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SCHEME DOCUMENT

Verification of BRE Global Type III environmental product declaration of construction products to EN 15804:2012+A1:2013 and EN 15804:2012+A2:2019

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# 1. Introduction

This Environmental Product Declaration (EPD) Verification Programme has been established to provide independent, third party verification of EPD for construction products compiled in accordance with any of the following:

- BRE Global's: Product Category Rules (PCR) for Type III environmental product declaration of construction products to EN 15804:2012+A1:2013 and EN 15804:2012+A2:2019.
- Product Category Rules (PCR) developed for specific construction product(s) in accordance with the requirements of ISO 14025:2010, EN 15804:2012+A1:2013 and EN 15804:2012+A2:2019, subject to PCR validity
- From a Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) tool compliant to the requirements of EN 15804:2012+A1:2013 and EN 15804:2012+A2:2019.
- A LCA study that has been critically reviewed to ensure compliance with the requirements of ISO 14025:2010, EN 15804:2012+A1:2013 and EN 15804:2012+A2:2019 and approved by BRE Global.

This Programme has been designed to ensure that the EPD are in conformance with the referenced Standards.

Following successful verification, the company and product details as well as the EPD will appear on BRE Global's GreenBookLive website ([www.greenbooklive.com](http://www.greenbooklive.com)).

**NOTE:** *This is not a product certification scheme*

## 2. Scope

Construction products EPD are compiled using the results of LCA studies conducted in compliance with the requirements of the applicable Standards (EN 15804:2012+A1:2013, EN 15804:2012+A2:2019 and ISO 14025:2010). The core rules contained in EN 15804:2012+A1:2013 and EN 15804:2012+A2:2019 are typically used to elaborate product category rules for specific construction products, but may also be used directly in the LCA study. EPD may therefore be generated using any of the following:

- the BRE Global PCR to EN 15804:2012+A1:2013 and EN 15804:2012+A2:2019 (PN 514): Product Category Rules for Type III environmental product declaration of construction products to EN 15804:2012+A1:2013 and EN 15804:2012+A2:2019.
- other PCR to EN 15804:2012+A1:2013 and EN 15804:2012+A2:2019 developed under EPD programme operators, other than BRE Global, in conjunction with respective product manufacturers or trade associations
- the core rules contained in EN 15804:2012+A1:2013 and EN 15804:2012+A2:2019 in a critically reviewed LCA study.

An EPD may be of any of the following types: cradle to gate, cradle to gate with modules C&D, cradle to gate with options, or cradle to grave. An EPD is either for a declared unit (e.g. per mass, area, length, volume or item) or for a functional unit (e.g. specific use within a building element) depending on the type of declaration.

This Programme provides verification and listing of EPD compiled as described above in accordance with the requirements of ISO 14025:2010, EN 15804:2012+A1:2013 and EN 15804:2012+A2:2019. The verification of an EPD is open to members of the Programme, see 3. To ensure the transparency of the verification procedure, a report will be generated that documents the verification process. This report will be available to any person upon request, whilst adhering to the obligations of rules for data confidentiality as set out in ISO 14025:2010 clause 8.3 and the BRE Global General Programme Instructions (LP1013).

This Programme allows for the verification of non-construction EPD. Each application to this Programme will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. Following a thorough review of the information submitted to this Programme, a decision will be made as to whether verification of the non-construction EPD can proceed, and the applicant will be informed of the outcome in writing.

### 3. Programme Membership

Programme membership is open to construction product manufacturers and trade associations and interested stakeholders. Joining instructions and relevant membership information are available on BRE Global's GreenBookLive website ([www.greenbooklive.com](http://www.greenbooklive.com)).

#### Benefits of Membership

- Having a company members page on GreenBookLive where the EPD are also listed
- Use of BRE's EPD logo and branding
- Listing of EPD on GreenBookLive
- Access to support and advice on LCA, EPD & BREEAM
- Access to ECO platform\*
- Data/EPD listed within [IMPACT](#)

EPD Owners do not need to have scheme membership to have their EPD listed however they will not receive the benefits listed above, and will be subject to a different fee structure.

More information is available by contacting BRE Global on +44 (0)372 291 2576 or e-mailing [EPD@bregroup.com](mailto:EPD@bregroup.com)

\*ECO Platform is a European Association that is made up of EPD Programme Operators, manufactures and LCA consultants. It's mission is *"to promote and to contribute to the sustainable development, including a low-carbon economy and resource efficiency in the construction sector, by coordinating the development and provision of credible and scientifically correct data from products."* For more information please see [Home - Eco Platform en \(eco-platform.org\)](http://eco-platform.org)

## 4. Application for verification of an EPD

To apply for verification of an EPD, members of the Programme shall complete Application Form BF1324 and return it to BRE Global. On receipt, all applications are checked for eligibility and completeness. A proposal is prepared which includes the scope of verification and all of the fees for the review and reporting. For a list of fees, please see Fee Sheet FS068 available from BRE Global Ltd.

All proposals and contracts are subject to BRE Global's Standard Terms and Conditions as detailed in TC212(A). If the member is content to continue the verification processes on receipt of the proposal, the declaration section with the verification proposal should be signed and returned to BRE Global to enable the process to continue.

For more information or help with your application contact BRE Global on Telephone number +44 (0) 3372 291 2576.

## 5. The Verification Process

### Application and proposal

As detailed above, the process starts with the completion of our application form followed by a proposal document for the verification of an EPD. The proposal will give the full breakdown of costs, options and obligations under the Programme.

### Data to be submitted for verification by member

#### *A: LCA Background Report*

We ask for the LCA background report containing the following data required for the verification process to be sent to us for a desk top evaluation.

- General information
- Goal and intended application
- Unit of assessment (functional / declared unit)
- Detailed product description (composition, technical specification) including process flow diagram
- Description of system boundaries (modules assessed)
- Criteria for exclusion of inputs and outputs
- Data selection and quality requirements
- Development of product level scenarios
- Data collection and calculation process
- Allocation procedure
- Mass balance and assignment of life cycle data to datasets of an LCA-software
- LCIA<sup>1</sup> results per modules or unit processes, e.g. structured according to life cycle stages.
- LCIA results per production plant/product if generic data is declared from several plants or for a range of similar products.

#### *B: Completed Draft BRE Global EPD Template*

The EPD template (BF1805) is provided to the member directly by the Programme. This should be completed and submitted to BRE Global for verification along with the LCA background report.

#### *C: Additional Information*

We ask that any other information not already provided in the LCA background report but considered necessary to aid of the verification of the EPD is also submitted to BRE Global as additional information.

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<sup>1</sup> Life Cycle Impact Assessment

### Verification of EPD

A BRE Global appointed Verifier will review the submissions to confirm conformance of the LCA background report and the resulting EPD with the requirements of ISO 14025:2010,

EN 15804:2012+A1:2013 and EN 15804:2012+A2:2019, using BRE Global Verification Checklist (BF1325A1 or BF1325A2).

Where there are areas of non-conformance or queries, the EPD is returned to the scheme member for corrective action and/or response to the queries. Following this the scheme member is required to resubmit to BRE Global for verification.

This Programme allows for two rounds of verification. The initial verification and then one further round for any further non-conformances or queries that are raised by the verifier.

Should further rounds of verification be required these will incur additional charges.

### Deliverables to the Member (EPD owner)

Following successful verification:

- Verified EPD
- Completed Verification checklist
- Entry onto BRE Global's GreenBookLive website ([www.greenbooklive.com](http://www.greenbooklive.com))
- Entry onto the ECO Platform website ([www.eco-platform.org](http://www.eco-platform.org))

Appendix 1 provides details of the verification process.

## 6. Validity of the EPD

A verified EPD is valid for a maximum of 5 years from the date of issue, and the EPD listing will be removed from GreenBookLive, and any other listing provided, once the EPD expires. The period of validity for a verified EPD may be extended following either the submission of an extension request to BRE Global or if a verification project is underway following a recalculation of data. Any such request for an extension must be completed before the EPD expiry date.

During the period of validity, a change in the underlying data that is sufficient to generate a change of  $\pm 10\%$  for any one of the declared parameters of the EPD shall be considered significant and in such an instance the EPD shall be recalculated and verified (EN 15804:2012+A1:2013 and

EN 15804:2012+A2:2019, clause 9). This will result in a re-issue of the EPD. Where the underlying data used in the recalculation is entirely from a more recent data period, the expiration of the re-issued EPD shall be extended accordingly. The EPD owner (manufacturer or trade association) is the sole owner and has liability and responsibility for an EPD and therefore shall ensure that BRE Global is notified when the EPD requires recalculation and verification.

See EN 15804:2012+A1:2013 and EN 15804:2012+A2:2019, clause 5.5.

## 7. Extending an EPD

Where a Member of the Programme would like to extend the validity period or scope of their EPD, an application must be made to the Scheme detailing the proposed extension. Where the application fulfils the extension criteria, a proposal document will be produced that will detail the scope and cost of the extension activity. For a list of fees, please see Fee Sheet FS068.

BRE Global will require evidence to support the application for extension and this will be outlined in the proposal document. This evidence will be reviewed to determine if it fully complies with the requirements of the scheme and if it does the EPD will be extended as outlined in the proposal document.

## 8. Mutually Recognised EPDs

The Programme also lists EPDs issued by other Programmes under Mutual Recognition agreements. Such EPDs are identified by a BRE Global recognition cover page and are valid, provided the EPDs issued by the other Programme remain valid.

## 9. Withdrawal of an EPD

During the period of validity, in accordance with ISO 17029:2019, clause 9.8, if a non-conformity with the EPD Programme requirements is substantiated, the EPD owner shall be formally notified by BRE Global and the EPD may be suspended or withdrawn and removed from the GreenBookLive website and any other listing provided by the Programme.

BRE Global implements a suspension and withdrawals procedure for handling cases of non-conformances through its Quality Management System.

## 10. Competence of Personnel

BRE Global approved individuals who have attained the minimum level of competence to perform verifications as required by ISO 14025:2010 Clause 8.2.2 will be appointed as Verifiers at the sole discretion of BRE Global.

## 11. Verification Mark

Once an EPD has been verified, the EPD owner (Programme Member) is entitled to use the verification mark, as directed in the publication *PN321 General Rules and Guidance for the Use of the BRE Global Verification Marks*.

## 12. Complaints and Appeals

BRE Global operates procedures for complaints and appeals. Details of this procedure can be found in the document *XP107 – Complaints and Appeals Procedure*.

## 13. Other supporting documents

In addition to this scheme document and the documents noted in sections 4, 5, 11 and 12, the Programme operates through a number of other BRE Global documents. These are:

- a. *PN514 – PCR for Construction Products EPD to EN 15804*
- b. *LP1013 – General Programme Instructions*

# Appendix 1 – The Verification Process

