from e.g. Japan and Italy
- A European common ground for application of ISO 14025 as e.g. EPD has been discussed since 2001
- Product Environmental Footprint for Resource Efficiency and Green Products is a great possibility for EPD – there are just a few challenges

Product Environmental Footprint and Organisational Environmental Footprint Pilots

1st wave of pilots

- Batteries and accumulators
- Decorative paints
- Hot & cold water pipe systems
- Liquid household detergents
- IT equipment
- Metal sheets
- Non-leather shoes
- Photovoltaic electricity generation
- ~~Stationary~~
- Intermediate paper products
- T-shirts
- Uninterrupted power supplies
- Retailer sector
- Copper sector

2nd wave of pilots

- Leather
- Thermal insulation
- Beer
- ~~Coffee~~
- ~~Fish~~
- Dairy products
- Feed
- Meat
- Pet food
- Olive oil
- Pasta
- Wine
- Packed water

The Pilot PEF project involves many stakeholders

112 applications, 22.8% were selected = 27 pilots

Average stakeholders/pilot: 76
Share of non-EU stakeholders: 12%

The EU market is behind the pilots:
73% of pilots have the majority of industry in the lead

1 PEF is used in the monthly transparency report shared by all pilot stakeholder levels

Number of pilot meetings: 1081

Public Administrations: DE, SE, FR, ES, PL, PT, CA, CN, EL, KR, NO

Stakeholders (27 pilots):
377 individual stakeholders (2048 participations)
338 leading stakeholders in 27 pilots

Sectoral associations: 22.2%

SMEs: 22.9%

Many are watching:
14,157 unique visitors to the PEF pilot site have looked off
They have viewed it 248,050 times
Our webrepresenting tool had 20,956 views
Average of new stakeholders registering/day: 8

Governance for PEF in EU and Nordic countries

Nordic Countries
NEF Group
Sweden:
EF Expert group
Swedish Life Cycle Center
EPA
Companies
Institutes

Governance

Steering Committee

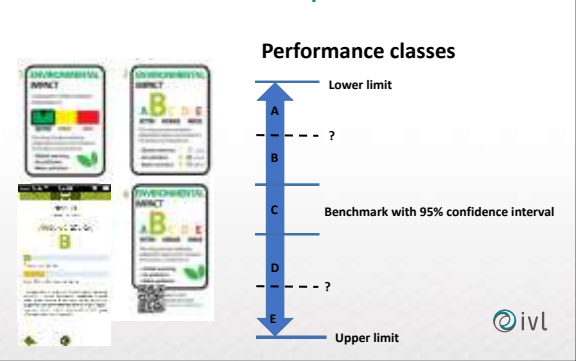
- PEF representation
- Coordination
- Representation of all pilot stakeholder groups
- Agreement, monitoring and conflict resolution

Task Force 1, Task Force 2, Task Force 3, IT Technical Support

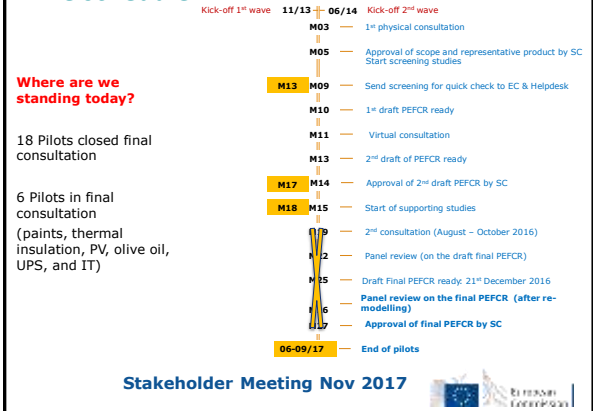
A challenge for the discussion has been that the policy applications are discussed after 2017



Possible simplified way to communicate PEF Performance classes as compared to benchmark

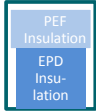


Time schedule

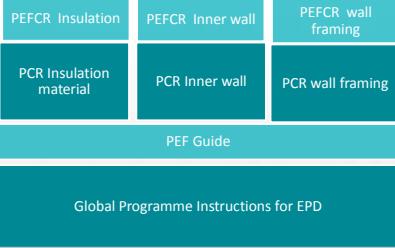


The Steering Committee and the Technical Advisory Board decides the requirements for the PEF pilots

How can EPD be applied when PEF-compliance is needed? (e.g if PEF compliance will be required for GPP)



Example: The **PEF EPD for insulation** is calculated based on PEFCR allocation rules and fulfilling DQR, cut off rules etc. **The communication formats, performance classes and comparison to benchmark are added to the EPD format**



- Add DQR,
- Adapt allocation,
- Add impact categories
-



Possible PEF - EPD Harmonisation

Aspects	EPD today	PEF today
Communication formats	Quantified, B to B	EPD, also more simplified for BtoC
Comparability/Benchmark/Granularity of scope	Comparability within defined Product Category	Benchmark to European average product
Application for GPP	Already in use, use phase based on scenarios	Similar to EPD
Application for Ecolabelling	Already in use for e.g. certification schemes	Similar to EPD
Application for SMEs	Stepwise procedure, sector collaboration, process module	Similar to B to C, SME tool



Possible PEF - EPD Harmonisation

Aspects	EPD today	PEF today
Geographical scope	Global – EPD International scheme	European market
Mandatory/voluntary	Voluntary	Intended to be mandatory for policy uses
Greening of Europe through policy actions	The harmonised PEF EPD can be applied	PEF EPD can be applied
Product continuous improvement	In use in many sectors/companies	Can be applied



Potential results of PEF EPD Harmonisation – possible trends

- Producers, importers and exporters can continue to use EPD (PEF EPD) in Europe and outside
- Function in focus – important with trends of shorter product cycles, more services, digitalisation, etc
- Increased use of life cycle based third party verified declarations, also B to C
- Environmental performance will be of high importance at procurement and Ecodesign
- Also **SMEs** can apply PEF – PEF IT Tool and app, and modularity where a single process can be declared

Risks:

- Benchmarks may lead to long procurement processes
- We need to check so that steering towards lower PEF do not lead to suboptimisation and greenwash



Recommendation and next step



- Continue to develop and use EPD – it will make you prepared for PEF and coming policies!
- Test “PEF EPD” – e.g. in collaboration projects and discuss with EPD International
- Develop new PEFCRs; “industrial initiatives are welcome and depend on your business case” according to EU COM
- Influence the process through your TAB or through your sector
- TAB will continue during 2017-2018 “transition phase”
- EU Commission will discuss policies with Member States in the SCP IPP group during 2017-2019, as well as programs, program requirement, verification
- Give EPD International feedback on what are the needs!

