

World Ceramic Tiles Forum – EPDs (Environmental Product Declarations)

SPAIN



Voluntary green certification in Spain: EPDs

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I. Ecolabels type III: EPDs



- EPDs are voluntary declarations based on LCA studies that allow disclosure and dissemination of quantified environmental information over the life-cycle of a product.
- Main characteristics:
 - Based on life-cycle assessment
 - Following Product Category Rules (PCRs)
 - Possibility to be verified externally
- An EPD provides reliable, significant, transparent and comparable environmental information that distinguishes a product with a high consideration of the environment.
- Several administrator systems in the World: two in Spain

II. EPDs systems in Spain - DAPs

● DAPcons System

- System administrator: Association of Surveyors, Architects and Construction Engineers of Barcelona (CAATEEB).
- System for construction products only.
- External verification is mandatory.

● GlobalEPD System

- System administrator: Spanish Association for Standardisation and Certification (AENOR).
- Aimed at all business sectors. First sector to join: construction materials industry, which now has public, agreed-upon rules for drafting and verification of declarations in the steel, ceramic coverings, cement and gypsum-based for construction.
- External verification is mandatory.
- AENOR has mutual recognition agreements with the following organisations:
 - EPD International AB (EIAB): operator of the EPD System International Program, with headquarters in Sweden.
 - Institut Bauen und Umwelt e.V.(IBU): operator of the German Program for the construction industry.

III. Ceramic tile sector and EPDs



● DAPcons System:

- ASCER took part on a pilot project, pioneer in Spain, to develop PCRs for ceramic tile products under the DAPcons system, promoted by the Catalanian Regional Administration.
- 11 EPDs of ceramic tiles were registered.

● GlobalEPD System:

- ASCER held the secretariat of the sectorial panel to elaborate PCRs for ceramic tiles.
- ASCER developed a pioneering project in Europe (DAPCER project), which provides a software tool that facilitates ceramic tiles manufacturers to obtain EPDs .
- 27 DAPs of ceramic tiles are registered.

IV. DAPCER project

- The aim of DAPCER project has been to develop an IT tool that allows to obtain Environmental Product Declarations based on both Life-Cycle Assessment sectorial data, and individual parameters of each installation.
- Input data: Environmental Benchmarking of ceramic tile sector. More than 50 Spanish companies participated providing inventory data on the manufacture of their products → reliable data quality and representativeness
- Developed according to the standard EN 15804 (European standard reference for construction products EPDs).
- Versatile tool: can be adapted to particular situations.
- Time and cost minimization.

V. PCRs for ceramic tiles in Spain



Main characteristics of ceramic tiles' PCRs within GlobalEPD System:

- One or more products under the same EPD, grouped according to EN 14411 water absorption level.
- Expression of results: environmental impact weighted by production average, limited by a maximum and a minimum.
- Life-cycle stages:
 - Cradle to gate (only production included).
 - Cradle to grave without options (all stages included).



- OBJECTIVE: GET UNIFIED EUROPEAN RULES TO HARMONIZE CRITERIA FOR OBTAINING EPDs
- Document elaborated within CET.
- Starting point: Spanish PCRs.
- A working group has been created within CEN TC 67 to verify the work done by the European industry and to approve ceramic tiles PCRs as a standard.
- Spanish administrator systems will recognise the PCR standard for tiles to obtain verified EPDs.