



An environmental product declaration (EPD) is a third-party verification of environmental claims based on standardized product category rules. EPDs transparently communicate the potential environmental and human health impacts of any product or material over its lifetime, from raw material extraction to disposal (cradle to grave). EPDs are environmental certifications classified as Type III by the international standard which defines EPDs, International Standards Organization (ISO) 14025.¹

An EPD is an objective report based on a life cycle assessment (LCA), which systematically examines the potential impacts of the product throughout the entire life cycle of the product or service. This includes the use of ores and crude oil, water consumption, and land use, as well as emissions into air, water, and soil.² EPDs are recognized internationally as comprehensive disclosures of a product's environmental impact.

In the construction industry, EPDs support carbon emissions reductions by making it possible to compare the impacts of varied materials and products to determine the most sustainable option. Product manufacturers can optimize the impact of their products and market their carbon transparency using EPDs.

The Metal Building Manufacturers Association® provides industry wide EPDs for primary structural steel frame components, secondary structural steel frame components, and roll formed metal wall and roof panels. The MBMA EPDs are third-party validated, are ISO compliant, and are available for any member of MBMA. Please visit mbma.com to download these documents.

EPDs are recognized by LEED® and other market-based systems and contribute to credits towards building certification.

SUMMARY

An EPD serves as a valuable tool for communicating the environmental performance of manufactured products. It enables consumers, businesses, and policymakers to make informed choices, promotes environmental transparency, and encourages manufacturers to adopt more sustainable practices through a product's life cycle. EPDs are increasingly relevant in today's eco-conscious world, as they help drive sustainable innovation and foster environmentally responsible decision making.

While we strive to provide accurate and up-to-date information, the intricacies of LEED® certification may change, and individual project circumstances may vary, making it essential to consult with a knowledgeable professional for precise and tailored advice. For more information on LEED® certification visit usgbc.org.

References

1. "Environmental labels and declarations – Type III environmental declarations – Principles and procedures" iso.org/obp/ui/#iso:std:iso:14025:ed-1:v1:en Retrieved 27 October 2023.
2. "What is Life Cycle Assessment (LCA)?" sphera.com/glossary/what-is-a-life-cycle-assessment-lca Retrieved 27 October 2023.