

Application form LCA-PRACTITIONERS for PCR panel

Gender:

The titles and functions used in this document apply to all genders

The preparation of general guidelines for the LCA calculation as well as process flows, the preparation of product group-specific PCR documents as well as the verification of EPD documents based on them are carried out within the framework of the EPD programme of Bau EPD GmbH, 1070 Vienna.

The PCR Panel is a scientific body which itself decides on the admission of its members and makes recommendations on this to the management of the conformity assessment body. The system is supported by natural, individual persons who can be listed as simple PCR panel members with LCA expertise and/or independent verifiers with experience in the verification of LCA projects at Bau-EPD GmbH as programme operator. Listing is mandatory for verifiers and voluntary for LCA-practitioners. Each person has their own voting rights.

In principle, LCAs can be submitted by EPD clients without involving external LCA experts. Employees of manufacturers' internal LCA departments can also be listed if they are suitably qualified, in order to take part in training courses and workshops. However, they do not have voting rights on the PCR Panel.

Active membership of the PCR Panel is recommended for LCA-practitioners who wish to work towards becoming verifiers, but is not mandatory. LCA-practitioners can participate in verifications on a voluntary basis; if they have sufficient experience, a verification can be carried out under the supervision of an experienced second verifier.

In order to guarantee the independence of the verification, a verifier shall not work for the same institution that prepared the LCA. Verification is carried out according to the four-eyes principle, whereby the two verifiers shall not belong to the same institution.

The procedure of accreditation, auditing and quality assurance of the registered PCR Panel members and verifiers is carried out under the auspices of the programme operator and the PCR Panel itself.

1 Qualification criteria and competence requirements

A LCA practitioner registered for the PCR panel shall meet the following qualification criteria and competence requirements:

1. Knowledge of relevant standards in the fields of LCA (ISO 14040-14044) and EPD (ISO 14025, EN 15804, ISO 21930)
2. Knowledge of the relevant regulatory framework for the concept of EPD creation
3. Knowledge of relevant construction sector, product and product-related environmental aspects
4. Process and product knowledge of the product category
5. Knowledge of type III EPD programmes, with special focus on the program rules of the EPD Programme for which the LCA practitioner is working for, including the ECO Platform rules (as implemented in the EPD Program)
6. Fundamental Knowledge of principal methods of LCA of construction materials, practical experience in LCA methodology (for at least 5 years, several LCA studies must be documented)

Additional requirements for the work:

7. Documentation of regular and up-to-date advanced training concerning the special sectors of qualification.
8. Communication within the program – based on information coordinated or provided by the ECO Platform, if available - about new developments in EPD standards (especially from CEN TC (product-) groups – i.e. CEN TC 350, CENT TC 351...) to verifiers, to ensure that the knowledge is up-to-date.

2 Evidence, documentation of experience

The applying LCA-practitioner shall provide the programme operator with the following documentation, so that a decision can be made on admission to the PKR Panel:

1. a CV and supporting documents stating compliance with the prescribed qualifications above
2. experiences in the field of LCA/environmental declarations,
3. assignments of similar tasks of verification of LCA and environmental declarations relevant references, as appropriate.
4. Equivalent documents and experience to issue 1.-3. can be audited individually and may be also be approved.

I hereby apply for admission to the PCR Panel in the frame of the Austrian EPD Programme and confirm the correctness and completeness of the documentation attached.

Name:	
Institution/Company:	
Telephone:	
E-mail:	
List of documents	

3 Information: DESCRIPTION OF THE JOB PROFILE FOR LCA-PRACTITIONERS

Job description of LCA-practitioners (Information for independent verifiers, description of interface, LCA-practitioners can work in-house for EPD clients or can be brought in as external consultants):

The content of contracts/employment relationships between the clients (manufacturers of construction materials) and the LCA-practitioners is neither defined by nor influenced or recognized by Bau EPD GmbH. Bau EPD provides a text template as a basis for manufacturers that should be adapted according to the project scope and discussed with LCA-practitioners - BAU EPD M-DOCUMENT 2: Requirements on LCA and EPD – text template.

It is recommended to take up the following descriptions of the job profile as parts of the service into the contracts with manufacturers:

The following tasks are to carry out by LCA-practitioners to complete an EPD project for Bau EPD GmbH:

- 1) The LCA-practitioner must give recommendations regarding number and kind of datasets to be created. The datasets must be usable on building level and databases for construction materials and be accepted by the required user applications. For that the process flow described in this document must be executed.*
- 2) The collection sheets for inventory data should be provided and explained to the manufacturers. The manufacturer must provide all necessary data and facts for creation of the LCA model. For this a documentation form is to fill – it is recommended that such templates are provided by the LCA-practitioner. The data collection forms must be accessible for the verifiers and management of Bau EPD GmbH, whereas non-disclosure agreements have to be signed by all project members. All stakeholders must archive the data for at least 10 years.*
- 3) The LCA-practitioner creates the LCA study based on the current PCR corresponding to the product group under study (Product category rules, these are the MS-HB, all applicable documents and PCR B documents). The LCA-practitioner produces a project report based on the calculations as well as the EPD document to be published. In doing so, the minimum requirements on content and format defined by Bau EPD GmbH must be delivered and format templates must be used. It is the LCA-practitioner's choice to use Bau EPD M-DOCUMENT-13-project report template, but it is mandatory to use BAU EPD M-DOCUMENT-14 EPD template. In any case the verifier must receive a data collection paper, inventory analysis, project report with all assumptions and remarks and the EPD document. The LCA-practitioner may decide if the inventory analysis is integrated into the project report or provided in a second file. Anyway, double information shall be avoided. As evidence screenshots from software programmes can be delivered (in representative types and numbers). In addition, each verifier must get access to the software programmes to ask for details and to be able to confirm statements.*
- 4) The background database used by the LCA-practitioner as well as the software and versions of it must be declared in the EPD document as well as in the project report. The use of complementary data sets from different data bases (different sources) shall be justified. The LCA-method must be indicated.*
- 5) A transfer of result data into the document BAU EPD M-Document 8: Excel-file for electronic data transfer is to complete to enable the digital transfer of data to user applications.*

4 VERIFICATION PROCESS, interface information: job profile independent verifier

After signing contracts with Bau EPD GmbH and LCA-practitioner (in rare cases a declaration owner may wish to calculate the LCA by himself and will not contract external consultants, in some cases there may be a co-production or consortium of experts to do so) a team of two verifiers is suggested by Bau EPD GmbH. The first suggestion can be rejected by the client, the second one must be accepted.

Fees for verification and declaration/publication will be calculated based on the fee regulation and must be paid in advance.

The client/the LCA-practitioner working for the client will be informed in writing as soon as data packages can be delivered to verifiers.

The verifiers are engaged to do a pre-check of the project report and documents if the dossier is verifiable. If the verifiability is not given, i.e. in case of incompleteness or other lacks, the document is sent back to the LCA-practitioners. They have a one-time chance to complete the documents and prepare again for verification.

If a normal verification is still not possible after the first return flow, the process of verification is stopped and costs that have been arising must be paid by the owner of the declaration (1.000,00 € max.). The owner of the declaration, the LCA-practitioners and Bau EPD GmbH will get a note from the verifiers with a statement, why the EPD documentation is not verifiable. After that, the process of verification starts again.

A new verification can only start if the stopped verification round is paid. After that, the whole process of verification starts from the beginning. The costs are the same as agreed on with the client in the contract. After successful verification, the EPD document is checked and lectured again by Bau EPD GmbH and then released.

The verification reports must be delivered following BAU EPD M-Document 19- template verification report including checklist for verification and BAU EPD M-Document 19a template verification report additional comments in the current version. This is mandatory for first reports, intermediate reports and final reports.

The EPD document(s) and project report including the inventory analysis must be sent by one of the two verifiers after completion of the joint verification process. Bau EPD GmbH will care for the editing and publication.

The LCA-practitioners must create the BAU EPD M-Document 8: Excel-file for electronic data transfer.

5 WORKSHOPS AND FURTHER EDUCATION

All members of the PCR panel are advised to participate in meetings, workshops and information events organised by Bau EPD GmbH and the PCR advisory board. These workshops are the basis for quality assurance and offer good occasions for mutual exchange of experiences on national and international level. Furthermore, these joint events serve for finding and representing a joint (Austrian) position in discussions with other programme operators and ECO Platform.

6 Process coordination EPD data set and user applications

1) Client is interested in EPD, contacts Bau EPD GmbH and/or external consultant/LCA-practitioner.

In the consulting process the following questions must be sorted out to calculate internal and external costs and project scope for LCA studies and verification (this is a service Bau EPD GmbH can only offer up to a certain level for it is not a consulting institution):

- Which markets shall be “entered” (GaBi-Ecoinvent), market shares and future perspectives
- Which construction products and type of production processes (= system boundaries)
- Average calculations, ranges yes/no
- Number of data sets, number of modules, whereas A1-A3, C resp. D are mandatory, desired user application (mostly Baubook and/or, sometimes EPD are ordered without the intention to transfer the data into user applications)
- Are there any existent data sets in user data banks listed (in OEKOBAUDAT only LCA data is found, in Baubook products can be listed without LCA data) that have to be harmonised?
- Additional requirements from other EPD Programmes must be considered, if mutual recognition is a client’s goal

Description of interface „first information/detailed consulting“: All consulting services with reference to LCA-results and how to improve those, consulting concerning sustainable investments in the sphere of the client, sensitivity analyses, product comparisons, preparation of data for marketing claims etc. are not offered by Bau EPD GmbH. Such services should be carried out actively by the LCA practitioners.

2) Clarifications for filling of tables for data transfer (even if clients do not wish to transfer anything to user applications, the data must be transferred into the ECO Platform EPD Portal and an Excel File is needed for the website of Bau EPD GmbH)

Before starting the work LCA-practitioners have to clarify facts that are important both for OEKOBAUDAT/GaBi and Baubook/ecoinvent:

LCA-practitioners and manufacturers must check if the way data is provided can be used on building level. Not all building LCA schemes calculate with all indicators and/or all modules. In case of (assembled) construction elements it is to clarify, if all components are calculated and declared either in A1-A3 or A4-A5 (mostly in-situ products, see guidance document to EN 15804, CEN TR 16970). A sensible number of datasets with reference to components that have to be added on building level shall result, so a building LCA can be done easily.

Explicitly for baubook:

LCA-practitioner and manufacturer must check if datasets are already displayed in Baubook. It must be compared, if the ordered EPD data sets and the existing products declared in Baubook do correspond!!! (Note: different kind of average calculation must be avoided) If this is not the case, the data sets must be harmonised!

Baubook offers to send overview files of existing data in Excel format.

Based on the number of data sets/EPD documents/project reports Bau EPD GmbH can estimate costs for verification, declaration and publication and annual fees for participation in the programme.

Note: the manufacturer can engage the LCA-practitioner with the following additional tasks:

- 3) Calculation of results for single components and creation of necessary Excel files for data transfer after successful verification.**

The LCA-practitioner calculates the LCA-results, verifiers check and approve, after that the Excel Files can be generated:

Naming of data files as below:

YYYYMMDD_GaBI/Ecoinvent_Company-EPD Nr_short description product.xlsx

Beispiel:

[20140825 Ecoinvent BAU EPD ISOCELL-2014-01 cellulose 65kg_m3 lose material.xlsx](#)

- 4) Verifiers submit the final verification report, project report, EPD documents and Excel files to Bau EPD GmbH**
- 5) LCA-practitioners get the chance to make up with non-conformities, another verification report must be submitted by the verifiers.**
- 6) As soon as all non-conformities are solved positively, the final report without open issues is submitted by the verifiers.**
- 7) Bau EPD does the editing and decides about certification and publishing of the declaration as well as the forwarding of the data for upload in databases for construction materials or other user scenarios**

7 Commitment of supporting the programme

Registered LCA-practitioners commit themselves to an active participation in the programming of Bau EPD GmbH by visiting workshops, meetings of the PCR panel as well as delivering comments and feedback to new and/or adapted documents of the programme.

I have read and agree to the job profile and took note of the „guidelines for the verification report“.

Place:

Date

Signature:

The application and support documentation shall be sent to office@bau-epd.at.

