

What types of EPDs exist and how are they different?

There are normally two types of EPDs. EPD for a specific product and EPD for an average product. Below is a brief description of these types.

Product specific EPD:

1. **EPD for one product:** An EPD for a specific manufacturer/supplier product, with one or more representative scenarios for transportation, installation, use, and disposal. The product can be manufactured at several different factories but comes from one supplier. The EPD is registered and published by EPD-Norway.
2. **Project EPD:** An EPD for a specific manufacturer/supplier product for a specific customer/project. The difference from the usual EPD is that the project EPD is not necessarily recorded and published by EPD-Norway as it refers to an already registered and published EPD and it is prepared for a specific project/customer. This is a common procedure where there may be some variation between each delivery, e.g., for concrete, or where the customer wants specific data for transport (A4) and any construction site (A5).

Average EPD:

1. **Common EPD for multiple products:** An EPD with an average of several related products (e.g., different surface treatment, different thickness, etc.) from a supplier/manufacturer. The environmental performance of the products included cannot vary more than +/- 10%. Otherwise, as product specific as EPD above.
2. **Generic EPD or industry EPD for one product:** This is an average EPD where multiple manufacturers join forces to declare the same type of product. There are no requirements for how much variation there is between the manufacturers, as long as the product is the same. It is good practice to state the width of variation for the different environmental impact categories.
3. **Generic EPD or industry EPD for multiple products:** As above, but the variation between the products cannot be more than +/- 10%.

Please note that the geographical spread of manufacturers and/or production sites can be anything from a geographical area within a country to several countries.

One can say that an average EPD will "reward" the producers/production sites with the worst results for the environmental indicators and "punish" the best. Moreover, the average EPD will not motivate manufacturers to change to prepare their own processes

It is important that the user of EPD is aware of the main differences between the respective EPD types and uses the EPDs based on what the EPDs actually contain of information.

An approved EPD can always be found on the program operator's website, for EPD Norway it is www.epd-norge.no . Please contact the EPD Norway on post@epd-norge.no whether you are presented with an EPD that you are unsure is valid or not.