

**STICHTING MRPI®
GENERAL PROGRAM
INSTRUCTIONS**



OCTOBER 2021

4.0.

Overview, scope and process
for program operator
Stichting MRPI®



GENERAL PROGRAMME INSTRUCTIONS MRPI®-EPD 2021

October 2021

4.0.



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1 Introduction

This document constitutes the General Programme Instructions of Stichting MRPI®. This document is the main technical document of MRPI® and forms the basis of the overall administration and operation of the MRPI® programme for type III environmental declarations according to ISO14025 [1] and EN15804 [2]. ®

Stichting MRPI® issues two types of EPD certificates:

- MRPI®-EPD+ certificate
- MRPI®-EPD certificate

The difference between the MRPI®-EPD+ certificate and the MRPI®-EPD certificate is that the MRPI®-EPD+ certificate can provide data for Dutch national database and includes the toxicity indicators (HTP, FAETP, MAETP, TETP) required for building LCA's in the Dutch building regulation.

To add the LCA data of the MRPI®-EPD+ to the Dutch national database the "Bepalingsmethode" [3] must be followed. The "Bepalingsmethode" is based on EN15804 but contains some specific rules (e.g. the use of specific Ecoinvent data). For an MRPI®-EPD the EN15804 is the methodology to be used.

In the rest of this document both certificates are referred to as "the MRPI®-certificate" and the methodology as "EN15804". When necessary the differences are explained. These program instructions are expected to be updated every three years to ensure market stability and also following the latest developments in standardization, LCA methodology etc.

References to the final version are recommended to be:

- *Stichting MRPI®: General Programme Instructions Stichting MRPI®*

Other documents related to these General Programme Instructions are:

- *Stichting MRPI®): MRPI®-EPD Verification Protocol May [4]*
- *Stichting MRPI®: Recognition Scheme Verifiers MRPI® [5]*

The verification protocol and the recognition scheme always have the same version number and reference year as the program instructions.

2 Scope, objectives and audience of the MRPI®/EPD programme

MRPI®/EPD certificates are used as a means to communicate unambiguous and reliable environmental information on building materials and building products. Manufacturers communicate the information with an environmental product declaration for building products, in fact an MRPI®/EPD certificate. The MRPI®/EPD certificate is an Environmental Product Declaration type III.

The Stichting MRPI® has, as a main objective, to support organizations to communicate the environmental performance of their products (building materials and building products) in a credible, reliable and understandable way by offering a complete programme for any interested organization/company or manufacturer to develop and communicate environmental declarations according to EN15804. Further Stichting MRPI® helps organizations/companies or manufacturers to broaden their market by providing EPD's according to international ECO Platform standards for an international market.

The scope of an MRPI®/EPD certificate can be both for the product of a single company or as the average product of companies in a specific sector and geographical area: a "Sector MRPI®/EPD certificate". Another aspect of the MRPI®/EPD programme is simplicity and practical usefulness still complying with the requirements in EN15804.

"EN15804" uses a modular approach in communicating environmental product information. Three options for the scope of the declaration are possible:

- Cradle-to-gate: scope is the production stage and the information Modules A1-A3 are declared. This is the minimum scope for the MRPI®/EPD certificate;
- Cradle-to-gate with options: information Modules A1-A3 are declared and 1 or more information Modules from the Construction Process stage (A4-A5), Use Stage (B1-B7), End-of-Life (C1-C4) and/or Module D;
- Cradle-to-Grave: this is the most extensive scope where all modules are declared;

The target audience of MRPI®/EPD certificates is business-to-business (B-to-B) communication as defined by the ECO Platform and EN15942 [6].

3 Identification of the programme operator

History

In the context of sustainable building the need for quantitative environmental information on building products was demanded from the market. To fulfil this demand the Dutch organization for the suppliers to the construction industry (NVTB) established the Stichting MRPI® (Milieu Relevante Product Informatie). Since 1997 the organization worked on the MRPI® system with support from the former Dutch Ministry of Housing and Environment. Goal was to use MRPI® as a means to communicate unambiguous and reliable environmental information on building materials and building products. Manufacturers communicate the information with an environmental product declaration for building products, in fact an MRPI®-certificate. The current issued MRPI®-certificate is the Dutch variant of an EPD certificate (Environmental Product Declaration, type III).

ECO Platform

The objective of ECO Platform is the development of verified environmental information of construction products, in particular type III declarations called EPD (Environmental Product Declarations). The ECO Platform coordinates the development of consistent EPD programs in Europe and stimulates the use of a common implementation of the EPD methodology for the European market which will lead to mutual recognition of EPD between EPD programs [7].

Stichting MRPI®

MRPI® is one of the European EPD program operators and member of the ECO Platform. An international company with average European data may - for a better recognition and acceptance – use the ECO Platform network, by going through an ECO member EPD Program Operator to be accepted by other ECO member EPD Program Operators. Stichting MRPI® is based in Den Haag (Netherlands).

4 Involvement of interested parties

4.1 Structure MRPI®/EPD organization

The MRPI®/EPD system has an organizational structure that includes several parties all having separate and related tasks and responsibilities (see figure 1). Important output of the whole process is the objective and unambiguous MRPI®/EPD certificate.

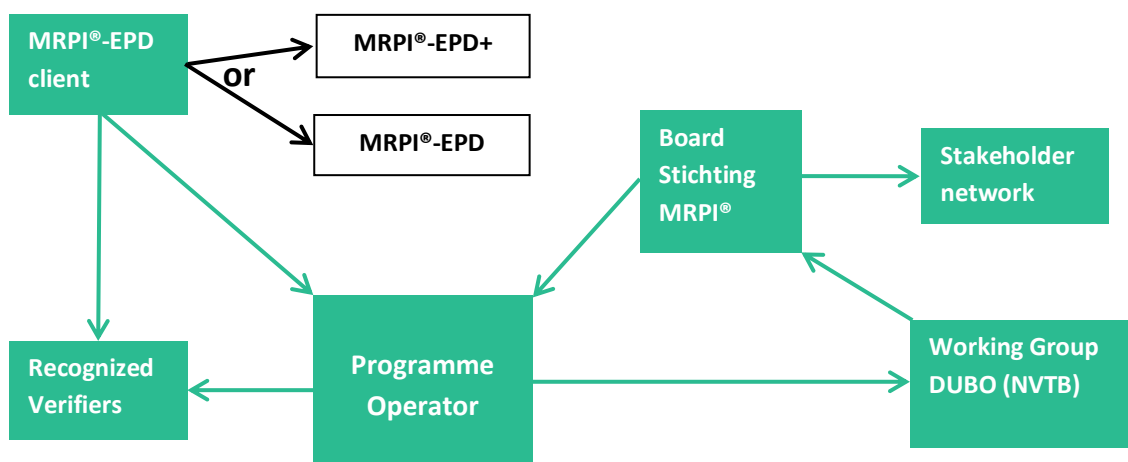


Figure 1 Organizational Structure Stichting MRPI® with all parties involved.

Next paragraphs describe the roles of all parties involved.

4.2 Programme operator

Stichting MRPI® is a non-profit organization based in Den Haag (Netherlands) and is the Programme Operator. The programme operator has a secretariat for the overall management of the MRPI®/EPD system. Tasks of the secretariat are:

- to prepare and communicate the General Programme Instructions;

- to ensure that General Programme Instructions are followed;
- to monitor changes in procedures and documents and modify the programme and the General Programme Instructions if necessary;
- to ensure appropriate consultations for maintaining credibility of the programme;
- to facilitate participation and involvement of interested parties;
- to ensure the consistency of transparent verification procedures for verification of LCA and verification of MRPI®/EPD certificates;
- to guide an organization in the selection procedure of competent independent verifiers (if requested);
- to manage the website of the programme (www.MRPI.nl);
- to publish all MRPI®/EPD certificates registered in the programme;
- to issue a newsletter on a regular basis and keep a list of subscribers to the newsletter;
- to manage membership of the ECO Platform and implement latest procedures;
- to organise a yearly meeting for all recognized verifiers to communicate latest developments of the programme;
- to establish procedures to avoid misuse of the programme and information in the MRPI®/EPD certificates.

4.3 Board MRPI®

The board of Stichting MRPI® exists of four persons which represent all stakeholders of the MRPI®/EPD Programme. The Board determines the policy and strategy of the Programme Operator. It approves the budget for Stichting MRPI® and the Annual Program which describes all targets and activities for the upcoming year.

The board determines the agenda for the yearly stakeholdersmeeting. All stakeholders (see also paragraph 4.4) involved in Stichting MRPI® are invited for the meeting and Stichting MRPI® has to show what has been done in the past year. The Board can also invite external parties if it wishes. When LCA experts apply to become a "recognized verifier" the secretariat handles the application and presents the application to the Board. The board then decides if the application fulfills the demands and if the LCA expert can be appointed to act as "Recognized verifier".

4.4 Stakeholder network

The stakeholder network exists of the founding fathers of Stichting MRPI®. These are originally members of the Dutch organization for the suppliers to the construction industry (NVTB) but the stakeholders network is open for any other party who wants to be involved in the development of the programme. The stakeholders are also involved in the strategy of Stichting MRPI®. In a yearly meeting the stakeholders discuss with Stichting MRPI® the development of the Programme and strategy.

4.5 Working Group DUBO

The working group DUBO (=Duurzaam Bouwen) consists of experts in the field of sustainable building. All members are from the NVTB (Dutch suppliers to the construction industry). The working group advises the Board of MPRI on technical matters.

4.6 Recognized verifiers

Only recognized verifiers may carry out MRPI®/EPD verification. Stichting MRPI® provides an up-to-date list at www.MRPI.nl with all recognized verifiers. The document *Recognition Scheme Verifiers MRPI® 2017. V3.0, May 2017 FINAL* explains the exact procedure on how to become a recognized verifier. The application has to be delivered to the secretariat. When the application is complete the Board will decide if the applicant can become a recognized verifier.

Independent verifiers shall review MRPI®/EPD certificates based on a dossier from the organization/producer/manufacturer. The dossier consists of:

- the LCA project report;
- the MRPI®/EPD certificate.

The verifier shall fill in the "Core checklist for verification" and submits this together with the MRPI®/EPD certificate to the Programme Operator.

The document *EPD-MRPI® Verification Protocol May 2017 FINAL* explains the procedure for verifying MRPI®/EPD certificates in detail and provides the "Core checklist for verification" and the form for a blank MRPI®/EPD certificate.

4.7 MRPI®/EPD Client

The client can be an organization/producer or manufacturer and shall carry out the following tasks:

- choose to develop a MRPI®-EPD+ certificate or an MRPI®-EPD certificate;
- collect LCA information and compile a dossier for the recognized verifier;
- the dossier consists of an LCA project report and the MRPI®/EPD certificate of choice;
- the LCA project report contains at least the elements stated in EN15804 chapter 8.2;
- choose a MRPI® recognized verifier from the list provided by Stichting MRPI® at www.MRPI.nl;
- timely pay registration and annual fees.

The difference between a MRPI®-EPD+ certificate and an MRPI®-EPD certificate is that the MRPI®-EPD+ certificate has toxicity indicators (HTP, FAETP, MAETP, TETP) added to the declaration. See also *Chapter 1* and *Chapter 5* of this document for an explanation in detail.

5 Development of EPDs

To be able to fulfill high market expectations for a number of practical applications EPD certificates have to comply with specific and strict methodological prerequisites. The EPD certificate must be in compliance with EN15804 (procedural and methodological) and the EPD certificate must reflect the underlying LCA report, thus ensuring a minimum control on validity and plausibility of LCI-data and technical scenarios. An EPD certificate includes the mandatory subjects stated in EN15804.

An EPD certificate 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 EPD certificates.

For the Dutch market two options for an EPD certificate are available:

MRPI®-EPD+ certificate:

- contains environmental impact categories (HTP, FAETP, MAETP, TETP) which have to be added to the results of the LCA;
- The methodology used for the MRPI®-EPD+ is the "Bepalingsmethode". The "Bepalingsmethode" is based on EN15804 but contains some specific rules. This is a requirement by Dutch government for environmental data that has to be added to the Dutch environmental database.

MRPI®-EPD certificate:

- contains environmental impacts as required by EN15804;
- The methodology used is EN15804. The MRPI®-EPD cannot be put automatically into the NMD.

The two different types of EPD will be explained more in detail in:

- *Stichting MRPI® (2017) MRPI®/EPD-Verification Protocol V3.0, May 2017 FINAL;*
- *Stichting MRPI® (2017) MRPI®-EPD+ certificate MRPI® blank May 2017;*
- *Stichting MRPI® (2017) MRPI®-EPD certificate MRPI® blank May 2017;*

The validity of the MRPI®/EPD certificate is 5 years from publication.

6 Procedure for management of data and documentation

The organization/producer or manufacturer compiles a project dossier which consists of a LCA project report and the MRPI®/EPD certificate. The manufacturer has to store this dossier at least 1 year after the validity of the MRPI®/EPD certificate has ended. In total a minimum of 5 + 1 = 6 years. The project dossier stays with the manufacturer and must be available for inspection by an independent third party appointed by Stichting MRPI®.

7 Data confidentiality

Business data could be of confidential nature because of competitive business aspects, intellectual property rights or similar legal restrictions. Such confidential data is not made public as the declaration typically only provides data aggregated over full or relevant portions of the life cycle. Therefore, business data identified as confidential and provided during verification process shall be kept confidential. Hence, MRPI® recognized verifiers shall not disseminate or otherwise retain for use, without the permission of the organization, any information disclosed to them during the course of the review work.

Stichting MRPI® receives the project dossier with the LCA report and the MRPI®/EPD certificate. Further the MRPI® recognized verifier provides Stichting MRPI® the signed Verification checklist (Part A and Part B). Stichting MRPI® publishes the MRPI®/EPD certificate and the other documents stay confidential. Only in case of an appeal Procedure information can be disclosed or when the manufacturer agrees.

8 Procedure for independent verification

The procedure for recognition of verifiers by Stichting MRPI® is explained in detail in:

- *Stichting MRPI® (2017) Recognition Scheme Verifiers MRPI® 2017. V3.0, May 2017*

The MRPI® Recognized Verifier must have the following competencies:

- knowledge of the guidelines and standards referred to in the Recognition Scheme (Clause 1);
- knowledge of Dutch building practice and the production of building materials;
- Three years at the minimum of experience as LCA practitioner OR have at least completed 3 LCA studies for building products, building elements, installations, buildings and/or GWW works;
- If experience is missing the agency must inform Stichting MRPI® that the LCA practitioner has coaching or supervision by a more experienced LCA practitioner in the company;
- The appointed MRPI® Recognized Verifiers by the company must attend the yearly meeting at Stichting MRPI® to get knowledge on the latest developments in LCA standards and guidelines.

The MRPI® Verifier shall be independent of the party for which it carries out the assessment. The MRPI® Verifier shall not be involved in the execution of the LCA study that the verifier has to assess. Further it is not allowed that the MRPI® verifier and the executor, of the LCA study under assessment, are in the same company. A up-to-date list of recognized verifiers is published on www.MRPI.nl

9 Resources for programme development and operation

The Stichting MRPI is a non-profit organization and has no commercial intentions. The programme is financed by the stakeholders who support a solid MRPI®/EPD programme for the Dutch building industry. Other financing is from the yearly contribution of the holders of MRPI®/EPD certificates and from new developed MRPI®/EPD certificates. Further recognized verifiers pay an annual fee to Stichting MRPI®.

10 Fees

The up-to-date fees for becoming a stakeholder, yearly contributions for certificates and development of new certificates are published at www.MRPI.nl.

11 References

[1] EN-ISO 14025: 2010, environmental labels and declarations - Type III environmental declarations - Principles and procedures

[2] EN15804+A2, Sustainability of construction works - Environmental product declarations - Core rules for the product category of construction products, NEN Delft, 2019.

[3] Bepalingsmethode "Milieuprestatie Gebouwen en GWW-werken" Versie 2.0 November 2014. SBK Rijswijk, 2014.

[4] MRPI®-EPD Verification Protocol. Stichting MRPI® Den Haag

[5] Recognition Scheme Verifiers MRPI®. Stichting MRPI® Den Haag

[6] EN 15942 Sustainability of construction works - Environmental product declarations Communication format business-to-business. NEN Delft, 2011

[7] www.eco-platform.org