Institut Bauen und Umwelt e.V.

IBU Trade Mark Statutes (10/2026)

1. Registered association trademarks

For Institut Bauen und Umwelt e.V., the following association trade marks have been registered with the Harmonisation Office for the Internal Market (OHIM), based in Alicante, Spain:

1.1 Word and design mark “Institut Bauen und Umwelt e.V.”



1.2 Combined word and design mark: “Institut Bauen und Umwelt e.V.” + “Third-Party Verified EPD”



1.3 Combined word and design mark: “Institut Bauen und Umwelt e.V.” + “Third-Party Verified EPD with QR Code”



2. Use for Verification Confirmation

The association uses the association trade mark under 1.1 to confirm successful verification on the environmental product declarations issued in accordance with the EDP programme of the Institut Bauen und Umwelt e.V. The requirements for participating in the EDP programme of the Institut Bauen und Umwelt e.V. are set down in Section 3 of the association's Statutes. Upon being awarded the trade mark, the bearer of each declaration becomes liable for declaration payments of the type and scope set down in the Schedule of Fees.

3. Communication of membership

The association provides its members with the association trade mark under 1.1 for the communication of their membership in the Institut Bauen und Umwelt e.V., e.g. for company/image brochures, business letters, e-mails and for their websites. The association trade mark under 1.1 may not, however, be used for product-related communication.

4. Product-related communication

For product-related communication, notably the labelling of goods and packaging, but for product data sheets, price lists and product-specific advertisement motifs, too, the combined word and design mark under 1.2 or 1.3 is to be used exclusively. Only such products may be labelled as for which environmental product declarations have been issued. The labelling is to be used in close proximity to the product and must be clearly attributable to the product concerned. The above-mentioned use of the combined mark under 1.2 or 1.3 is also open to such bearers of declarations that are not at the same time members of the association but under article 3(2)(a) of the association's Statutes are entitled to used the stated services and have agreed to these Trade Mark Statutes

5. Use in sales and/or marketing companies

The association allows its regular members to use the combined word and design mark under 1.2 or 1.3 for their sales and/or marketing companies insofar as only products for which environmental product declarations have been issued are labelled in this way. The labelling is to be used in close proximity to the product and must be clearly attributable to the product concerned.

6. Membership Requirement

The right to use the trade marks is bound to membership in the Institut Bauen und Umwelt e.V. Upon effective termination of such membership, whether through resignation or exclusion, the right to use the trade marks shall end for that member and for any other declaration bearers whose entitlement to participate in the EDP programme of the Institut Bauen und Umwelt e.V. is derived from the membership of that exiting member [see Section 3 (2) a of the association's Statutes].

7. Use of the Mark Without Independent Membership

Declaration bearers who are not themselves members (group companies (subsidiaries), members of trade associations with membership in the IBU) as well as declaration bearers who have effectively terminated their membership before the expiry of their declaration, may maintain their entitlement to use the association trade marks after their parent company or trade association terminates its membership by paying an increased trade mark fee under clause 10 of the Schedule of Fees for the remainder of the declaration's term until expiry. Otherwise, all further use of the association trade marks under 1.1 and the combined word and design mark under 1.2 and 1.3 is prohibited.

8. Misuse of the Mark

Any member violating these Trade Mark Statutes may be excluded from the association in accordance with Section 5 (3) of the association's Statutes.

9. Action Against Infringement by Third Parties

The association is obliged to take action of an out-of-court and/or in-court nature against any third parties causing association members difficulties by way of their use of association trade marks.

10. Duty to Notify

Every association member is required to immediately notify the association's management board of any violation of the Trade Mark Statutes of which it becomes aware

11. Prohibition of Transfer

The authorisation granted to members to use the association trade marks of the Institut Bauen und Umwelt e.V. may not be transferred to third parties (persons or companies) with the exception of the cases set out under no. 5 of these Trade Mark Statutes.

12. Meaning and Scope of the EPD Mark

(1) The IBU EPD Mark serves exclusively as evidence that an Environmental Product Declaration (EPD) has been published for the designated product and that such declaration has been prepared and verified in accordance with the applicable Programme Rules.

(2) The use of the mark does not, within the meaning of the EmpCo Directive*, constitute in particular any claim regarding:

a. the environmental friendliness of a product;
b. the sustainability of a product;
c. environmental superiority over other products;
d. a particular environmental performance;
e. climate neutrality;
f. emission-free status; or
g. any other ecological advantage or preferential environmental status.

(3) The mark must not be used in a manner that could create the impression among third parties that the product possesses a particular ecological quality or superiority solely on the basis of the EPD.

13. Use of the EPD Mark in Customer Communication and Marketing

(1) When using the EPD Mark in advertising, product labelling, packaging, catalogues, websites, social media, or any other communication materials, it must be ensured that the informational nature of the EPD is preserved.

(2) The EPD Mark must not be presented as an independent sustainability, environmental, or quality label.

(3) The EPD Mark must not be used in a manner that could lead consumers to believe that the product meets specific sustainability requirements that are not substantiated by the EPD.

14. Prohibited Environmental and Sustainability Claims

The use of the EPD Mark in direct connection with the following or comparable claims within the meaning of the EmpCo Directive shall not be permitted unless their legal and technical substantiation can be demonstrated independently of the existence of the EPD:

a. “sustainable”
b. “particularly sustainable”
c. “environmentally friendly”
d. “ecological”
e. “green”
f. “climate-friendly”
g. “climate-neutral”
h. “carbon-neutral”
i. “zero-emission”
j. “best environmental choice”
k. “environmentally sound product”
l. “product with a positive environmental impact”

This shall also apply to pictorial, visual, or graphic representations that may create a corresponding impression.

15. Use of Quantitative Environmental Information

(1) Any statements based on an EPD must be founded on verifiable information contained in the published EPD.

(2) Individual environmental indicators must not be presented selectively or taken out of context where this could create a misleading overall impression.

(3) Comparisons with other products shall be permitted only where they are based on a methodologically comparable basis and where the applicable standards and programme-specific requirements are complied with.

16. Misuse of the Mark

(1) IBU shall be entitled to prohibit or suspend the use of the mark if such use violates these Statutes or is likely to mislead consumers.

(2) This shall apply in particular to any use that is inconsistent with the nature of the mark as evidence of a verified Environmental Product Declaration (EPD).

(3) Any further rights of IBU under the Programme Rules, contractual agreements, or applicable statutory provisions shall remain unaffected.

17. Use of the EPD Logo

The EPD logo may be used in the versions illustrated in Sections 1.2 and 1.3. Wherever possible, the standard version should be used. The logo must always be reproduced using the high-resolution vector files provided and may not be altered in its shape or colour. If colour reproduction is not technically feasible, the monochrome version of the logo may be used, as illustrated below by the previous EPD logo.



