How to *compare* floor EPDs

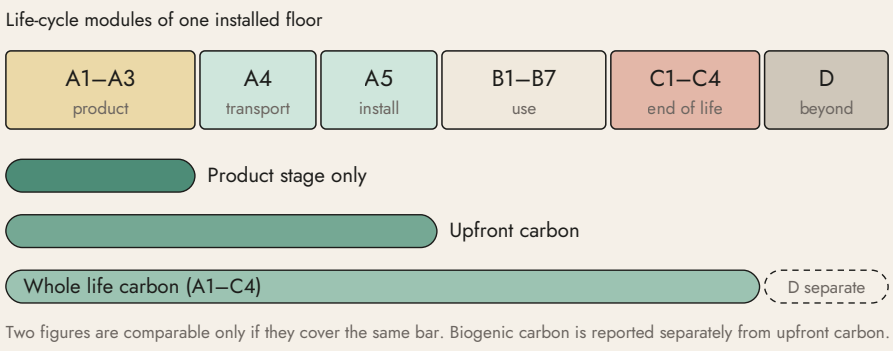
Two floor carbon figures can be compared only when standard, declared unit, modules and biogenic carbon treatment match for the product specified. No values are given here.

Compliance guidance. Read on 7 November 2026: the RICS whole life carbon standard (Version 3, August 2024) in full text, and BSI and Stone Federation Great Britain listings. EN 15804 and ISO 14025 were not read. No carbon values are given: this is a method for checking comparability, not a ranking of floors. Guidance, not advice on any specific claim. Nothing here says that Make Bespoke Studio or any partner holds any EPD.

AT A GLANCE

Check	Why it decides the comparison	Where to find it	What a mismatch looks like
1. Standard and edition	Different editions count and report differently.	First page: EN 15804 with +A1 or +A2.	One says +A1 and the other +A2.
2. Declared unit	Results are given per the unit stated; a per-area figure hides thickness and build-up.	'Declared unit': for example 1 m^2 installed, 1 m^3, 1 tonne.	Units differ, or the product is not what you are laying (slab against laid floor).
3. Modules declared	Product stage only, or more? A figure with more modules is a bigger quantity.	Module table: A1-A3, A4, A5, B, C, D; 'MND' means not declared.	A1-A3 set against A1-A4, or against a total that includes C.
4. Biogenic carbon	Timber stores carbon; whether it is netted off or reported apart changes the headline.	Biogenic indicators, and the EPD's own statement.	One figure nets it off and the other does not apply the same rule.
5. Product covered	A range average or a sector average is not your board or slab.	Scope: product names, thickness range, factory.	Your species, thickness, finish or quarry sits outside the scope.
6. Valid, verified, same rules	An expired or unverified declaration should not carry a client claim.	Programme operator, number, verifier, valid-until date, PCR named.	Out of date, no independent verification, or different product category rules.
7. Transport and site	A4 is where imported stone and UK timber differ, and it is often not in an A1-A3 figure.	Your own route, mass and distance; RICS A4 method.	Only A1-A3 compared for floors that travel very different distances.

All seven must pass. RICS references are to Version 3 of the 2nd edition (August 2024). EN 15804 itself was not read.



Two figures are comparable only if they cover the same bar. Biogenic carbon is reported separately from upfront carbon.

The life-cycle modules and the three scopes a carbon figure can cover. After the RICS whole life carbon standard (Fig 2, section 4.1). Original drawing by Make Bespoke Studio.

COMPARISON WORKSHEET

Check	Floor A	Floor B	Same?
EPD, standard and edition			
Valid until; verified			
Declared unit; modules			
Biogenic carbon; certified timber			
Product within scope			
A4: origin, mass, distance, mode			

SPECIFICATION WORDING

EPD REQUIREMENT

[Supplier] is to provide, with the tender return, a verified EPD for the exact product offered, to BS EN 15804:2012+A2:2019, stating programme operator, registration number, valid-until date, declared unit [1 m2 installed] and the modules declared. Modules A1 to A3 are required as a minimum; [A4 and A5 / C and D] where available. For timber, the chain of custody claim as clause [FSC and PEFC clause reference].

CARBON FIGURE AND SCOPE

Where a carbon figure per [m2] is quoted, it is to state the modules it covers, whether biogenic carbon is included or reported separately, and the product thickness, species or quarry, and finish to which it applies. Figures for different scopes are not to be compared.

TRANSPORT INFORMATION

[Supplier] is to state the place of manufacture and finishing, the mass per [m2] as delivered, and the transport mode and distance to the site, so that module A4 can be assessed by [the project carbon assessor].

LIMIT, IF THE CLIENT SETS ONE

[Client target, kgCO2e per m2] applies to modules [A1 to A5] as assessed by [assessor]. A supplier figure is not compliance until the assessor confirms the same modules and unit.

TERMS USED

Declared unit

The quantity of product an EPD's results are given for, such as 1 m2 of installed flooring or 1 tonne of stone. Results for different units cannot be compared until converted.

Biogenic carbon

Carbon removed from the air into biomass such as timber, and any emissions linked to it. RICS: it must be reported separately if reporting only upfront carbon.

STANDARDS AND SOURCES

- RICS: Whole life carbon assessment for the built environment, 2nd edition: Version 3, Aug 2024; read 7 Nov 2026. Confirm current.
- BS EN 15804:2012+A2:2019: BSI: Current, under review (30 Sep 2021); listing only.
- Stone Federation Great Britain: natural stone EPDs: ten EPD links; validity statement; read 7 Nov 2026.

Full guide: https://makebespoke.com/trade/technical/how-to-compare-floor-epds. Make Bespoke Studio coordinates manufacture through its partner workshops. Figures are guidance only and your specification governs; some may be superseded, so contact the studio to verify.