

# Addendum for Adapting the IBU PCR Part B for use in North America

## Guidance to the IBU Part B: *Requirements on the EPD for Wall coverings*

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## 1.0 Introduction

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This PCR Addendum was developed following ISO 14025<sup>1</sup>, clause 6.7.1, and provides guidance for EPDs in North America, based on the existing PCR from the Institut Bauen und Umwelt e.V. - PCR Part B: Requirements on the EPD for Wall coverings Version 1.1<sup>2</sup>. This PCR Addendum is a 'living document', and is subject to periodic updates. Please note, this PCR Addendum may be superseded, once a North American-specific Product Category Rule for wall coverings is developed.

This PCR Addendum provides the requirements to adapt the IBU Part B PCR for Wall coverings for use in North America, and includes guidance for:

- conducting the Life Cycle Assessment (LCA), and
- creation of the Environmental Product Declaration (EPD).

The Guidance in this PCR Addendum is not intended to modify the original PCR. Further guidance and requirements are given in IBU's Product Category Rules for Building-Related Products and Services Part A<sup>3</sup> and PCR Part B: Requirements on the EPD for Wall coverings, Version 1.1.

This PCR Addendum was reviewed by LCA expert, Tom Gloria, of Industrial Ecology Consultants, prior to initial publication.

### Scope of validity of this PCR Addendum

The PCR applies to wall coverings made of rigid or flexible vinyl, paper, textiles, and/or glass fiber, including both self-adhesive and non-self-adhesive wall coverings, which may not be declared as an average. Multi-layer wall coverings, with or without specialty finishes, including for both aesthetic and/or performance improvement purposes, are also covered by the PCR. The PCR Addendum provides specific reporting requirements for EPDs in the North American market.

## 2.0 Specific Adaptions to the IBU Part B PCR for Wall coverings

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### Product-group-specific LCA calculation rules from PCR part B

The following provides North American specific guidance to the IBU Part B for Wall coverings. For ease of use, the section numbering below follows the same section number in the Part B.

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<sup>1</sup> ISO 14025: 2006 Environmental labels and declarations – Type III environmental declarations – Principles and Procedures

<sup>2</sup> Institut Bauen und Umwelt e.V., (IBU). PCR Guidance-Texts for Building-Related Products and Services. Part B: Requirements on the EPD for Wall coverings. Version 1.1, 2016, or most current version.

<sup>3</sup> Institut Bauen und Umwelt e.V., (IBU). Product Category Rules for Building-Related Products and Services. Part A: Calculation Rules for the Life Cycle Assessment and Requirements on the Project Report. Version 1.5, 2016, or most current version.

**2.3 Technical Data:** The product specifications and performance to the following standards shall be declared:

- ASTM F1141 / F1141M – 15. Standard Specification for Wall Coverings.  
<https://www.astm.org/Standards/F1141.htm>
- ASTM F793 / F793M – 15. Standard Classification of Wall Coverings by Use Characteristics.  
<https://www.astm.org/Standards/F793.htm>
- ASTM E1740 – 15. Standard Test Method for Determining the Heat Release Rate and Other Fire-Test-Response Characteristics of Wall Covering or Ceiling Covering Composites Using a Cone Calorimeter. <https://www.astm.org/Standards/E1740.htm>

**2.5 Base materials / Ancillary materials:** Materials and substances according to government regulations adversely affecting human health and the environment, in all stages of the life cycle shall be included in the LCA, independent of the cut-off rules. The use of raw materials in manufacture of the wall covering based on the criteria below shall be disclosed, regardless of their amounts:

- a Any material or chemical agent that is required to be disclosed on a product safety data sheet (SDS), material safety data sheet (MSDS), or product safety data sheet (PSDS) as required by OSHA Hazardous Communication Standard<sup>4</sup>, or other applicable national regulation.
- b Any material or chemical agent emitted to the atmosphere subject to the requirements of US EPA regulation<sup>5</sup> including Criteria Air Pollutants and Hazardous Air Pollutants<sup>6</sup> emitted at levels requiring an Air Operating Permit.
- c Any material or chemical agent required to be reported by the toxic release inventory (TRI)<sup>7</sup>.
- d Any material or chemical agent which requires disclosure according to the US EPA including: EPCRA Section 302 Extremely Hazardous Substances (EHSs)<sup>8</sup>, CERCLA Hazardous Substances<sup>9</sup>, EPCRA Section 313 Toxic Chemicals, CAA 112(r) Regulated Chemicals For Accidental Release Prevention<sup>10</sup>.
- e Any waste material or agent meeting the requirements of a RCRA<sup>11</sup> waste (including chemicals listed as a P-listed; K-listed; and U-listed).

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<sup>4</sup> 29 CFR Part 1910, Occupational Safety and Health Standards, Toxic and Hazardous Substances, 1910: 1200, Hazard Communication. [www.gpo.gov](http://www.gpo.gov)

<sup>5</sup> US EPA Clean Air Act 1990 <http://www.epa.gov/airquality>

<sup>6</sup> US EPA criteria and hazardous air pollutants, <http://www.epa.gov/airquality>

<sup>7</sup> US EPA Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) Program <https://www.epa.gov/toxics-release-inventory-tri-program/tri-listed-chemicals>

<sup>8</sup> US EPA Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act 1986. <http://www.epa.gov/oem/content/epcra>

<sup>9</sup> US EPA Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act 1980.

<http://www.epa.gov/superfund/policy/cercla.htm>

<sup>10</sup> US EPA Clean Air Act Section 112(r): Accidental Release Prevention / Risk Management Plan Rule.

<https://www.epa.gov/rmp/fact-sheet-clean-air-act-section-112r-accidental-release-prevention-risk-management-plan-rule>

<sup>11</sup> US EPA Resource Conservation and Recovery Act 1986 <http://www.epa.gov/lawsregs/rcra.html>

- f Any material or chemical agent which requires disclosure according to California State Proposition 65: Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986<sup>12</sup>.
- g Any material or chemical agent which has been identified by the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants<sup>13</sup>.

**2.12 Reference service life:** The RSL must refer to the declared technical and functional quality of the product. It must be established in line with all of the specific rules in the North American product standards and must also take into consideration the ISO 15686-1, -2, -7 and -8 standards. Where information is available for deriving the RSL from North American product standards, such data has priority. If North America and/or U.S. product standards are unavailable, use European standard from IBU PCR.

**2.13 Extraordinary effects:** If relevant, information on fire performance according to the International Code Council (ICC) or the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) shall be included.

**2.15 Disposal:** The possible disposal channels must be indicated, and the assumptions used for the LCA modeling of end-of-life, must be stated. For disposal of products in the U.S., the US EPA Waste disposal statistics should be used to inform the scenario. For regions outside the US, comparable country-specific data should be used. Any deviations from this guidance shall be justified.

**3.5 Background Data:** For modeling the electricity use at a manufacturing facility in the United States, the U.S. EPA eGRID electricity supply mixes should be used, accounting for losses due to transmission and distribution. For regions outside the US, comparable sub-national electricity supply mixes should be used. If this information is not available at a sub-national basis, then an electricity supply mix representative of the country should be used. Any deviations from this guidance shall be justified.

**5. LCA: Results:** Results of the LCA Environmental Impact: TRACI<sup>14</sup> impacts shall be reported to insure a North American context. In addition, to achieve conformance with EN 15804<sup>15</sup>, CML<sup>16</sup> impacts must be reported.

## 8. References:

- Communication formats must be in accordance with the Program Operator's requirements for use in North America.
- Citation shall refer the IBU PCR for Part A and Part B, and this PCR Addendum.

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<sup>12</sup> <https://oehha.ca.gov/proposition-65/proposition-65-list>

<sup>13</sup> Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention, 11-13 Chemin des Anemones – 1219 Châtelaine, Switzerland. <http://www.chm.pops.int>

<sup>14</sup> Tool for the Reduction and Assessment of Chemical and Other Environmental Impacts (TRACI). Dr. Bare, J., <http://www.epa.gov/nrmrl/std/traci/traci.html>.

<sup>15</sup> EN 15804:2012+A1:2013 Sustainability of construction works, Environmental product declarations, Core rules for the product category of construction products

<sup>16</sup> CML 4.1 baseline, from Institute of Environmental Sciences Faculty of Science University of Leiden, Netherlands.