

# Glossary of the Institut Bauen und Umwelt (IBU)

Version: 2.0

## Introduction

This glossary serves as a reference work for IBU employees, members and interested parties. It contains key terms and abbreviations from the areas of EPDs & sustainable building, standardization, building regulation and digitalization in the construction industry.

## Disclaimer

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## Overview of terms

Abbreviation	Term	Explanation	References
Akk. St.	Accredited body (Akkreditierte Stelle)	Organization that is officially authorized to carry out conformity assessments and issue certifications.	
AVS 3+	Assessment and Validation System 3+	Conformity assessment system with strict requirements for environmental information.	See BauPVO
AVCP 3+	Assessment and Verification of Constancy of Performance System 3+	Conformity assessment system with strict requirements for environmental information.	See BauPVO/CPR
BauPG	Bauproduktengesetz (Construction Products Act)	German law implementing the CPR, which regulates national requirements and sanctions.	
BauPVO	Construction Products Regulation (Bauproduktenverordnung)	European regulation that defines harmonised regulations for the marketing of construction products in the EU.	CPR
BIM	Building Information Modelling	Digital method for planning, executing and managing buildings using a central 3D model.	
BNB	Assessment system for sustainable building (Bewertungssystem Nachhaltiges Bauen)	German building certification system/assessment system for sustainability in building construction, e.g. for public buildings.	
BWR	Basic Work Requirements	Basic requirements for buildings according to CPR.	
CE	CE marking	Marking indicating that a construction product complies with the applicable requirements of the EU CPR.	

Abbreviation	Term	Explanation	References
CF	Characterisation factor	Numerical value used in life cycle assessment to compare the environmental impact of different emissions.	
CEN	European committee for standardisation	Part of the European standardisation organisations (ESOs), responsible for developing and maintaining European Standards (ENs) in non-electrotechnical sectors.	
CENELEC	European electrotechnical committee for standardisation	Part of the European Standardisation System, developing standards for electrical and electronic engineering alongside CEN and ETSI.	CEN
CPR	Construction Products Regulation	English name of the Construction Products Regulation (CPR), which defines harmonised regulations for construction products. Regulation (EU) 305/2011 on construction products.	See BauPVO
CML method	CML = Centrum voor Milieukunde (Leiden University)	Ecology-orientated information and decision-making tool for creating a life cycle assessment.	
CPR Acquis process	CPR Acquis Process	Process for the further development of harmonised specifications under the CPR.	
c-PCR	Complementary Product Category Rules	Rules for the application of the CPR developed by Product TC and approved by CEN TC 350.	
DGNB	German Sustainable Building Council (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Nachhaltiges Bauen)	German building certification system.	
DIBt	German Institute for Building Technology (Deutsches Institut für Bautechnik)	Technical authority for the approval or authorisation of construction products and types of construction subject to regulation.	
DPP	Digital Product Passport	Electronic document with comprehensive information on construction products, in particular on environmental performance and recyclability.	ESPR
DoP	Declaration of Performance	Document in which the manufacturer declares the performance of a construction product in relation to its essential characteristics.	

Abbreviation	Term	Explanation	References
DoPC	Declaration of Performance and Conformity	Extended declaration of performance under the new CPR, which also includes conformity.	See DoP
ETA	European Technical Assessment	European Technical Assessment (ETA) for construction products without hEN on the basis of an EAD.	See EAD
EAD	European Assessment Document	Document as a basis for a European Technical Assessment (ETA) for construction products without hEN.	
ECO Platform	ECO Platform	International umbrella organization of EPD programme operators for the harmonization and quality assurance of EPDs.	
EED	Energy Efficiency Directive	EU directive to improve energy efficiency in buildings and industry.	
EN	European standard	Standards developed by CEN or CENELEC.	See CEN
EN 15804+A2	European standard for environmental product declarations	Standardized method for creating EPDs for construction products.	
EN 15978	Standard Sustainability of European Buildings	Standardised method for calculating a building life cycle assessment (sister standard to EN 15804).	
EPBD	Energy Performance of Buildings Directive	EU directive on the energy efficiency of buildings, will introduce LCA at building level (according to EN15978).	
EoL	End of Life	End of life.	
EOTA	European Organization for Technical Assessment	European Organization for Technical Assessment.	
EPD	Environmental Product Declaration	Standardized document containing environmental information on a construction product throughout its life cycle in accordance with ISO 14025 and EN 15804.	
ESG	Environmental, social and governance	Sustainability criteria for companies on the environment, social issues and corporate governance	
ESPR	Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation	EU regulation defining sustainable product requirements.	
FPC	Factory Production Control	Documented and permanent internal control system in manufacturing.	
GHG	Greenhouse gases	Gases that trap heat in the atmosphere.	

Abbreviation	Term	Explanation	References
GPP	Green Public Procurement	Public procurement with environmental criteria, relevant for sustainable building products.	
GNB	Group of Notified Bodies	EU-wide coordination group for bodies that assess construction products regarding their conformity with the CPR.	
GNB SH03	Group of Notified Bodies - Sector Group on Environmental Sustainability (SH03)	Subgroup of the GNB for the creation of guidelines and directives for the implementation of the AVCP and AVS3+ system.	See GNB, AVCP, AVS3+
GWP	Global Warming Potential	Measure of the global warming potential of emissions over a certain period of time.	
hEN	Harmonized European Standard	Technical standard listed in the Official Journal of the EU that defines the requirements for construction products covered by the CPR.	
htS	Harmonized Technical Specification	Collective term for harmonized standards (hEN) and European Assessment Documents (EAD) under the CPR.	
IBU	Institut Bauen und Umwelt e.V.	Programme operator for EPDs and key institution for sustainability in the construction industry.	
IBU Verify	IBU Verify GmbH	Spun-off verification body and future notified body (NB).	<a href="https://ibu-verify.com">https://ibu-verify.com</a>
IBU.data	IBU.data	Database of IBU for EPDs in a digital format.	<a href="https://ibu-epd.com/ibu-data-start">https://ibu-epd.com/ibu-data-start</a>
ILCD+EPD	International Life Cycle Data System + Environmental Product Declaration	EU data format for life cycle assessment and EPD data in XML form.	<a href="https://github.com/InDataWG">https://github.com/InDataWG</a>
ISO	International Organization for Standardization	International standardization organisation; and international standard published by ISO.	
LCA	Life Cycle Assessment	Method for analyzing the environmental impact of a building product over its entire life cycle.	
LCI	Life Cycle Inventory	Life cycle inventory; second stage of the life cycle assessment.	
Level(s)	Level(s) Framework	EU initiative to assess the sustainability of buildings using indicators, including life cycle assessment and circular economy.	

Abbreviation	Term	Explanation	References
MND	Module not declared	Labelling for non-covered life cycle modules in EPDs.	
MNR	Module not relevant	Labelling for a module that is not relevant at product level (IBU definition).	
NB	Notified Body	Organization designated by a notifying body of an EU Member State to assess construction products according to CPR.	
ÖKOBAUDAT	ÖKOBAUDAT	Official German building materials database for life cycle assessment and sustainable building.	<a href="https://oekobauda.t.de/">https://oekobauda.t.de/</a>
PCF	Product Carbon Footprint	CO <sub>2</sub> balance of a product over its entire life cycle, measured in CO <sub>2</sub> equivalents in accordance with ISO 14067	
PCR	Product Category Rules	Regulations with specific requirements for the creation of EPDs for a product group.	
PCR Part A	Product Category Rules - Part A	General specifications for the creation of product category rules (IBU classification).	See PCR Part B
PCR Part B	Product Category Rules - Part B	Product-specific requirements for the creation of Product Category Rules. (IBU classification).	See PCR Part A
PEF	Product Environmental Footprint	Alternative EU approach to the environmental assessment of products could influence EPDs in the future.	
PO	Programme Operator	Programme operator.	
prEN	Project of CEN or CENELEC (European) standard	A standard that has not yet been finally published.	
Product-TC	Product Technical Committees	Technical committees for harmonized technical specifications.	
QNG	Sustainable building quality seal (Qualitätssiegel Nachhaltiges Gebäude)	German seal for the sustainability assessment of buildings.	
RSL	Reference Service Life	Reference service life of a building product.	
SC	Subcommittee	Subcommittee.	See TC, CEN, ISO
SI	International System of Units	International System of Units: Standardised system of measurement for physical quantities.	
SVR	Advisory Board (Sachverständigenrat)	Independent expert panel of the IBU for rule monitoring.	

Abbreviation	Term	Explanation	References
TAB	Technical Assessment Body	Notified body in an EU member state for issuing ETAs for construction products without a harmonized standard (in Germany the DiBT).	
Taxonomy	EU taxonomy for sustainable economic activities	Classification system for assessing the sustainability of economic activities, including construction products and buildings.	
TC	Technical Committee	Technical committee that develops standards.	See CEN
TC 350	Technical Committee 350	Standardization committee for sustainability of buildings, responsible for EN 15804.	
UID	Unique identifier	Unique identifier: An ID that uniquely identifies an object, e.g. a building product or an EPD.	
UUID	Universally UID	A globally unique identifier, often used for digital documents or data objects.	See UID
XML	Extensible Markup Language	Format for structured data transmission, e.g. for EPDs.	

## Notes on updating

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