

A photograph of a modern building with a glass facade, partially obscured by lush green foliage in the foreground. Sunlight filters through the trees, creating a bright, airy atmosphere. The image is used as a background for the top half of the page.

Environmental Product Declaration Questions and Answers

Q: WHAT IS AN ENVIRONMENTAL PRODUCT DECLARATION (EPD)?

A: An EPD is a verified report that documents a product's impact on the environment over its life cycle. EPDs are based on data from a holistic life cycle assessment (LCA), which measures greenhouse gas and other emissions, resource use, waste generation, and other impacts. Top uses for EPDs in the construction industry include achieving building certifications, measuring and benchmarking carbon emissions, and meeting regulations (particularly in Europe).

Q: WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF CHOOSING A PRODUCT WITH AN EPD?

A: While there are many benefits of choosing a product with an EPD, we've outlined the top three:

▶ **EPDs empower organizations to lower the environmental impact of their projects.**

Architects, engineers, and designers can compare EPDs and select products that have a lower carbon footprint to make projects more sustainable.

▶ **EPDs reward points toward sustainable building accreditations.**

In many cases, EPDs help projects meet requirements for specific building schemes, including [LEED](#) and [BREEAM](#).

▶ **EPDs are an essential tool for measuring and benchmarking Scope 3 emissions.**

[Scope 3 emissions](#), also called Value Chain emissions, contribute to an organization's overall greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions but originate from assets they don't control or own. EPDs help organizations calculate Scope 3 embodied carbon and comply with GHG Protocol standards.

Q: DOES HAVING AN EPD MEAN A PRODUCT IS MORE ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY THAN OTHER PRODUCTS?

A: No. Instead, an EPD is a declaration of the product's environmental impact so that consumers can make educated, data-driven choices about the products they choose. An EPD empowers consumers to choose products with less environmental impact.

Q: ARE EPDs REQUIRED BY ANY REGULATORY BODIES IN THE U.S. OR EUROPE?

A: In the U.S., EPDs are currently utilized most frequently to achieve green building certifications. However, [several existing and proposed pieces of legislation](#) in Oregon, Minnesota, New York, Colorado, New Jersey, and Washington require EPDs. One example is the [Buy Clean California Act](#) (2017) which requires the submittal of EPDs with successful bids. EPDs will likely be required more frequently in the U.S. over the coming years.

In Europe, EPDs are more widely utilized and required; in fact, a majority of European green building regulations utilize EPDs. Climate impact reduction Initiatives such as the European Union's [Green Deal](#) and [Fit for 55](#) have created higher demand for EPDs.

Q: HOW LONG IS AN EPD VALID?

A: EPDs are valid for five years. The final validity date is stated in the EPD.

Q: HOW ARE EPDs VERIFIED? DO THEY HAVE TO CONFORM TO SPECIFIC STANDARDS?

A: The [International Standardisation Organization \(ISO\)](#) oversees the creation of standards for EPDs. The most widely recognized standard is [ISO 14025](#), Environmental labels and declarations – Type III environmental declarations – principles and procedures. EPDs in conformance will state the standard and reference product category rules (PCR) that have been developed according to the standard. ISO 14025 also requires independent, third-party verification, and EPDs will identify the third-party verifier in the document.

Q: ARE EPDs PRODUCED AND VERIFIED IN ONE COUNTRY ALSO VALID IN OTHERS?

A: Yes, EPDs are valid internationally if they conform to ISO standard 14025. Atkore's EPDs conform to the following ISO standards: 14025, 14040, 14044, 14071, and 21930.

Q: WHERE CAN EPDs BE ACCESSED?

A: Most EPDs can be accessed on manufacturers' websites. Atkore EPDs can be found by visiting Atkore's dedicated [Environmental Product Declaration page](#). EPD databases are also available from organizations such as [Smart EPD](#).



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