

ENVIRONMENTAL PRODUCT DECLARATION

Making an EPD (Environmental Product Declaration) requires a major commitment from your company, but also offers plenty of advantages. The principal aim of the Belgian EPD programme (B-EPD) of the FPS Health is to provide interested organisations with a framework for developing and making available EPDs. The programme is applicable to building products that are placed or made available on the market in Belgium or that can be used in buildings on the Belgian territory. We will be pleased to help you further.

Added value for your company

- A B-EPD appears in TOTEM, the Belgian tool allowing architects and designers to calculate the environmental impact of construction products on the building level¹. TOTEM has been approved for the BREEAM certification, an international assessment system for sustainable buildings.
- A better insight in your manufacturing process often involves cost reductions.
- A comprehensive and objective view on the environmental impact of your product is a strong marketing asset.
- It is also a legal obligation when putting an environmental message on your product or its packaging².

What to do in a glimpse

- Send an email to epd@health.fgov.be with information about your company and your product.
- We will give you more practical information, specifically tailored for your product.
- Then, choose by yourself an LCA-expert who will carry out the life cycle assessment and make the EPD. It is often an external partner.
- Achieving an LCA is complex, therefore we demand a verification by an independent person. You will find on www.b-epd.be a list of verifiers who are allowed to do this.
- We make a last verification and ensure a digital signature of your B-EPD.
- Enter the B-EPD in our database.

¹ Presently, TOTEM is working with generic data. As from 2021, it will also use specific data through B-EPD.

² See the RD Environmental messages of 22 May 2014.

Commitment

- You must make a detailed inventory of all your processes.
- Making a B-EPD requires expertise, time, resources and a commitment of the whole company.

Cost

- The cost of a B-EPD is variable and depends, among others, on the complexity of the product and on the number of manufacturing sites.
- Consider between 5,000 and 15,000 euros for an EPD.
- Ask offers to several LCA-consultants, preferably those who already have some experience with the Belgian programme.
- Do not forget to also ask an offer to a verifier.
- We charge an administration fee of approx. 200 euros per EPD.
- Try to include as many products as possible in each EPD. We and your LCA-expert can assist you in this matter.
- Check whether aid measures are available. In Flanders, you can appeal to the 'KMO-portefeuille', in Wallonia special loans (Easy Green) and technology cheques can be obtained and in Brussels, you can contact Innoviris.

Any more questions?

- More information is available on <u>www.b-epd.be.</u>
- The database is available on www.environmentalproductdeclarations.eu.
- One address for all your questions on B-EPD: epd@health.fgov.be
- Questions about TOTEM? helpdesk@totem-building.be



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