

# ECO Guidance Paper Verification

## - Summary –

The ECO Platform EPD Program Operators ensure the following with regard to verification of an ECO EPD according to EN15804:

- 1. Technical and managerial independency of the verifier from the LCA practitioner and EPD owner (manufacturer, client) and reducing the risk of (financial) pressure on the verifier - By**
  - independent 3<sup>rd</sup> party verification according to ISO 14025
  - organising the verification procedure and/or backup for the verifier in a way that limits the risk of pressure or provides solutions in case pressure occurs.
- 2. Qualifications and competence of the verifier with regard to knowledge of and experience in LCA methodology, EPD and construction products – By (cf. clause 8.2.2 ISO 14025)**
  - knowledge of relevant standards in the fields of LCA (ISO 14040-14044) and EPD (ISO 14025, EN 15804, ISO 21930)
  - knowledge of the relevant regulatory framework
  - knowledge of relevant construction sector, product and product-related environmental aspects
  - process and product knowledge of the product category
  - knowledge of the program rules of the EPD Program which the verifier is working for, including the ECO Platform rules (as implemented in the EPD Program)
  - practical experience in LCA methodology
  - 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) to verifiers, to ensure that the knowledge is up-to-date.

NOTE: A verifier could be a single person, a team or an organization. Appointment and registration about the way the verifier team is composed should be transparent to ensure independency from the organization to be verified, and to ensure the right competences.

- 3. An ECO EPD in compliance with EN15804 - By**
  - using a verification checklist based on the ECO checklist, aiming to confirm that the EPD is in compliance with the EN15804 (procedural and methodological), that the EPD reflects the underlying LCA, and ensuring a minimum control on validity and plausibility of LCI-data and technical scenarios
  - having a mechanism/procedure in place to handle disputes and complaints concerning the quality and validity of the EPD

**Each ECO Program Operator is audited according to the ECO Platform audit procedure by other Program Operators in ECO Platform on the above-mentioned issues.**

For this purpose the ECO Program Operators provide an internal<sup>1</sup> dossier to the ECO Platform with:

- program rules (in English)<sup>2</sup>
- evidence that the ECO verification checklist provided in this Guidance Paper serves as basis for verification of ECO EPD

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<sup>1</sup> Not external, as translations should be more official than required for internal audit purposes

<sup>2</sup> To be further specified according to ISO14025, together with ECO Platform Working Group I

- an example ECO EPD and verification report (in English)
- transparency about the way the verifier team is composed for the example ECO EPD, showing the independency of the verifier.

An ECO EPD includes the mandatory subjects stated in EN 15804. An EPD may include additional information, as defined in ISO 14025 and EN 15804, based on national requirements or specific market needs. Additional information shall also be verified if included in the ECO EPD.