PRODUCT CATEGORY RULES (PCR)
PUBLICATION DATE 2026-01-13

ABSORBENT HYGIENE PRODUCTS

PRODUCT CATEGORY CLASSIFICATION: UN CPC 32193

PCR 2011:14
VERSION 4.0.0

VALID UNTIL 2030-01-13

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1 INTRODUCTION

This document constitutes Product Category Rules (PCR) developed in the framework of the International EPD System: a programme for Environmental Product Declarations (EPD)[1] according to ISO 14025:2006, ISO 14040:2006, ISO 14044:2006, and product-specific standards, such as EN 15804 and ISO 21930 for construction products. EPDs are voluntary documents for a company or an industry association to present transparent, consistent, and verifiable information about the environmental performance of their products (goods or services).

The General Programme Instructions (GPI), publicly available on www.environdec.com, includes the rules for the overall administration and operation of the programme and the basic rules for developing EPDs registered in the programme. A PCR complements the GPI and the normative standards by providing specific rules, and guidelines for developing an EPD for one or more specific product categories (see Figure 1), thereby enabling the generation of consistent EPDs within a product category. A PCR should not repeat the rules and guidelines of the GPI, but include additions, specifications and deviations to the rules set in the GPI. As such, a PCR shall be used together with the GPI.

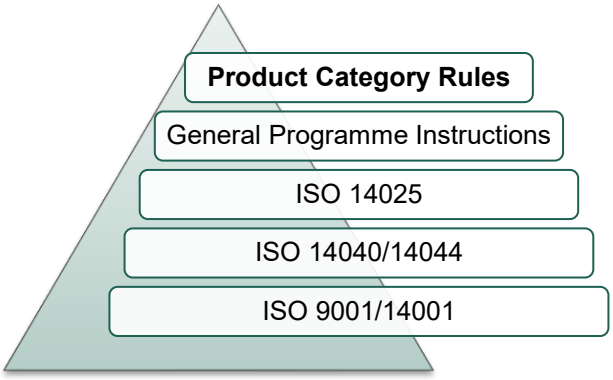

Figure 1. The hierarchy between PCRs, standards, and other documents.

The present PCR uses the following terminology:

- The term “shall” is used to indicate what is obligatory, i.e., a requirement.
- The term “should” is used to indicate a recommendation. Any deviation from a recommendation shall be justified in the EPD development process.
- The terms “may” or “can” are used to indicate an option that is permissible.

For definitions of other terms used in the document, see the GPI and normative standards.

Any references to this PCR shall include the PCR registration number, name, and version number.

The programme operator maintains the copyright of the PCR to ensure that it is possible to publish, update, and make it available to all organisations to develop and register EPDs. Stakeholders participating in PCR development should be acknowledged in the final document and on the website.

[1] Termed type III environmental declarations in ISO 14025.

2 GENERAL INFORMATION

2.1 ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Name:	Absorbent hygiene products
Registration number and version:	2011:14, version 4.0.0
Programme:	EPD INTERNATIONAL EPD SYSTEM
Programme operator:	EPD International AB, Box 210 60, SE-100 31 Stockholm, Sweden. Website: www.environdec.com E-mail: support@environdec.com
PCR Moderator:	Brieuc Lits, EDANA, brieuc.lits@edana.org
PCR Committee:	EDANA, BASF, Drylock Essity, Fater Group, Fitesa, FiberTex Personal Care, Focus Hotmelt, Hartmann, Kimberly-Clark, Mega Disposables, Reifenhäuser, Stora Enso.
Publication date:	2026-01-13 See Section 9 for a version history of the PCR.
Valid until:	2030-01-13 The validity may change. See www.environdec.com for the latest version of the PCR and the latest information on its validity and transition periods between versions.
Development and updates:	The PCR has been developed following ISO/TS 14027, including public consultation and review. The rules for the development and updating processes are described in Section 9 of the GPI. The PCR is valid for a pre-determined time period to ensure that it is updated at regular intervals. When the PCR is about to expire, the PCR Moderator shall initiate a discussion with the Secretariat on if and how to proceed with updating the PCR and renewing its validity. A PCR may be updated before it expires, based on changes in normative standards or provided significant and well-justified proposals for changes or amendments are presented. When there has been an update of the PCR, the new version should be used to develop EPDs. For small updates (change of third-digit version number), the previous version is normally immediately removed from the PCR library on www.environdec.com and there is no transition period. For medium updates (change of second-digit version number), the previous version of the PCR is valid in parallel during a transition period of at least 90 days, but not exceeding its previously set validity period. For large updates (change of first-digit version number), the previous version is valid in parallel during a transition period of at least 180 days, but not exceeding its previously set validity period. Stakeholder feedback on PCRs is very much encouraged. Any comments on this PCR may be sent directly to the PCR Moderator and/or the Secretariat during its development or during its period of validity.

Standards and documents conformance:	General Programme Instructions of the International EPD System, version 5.0, based on ISO 14025 and ISO 14040/14044.[2]
PCR language(s):	At the time of publication, this PCR was available in English. If the PCR is available in several languages, these are available on www.environdec.com. In case of translated versions, the English version takes precedence in case of any discrepancies.

2.2 SCOPE OF PCR

2.2.1 PRODUCT CATEGORY DEFINITION AND DESCRIPTION

This document provides Product Category Rules (PCR) for the assessment of the environmental performance of Absorbent Hygiene Products and the declaration of this performance by an EPD. The product category corresponds to United Nations Central Product Classification (UN CPC) 32193.

Absorbent Hygiene Products are a subset of products from UN CPC 32193: toilet paper, handkerchiefs, towels, serviettes, napkins for babies, tampons, and similar household, sanitary or hospital articles, and articles of apparel, of paper pulp, paper, cellulose wadding or webs of cellulose fibres.

UN CPC hierarchy:

- Section 3: Other transportable goods, except metal products, machinery and equipment
  - Division 32: Pulp, paper and paper products; printed matter and related articles
    - Group 321: Pulp. paper and paperboard
      - Class: 3219: Other paper and paperboard products
        - Subclass 32193: Napkins for babies, tampons, and similar household, sanitary or hospital articles, and articles of apparel, of paper pulp, paper, cellulose wadding or webs of cellulose fibres.

Note that in this PCR, the following products groups are excluded:

- toilet paper, handkerchiefs, towels, serviettes, and articles of apparel, of paper pulp, paper, cellulose wadding or webs of cellulose fibers, and
- non-disposable/multi-use products (except products with multi-use parts, such as washable mesh-pants).

Further information about the classification system is found on https://unstats.un.org/unsd/classifications/Family/Detail/1074.

2.2.2 GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

This PCR may be used globally.

2.2.3 EPD VALIDITY

An EPD becomes valid as of its version date (see Section 8.4.5 of the GPI). When an EPD is originally published, the validity period is normally five years starting from the version date or until the EPD has been de-registered from the International EPD System. Shorter validity periods are also accepted, for example if decided by the EPD owner.

For rules on when an EPD shall be updated and re-verified during its validity, see Section 6.8.1 of the GPI. For validity periods in case of updates of EPDs, see Section 6.8 of the GPI.

[2] Some rules influencing EPD development are independent of the GPI version referred to in the PCR. For example, the latest rules on EPD verification procedures in the GPI shall be followed within 90 days of its publication. See Section 5.1 in the GPI for a description of the four categories of rules and when they shall be followed.

The version date and the period of validity shall be stated in the EPD.

Publication of a new version of the PCR or the GPI does not affect the validity of already published EPDs.

3 REVIEW AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION

This PCR was developed in accordance with the PCR development process described in the GPI of the International EPD System, including open consultation and review.

3.1 OPEN CONSULTATION

3.1.1 VERSION 1.0

This PCR was available for open consultation from date 2011-02-03 until date 2011-03-23, during which any stakeholder was able to provide comments by posting on the PCR forum on www.environdec.com or by contacting the PCR moderator.

Stakeholders were invited via e-mail or other means to take part in the open consultation and were encouraged to forward the invitation to other relevant stakeholders.

3.1.2 VERSION 2.0

This PCR was available for open consultation from date 2014-11-10 until date 2015-01-01, during which any stakeholder was able to provide comments by posting on the PCR forum on www.environdec.com or by contacting the PCR moderator.

Stakeholders were invited via e-mail or other means to take part in the open consultation and were encouraged to forward the invitation to other relevant stakeholders.

3.1.3 VERSION 3.0

This PCR was available for open consultation from 2019-09-30 until 2019-11-26, during which any stakeholder was able to provide comments by posting on the PCR forum on www.environdec.com or by contacting the PCR moderator.

Stakeholders were invited via e-mail or other means to take part in the open consultation and were encouraged to forward the invitation to other relevant stakeholders. No stakeholders provided comments during the open consultation, and agreed to be listed as contributors to the PCR and at www.environdec.com.

3.1.4 VERSION 4.0

Version 4.0.0 of this PCR was available for open consultation from 2025-05-15 until 2025-07-10, during which any stakeholder was able to provide comments by contacting the PCR Moderator and/or the Secretariat.

Stakeholders were invited via e-mail or other means to take part in the open consultation and were encouraged to forward the invitation to other relevant stakeholders. The following stakeholders provided comments during the open consultation and agreed to be listed as contributors in the PCR and on www.environdec.com:

- Essity AB
- Serenity - Ontex Group

3.2 PCR REVIEW

3.2.1 VERSION 1.0

PCR review panel:	The Technical Committee of the International EPD System. A full list of members is available on www.environdec.com. The review panel may be contacted via support@environdec.com. Members of the Technical Committee were requested to state any potential conflict of interest with the PCR Committee, and if there were conflicts of interest they were excused from the review.

3.2.2 VERSION 2.0

PCR review panel:	The Technical Committee of the International EPD System. A full list of members is available on www.environdec.com. The review panel may be contacted via support@environdec.com. Members of the Technical Committee were requested to state any potential conflict of interest with the PCR Committee, and if there were conflicts of interest they were excused from the review.
Chair of the PCR review:	Maurizio Fieschi
Review dates:	2014-12-08 until 2015-01-29

3.2.3 VERSION 3.0

PCR review panel:	The Technical Committee of the International EPD System. A full list of members is available on www.environdec.com. The review panel may be contacted via support@environdec.com. Members of the Technical Committee were requested to state any potential conflict of interest with the PCR Committee, and if there were conflicts of interest they were excused from the review.
Chair of the PCR review:	Maurizio Fieschi
Review dates:	2019-12-19 until 2020-01-14

3.2.4 VERSION 4.0

PCR review panel:	The Technical Committee of the International EPD System. A full list of members is available on www.environdec.com. The review panel may be contacted via support@environdec.com. Members of the Technical Committee were requested to state any potential conflict of interest with the PCR Committee, and if there were conflicts of interest they were excused from the review.
Chair of the PCR review:	Elia Rillo
Review dates:	2025-09-03 until 2025-10-14

3.3 EXISTING PCRS FOR THE PRODUCT CATEGORY

As part of the development of this PCR, existing PCRs and other internationally standardised methods that could potentially act as PCRs were considered to avoid unnecessary overlaps in scope and to ensure harmonisation with established methods of relevance for the product category. The existence of such documents was checked among the following EPD programmes and international standardisation bodies:

- International EPD System. www.environdec.com.

- GlobalEPD,
- IBU
- EPD Norway

No relevant PCRs were found in these programmes.

3.4 REASONING FOR DEVELOPMENT OF PCR

This PCR was developed to enable publication of EPDs for the product category defined in Section 2.2.1 based on ISO 14025 and ISO 14040/14044. The PCR enables different practitioners to generate consistent results when assessing the environmental impact of products of the same product category, and thereby it supports comparability of products within a product category.

3.5 UNDERLYING STUDIES USED FOR PCR DEVELOPMENT

The methodological choices made during the development of this PCR (declared/functional unit, system boundary, allocation methods, impact categories, data quality rules, etc.) were primarily based on the following underlying study:

- Defra (2023) Life cycle assessment of disposable and reusable nappies in the UK 2023.

4 LCA METHOD

This section provides rules for the LCA method used to develop an EPD for the product category as defined in Section 2.2.1. The basic rules of the LCA method are set in Annex A of the GPI, and this section only includes additions, specifications and deviations to the rules set in the GPI. Guidance and examples of applying the LCA method are also available on www.environdec.com/methodology.

4.1 MODELLING APPROACH

The LCA modelling approach of the International EPD System is attributional LCA. This primarily means that specific or average data shall be used, i.e., no marginal data. See Section A.1 of the GPI.

4.2 DECLARED/FUNCTIONAL UNIT

The functional unit is one day of absorbent product use. The functional unit shall include the specification of a reference flow in terms of the number of product units used per day and the citation of an appropriate reference study. Reference studies used in determining the rate of product use shall be based on a broad and representative consumer use study for the product in question and shall be available to the audience of the EPD. If different reference studies are available, these studies shall be declared in the EPD and reported in the LCA study for the product being investigated. If an acceptable source of information regarding the number of products used per day is unavailable, a declared unit shall be used. It means the reference flow and functional unit shall be one product unit.

In addition, or if an acceptable source of information regarding the number of products used per day is unavailable in the EPD, the environmental performance results may also be shown using the declared unit of one product.

The functional unit or declared unit shall be declared in the EPD and the environmental performance results shall be given per defined unit.

A description of the function of the product should be included in the EPD, if relevant.

4.2.1 TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

The category consists of the following three groups of absorbent hygiene products:

- baby diapers
- feminine sanitary protection, and
- adult incontinence care products.

All products within these three categories, regardless of their design or composition, are covered by this PCR, except for non-disposable/multi-use products (products with multi-use parts, such as washable mesh-pants, are however covered by the PCR).

Baby diapers, sanitary pads, pantyliners and adult incontinence products typically consist of a top layer (nonwoven or perforated film), an absorbent core (fluff pulp and/or super absorbers), a back sheet (plastic film, nonwoven) and a fastening system (tape, belt or Velcro).

A tampon typically consists of a cover stock, an absorbent core and a string. Some types of tampons also include an applicator.

The adult incontinence care products covered by this PCR are all products classified in ISO 9949-2 (1993).

Within each product group, the product types in Table 1 can be distinguished. Some of the product types are illustrated in Figure 2.

Table 1. Product groups and product types included in the scope of the PCR.

Product group	Product types
Feminine sanitary protection	Sanitary towels, alt. sanitary napkins
	Pantyliners, alt. panty shields

	Tampons
Baby diapers	Baby diapers
	Pant diapers
	Training pants
	Swimming pants
Adult incontinence products	All-in-one products: contains both the absorbent core and the outer shell with fastening (tapes, hook & loop, belts) (see 1), insert pads (need additional product for fastening (see 2)
	Pants/briefs
	Liner pads
	Male pouches
	Mesh briefs supports
	Bed protection, under pads

Figure 2. Illustrations of product types included in the scope of the PCR.

Depending on product type, both physical size and absorption capacity can vary. The product group and the variant of the product type shall be stated (e.g. baby diaper 5 – 10 kg, adult incontinence insert pad - large - extra dry).

4.3 SYSTEM BOUNDARY

The scope of this PCR and EPDs based on it is cradle-to-grave and module D as it is finished goods that are reported in the EPD.

For the disposable, single-use products covered by this PCR, the use stage shall be excluded as it is not relevant (does not contain activities causing environmental impact). Non-disposable products are excluded from the scope of the PCR, except for products with non-disposable/multi-use parts (e.g. washable mesh pants); for such products, the use stage shall be included to account for washing(see Section 4.9.4).

4.3.1 LIFE-CYCLE STAGES AND INFORMATION MODULES

Because of different data quality rules and the presentation of results, the product life cycle shall be divided into the following life-cycle stages and information modules:

- Upstream stage corresponding to module A1
  - A1: Raw material extraction and processing (e.g., mining, agricultural and forestry operations), production of intermediate materials and components or processing of secondary material input (e.g., recycling processes), production of distribution and consumer packaging, etc.
- Core stage, corresponding to modules A2 and A3:
  - A2: Transports to the manufacturer of the product

- A3: Manufacturing of the product[3]

- Downstream stage, corresponding to module A4, A5, B1, C2 and C4:
  - A4: Transport of the product to warehouse and retail operations
  - A5: Packaging waste processing and disposal
  - B1: Use of the product
  - C2: Transport to waste processing and/or disposal
  - C4: Product waste processing and disposal

In addition, consequences of recovered material/energy beyond the product cycle shall be reported in module D.

Modules B2-B7 are excluded as they are not relevant for the product category. The use stage may be included for products with multi-use parts, and then module B1 is sufficient to capture the use-stage activities (typically washing, including use of energy, water and detergents).

In the EPD, the environmental performance of each of the life-cycle stages (upstream, core, downstream) and module D shall be reported separately, and in aggregated form for the life-cycle stages (upstream, core, downstream).

Section A.3.1 of the GPI outlines rules for how to assign generation of electricity and production of fuels, steam and other energy carriers used, and losses arising, in each information module.

Sections 4.3.1.1 to 4.3.1.5 further describe the processes to include or exclude.

4.3.1.1 Upstream stage, corresponding to module A1

The following processes are part of the product system and classified as upstream processes:

- Extraction and refinement of natural resources (e.g. forestry, agriculture and extraction of oil)
- Production of electricity and fuels used in upstream processes (see Section 4.8.2 for rules on electricity modelling)
- Production of raw materials (e.g. pulp, cotton and other fibres, film, nonwoven, laminates, superabsorbers, elastics, adhesives, etc.)
- Production of packaging materials; excluding pallets

A minimum of 99% of the total weight of the declared product including packaging shall be included.

4.3.1.2 Core stage, corresponding to modules A2 and A3

The following processes are part of the product system and classified as core processes:

- Transportation of input materials to the core process
- Production of electricity and fuels used in core processes (see Section 4.8.2 for rules on electricity modelling)
- Manufacturing of absorbent hygiene product
- Waste treatment of waste generated during manufacturing

Processes not listed here may also be included. All elementary flows at resource extraction shall be included, except for the flows that fall under the general cut-off rule in Section 4.5.

4.3.1.3 Downstream stage, corresponding modules A4, A5, B1, C2 and C4

The following processes are part of the product system and classified as downstream processes:

- Transportation from final manufacturing to average customer (e.g. retailer) or distribution point
- Processing and disposal of consumer and transport packaging waste

[3] These are often, but not always, the processes under operational control of the EPD owner.

- Use of product (excluded for disposable products; included for products with reusable, washable parts as per Section 4.9.5).
- Transport to waste processing and/or disposal
- Processing and disposal of product waste

4.3.1.4 Excluded processes

See Section A.3.1.1 of the GPI. Additionally, pallets shall be excluded from the system boundary.

4.3.1.5 Infrastructure and capital goods

See Section A.3.1.2 of the GPI.

4.3.2 OTHER BOUNDARY SETTING RULES

See Section A.3.2 of the GPI for rules on setting boundaries to nature as well as geographical and temporal boundaries. See Section A.4 of the GPI and Section 4.6 below for rules on setting boundaries to other product systems.

4.4 PROCESS FLOW DIAGRAM

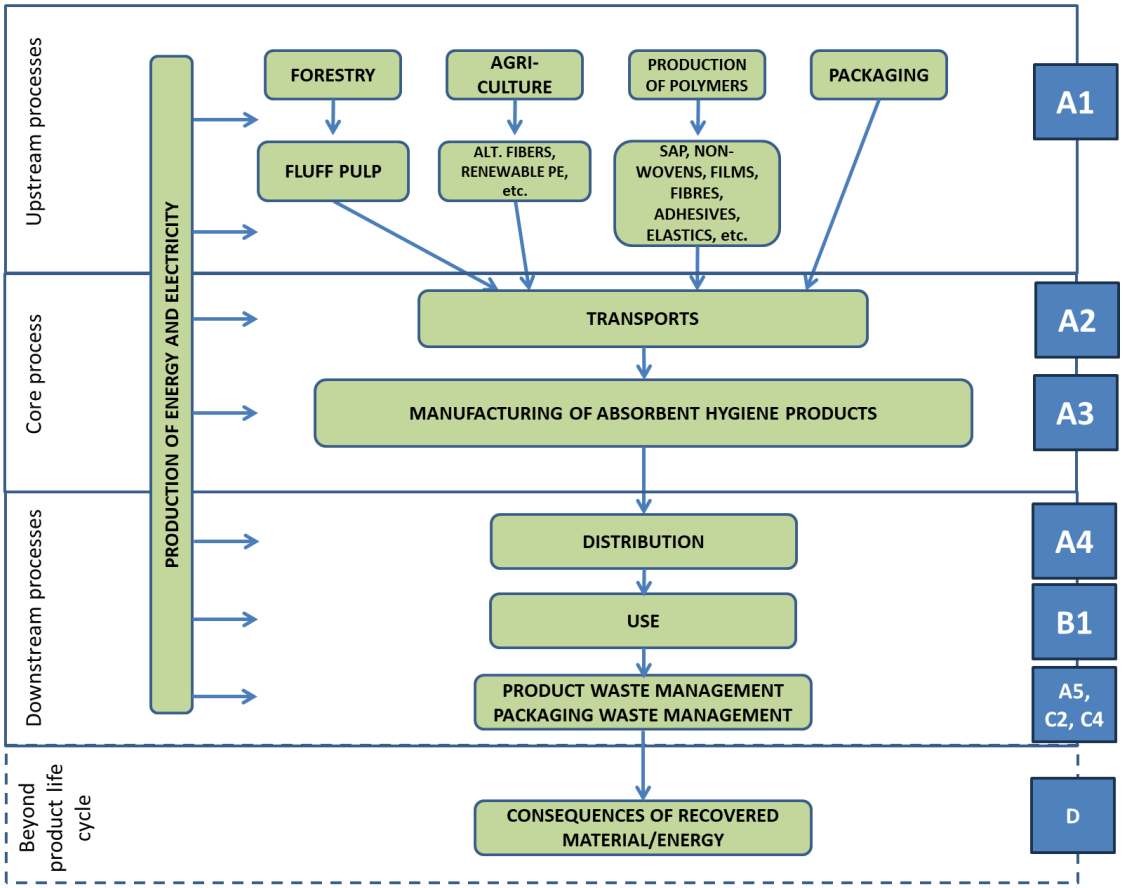

Figure 3. Process flow diagram illustrating the processes that shall be included in the product system, divided into the life-cycle stages and module D. Note that use (B1) is not required to include (see Section 4.3.1); for products with reusable, washable parts it shall be included per Section 4.9.3. The illustration of processes to include may not be exhaustive.

4.5 CUT-OFF RULES

See Section A.3.3 of the GPI.

4.6 ALLOCATION RULES

See Section A.4 of the GPI.

4.6.1 ALLOCATION OF CO-PRODUCTS

See Section A.4.1 of the GPI.

4.6.2 ALLOCATION OF WASTE

See Section A.4.2 of the GPI.

4.7 DATA AND DATA QUALITY RULES

See Section A.5 of the GPI.

See Section 4.8 for further rules related to data and data quality per life-cycle stage and module D.

4.7.1 DATA CATEGORIES

See Section A.5.1 of the GPI.

4.7.2 DATA QUALITY REQUIREMENTS FOR PRIMARY DATA

See Section A.5.2 of the GPI.

4.7.3 DATA QUALITY REQUIREMENTS FOR REPRESENTATIVE SECONDARY DATA

See Section A.5.3 of the GPI.

4.7.4 DATA QUALITY ASSESSMENT AND DECLARATION

See Section A.5.4 of the GPI.

4.7.5 EXAMPLES OF DATABASES FOR SECONDARY DATA

Table 2 lists examples of databases and datasets that can be used for secondary data. Note that a data quality assessment shall be performed also for data listed in the table, and that other data that fulfil the data quality requirements may also be used.

Table 2. Examples of databases and datasets to use for secondary data.

PROCESS	GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE	RECOMMENDED DATASET	DATABASE
Energy mixes	Regional	-	Ecoinvent 3.10 or later
Transport	Global/European	-	Ecoinvent 3.10 or later
Plastics (and precursors)	Global/European	-	Ecoinvent 3.10 or later Plastics Europe
Packaging	Global/European	-	FEFCO
Other Chemicals	Global/European		Ecoinvent 3.10 or later

Waste statistics	OECD	OECD statistics	Latest version
Waste statistics	EU	Eurostat	Latest version
Waste processes for paper, PP, PE, PET, plastic mix, PU, viscose, $CaCO_3$, etc	Global, Europe	-	Ecoinvent 3.10 or later

4.8 OTHER LCA RULES

See Section A.6.1 of the GPI.

For specific LCA rules per life-cycle stage, see Section 4.9.

4.8.1 MASS BALANCE

See Section A.6.1 of the GPI.

Note that mass balance approaches (MBAs) cannot be used in the LCA model. However, the rules on MBA in this PCR may change as a response to the future publication of standards (e.g., ISO 13662 and ISO 14077), as the absorbent hygiene products industry sees MBAs as a feasible way to increase the use of renewable or recovered resources in production in the near future.

4.8.2 ELECTRICITY MODELLING

See Section A.6.2 of the GPI.

The following requirement for contractual instruments in the GPI may not be possible to comply with in all markets for contractual instruments: “the contractual instrument shall … be valid for at least the upcoming six months from the publication of the EPD.” Therefore, it is replaced with the following: “is produced as close as possible to the period to which the contractual instrument is applied and comprises a corresponding timespan.”

4.8.3 BIOGAS MODELLING

See Section A.6.3 of the GPI.

4.9 SPECIFIC RULES PER LIFE-CYCLE STAGE AND MODULE D

See Section A.7 of the GPI.

Below are further data quality requirements and other LCA rules per life-cycle stage, and for module D, of relevance for the product category.

4.9.1 UPSTREAM STAGE, MODULE A1

This PCR does not provide any additions to the rules and guidance in the GPI on the modelling of the upstream stage.

4.9.2 CORE STAGE, MODULES A2-A3

This PCR does not provide any additions to the rules and guidance in the GPI on the modelling of the core stage.

4.9.3 DOWNSTREAM STAGE: DISTRIBUTION, MODULE A4

Transport of the product to the customer shall be described in the EPD and modelled according to this priority (where an option lower in the hierarchy is allowed when data is not available for an option higher in the hierarchy):

1. Actual transportation modes and distances to a specific customer or market, supported by primary data, representing the geographical scope of the EPD.
2. 1000 km by lorry and actual distances for sea and air transports, representing the geographical scope of the EPD. Distances for sea and air transports can be zero if supported by primary data.
3. 1000 km by lorry, 10 000 km by airplane and 10 000 km by sea transport.

The default truck distance in options 2 and 3 is based on a common order-of-magnitude of such transports in the AHP sector. The default airplane and sea distances in option 3 is defined to, in general, make this option conservative in relation to the other options.

Sea transports between continents shall be calculated using the following tool: https://sea-distances.org.

4.9.4 DOWNSTREAM STAGE: PACKAGING WASTE MANAGEMENT, MODULE 5

Waste management of consumer and transport packaging shall be included.

For products sold in the EU or USA/Canada, the recycling rate for transport packaging shall be assumed to be 83% (EU) or 81% (USA/Canada), respectively (Eurostat, 2022; US EPA (2018).

Recycling rates of 87% for consumer packaging made of paper and cardboard, and 18% for consumer packaging made of plastic shall be assumed for the European Union (Eurostat, 2025; Plastics Recyclers Europe, 2023). For geographical scopes outside the European Union, recycling rates reflecting the specific geographical scope of the EPD shall be applied and duly documented.

The part of the packaging that does not go to recycling shall be treated as in the main scenario for product waste management (see Section 4.9.6).

4.9.5 DOWNSTREAM STAGE: PRODUCT USE, MODULE B1

For the disposable, single-use products covered by this PCR, the use stage shall be excluded as it is not relevant (does not contain activities causing environmental impact). Use of additional products or appliances related to cleaning activities during e.g. diapering of babies (e.g. hot water or baby wipes) is explicitly excluded from the system boundaries.

For products with a reusable, washable part, the washing shall be included. Modelling of the washing shall be based on the washing instructions and the geographical scope of the EPD. Furthermore, the production and waste treatment of reusable parts shall be allocated equally over an assumed service life (number of uses) , when calculating the reference flow needed to fulfil the functional unit. The assumed service life shall be justified and stated in the EPD.

4.9.6 DOWNSTREAM STAGE: END-OF-LIFE, MODULES C2 AND C4

Waste from absorbent hygiene products is classified as household waste according to the European Waste Catalogue (Commission Decision 2000/532/EC). Key assumptions regarding the end-of-life stage scenario shall be documented in the EPD:

- The main scenario for the modelling of waste management of the product shall assume 100% incineration in the European Union. A fixed main scenario is justified to increase consistency and comparability across EPDs. Incineration has been chosen because it is the most common, and growing, means of waste management for absorbent hygiene products in Europe, the dominating market for EPDs based on this PCR, and that it avoids the many assumptions involved in modelling landfill (rate of degradation, CH4 capture, pretreatment etc.).
- For geographical scopes outside the European Union, a specific end-of-life scenario shall be developed and applied, reflecting the most representative waste management practices for the region or country concerned. This scenario shall be based on reliable, publicly available data or justified assumptions, and shall be transparently documented in the EPD.
- The extent of energy recovery and other modelling assumptions shall be based on the geographical scope of the EPD.
- Urine and feces of the used absorbent hygiene product shall be excluded from calculations.

If landfill is part of a declared waste management scenario, the amount of landfill gas shall be based on an assumption of 50% degradation of biodegradable materials, which reflects the default fraction of degradable organic carbon for moderately decompostable wastes in IPCC (2019).

If landfill or composting is part of a declared waste management scenario, the following is applicable: In addition to landfill gas or emissions from composting processes within 100 years, any remaining biogenic carbon in the landfill/compost shall be accounted for as virtual biogenic CO_2 emissions. This means that the effect of long-term storage (beyond 100 years) of biogenic carbon on GWP-biogenic results shall not be considered in the main results. However, alternative GWP biogenic results that excludes these virtual biogenic CO_2 emissions may be declared as additional LCA results in a separate subsection of the Environmental performance section (see Section 6.4.7).

4.9.7 CONSEQUENCES FOR RECOVERED MATERIAL/ENERGY BEYOND THE PRODUCT LIFE CYCLE (MODULE D)

This PCR does not provide any additions to the rules and guidance in the GPI on the modelling of module D.

4.10 ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

See Section A.8 of the GPI.

4.11 SPECIFIC RULES PER EPD TYPE

4.11.1 MULTIPLE PRODUCTS FROM THE SAME COMPANY

See Section A.9.1 of the GPI.

4.11.2 SECTOR EPD

See Section A.9.2 of the GPI.

4.11.3 EPD OWNED BY A TRADER

See Section A.9.3 of the GPI.

4.11.4 EPD OF PRODUCT NOT YET ON THE MARKET

See Section A.9.4 of the GPI.

4.11.5 EPD OF PRODUCT RECENTLY ON THE MARKET

See Section A.9.5 of the GPI.

5 CONTENT OF LCA REPORT

Data for verification shall be presented in the form of an LCA report – a systematic and comprehensive summary of the project documentation that supports the verification of an EPD. The LCA report is not part of the public communication.

See Section 8.3.1 of the GPI for rules on the content of the LCA report.

Note that there may be rules on the content of the LCA report elsewhere in the GPI or in this PCR.

6 CONTENT AND FORMAT OF EPD

See Section 7 of the GPI.

6.1 EPD LANGUAGES

See Section 7.1 of the GPI.

6.2 UNITS AND QUANTITIES

See Section 7.2 of the GPI.

6.3 USE OF IMAGES IN EPD

See Section 7.3 of the GPI.

6.4 SECTIONS OF THE EPD

See Section 7.4 of the GPI.

6.4.1 COVER PAGE

See Section 7.4.1 of the GPI.

6.4.2 GENERAL INFORMATION

See Section 7.4.2 of the GPI.

6.4.3 INFORMATION ABOUT EPD OWNER

See Section 7.4.3 of the GPI.

6.4.4 PRODUCT INFORMATION

See Section 7.4.4 of the GPI.

6.4.5 CONTENT DECLARATION

See Section 7.4.5 of the GPI.

6.4.6 LCA INFORMATION

See Section 7.4.6 of the GPI.

6.4.7 ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE

See Section 7.4.7 of the GPI.

The EPD shall declare the environmental performance indicators listed or referred to in Section 4.10, per functional or declared unit, per life-cycle stage (downstream, core, upstream)[4] and module D, and in aggregated form for the life-cycle stages.

6.4.8 ADDITIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION

See Section 7.4.8 of the GPI.

6.4.9 ADDITIONAL SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC INFORMATION

See Section 7.4.9 of the GPI.

6.4.10 INFORMATION RELATED TO SECTOR EPDS

See Section 7.4.10 of the GPI.

6.4.11 VERSION HISTORY

See Section 7.4.11 of the GPI.

6.4.12 ABBREVIATIONS

See Section 7.4.12 of the GPI.

6.4.13 REFERENCES

See Section 7.4.13 of the GPI.

[4] The life-cycle stages (and module D) nomenclature shall be used when presenting results, and not the nomenclature of the modules included in each life-cycle stage (A1, A2 etc.).

7 LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ADP	Abiotic depletion potential
AHP	Absorbent hygiene product
AP	Acidification potential
CaCo3	Calcium carbonate
CO_2	Carbon dioxide
CPC	Central product classification
CPV	Common Procurement vocabulary
EP	Eutrophication potential
EPD	Environmental product declaration
FEFCO	European Federation of Corrugated Board Manufacturers
GHS	Globally harmonized system of classification and labelling of chemicals
GWP	Global warming potential
INA	Indicator not assessed
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
NACE/CPA	Classification of products by activity
PE	Polyethylene
PET	Polyethylene Terephthalate
POCP	Formation potential of tropospheric ozone
PP	Polypropylene
PPP	Polluter pays principle
PU	Polyurethane
kg	kilogram
kWh	Kilowatt/hours
m^3	Cubic metre
MJ	Megajoule
LCA	Life cycle assessment
LCI	Life cycle inventory
PCR	Product Category Rules
REACH	Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction
SI	The International System of Units
SO_2	Sulphur dioxide
UN	United Nations
UNSPSC	United Nations standard products and services code

8 REFERENCES

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9 VERSION HISTORY OF PCR

VERSION 1.0.0, 2011-10-14

- Update of PCR for Absorbent Hygiene Products based on PCR 2007:06.

VERSION 1.0.1, 2013-07-25

- Compliance with to the General Programme Instructions, Version 2.01.
- Use of the latest template

VERSION 2.0, 2015-02-19

- Use of latest template
- Section 5 Units and quantities – clarification that scientific notation can be used as found appropriate
- Section 6 General system boundaries - Clarification that production of energy wares shall be reported in the different parts of the system respectively, upstream process and core process
- Section 6 General system boundaries – waste treatment of production waste and electricity generation in core process
- Section 7.1.3 Boundaries towards nature – example added for clarification
- Section 7.3 Allocation rules – Clarification that justification of choices in the underlying LCA shall be done in the LCA report and not in the EPD
- Section 8.2.1 Rules for generic data – Updated table for generic data
- Section 10.1 Use of resources – Requirements on the resource declaration are added
- Section 12 Validity of the EPD – clarification of follow up of data, agreement with verifier

VERSION 2.1, 2017-05-24

- Updated version during PCR validity to clarify that cotton products are included in the scope:
  - Section 2
  - System diagram in Section 6
  - Section 6.1
  - Section 8.2
  - Section 9.2
- Editorial changes

VERSION 3.0, 2020-02-12

- Update according to General Programme Instructions, Version 3.01
- Clarification of scope
- Update of system diagram in section 4.4
- Editorial changes

VERSION 3.01, 2020-06-03

- Section 5.4.5.1 was updated. The table with default impact categories was removed, and instead the PCR only refers to www.environdec.com/impact-categories for the list of default impact categories. The removed table erroneously included the impact category Land use change (in m^2*a), which is thus no longer listed as a default impact category in the PCR.

VERSION 3.0.2, 2022-04-20

- Editorial changes in Sections 5.4.5.1 to 5.4.5.4 to clarify the indicator list at www.environdec.com applies also for the indicators of resource use, waste production and other output flows.

VERSION 3.0.3, 2023-11-03

- Prolonged validity with one year due to the initiation of an updating process.
- Editorial changes.

VERSION 3.0.4, 2025-02-10

- Prolonged validity with another six months due to delayed updating process.
- Change of PCR Moderator.

VERSION 4.0.0, 2026-01-13

- Updated according to the General Programme Instructions, Version 5.0.1.Addition of information modules following the life-cycle stages.
- The use phase (module B1) is included in the system boundary for reusable products.
- Module D is required to be declared.
- Specific rules per life-cycle stages are introduced.

ABSORBENT HYGIENE PRODUCTS

PRODUCT CATEGORY CLASSIFICATION: UN CPC 32193