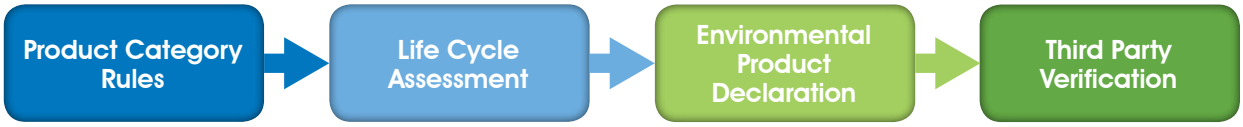
ENVIRONMENTAL PRODUCT DECLARATION (EPD) VERIFICATION

When making purchasing decisions, it is now standard practice to consider the environmental impact of a product. To meet this demand, manufacturers not only need to ensure that their products have environmentally, preferable life-cycle impacts, but also provide the information in a credible and transparent manner.

A primary method used to evaluate the impact of products is through an environmental product declaration (EPD), a standardized report based on a life cycle assessment (LCA) that transparently describes the inputs, manufacturing processes, environmental impacts of a product across its entire life cycle, from cradle to grave.



HOW ARE EPDs USED?

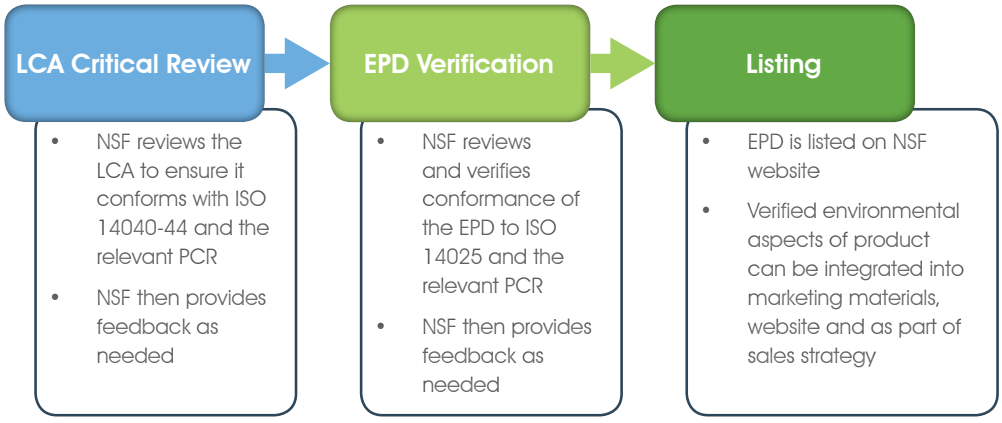
Verified EPDs are Type III Environmental Product Declarations that allow procurement professionals, architects, designers and consumers to objectively compare the environmental impact of a product throughout its full life cycle.

Manufacturers can assess the position of their products in the marketplace and respond to increasing demands for environmentally sustainable products and transparency in environmental claims.

EPDs may help building projects qualify for points through the LEED v4 in criteria for the Materials and Resources (MR) category (credit Building product disclosure and optimization - *environmental product declarations) and the International Green Construction Code*. EPDs are also increasingly required in international markets for consumer and commercial products.

THIRD-PARTY VERIFICATION

Whether looking to have a newly developed EPD verified, or transfer the verification of an existing EPD, NSF can help.



PCR DEVELOPMENT

Before an EPD can be developed, a product category rule (PCR) must be written. A PCR sets the basis for measurement of different environmental product attributes among products in a specific category. As an American National Standards Institute (ANSI) eligible program operator, NSF's National Center for Sustainability Standards can guide industries, trade organizations or individual companies through an ISO 14025-compliant process to develop a PCR for their product categories. Numerous PCRs exist for products throughout the construction, furniture, textiles, apparel and automotive industries, among others.

PRODUCTS WITH EPDs

NSF has verified EPD's numerous types of products, including interior and exterior coatings, broadloom and modular carpet, concrete and pavers, single ply roofing, flooring, countertops and thermal insulation.

EPDs AND LEEDV4.1

LEEDv4.1 was launched in December 2018 for beta project use. The updated MR Credit: *Building product disclosure and optimization—environmental product declarations* has numerous pathways for companies to earn additional points for beginning to optimize their products and reduce life cycle impacts through LCA & EPDs.

- **EPD Action Plan**: The manufacturer writes a product-specific (as defined by PCR) action plan to reduce life cycle impacts, which includes a description of the LCA, identification of the largest impact areas and those targeted for reduction, the steps to be taken and a timeline for completion.

- **EPD Optimization**: EPD Optimization (or Life Cycle Impact Reductions in Embodied Carbon) involves demonstrating a reduction in global warming potential (GWP) through either two verified LCAs or two verified EPDs for comparison for a specific product. This comparative analysis shows the decisions and actions taken to reduce GWP impacts, validation period and type of assessment methodology for the LCAs/EPDs, and additional LCA development details. An NSF life cycle expert critically reviews documents. There are three options to earn LEED points through this option and is ideal for clients renewing an EPD (since one is needed for comparison).

- **Chemical Action Plan**: A product-specific plan that includes a description of the screening or assessment platform used to complete the screening and analysis as well as a written narrative describing the immediate and long-term actions that will be pursued to reduce hazards.

For more information, please contact: +1.734.769.8010 | sustainability@nsf.org.

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