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Verification protocol for MRPI LCA project report & EPD

21th of May 2025
V. 5.2

Requirements and instructions for the verification of LCA background reports & MRPI EPDs

Including verification documents for the verification of LCA background reports & MRPI EPDs

Version history

Version number	Date	Summary of changes
V.5.1	07-04-2025	First version
V.5.2	21-05-2025	Second version

Verification Protocol for MRPI LCA project report & EPD
May 2025

Contents

1   Introduction

1.1   History Stichting MRPI and ECO Platform

In the context of a sustainable built environment, the need for quantitative information on the environmental performance of construction products is becoming increasingly important. To fulfil this demand, the Dutch organization for the suppliers to the construction industry (NVTB) established the Stichting Milieu Relevante Product Informatie (MRPI) in 1997. Since that year, the organization worked on the MRPI system with support from the former Dutch government. Its goal is 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 (EPD) for building products, in fact an MRPI certificate. The MRPI certificate is the common Dutch standard of an EPD type III.

The objective of the ECO Platform is the development of verified environmental information of construction products, in particular type III declarations. The ECO Platform coordinates the development of consistent EPD programs in Europe and stimulates the use of a common EPD methodology for the European market which will lead to mutual recognition between EPD programs. MRPI is the Dutch program operator and member of the ECO Platform. A company interested in using the EPD across national borders may - for better recognition and acceptance – use the ECO EPD verified logo on the MRPI certificate.

1.2   EN 15804 amendment +A2

In November 2019 Amendment +A2 for EN 15804 was officially published. This new version differs significantly from the EN 15804 with Amendment +A1. One of the major updates is the introduction of a new methodology for the impact assessment. Particularly the use of fundamentally different indicators for some impact categories cause that Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs) under the new standard cannot be compared to those developed using the old standard.

In order to harmonize their approach and facilitate the transition to EN 15804 + A2, the EPD Program Operators (POs) organized in the ECO Platform have agreed that POs can continue to verify and publish EPDs following EN 15804 + A1 as long as the market requires it (and the standard is in force). POs will constantly observe the market and coordinate sunset clauses for EN 15804 + A1.

Currently, the A2 standard has been widely adopted. Only the Dutch Environmental Database (NMD), for the moment, still requires results of environmental impact categories in accordance with the A1 impact assessment, supplemented with four additional toxicity indicators, in addition to the

A2 impact indicators. Specifically for the Dutch market and the NMD, Stichting MRPI continues to publish results according to both EN15804 + A1 and EN 15804 + A2.

1.3   Types of MRPI certificates and applicable guidelines

There are four types of MRPI certificates:
- MRPI EPD certificate;
- MRPI EPD+ certificate;
- MRPI NMD EPD certificate;
- MPRI customized certificate.

MRPI can publish a certificate for the European market in accordance with ECO Platform guidelines (MRPI EPD certificate) and a certificate for the Dutch market in accordance with the Nationale Milieudatabase (NMD) PCR, which also complies with ECO Platform guidelines (MRPI EPD+ certificate). A third option is to solely publish in accordance with the NMD PCR (MRPI NMD EPD). Lastly, other types of standards can be followed (MRPI customized certificate), e.g. non-construction products. This constitutes the creation of a tailor-made EPD, for which the reviewer bears responsibility that any applicable standard is adhered to, including the layout and content of the EPD.

The main attributes of the MRPI EPD+ and MRPI NMD certificates are:

- the data of the MRPI EPD+ and MRPI NMD EPD certificates can be included in the Dutch Environmental Database, although this is not required;
- the MRPI EPD+ and MRPI NMD EPD certificates can only be verified by a reviewer that is also an appointed reviewer at Stichting NMD;
- the MRPI EPD+ and MRPI NMD EPD certificates must be in alignment with the currently applicable version of the Environmental Performance Assessment Method for Construction Works (Assessment Method), the Dutch PCR published by the Nationale Milieudatabase (NMD), including any valid amendments;
- the MRPI EPD+ and MRPI NMD EPD certificates contain both the A2 and A1 environmental impact assessment indicators, the latter set supplemented with four additional toxicity indicators (HTP, FAETP, MAETP, TETP);
- the MRPI EPD+ and MRPI NMD EPD certificates include a table declaring the environmental impacts per functional or declared unit, which must also show the Environmental Cost Indicator based on the A1 indicators and the indicator ADPF (= Abiotic Depletion Potential for fossil resources) expressed in kg Sb-eq.

The following verification guidelines apply to each type of EPD report:

- MRPI EPD certificate: ECO Platform verification guidelines, accessible on the ECO Platform website[1];
- MRPI NMD EPD certificate: NMD Review Protocol version 1.2, based on the Environmental Performance Assessment Method for Construction Works (Assessment Method)[2], including any applicable amendments;
- MRPI EPD+ certificate: MRPI Verification Checklists for the MRPI EPD+ project report and certificate (Annex A of this document);
- MPRI customized certificate: to be determined by LCA practitioner and/or reviewer. Any additional information shall be information required by the respective PCR or judged as relevant by the programme operator and shall be verified according to ISO 14025 before being included in the ECO EPD.

If there is a newer version of the abovementioned guidelines from either Stichting NMD or ECO Platform published and has been entered into force, that guideline applies to the MRPI NMD EPD certificate or MRPI EPD certificate, respectively. It is the responsibility of the reviewer to be aware of the newest guidelines. Stichting MRPI will update the checklists for the MRPI EPD+ certificate as soon as possible in accordance with both guidelines. If there is any discrepancy in rules due to a delay in updating the MRPI protocol, the NMD of ECO Platform standard prevails.

Although the checklist for the MRPI EPD+ project report combines both the ECO Platform and NMD guidelines, it is not allowed to be used for verification of the project report of either the MRPI EPD certificate or MRPI NMD EPD certificate. This ensures that both types of certificates (and underlying LCAs) are always compliant with the most recent protocols of each platform.

The MRPI Verification Protocol and checklists for the project report and EPD, will be updated in accordance with updates of the ECO Platform verification guidelines and NMD assessment method. Stichting MRPI will communicate to its recognized reviewers and EPD certificate applicants about updates to all the aforementioned guidelines, including transition periods for implementation.

For any EPD type, clients may request additional content, e.g. an informative appendix describing the sensitivity analysis of the results under different end-of-life scenarios, or results with respect to scaling (e.g. in MRPI NMD EPDs). The reviewer bears responsibility for the correctness of the content of the appendices. For any customization, an additional fee may apply.

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1   [1] Latest version accessible at: https://www.eco-platform.org/our-documents.html.

2   [2] Latest versions accessible at: https://milieudatabase.nl/en/environmental-data-lca/nmd-verification-protocol/; https://milieudatabase.nl/en/environmental-performance/assesment-method/.

1.4   Structure verification protocol

The verification protocol consists of:
- Requirements for the MRPI certificate (chapter 2);
- Instructions for the verification by the recognized verifier (chapter 3);
- Verification procedure (chapter 4);
- Literature (chapter 5).

Annex A - Verification Documents contains documentation which the recognized verifier can use to assess the LCA background report for specifically MRPI EPD+ certificates (that EPD complies with both the ECO Platform verification guidelines and NMD review protocol) and the minimum requirements for any type of MRPI EPD. A recognized verifier can always add the logo and the layout of his company to the checklist but the contents is not allowed be changed.

The dossier for a verification shall contain:
- The verification statement;
    - This is a signed letter where the MRPI recognized verifier states the LCA is done correctly and conforms to the appropriate guidelines;
- Verification checklist project report:
    - This constitutes a checklist to verify the LCA project report. For the MRPI+ certificate, the checklist in Annex A applies;
- Verification checklist EPD:
    - This checklist is used to verify the EPD contents of any of the four types of MRPI certificates, i.e. to verify the contents of the MRPI spreadsheet;
- Dialogue file:
    - The dialogue shows discussions/questions raised between verifier and LCA specialist in the review of the project report and EPD checklist and how the questions are answered.

Annex A contains the above mentioned documents, specifically the verification checklist for the project report of the MRPI+ EPD certificate.

2 Requirements for the MRPI certificate

2.1 Documentation and project dossier storage

The applying organization, manufacturer or delegated LCA consultant delivers a project dossier to a MRPI recognized verifier. The project dossier consists of:

- a LCA project report;
- the completed MRPI spreadsheet.

The applicant has to store the project dossier at least 1 year after the validity of the MRPI certificate has ended. The MRPI certificate is valid for 5 years, therefore the project dossier must be stored at least 6 years. The project dossier remains with the manufacturer and must be available for review by an independent third party appointed by Stichting MRPI. This is done in case a verification of the applied protocols is needed or in the case of an appeal procedure.

2.2 LCA project report

The LCA and accompanying project report must be done in accordance with the applicable protocols of the NMD and/or ECO Platform. A MRPI EPD+ must adhere to the verification checklist supplied in Annex A of this document. The language of the LCA report can be English or Dutch and the LCA report and any background information will be made available to the recognized verifier.

2.3 Input spreadsheet for the MRPI certificates

The standard types MRPI EPD, MRPI+ EPD and MRPI NMD EPD certificates are generated by a tool that uses the MRPI spreadsheet as input. This spreadsheet is filled in by the applicant or LCA practitioner. All required information has to be filled in as far as also required by the corresponding EPD contents checklist and/or is available in the LCA dossier (e.g. for an MRPI NMD EPD some inputs may be left blank). The spreadsheet offers guidance on the expected content. The reviewer verifies that the provided descriptions and data are in accordance with the project report and applicable standards, only afterwards the spreadsheet is sent in to MRPI. The latest version of the MRPI spreadsheet must always be used and can be downloaded from the MRPI website.

2.4 Layout of the MRPI certificate

The contents of the MRPI certificate is dependent on the applicable protocol, its specific layout is determined by Stichting MRPI, applicable platform and/or PO logo's will be included.

The applicant is required to supply the following with regard to the EPD document contents:

- Company logo, at least 300 dpi;
- A picture of the product in its application;
- A picture of the product itself (optional);
- A process diagram, in accordance with the applicable standard(s) or at least in accordance with section 7.2.1 of the EN 15804.

2.5 Assessment by the recognized verifier

The verification is done by a recognized verifier of the Stichting MRPI. The criteria that the recognized verifier must satisfy are laid down in the document *Recognition scheme verifiers MRPI* and an up-to-date list of recognized verifiers is published the MRPI website. The verification must be done according to the instructions of this document.

The verifier checks the LCA report and MRPI spreadsheet and sends the full verification dossier to Stichting MRPI. The dossier for a verification that is sent in shall contain:

- The verification statement;
   - o This is a signed letter where the MRPI recognized verifier states the LCA is done correctly and conforms to the appropriate guidelines;
- Verification checklist project report:
   - o This constitutes a checklist to verify the LCA project report. For the MRPI+ certificate, the checklist in Annex A applies;
- Verification checklist EPD:
   - o This checklist is used to verify the EPD contents of any of the four types of MRPI certificates, i.e. to verify the contents of the MRPI spreadsheet;
- Dialogue file:
   - o The dialogue shows discussions/questions raised between verifier and LCA specialist in the review of the project report and EPD checklist and how the questions are answered.

Annex A contains the above mentioned documents, specifically the verification checklist for the project report of the MRPI+ EPD certificate.

In addition to the required items for the EPD document contents (see 2.4) are sent in by the applicant or LCA practitioner. Only after all the information is supplied, the draft version of the EPD document is created for a final review.

3 Instructions for the verification by the recognized verifier

3.1 Documents to be verified

The verifier assesses the following documents:
- The LCA project report from the LCA practitioner based on the applicable standard(s);
- The MRPI spreadsheet, which forms the input for the EPD;
- The MRPI certificate (final check).

After the spreadsheet is approved by the verifier, Stichting MRPI will generate the EPD certificate, which will then be given a final check by the verifier. When no irregularities remain, the document can be signed, finalized and published by Stichting MRPI.

3.2 Procedure of the assessment

The applicant for the EPD or delegated LCA consultant selects a MRPI recognized verifier that is certified by the Stichting MRPI. An up-to-date list of MRPI recognized verifiers is shown on the MRPI website. The manufacturer makes agreements with the MRPI recognized verifier on the planning and costs of the verification.

The verification shall ensure that the EPD/Type III environmental declaration is in compliance with applicable standards and verification protocols. Next to that, the verification procedure shall confirm whether the information given in the declaration is in line with the LCA report underlying the declaration and whether this information is valid and scientifically sound. Therefore, the verifier has to use two checklist to assess the LCA report and the MRPI spreadsheet, respectively.

As specified out in section 1.3, there are four types of MRPI certificates that conform to different LCA standards or guidelines. As a consequence, different verification checklist for the LCA project reports and EPD must be used. The following verification checklists apply to each type of EPD:

- MRPI EPD certificate: the *Verification Checklist for the Life Cycle Assessment and Requirements on the Project Report*, as published in the latest version of the ECO Platform Verification Guidelines, accessible on the ECO Platform website[3];
- MRPI EPD+ certificate: <u>the checklists in the annex</u>;

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[3] Latest version accessible at: https://www.eco-platform.org/our-documents.html.

- MRPI NMD EPD certificate: Assessment tables (Beoordelingstabellen) NMD Review Protocol version 1.2, based on the Environmental Performance Assessment Method for Construction Works (Assessment Method)[4], including any applicable amendments;
- MPRI customized certificate: applicable checklist of the standard or guideline that is used.

In general, each checklist presents the items that have to be verified as a minimum. It is presented as a 'tick-box' and can be used as such, but it should be clear from the verification report that discussions have taken place and (if applicable) improvements have been made following the MRPI recognized verifier's comments and recommendations. The core checklist is limited to data presented in the MRPI EPD.

Any checklist, regardless of the type of MRPI certificate, has to contain the following:

- A description of the verification topic or subject;
- A specification whether the topic is mandatory or optional;
- A reference to EN, ISO and/or PCR standards;
- An indication to be used by the MRPI recognized verifier to state if the topic is approved;
- *Optional:* The checklist may be expanded with additional columns to serve as dialogue document.

Below, an example is given from the ECO Platform verification protocol.

Table 1: Example of the verification checklist.

1	General information	Mandatory/ optional	Reference	Checked and approved
1.1	Commissioner of LCA study, LCA practitioner	M	EN 15804+A2, ch.8.2	

The assessment can only be completed when all subjects in the table/chapter are answered with "yes", otherwise the LCA dossier must be adapted. The dossier of the MRPI recognized verifier consists of the checklist and dialogue document. When the verification is complete and all topics are checked and approved for both the report and spreadsheet, the spreadsheet, checklist, dialogue document and verification statement are sent to Stichting MRPI by the reviewer.

3.3   Complaints or issues during the review

If any ambiguities arise during the review, Stichting MRPI will assist in resolving them if necessary. When the applicant does not agree with the final judgement of the MRPI recognized verifier or has other complaints on the verification it can be reported to Stichting MRPI. They will be dealt with according MRPI Complaint Procedure, published on the MRPI website (see also 3.6).

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4   [4] Latest versions accessible at: https://milieudatabase.nl/en/environmental-data-lca/nmd-verification-protocol/; https://milieudatabase.nl/en/environmental-performance/assesment-method/.

When the MRPI recognized verifier has any issues with procedures or verification protocols, it can be reported to Stichting MRPI. MRPI recognized verifiers have the right, in case of an unresolvable issue, to address the complaint at the regular recognized verifier meetings of Stichting MRPI. The complaint shall be discussed without making reference to the specific product or manufacturer unless the manufacturer states that there are no objections.

3.4   Finalization and publication of the EPD by Stichting MRPI

Stichting MRPI checks the completeness of the dossier (see sections 2.4 and 2.5). After the draft EPD document has been checked, approved and finalized, Stichting MRPI assigns a number to the MRPI certificate.

If given permission by the applicant, MRPI publishes the certificate on its website. This is the location where the EPD can be found the coming 5 years. If requested and appropriate guidelines have been followed, the MRPI certificate is published on the ECO Platform website (www.eco-platform.org) and/or is included in the Dutch National Environmental Database (NMD). Stichting MRPI allows the applicant to publish the MRPI certificate through any desired channel (e.g. company website).

3.5   Validity of MRPI certificate

The MRPI certificates are valid for a period of 5 years.

3.6   Procedure for comments, questions, complaints and appeals of published EPDs

Stakeholders with any comments or questions about published EPD certificates can contact Stichting MRPI, who then will first assist in trying to resolve any issues. If any complaints or irregularities about EPDs remain, a formal notion can be given to Stichting MRPI, which will then be handled in accordance with the MRPI Complaint Procedure, published on the MRPI website.

4   References

1. Verification Guidelines for ECO EPD Programme Operators, Version 8.0, ECO Platform, December 2024.
2. LCA Calculation Rules and Specifications for EPDs, Version 2.0, ECO Platform, December 2024.
3. ISO 14025:2006, Environmental labels and declarations - Type III environmental declarations - Principles and procedures, ISO, 2006.
4. ISO 14040:2006, Environmental management – Life cycle assessments – Principles and framework, ISO, 2006.
5. ISO 14044:2006, Environmental management - Life cycle assessment - Requirements and guidelines, ISO, 2006.
6. NEN-EN 15804:2012 + A1, Sustainability of construction works - Environmental product declarations - Core rules for the product category of construction products, NEN, November 2013.
7. NEN-EN15804+A2, Sustainability of construction works - Environmental product declarations - Core rules for the product category of construction products, NEN, November 2019.
8. NEN-EN 15941:2024, Sustainability of construction works - Data quality for environmental assessment of products and construction work - Selection and use of data, NEN, March 2024.
9. Recognition scheme verifiers MRPI, version 4.0, Stichting MRPI, October 2021.
10. General Programme Instructions MRPI, version 4.0, Stichting MRPI , October 2021.
11. Bepalingsmethode Milieuprestatie Bouwwerken, Versie 1.2, January 2025, including amendments 1 & 2.
12. NMD-Toetsingsprotocol Opname data in de Nationale Milieudatabase, Versie 1.2, August 2024.

Annex A - verification documents MRPI certificate

This annex contains the verification documents for the verification of a MRPI EPD+ certificate.

A recognized verifier can always add the logo and the layout of his company to the documents but the contents must not be changed.

The dossier for a verification shall contain:
- The verification statement;
    o This is a signed letter where the MRPI recognized verifier states the LCA is done correctly and conforms to the appropriate guidelines;
- Verification checklist project report:
    o This constitutes a checklist to verify the LCA project report. For the MRPI+ certificate, the checklist in Annex A applies;
- Verification checklist EPD:
    o This checklist is used to verify the EPD contents of any of the four types of MRPI certificates, i.e. to verify the contents of the MRPI spreadsheet;
- Dialogue file:
    o The dialogue shows discussions/questions raised between verifier and LCA specialist in the review of the project report and EPD checklist and how the questions are answered.

The checklists present the items that have to be verified as a minimum. It is presented as a 'tick-box' and can be used as such, but it should be clear from the dialogue file that discussions have taken place and (if applicable) improvements have been made following the MRPI recognized verifier's comments.