

What is Product Environmental Footprint (PEF)?



Life Cycle Assessments (LCA) is used across many industries, but in incompatible schemes, with proliferation of labels and diverging claims.



Therefore, the European Commission proposed an improved method of how companies should calculate the environmental performance of any product throughout its life cycle – the Product Environmental Footprint (PEF).

PEF method is based on LCA; however:



It narrows down the LCA method, defining scope and functional units for comparisons within product categories.



It offers clear decision support by prescribing impact methods and providing weighting factors.



It enhances reliability with minimal reviewer qualifications.






* What is then PEFCR?

PEFCR, which stands for PEF Category Rules, aim to set consistent guidelines for assessing the environmental impact of products in a **specific category**. This standardisation helps simplify PEF studies, making them faster and more cost-effective.



It also facilitates comparisons between products within the same category, ensuring the validity of any claims made. **PEFCRs are developed voluntarily** in collaboration with industry leaders and LCA professionals.



The PEF method may be applied in three possible scenarios:

(1) For products which do not fall within the scope of a valid PEFCR;



(2) If products fall within the scope of a valid PEFCR, the requirements in PEF method shall be used in addition to the requirements listed in the applicable PEFCR;

(3) For developing a PEFCR.



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