



International Reference Life Cycle Data System (ILCD) Data Network

Compliance rules and entry-level requirements

ILCD-compliant - High quality data
ILCD-compliant - Basic quality data
ILCD-compliant - Data estimate
(in variants for goal Situations A, B, C1 and C2)

and

ILCD Data Network - Entry-level

Version 1.1

EUR 24380 EN - 2012

First edition

The mission of the JRC-IES is to provide scientific-technical support to the European Union's Policies for the protection and sustainable development of the European and global environment.

The mission of the JRC-IES is to provide scientific-technical support to the European Union's Policies for the protection and sustainable development of the European and global environment.

Citation: European Commission - Joint Research Centre - Institute for Environment and Sustainability: International Reference Life Cycle Data System (ILCD) Data Network - Compliance rules and entry-level requirements. Version 1.1, 2012. EUR 24380 EN. Luxembourg. Publications Office of the European Union; 2012.

European Commission
Joint Research Centre
Institute for Environment and Sustainability

Contact information

Address: Via E. Fermi, 2749 – 21027 Ispra (VA) - Italy

E-mail: lca@jrc.ec.europa.eu

Fax: +39-0332-786645

<http://lct.jrc.ec.europa.eu/>

<http://ies.jrc.ec.europa.eu/>

<http://www.jrc.europa.eu/>

Legal Notice

Neither the European Commission nor any person acting on behalf of the Commission is responsible for the use which might be made of this publication.

***Europe Direct is a service to help you find answers
to your questions about the European Union***

Freephone number (*):

00 800 6 7 8 9 10 11

(*): Certain mobile telephone operators do not allow access to 00 800 numbers or these calls may be billed.

A great deal of additional information on the European Union is available on the Internet.
It can be accessed through the Europa server <http://europa.eu/>

JRC 68365

EUR 24380 EN

ISBN 978-92-79-22817-9

ISSN 1831-9424

doi:10.2788/80302

Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union

© European Union, 2010-2012

Reproduction is authorised provided the source is acknowledged

Printed in Italy

CONTENTS

1	OVERVIEW	5
2	COMPLIANCE SYSTEMS AND ENTRY-LEVEL REQUIREMENTS	7
2.1	PROCESS DATA SETS	7
2.2	OTHER DATA SET TYPES (FLOW, FLOW PROPERTY, UNIT GROUP).....	11
2.3	LCIA METHOD DATA SET	11
3	ILCD COMPLIANCE ELEMENTS	12
3.1	OVERVIEW OF THE COMPLIANCE ELEMENTS AND RULES	12
3.2	REFERENCES TO DOCUMENTS WITH THE DETAILED RULES.....	13
4	ENTRY-LEVEL REQUIREMENTS	16
5	DEVELOPMENT AND CONSULTATION	18

1 Overview

Preceding remark: This version 1.1 reflects changes to the naming convention for data set files and related references to these files (see tables 2, 3, 4). Other changes are of clarifying nature only.

This document identifies the documents/sources for the implementation of the quality, method, nomenclature, review and documentation compliance rules of the International Reference Life Cycle Data System (ILCD) Data Network ("ILCD Data Network"). These requirements build on the requirements of the ILCD Handbook with few further specified requirements to support the electronic data network.

The overall objective is to facilitate the availability and access to consistent and quality-assured life cycle data for robust Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) studies and reliable decision support in public policy and business.

For Process data sets and in addition to a simplified entry-level requirement, ILCD-compliance systems have been defined for each of the archetype goal Situations A, B, C1 and C2 in each three quality-level variants. Details on the situations and quality-levels are given in the "ILCD Handbook - Specific guide for LCI data sets" and in more detail in the "ILCD Handbook - General guide for LCA" that forms its basis.

"ILCD Data Network - Entry-level" requirements are defined for the first years of building up the ILCD Data Network. These are simplified/less demanding compared to full ILCD-compliance; Tab. 1 gives the overview.

For other data set types (Flows, Flow properties, and Unit groups) a general ILCD-compliance has been defined; Source and Contact data sets have no specific requirements apart from being properly ILCD-formatted. A complete set of compliance requirements for LCIA method data sets are yet to be defined, while correct ILCD-formatting and use of the ILCD reference elementary flows as well as adherence to the ILCD Nomenclature rules is a prerequisite.

To declare compliance, in the ILCD formatted data sets in the respective field a reference is to be set to the source data sets that identifies the compliance system. This document lists the respective source data sets in overview tables.

Tab. 1 Comparison between "Entry-level" and full "ILCD-compliance" for Process data sets¹

Compliance area	ILCD Data Network - Entry-level	ILCD-compliance (details see Tab. 6)
Documentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum documentation extent specified • ILCD format to be used 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum documentation extent specified • ILCD format to be used

¹ The table contains some clarifications compared to the same table in version 1 of this document

Nomenclature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compliance with ILCD nomenclature document (e.g. use of ILCD reference elementary flows), • <i>Certain aggregated elementary flows (e.g. VOC) are permitted</i> • <i>Terminology use not enforced.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compliance with ILCD nomenclature document (e.g. use of ILCD reference elementary flow, flow property and unit group data sets) • ILCD terminology to be used
Data quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"Not defined", i.e. no data quality levels (Note: this requirement is covered as part of "Documentation")</i> • <i>Data quality needs to be stated using ISO quality criteria</i> • Technological, geographical and time-related representativeness to be documented 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 levels of data quality differentiated ("high quality", "basic quality", "data estimate"), covering among others quantitative criteria for accuracy, completeness and precision. Differentiated quality ratings on Data quality, Methodological consistency, Nomenclature etc. are to be documented inside the data set.
Method	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ISO 14040 and 14044 compliant process-based LCA • <i>Methodological ILCD-compliance not enforced; applied modelling framework(s) and allocation/substitution approaches to be documented</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ISO 14040 and 14044 compliant process-based LCA • Methodological ILCD-compliance required, differentiated by the archetype goal situations A, B, C1 and C2
Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Use of reviewers from registry not required</i> ▪ <i>"Qualified reviewer" required (based on ISO 14025):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>knowledge of relevant sector</i> • <i>knowledge of represented process or product</i> • <i>LCA method expertise and experience</i> • <i>Qualified independent external reviewer in line with ISO 14044 (chapter 6.1) requirements BUT separate review report is not required (review documented in data set) <u>OR</u></i> • <i>Qualified independent internal reviewer in line with ISO 14044 (chapter 6.1) requirements, BUT separate review report is required (minimum review scope defined), in addition to documentation provided within data set</i> • <i>Review on unit process level may not be required, depending on data quality claims</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ILCD-registered, qualified "Independent external reviewer" [ILCD reviewer registry, point system: LCA expertise and experience, experience in relevance sector, review experience - in line with ISO 14044 and 14025] • Separate review report always required (electronically attached to data set), in addition to condensed review documentation to be provided in data set • Scope and methods of review in line with "ILCD Handbook - Review scope, methods and documentation", typically including sample reviews on level of key unit processes also of any included background system is required

Remark: italics identifies less strict requirement than full ILCD-compliance

2 Compliance systems and entry-level requirements

2.1 Process data sets

ILCD compliance

This chapter refers to the five sets of requirements that are the basis to ensure the overall quality and consistency of the ILCD Data Network: method, data quality (completeness and representativeness), nomenclature, review, and documentation. These rules have the purpose to ensure the appropriateness and necessary compatibility of the data sets in the ILCD Data Network regarding Life Cycle Inventory (LCI) data collection and modelling methods, use of the same underlying elementary flows and nomenclature, appropriate documentation for data users, and giving an assurance on the data quality via reviews.

The following goal situations are differentiated. These represent the most common types of LCA applications - details see Table 3 and chapter 5.3 in the separate document "ILCD Handbook - General guide for LCA":

- **Situation A "Micro-level decision support"**: Decision support on micro-level, typically for product-related questions. "Micro-level decisions" are assumed to have only limited and no structural consequences outside the decision-context, i.e. do not change available production capacity. The effects are too small to overcome the threshold to be able to cause so called large-scale consequences in the background system or other parts of the technosphere
- **Situation B "Meso/macro-level decision support"**: Decision support at a strategic level (e.g. raw materials strategies, technology scenarios, policy options, etc). "Meso/macro-level decisions" are assumed to have also structural consequences outside the decision-context, i.e. they do change available production capacity. The analysed decision alone results in large-scale consequences in the background system or other parts of the technosphere
- **Situation C "Accounting"**: Purely descriptive documentation of the system under analysis (e.g. a product, sector or country), without being interested in any potential consequences on other parts of the economy. Situation C has two sub-types that need to be identified/differentiated:
 - **Situation C1 "Accounting including external benefits"**: Includes existing benefits outside the analysed system (e.g. credits existing recycling benefits)
 - **Situation C2 "Accounting excluding external benefits"**: Does not include existing benefits outside the analysed system

Note that in line with the provisions of the ILCD Handbook, LCI data sets for Situation A can identically be used for Situation C1 (while not always vice versa). Data for Situation B are typically reflecting a specific scenario analysed; their applicability / transferability to other cases under Situation B is to be carefully evaluated along the provided documentation.

Note also that single operation unit process data sets can be identically used for all goal Situations. For multifunctional black box unit process data sets this is partly the case while it might imply some distortions of the results.

In addition, and only for Process data sets, three levels of data quality are differentiated for each of the above goal situations; definitions see chapter 12.3 in the separate document "ILCD Handbook - Specific guide for LCI data sets":

- **High quality data**
- **Basic quality data**
- **Data estimate**

In all possible combinations, the following compliance statements of Tab. 2 have been set; the UUID, version number and file name of the source data set that needs to be referenced are given as well², ³. The compliance settings for each data set ease the identification of data sets in the ILCD Data Network that are applicable to the group of LCA applications (as expressed by the corresponding goal Situation) and its quality-level. Detailed quality statements are to be given in the respective Process data set.

² To ensure that the declared compliance(s) is/are properly identified in the ILCD Data Network, the reference to the applicable compliance system(s) should be given using both the URI (either locally or globally) and the UUID and version number, that all are part of the global reference field "Compliance system name - (source data set)". If using the ILCD editor tool the fields will all be filled in automatically, if the applicable Compliance system(s) source data(s) are selected in the menu. For other software / editors please check the respective manual/help.

³ Recommendations for assignment of UUIDs, version numbers and file names of ILCD formatted data sets are provided in the document "ILCD Data Network - Management of UUID and version number of data sets". They help for all kinds of data set types, i.e. not only for source data sets.

Tab. 2 Possible compliance (sub)systems under the ILCD for Process data sets⁴

Compliance system name	File name of source data set, composed of its UUID and the ending .xml of the compliance system	Version number of data set (or higher version, if available)
ILCD-compliance - Situation A - High quality data	d975693e-d4e0-4c43-a943-539d9f84cac8.xml	01.02.000
ILCD-compliance - Situation A - Basic quality data	d5693c8f-9308-4911-a334-fdbcce4b3ef7.xml	01.02.000
ILCD-compliance - Situation A - Data estimate	0cb541c2-116d-44d8-ad42-cbb23b551f2d.xml	01.02.000
ILCD-compliance - Situation B - High quality data	424b32b5-f279-4fd6-8d33-f106dbe64a95.xml	01.02.000
ILCD-compliance - Situation B - Basic quality data	27389dd4-30dd-4f89-8ceb-6e878ec22cda.xml	01.02.000
ILCD-compliance - Situation B - Data estimate	7bc53f07-4fe0-4619-b08a-061d7eceb585.xml	01.02.000
ILCD-compliance - Situation C1 - High quality data	85c70ebb-6909-462a-9efa-8d97cee275ee.xml	01.02.000
ILCD-compliance - Situation C1 - Basic quality data	55a9c38d-6190-4cd4-b589-45268e4c9475.xml	01.02.000
ILCD-compliance - Situation C1 - Data estimate	9d42c820-1a10-49f3-a387-5a1d355d37ed.xml	01.02.000
ILCD-compliance - Situation C2 - High quality data	43160353-af6f-40e7-bd9a-6930b960885a.xml	01.02.000
ILCD-compliance - Situation C2 - Basic quality data	fec6171f-e2ef-4bb6-934a-37fa323b254b.xml	01.02.000
ILCD-compliance - Situation C2 - Data estimate	50d961dc-0b6a-4796-a2b5-1a12d4f53343.xml	01.02.000

⁴ Note that the key difference to version 1 of this document is that a new convention is applied to file names (and hence references to data set files): data set file names are to be formed along the pattern "UUID.xml", i.e. do not anymore contain the version number; details are provided in the document "ILCD Data Network - Management of UUIDs and version numbers". If moreover in a reference to a data set no version number is given, this is to be interpreted as reference to the latest version of this data set. These changes substantially ease data management as changes in one data set file do not trigger subsequent changes in all files that reference this data set.

Regarding the quality level ONLY the highest attained level shall be given (e.g. only "ILCD-compliance - Situation A - Basic quality data" but NOT also "ILCD-compliance - Situation A - Data estimate").

In case more than one of the goal Situations compliance systems are met, in contrast, all those that are met may be given. E.g. if "ILCD-compliance - Situation A - Basic quality data" applies for an LCI result data set also "ILCD-compliance - Situation C1 - Basic quality data" may be given. For unit process data sets accordingly all four Situations and compliance systems (of the specifically attained quality-level) may be given. This serves to ease identification and sorting/filtering data sets in the ILCD Data Network.

The reference to the respective compliance system is to be stated in the section "Compliance declarations" of the ILCD data set format by setting in the field "Compliance system name" a reference to the corresponding source data set of the applicable compliance.

Establishment phase and entry-level requirements

In the establishment phase of the ILCD Data Network, there is the need to operate with entry-level requirements. These are defined to be in place for up to 3 years. This will help data developers have time for preparing and move forward to the full compliance with the ILCD requirements. Data sets that meet the entry-level requirements are not necessarily methodologically compliant with the ILCD Handbook or methodologically consistent with each other. However, as the applied methods are documented in a systematic way data that are consistent can be identified. The achieved data quality is documented along data quality indicators; there are no data quality levels as in the ILCD-compliance. By using the same elementary flows and documentation format and extent a basic consistency is achieved that supports this process. Conformity to ISO 14040 and 14044 is however always a requirement. The detailed entry-level requirements are found in Tab. 3⁵.

This results in one additional, alternative requirement level below the ILCD-compliance:

⁵ To ensure that the declared compliance(s) is/are properly identified in the ILCD Data Network, the reference to the applicable compliance system(s) should be given using both the URI (either locally or globally) and the UUID and version number, that all are part of the global reference field "Compliance system name - (source data set)". If using the ILCD editor tool the fields will all be filled in automatically, if the applicable Compliance system(s) source data(s) are selected in the menu. For other software / editors please check the respective manual/help.

Tab. 3 Entry-level requirements under the ILCD Data Network for Process data sets; note that the entry-level is below ILCD-compliance and does not imply methodological compliance with the ILCD Handbook.

Compliance system name	File name of source data set of the compliance system	Version number
ILCD Data Network - Entry-level	d92a1a12-2545-49e2-a585-55c259997756.xml	01.02.000

2.2 Other data set types (Flow, Flow property, Unit group)

Since for all supporting data sets types that foresee compliance declarations (i.e. Flows, Flow properties, Unit groups) - in contrast to the Process data set - a differentiation of the compliance requirements is required by neither the archetype goal situations nor quality levels, only one, common "ILCD-compliance" exists. Tab. 4 identifies the source data set that is to be referenced.

Tab. 4 ILCD-compliance only for Flow, Flow property and Unit group data sets

Compliance system name	File name of source data set of the compliance system	Version number
ILCD Data Network - compliance (non-Process)	9ba3ac1e-6797-4cc0-afd5-1b8f7bf28c6a.xml	01.02.000

Note that for contact and source data sets it is not foreseen to declare compliance in the data set; the requirements for documentation (see document "ILCD - Documentation of LCA data sets") should nevertheless be met to ensure appropriate information for data set users.

2.3 LCIA method data set

Proper use of ILCD format, use of ILCD reference elementary flows and adherence to other ILCD Nomenclature rules required. Further details in preparation.

3 ILCD compliance elements

3.1 Overview of the compliance elements and rules

The International Reference Life Cycle Data System (ILCD) Data Network provides a registry for consistent, quality-assured life cycle inventory ("Eco-profile") data sets. Quality and consistency is ensured through compliance with the ILCD Handbook.

Five sets of requirements are essential to ensure the overall quality and consistency of the data in the data network: method, data quality (completeness and representativeness), nomenclature, documentation, and review. These rules have the purpose to ensure the appropriateness and necessary compatibility of the data sets in the ILCD Data Network regarding data collection and modelling methods, use of the same underlying elementary flows and nomenclature, appropriate documentation for data users, and giving an assurance on the data quality via reviews.

The compliance requirements for the ILCD Data Network build on the ILCD-compliance of the ILCD Handbook. Since the use of the ILCD data set format has only "should" status in the ILCD Handbook (i.e. other formats can be used) but is technically required for the operation of the ILCD Data Network, the use of the format and a specified minimum documentation extent are key additional requirements for the ILCD Data Network.

The following compliance rules are defined for the different data set types; Tab. 5 gives an overview:

Tab. 5 Overview of ILCD compliance rules and data set types

Data set type	Compliance area				
	Method	Quality	Nomenclature	Review	Documentation
Process	X	X	X	X	X
Flow	X		X		X
Flow property	X		X		X
(LCIA method) ⁶	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)

⁶ Implementation and definition of compliance rules not yet finalised

Unit group	X		X		X
Source			X		X
Contact			X		X
LCIA method	Proper use of ILCD format, use of ILCD reference elementary flows and adherence to other ILCD Nomenclature rules required. Further details in preparation.				

3.2 References to documents with the detailed rules

The following list provides the documents and chapters where the detailed compliance rules of the ILCD are laid down; these form also the basis for the somewhat simplified requirements for the "ILCD Data Network - Entry level". The named documents are accessible or become accessible currently at <http://ict.jrc.ec.europa.eu> :

Tab. 6 focuses on the "Process data set" as central element, giving an overview of the ILCD Data Network compliance requirements for all five compliance areas.

Tab. 6 Overview of ILCD-compliance requirements for Process data sets; details are given in the named "ILCD Handbook - ..." guidance documents

Aspect	Components	Description / Comment	Main chapters
Quality	Completeness	3 levels of data quality defined ("high quality", "basic quality", "data estimate"). Details see Table 5, Table 6, and Table 7 of the "Specific guide for LCI data sets".	Chapter 12.3 of the "Specific guide for LCI data sets"
	Technological representativeness		
	Geographical representativeness		
	Time-related representativeness		
	Precision / uncertainty		
Methodological appropriateness ⁷ and consistency			
Method	Application of LCI modelling and method provisions of this document	ISO 14040 and -44 compliant process-based LCA Methodologically ILCD compliant, differentiated by the goal situations A, B, C1, and C2.	Chapter 6.5.4 and referenced chapters of the "Specific guide for LCI data sets".

⁷ See text for reason to include "method..." in both data quality and as separate item "Method"

	Application of other method provisions of this document	Adhering to the other method provisions of this document.	Other chapters of the "Specific guide for LCI data sets" with method provisions.
Nomenclature	Correctness and consistency of applied nomenclature and basic reference data set objects	Appropriate naming of flows and processes, consistent use of ILCD reference elementary flows, appropriate and consistent use of units, etc.	Separate document "Nomenclature and other conventions" as well as using the ILCD reference elementary flows, flow properties and unit group data sets as basis for the Input and Output inventory of the Process data set. See also chapter 7.4.3 of the "Specific guide for LCI data sets".
	Correctness and consistency of applied terminology	Correct and consistent use of technical terms (LCA and other domains).	Key terms of chapter 3 of the "General guide for LCA", "terms and concepts" boxes throughout the document, and application of the separate terminology.
Review	Appropriateness of applied review type	Selection of the minimum required review type, i.e. here an "Independent external review", as ILCD-registered qualified reviewer (ILCD reviewer registry, point system: LCA expertise and experience, experience in relevant sector, review experience).	Chapter 11 and separate document "Review schemes for Life Cycle Assessment (LCA)".
	Correctness of applied review scope	Correct scope of what is reviewed.	Separate document on "Review scope, methods, and documentation".
	Correctness of applied review methods	Correct methods of how to review each of the items within the review scope.	Separate document on "Review scope, methods, and documentation".
	Correctness of the review documentation ⁸	Correct scope, form and extent of what is documented about the final outcome of the review, i.e. a	Separate document on "Review scope, methods, and

⁸ Note: The documentation of the review findings belongs to the "Review" part, since it does not relate to the documentation of the object of the data set.

		separate review report using the "ILCD Handbook - Review report template" is required.	documentation".
Documentation	Appropriateness of documentation extent	Documentation-compliant as defined in the "ILCD Handbook - Specific guide for LCI data sets". Note: Depending on intended applications and target audience further information may be required in line with ISO 14044 and the ILCD Handbook; see under "Reporting" in "Specific guide for LCI data sets". Minimum documentation extent specified in separate document "ILCD - Documentation of LCA data sets". Appropriate coverage and correctness and appropriateness of what is reported / documented.	Separate document "ILCD - Documentation of LCA data sets" and chapter 10 of the "Specific guide for LCI data sets", depending on target audience and intended applications.
	Appropriateness of form of documentation	Selection of the applicable form(s) of reporting / documentation, i.e. here a Process data set, preferably with an attached/referenced LCI study report.	Chapter 10.3 of the "Specific guide for LCI data sets".
	Appropriateness of documentation format	Selection and correct use of the data set format or report template, plus review documentation requirements. (Additional requirements for ILCD Data Network (is only "should" requirement in ILCD Handbook)).	ILCD data set format and LCA report template (for LCI study reports).

4 Entry-level requirements

Less strict requirements are put in place for the first years of building-up the ILCD Data Network. Accordingly, next to the three data quality levels as specified in the "ILCD Handbook - Specific guide for LCI data sets", a fourth level of unspecified data quality is introduced for this establishment-phase.

This aims firstly at making as many data available as soon as possible without compromising too much in terms of consistency and quality-assurance. Via the data set documentation the potential user is clearly informed about the applied methods and can thereby judge suitability and compatibility of the data sets for the specific application and product system at hand. Secondly this aims at providing both incentives and a clear time-plan for stepwise improving the minimum quality of the data that is available via the network.

In doing so, also the effort / cost involved to meet the specific requirements is considered together with data updating cycles and internal communication / coordination needs e.g. in business associations to get approval by their members on revised data sets.

The following Tab. 7 accordingly provides this "phasing-in" information, focussing on Process data sets as interim step towards full ILCD-compliance.

Tab. 7 ILCD Data Network - Entry-level requirements

Compliance area	ILCD Data Network - Entry-level
Documentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum documentation extent specified • ILCD format to be used
Nomenclature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compliance with ILCD nomenclature document (e.g. use of ILCD reference elementary flows), • <i>Certain aggregated elementary flows (e.g. VOC) are permitted</i> • <i>Terminology use not enforced.</i>
Data quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"Not defined", i.e. no data quality levels (Note: this requirement is covered as part of "Documentation")</i> • <i>Data quality needs to be stated using ISO quality criteria</i> • Technological, geographical and time-related representativeness to be documented
Method	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ISO 14040 and 14044 compliant process-based LCA • <i>Methodological ILCD-compliance not enforced; applied modelling framework(s) and allocation/substitution approaches to be documented</i>

Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <i>Use of reviewers from registry not required</i>▪ <i>"Qualified reviewer" required (based on ISO 14025):</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>knowledge of relevant sector</i>• <i>knowledge of represented process or product</i>• <i>LCA method expertise and experience</i>• <i>Qualified independent external reviewer in line with ISO 14044 (chapter 6.1) requirements BUT separate review report is not required (review documented in data set) <u>OR</u></i>• <i>Qualified independent internal reviewer in line with ISO 14044 (chapter 6.1) requirements, BUT separate review report is required (with the ILCD template / minimum review documentation scope), in addition to review documentation provided within data set</i>• <i>Review on unit process level may not be required, depending on data quality claims</i>
--------	---

Remark: italics identifies less strict requirement than full ILCD-compliance

5 Development and consultation

Introduction

LCA is global - it addresses the globally distributed life cycles of products and covers global impacts on the natural environment, human health, and the depletion of resources. This calls for one, global approach to LCA. On the other hand, the situation in different parts of the world differs - the business situation is different, important cultural and political differences are to be recognized, the available LCA expertise is widely different, and also the regional and local environment as well as population density and hence the extent of related health impacts differ.

In order to reflect this situation, the approach followed is not a "one-size-fits-all" approach and no e.g. central LCA database with global data coverage would be foreseen. Instead, national database projects worldwide and all other data developers in business, consultancy and research are invited to work together independently and on a regionally differentiated, but nevertheless consistent approach: the International Reference Life Cycle Data System (ILCD) has been developed for this purpose, with the ILCD Data Network serving as platform to make available and access LCA data.

Stakeholder consultations

Drafts of the document have been widely consulted. This has included the EU member State representatives at the IPP Regular meeting, an EC-services internal steering committee, as well as the non-European National Life Cycle Database projects, EU-level business associations, LCA software and database developers and LCIA method developers that were members of the respective Advisory Groups of the EPLCA, as well as other relevant institutions including UNEP (see also <http://lct.jrc.ec.europa.eu/assessment/partners>).

Regarding development and consultation of the ILCD Handbook documents that form the compliance-basis for many of the developments presented in this report, please refer to the JRC Reference Report "International Reference Life Cycle Data System (ILCD) Handbook".

Drafting and financing, acknowledgements

This document has been drafted at the JRC-IES.

The work on the ILCD has been funded by the European Commission, partially supported through Commission-internal Administrative Arrangements (No 070402/2005/414023/G4, 070402/2006/443456/G4, 070307/2007/474521/G4, and 070307/2008/513489/G4) between DG Environment and the Joint Research Centre.

The valuable contributions provided by the participants in the consultations are gratefully acknowledged. They have very substantially contributed to balance quality

ambitions and practicality to achieve the required support in policy and business context.

Development and coordination at JRC-IES

The following staff has coordinated and/or contributed substantially to the developments, as follows:

- Kirana Chomkhamsri (coordination mid 2008 to mid 2009)
- David Pennington (coordination since mid 2009)
- The work has been supported by Marc-Andree Wolf (mid 2009 to early 2012), Kirana Chomkhamsri (mid 2009 to early 2012), and Rana Pant (since mid 2008).

Disclaimer: Involvement in the development or consultation process does not imply an agreement with or endorsement of this document.

European Commission

EUR 24380 EN – Joint Research Centre – Institute for Environment and Sustainability

Title: International Reference Life Cycle Data System (ILCD) Data Network - Compliance rules and entry-level requirements.

Author(s): -

Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union

2012 – 19 pp. –21.0 x 29.7 cm

EUR – Scientific and Technical Research series – ISSN 1018-5593

ISBN 978-92-79-22817-9

doi:10.2788/80302

Cite as: European Commission - Joint Research Centre - Institute for Environment and Sustainability: International Reference Life Cycle Data System (ILCD) Data Network - Compliance rules and entry-level requirements. Version 1.1, 2012. EUR 24380 EN. Luxembourg. Publications Office of the European Union; 2012.

Abstract

Life Cycle Thinking (LCT) and Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) are the scientific approaches behind modern environmental policies and business decision support related to Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP). The International Reference Life Cycle Data System (ILCD) provides a common basis for consistent, robust and quality-assured life cycle data and studies. Such data and studies support coherent policy and business instruments for better resource-efficiency and more sustainable production and consumption, such as Ecolabelling, Ecodesign, Carbon and Environmental footprinting, and Green Public Procurement. This document in its version 1.1 supports the International Reference Life Cycle Data System (ILCD) Data Network. It identifies the documents / sources for the implementation of the data network's quality, method, nomenclature, review and documentation compliance rules. These requirements draw on related requirements of the ILCD Handbook with some further specified requirements to support the electronic data network. The rules themselves are unchanged compared to version 1.0, but the important electronic file names in the tables 2, 3 and 4 have been updated to the new conventions and some formulations be adjusted for better clarity. The principle target audience for this document is the LCA practitioner and reviewer. This document is based on and conforms to the ISO 14040 and 14044 standards on LCA.

How to obtain EU publications

Our priced publications are available from EU Bookshop (<http://bookshop.europa.eu>), where you can place an order with the sales agent of your choice.

The Publications Office has a worldwide network of sales agents. You can obtain their contact details by sending a fax to (352) 29 29-42758.

The mission of the JRC is to provide customer-driven scientific and technical support for the conception, development, implementation and monitoring of EU policies. As a service of the European Commission, the JRC functions as a reference centre of science and technology for the Union. Close to the policy-making process, it serves the common interest of the Member States, while being independent of special interests, whether private or national.

LB-NA-24380-EN-N



ISBN 978-92-79-22817-9



9 789279 228179