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Standards

Irish Standard  
I.S. EN 15942:2011

# Sustainability of construction works - Environmental product declarations - Communication format business-to- business

## I.S. EN 15942:2011

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## Sustainability of construction works - Environmental product declarations - Communication format business-to-business

Contribution des ouvrages de construction au  
développement durable - Déclarations environnementales  
des produits - Formats de communication entre  
professionnels

Nachhaltigkeit von Bauwerken -  
Umweltproduktdeklarationen - Kommunikationsformate  
zwischen Unternehmen

This European Standard was approved by CEN on 13 August 2011.

CEN members are bound to comply with the CEN/CENELEC Internal Regulations which stipulate the conditions for giving this European Standard the status of a national standard without any alteration. Up-to-date lists and bibliographical references concerning such national standards may be obtained on application to the CEN-CENELEC Management Centre or to any CEN member.

This European Standard exists in three official versions (English, French, German). A version in any other language made by translation under the responsibility of a CEN member into its own language and notified to the CEN-CENELEC Management Centre has the same status as the official versions.

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# Contents

Page

<b>Foreword</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>1 Scope</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2 Normative references</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>3 Terms and definitions</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>4 Symbols and abbreviations</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>5 General principles</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6 Requirements for EPD communication format</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7 Information Transfer Matrix</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7.1 General</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7.2 Aggregation of information</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Annex A (normative) Master ITM</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Annex B (normative) Information modules according to FprEN 15804:2011, Figure 1</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Bibliography</b>	<b>18</b>

## **Foreword**

This document (EN 15942:2011) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 350 “Sustainability of construction works”, the secretariat of which is held by AFNOR.

This European Standard shall be given the status of a national standard, either by publication of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by March 2012, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by March 2012.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. CEN [and/or CENELEC] shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

This document, supports the use of Product Category Rules (FprEN 15804:2011) for construction products. Together they are used as the means for arriving Environmental Product Declarations (EPD).

According to the CEN/CENELEC Internal Regulations, the national standards organizations of the following countries are bound to implement this European Standard: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

## Introduction

The aim of this European Standard is to harmonise the way in which environmental product declarations (EPD) are communicated in Europe.

It is relevant to the use of the EPD in the building chain where materials and products are assembled into new products and assemblies, each with their own EPD.

This European Standard will improve handling of the data from EPD at the building level and the assessment of environmental performance of buildings.

An EPD expressed in a standardized format will facilitate the communication of the product's environmental performance for business-to-business (B2B).

## 1 Scope

This European Standard is applicable to all construction products and services related to buildings and construction works. It specifies and describes the communication format for the information defined in FprEN 15804 for business-to-business communication to ensure a common understanding through consistent communication of information.

**NOTE** This European Standard does not deal with business to consumer communication and is not intended for that purpose. Business to consumer communication format is planned to be the subject of a future document.

## 2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

FprEN 15804:2011, *Sustainability of construction works — Environmental product declarations — Core rules for the product category of construction products*

EN ISO 14020, *Environmental labels and declarations — General principles (ISO 14020:2000)*

## 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in FprEN 15804:2011 and the following apply.

### 3.1

#### **consumer**

individual member of the general public purchasing or using goods, property or services for private purposes

[EN ISO 14025:2006]

### 3.2

#### **business-to-business communication**

describing or involving the passage of information between different businesses, rather than between businesses and the general public and consumers

### 3.3

#### significant figures

those digits of a number that carry meaning contributing to its precision

NOTE This includes all digits except:

- leading and trailing zeros where they serve merely as placeholders to indicate the scale of the number,
- spurious digits introduced, for example, by calculations carried out to greater accuracy than that of the original data, or measurements reported to a greater precision than the EPD supports.

## 4 Symbols and abbreviations

B2B	Business-to-business
EPD	Environmental Product Declaration
ITM	Information Transfer Matrix
LCA	Life Cycle Assessment
LCIA	Life Cycle Impact Assessment
PCR	Product Category Rules

## 5 General principles

To present environmental information in a structured and consistent way and in a common format, a generic template is used. The generic template is used for information transfer.

The generic template is called an Information Transfer Matrix (ITM). The ITM:

- does not preclude the fact that an EPD can have an individual and unique format;
- is the standardized part of EPD communication according to FprEN 15804;
- a statement whether the ITM has been independently verified shall be made.

The ITM addresses the following types of information according to FprEN 15804:

- general information;
- declaration of environmental parameters derived from LCA:
  - parameters describing environmental impacts;
  - parameters describing resource input;
  - additional environmental information describing different waste categories and output flows;
- scenarios and technical information;
- additional information on emissions to indoor air, soil and water during the use stage.

NOTE For all quantified data, the corresponding scenario is specified in accordance with FprEN 15804.

## 6 Requirements for EPD communication format

An EPD shall include an ITM.

The following requirements on formatting apply (electronic and paper):

- according to EN ISO 14020 the information in the ITM shall not be misleading.
- Structure:
  - the EPD information shall be accurately placed in its unique position identified in the ITM, according to Annex A.
- Numerical data:
  - quantitative data shall be numerically reported in the appropriate units of measurement as prescribed in FprEN 15804;
  - numerical reporting of no more than three significant figures shall be applied.
- Use of language (text):
  - text shall be clearly written adopting a single language throughout;
  - where text is conveying a qualitative issue or parameter, it shall provide sufficient detail as to give transparency and precise and accurate understanding of that issue or parameter.

## 7 Information Transfer Matrix

### 7.1 General

This clause defines the standardized part of the EPD communication i.e. the generic template.

Communication of standardized environmental information for construction goods and services requires a format that provides a location of all elements of information from different sources. The ITM provides a unique and consistent reference position in a grid.

With reference to FprEN 15804 the ITM will contain some information, which is mandatory and some information, which is voluntary, and so in some cases blanks or gaps can occur in the ITM.

The matrix provides the template for communicating this information for each of the information modules as defined in FprEN 15804:2011, Figure 1. The matrix is also used for communicating the information for any of the scenarios, which can occur and/or the respective technical information for these scenarios. The ITM consists of a grid structure in which all items of information according to FprEN 15804 shall be presented.

The ITM allows reporting of an EPD covering a full life cycle, but also for example, of information representing single or multiple scenarios for discrete life cycle stages such as production, use or end of life. Where multiple scenarios for discrete life cycle stages or information modules are to be reported the ITM shall be separated into sub-ITM-tables where each sub table addresses all the scenarios related to a specific life cycle stage or information module. These sub-ITM-tables shall follow the structure of the master-ITM-Tables A.2 to A.8. Where there are known linkages between scenarios of different modules these shall be stated in Table A.2.

The content of an EPD shall be communicated at minimum through the ITM as given in Annex A.

For EPDs which cover only cradle to gate or cradle to gate with options, only the product stage ITM and where relevant scenario ITM shall be provided.



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