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The Value of EPDs in Construction

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1. What are Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs)?

Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs) are independently verified and registered documents that communicate transparent and comparable data and other relevant environmental information about the lifecycle environmental impacts of products.

2. EPDs are becoming more important in today's world. Why is this?

Climate change and the move to net zero targets has increased the construction industry's focus on sustainability. In line with this, government projects and an increasing number of developers have begun setting their own carbon reduction targets. In this context, EPDs have become recognised as a trusted measure of genuine sustainability.

3. What is meant by the term 'lifecycle assessment' and how does this concept relate to EPDs?

Life cycle assessment (LCA) is a systematic method of assessing the environmental impacts associated with all the stages of the life cycle of a product or process. Products that carry EPDs have undergone lifecycle

4. Name the five stages of lifecycle assessment.

- Raw Material Extraction
- Manufacturing & Processing
- Transportation
- Usage · End of Life & Waste Disposal

5. How has the Australian EPD format changed recently and why?

The recent change to the format of EPDs published through EPD Australasia is that multiple datasets of results are no longer allowed in a single EPD, and each EPD is only able to have a single set of results. This change has been put in effect to ensure greater harmonisation of EPDs globally, as well as moving towards a more future-facing digital system

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6. How do specifiers use EPDs on projects? How do we know what matters the most?

Specifiers can use EPDs to satisfy the specific environmental objectives of a project, to achieve GreenStar ratings or meet targets for embodied carbon reduction. EPDs can be used in making decisions on material or supplier selection, with a particular focus on the Global Warming Potential or Greenhouse Gas emissions