

**General Program Instructions  
EPD Program on Wood Products**

**Prepared by FPInnovations  
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### ***Program Scope***

The scope of the program is to develop and publish Type III environmental product declarations (“EPDs”) for wood products (building products, furniture, pallets, etc.) manufactured in North America. Examples of products may include siding, decking, flooring, shingles, lumber and other board-type products, plywood and other panel-type products, furniture, and kitchen cabinets.

### ***Compliance with relevant standards***

EPDs developed under this program will comply with and take into consideration recommendations in international standards for Type III environmental product declarations, namely, ISO 14025 Environmental labels and declarations – Type III environmental declarations – principles and procedures and ISO 21930 Sustainability in building construction — Environmental declaration of building products. LCA data for the EPDs will be calculated and documented in accordance with the ISO 14040 series of standards, Environmental management – Life Cycle Assessment (LCA).

### ***Program Operator***

FPIInnovations is the program operator responsible for the preparation, maintenance, and communication of general program instructions governing the development of Product Category Rules (PCRs) and EPDs for wood products.

The Energy and Environment Group under the Building Systems Department of the Wood Products Division is responsible for administration of the EPD program, which includes;

- development of product category rules (PCRs) for a variety of wood products;
- commissioning LCA studies;
- developing EPD documentation; and,
- appointing a third party verifier to verify EPDs.

### ***Program Objectives***

The objective of this program is to establish and implement the necessary process(es) for developing credible, comparable and consistent EPDs, primarily for Business to Business (B-to-B) applications, although some Business to Consumer (B-to-C) EPDs may be developed as well. The EPDs will be intended to assist purchasers and users to make informed comparisons between products, however they will not represent environmental claims regarding the superiority or equivalence of one product versus a competing product that performs the same function

In order to ensure these objectives are achieved, the process will include;

- selection of an existing suitable PCR where one exists, and modification as required to create specific PCRs for the products under consideration;
- establishment of a transparent procedure for the review of new PCRs, including details of the review process and how the PCR review panels are constituted;
- commissioning or undertaking LCAs to develop and prepare EPD documents;

- ensuring the selection of competent independent verifiers and PCR review panel members;
- publishing Type III environmental declarations within the program;
- maintaining publicly available lists and records of PCR documents and Type III environmental declarations within the program; and
- implementing changes in procedures related to the program, and revising and re-issuing the program and documents when necessary.

### ***Intended Audience***

The intended audience for the EPDs is business-to-business (B-to-B) or business-to-consumer (B-to-C) depending on the specific product category.

### ***Definition of Product Categories***

Wood is defined in ISO/DIS 24294 (2010) as the lignocellulosic substance between the pith and bark of a tree or a shrub.<sup>1</sup>

This major product category contains a variety of wood products that can be divided into many product sub-categories. While taking into account the classification system for wood products presented by David H. Cohen, et. al.<sup>2</sup>, assignment of wood products into different product categories will be done based on their similarities in building applications and uses and the functions they perform in buildings. Products will be classified in accordance with the UN Central Product Classification System (CPC)<sup>3</sup> and cross-classified with other systems, such as the Harmonized System Commodity Description and Coding (HS) and the Construction Specification Institute (CSI) system, as appropriate or required.

### ***Involvement of Interested Parties***

Interested parties will be identified for review and consultation on PCRs from the stakeholder groups listed in ISO14025 for B-to-B or B-to-C applications, as applicable. Those with adequate knowledge of the products and their life cycle environmental stresses will be selected, and FPInnovations will publish the names of the organizations or individuals.

### ***PCR Review***

FPInnovations will set up a PCR Review panel that consists of a Chair and two or more invited members for the PCR consultation process. For each PCR developed, a unique panel with relevant experience and technical knowledge will be assembled. The Chair will provide adequate time for the review and make reasonable efforts to reach consensus throughout. The Chair will also make sure that the PCR Review Panel members receive responses to their comments within a reasonable time.

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<sup>1</sup> Consistent with definition in ISO 6707-1 (2004) Building and civil engineering — Vocabulary — Part 1: General terms (Published by ISO TC59/SC2): 'Terminology and harmonization of languages'

<sup>2</sup> Cohen H. David, Ellis C. Simon, Kozak A. Robert and Wilson Bill, 1996. A New Taxonomy of Wood Products, Working Paper 96.05, University of British Columbia, Vancouver.

<sup>3</sup> <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/cr/registry/regcst.asp?Cl=25&Lg=1>

FPInnovations will ensure that there is a reasonable mix of perspectives and competencies on the review panel while ensuring that it neither consists solely of members from the wood product manufacturing sectors nor persons dependent on the wood products sector. The combined competencies of the review panel should include the following:

- General background knowledge of the wood product sector, wood products and related environmental aspects; and
- Expertise in LCA methodology and knowledge of EPD principles and procedures defined in ISO 14025 and ISO 21930.

The reviewers will ensure that the PCRs are developed in accordance with the requirements and guidelines stated in ISO 14025 and ISO 21930 and support credible, and consistent EPDs. In addition, the PCRs will meet the following criteria:

- PCRs shall be consistent with the rules defined under the ISO 14040 series for goal and scoping of LCA studies;
- Functional units and allocation and calculation rules are adequate for the product categories; and
- The selection of LCIA indicators and additional information to be reported is done in accordance with the requirements and guidelines stated in ISO 21930 or 14025, as appropriate.
- The LCA-based data, together with the additional environmental information prescribed by the PCR, give a description of the significant environmental aspects of the product

### ***Data Confidentiality Management***

Any confidential data or information supplied by or on behalf of parties seeking an EPD will not be used for any purpose other than in connection with the generation of EPDs in accordance with FPInnovations' EPD Program.

1. All data will be kept strictly confidential, except for data and information that is required to be published in the EPD in accordance with the applicable PCR.
2. FPInnovations will use its best efforts to prevent access by unauthorized persons to confidential information and its employees, subcontractors and stakeholder experts will have entered into confidentiality agreements prior to having access to any such confidential information.
3. All electronic and hardcopy data will be archived for any future communication with the client in a secure format and location when the EPD has been formally issued.
4. FPInnovations will return, upon request, all hardcopy or electronic documents, records, notebooks, computer media or other stored information containing confidential information in its possession or control.

### ***Procedure for development and maintenance of PCR***

FPInnovations will prepare draft PCRs for relevant wood products and then finalize them based on the comments and recommendations received during the consultation with the PCR Review Panel.

The PCRs will contain;

- the intended application;
- product category definition and description;
- goal and scope of the LCA-based information for the product category;
- reference service life in accordance with ISO 15686-1 Buildings and constructed assets- Service life planning, when relevant;
- rules on producing the additional environmental information;
- details on the life-cycle stages (information modules) to be included;
- procedure for inventory analysis;
- the parameters to be covered;
- the way in which the parameters are collated and reported; and,
- period of validity.

Period of validity will be determined based on the information on technological development trends in resource extraction and manufacturing sectors (collected from the manufacturers or relevant associations) as well as changes that may affect the use and end of life phases, and comments received during consultations.

### ***Development/Availability of LCA-based Information for EPDs***

FPInnovations will ensure that LCAs are performed in accordance with the finalized PCRs for the product categories under consideration.

### ***Procedure for Verification of EPDs***

While it is not mandatory in ISO 14025 for B-to-B EPDs, FPInnovations will endeavour to ensure that independent verifiers review and verify all EPDs. The verifier may be an individual or verification body with knowledge of the wood products sector and related environmental aspects, with process and product knowledge of the product category, and be an expert in LCA and methodology. The verifier shall be competent in relevant standards in the fields of environmental labeling and declarations, the regulatory framework within which requirements for Type III environmental declarations have been prepared, and the Type III environmental declarations program.

The chosen verifier shall as a minimum confirm the following:

- a) conformance with the PCR;
- b) conformance with the ISO 14040 series of standards;
- c) conformance with general program instructions for the Type III Environmental Product Declaration;
- d) that data evaluation includes coverage, precision, completeness, representativeness, consistency, reproducibility, sources and uncertainty;
- e) the plausibility, quality and accuracy of the LCA-based data;
- f) the quality and accuracy of additional environmental information;

g) the quality and accuracy of the supporting information.

The program operator may define additional tasks for the verifier.

With regard to EPDs based on previously peer-reviewed LCA, the verifier will perform a background document analysis of the LCA documents to check if the peer-review has been carried out in accordance with the ISO guidelines and ensure that the LCA is in conformance with the PCR.

***Periodic Review of Program Instructions***

FPInnovations will review the program rules at least every three years to ensure the document is up-to-date.

***Maintaining Publicly Available Lists and Records of PCR Documents and EPDs***

FPInnovations will maintain a publicly available list of all PCRs and valid EPDs completed within the program and make that list available to the public via the internet. EPDs are considered to be the property of the manufacturers (or relevant associations, or organizations seeking the EPD). All EPDs developed under this program will be made publicly available as required by ISO 14025.

***Funding Sources and Other Resources***

Funding sources for FPInnovations' EPD program development will be made available on request.

***Misuse of the EPD and EPD Program Logo***

The information in the EPDs developed and published under this program shall not be quoted in whole or in part without a written consent. Legal protection rights on intellectual property apply and violators may be prosecuted if found to have misused or misrepresented FPInnovations EPD logo or the information in the EPDs.