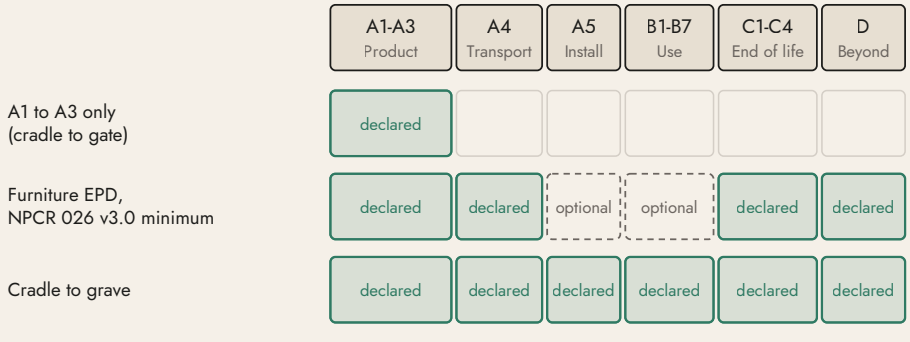
# How to read an *EPD*

How to read an environmental product declaration for furniture or joinery: the eight things to find and the modules, with wording that sets the rule for comparing EPDs.

## AT A GLANCE

| What to find | What it tells you | What to check | Rule from |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 Programme operator and registration number | Who runs the scheme the EPD sits in, and the number it is published under. | That it is published in the programme's own library. In the International EPD System an EPD counts as an EPD only when published there. | GPI 5.0.0, 8.4.6 |
| 2 Owner and products covered | The manufacturer that owns it, and whether it covers one product, a group or a sector average. | A sector EPD describes an average that is not available for purchase. A multi-product EPD says which kind it is. | GPI 7.4.10, cover page |
| 3 Rulebook (PCR) and version | The product category rules followed: name, number and version. For furniture, EN 15804+A2 with a furniture PCR. | The same PCR and the same version as the EPD you compare it with, and the PCR itself still valid. | NPCR 026 v3.0; GPI 7.4.2.4 |
| 4 Declared unit | What every number is "per": one piece, one kilogram, one square metre, or a piece over a stated service life. | The same unit, or a stated conversion such as the mass of the piece. | NPCR 6.3.1; GPI A.2 |
| 5 Modules declared | Which life-cycle stages the numbers cover: A1-A3, A4, A5, B1-B7, C1-C4, D. ND means not declared. | The same scope. Note whether end of life (C) and module D are shown. | NPCR 5.2; GPI 7.4.2.4 |
| 6 Results | Indicators per module: GWP-total in kg CO2 eq., total energy, share of recycled material. | Which module a headline figure belongs to. ND is not zero. | NPCR 7.1, Table 4 |
| 7 Dates | The version date and the valid-until date. | In date when you compare and when you order. In the International EPD System validity is normally five years from the version date. | GPI 8.4.7 |
| 8 Verification | An independent verifier, named, and the owner's statement that it holds sole ownership, liability and responsibility. | A named third-party verifier and a verification date. | GPI 2, 7.4.2.4, 8.4 |

Numbers match the drawing balloons. GPI: International EPD System General Programme Instructions 5.0.0. NPCR 026: furniture PCR v3.0. Other programmes have their own rules.




Module D is reported separately from the product's own impacts. Drawn after NPCR 026 Part B v3.0, clause 5.2.

Which modules an EPD declares, after NPCR 026 Part B v3.0 clause 5.2. Original drawing by Make Bespoke Studio.

## SPECIFICATION WORDING

### EPD REQUIREMENT

Where an EPD is required for [item or product group], the supplier provides an environmental product declaration to EN 15804+A2 [BS EN 15804:2012+A2:2019, edition to be confirmed], verified by an independent third party and published by programme operator [name]. It states: the registration number; the PCR and any c-PCR, with version [for example the furniture PCR, version 3.0]; the declared unit [1 piece] or the conversion to it; the modules declared [A1-A3, A4, C1-C4 and D / A1 to D]; and the version date and valid-until date, in date on [tender return date / order date]. The EPD names the product supplied, or states that it covers it.

### COMPARISON OF TENDERS

EPD results from different tenderers are compared only where the programme (or fully aligned PCRs), the PCR first-digit version, the declared or functional unit, the life-cycle scope, the impact assessment method and the validity all match. Otherwise the results are noted as information and are not scored.

### WHERE NO EPD EXISTS

Where no EPD covers an item, the tenderer says so and states what verified data it can supply instead [list]. No EPD is [not / a] ground for rejection of [item].

### CHANGES AFTER THE EPD

A change of product, manufacturer, material or process that takes the item outside the product named in the EPD requires a revised EPD or written approval on substitution register [ref] before the item is ordered.

## TERMS USED

### EPD

An independently verified report of a product's environmental impacts across its life cycle, produced to agreed rules so similar products can be compared. A furniture EPD reports per declared unit (for example per chair) and is only valid for a set period.

### PCR

The rulebook for producing EPDs for a product group, setting what is counted and how, so that EPDs made to the same rules can be compared. Furniture EPDs usually follow the construction PCR plus a furniture add-on.

### Declared unit

The quantity of product to which an EPD's results apply, such as one chair, one square metre or one kilogram. Two EPDs can only be compared if their units are made comparable.

### A1-A3

The EPD modules covering raw material supply, transport to the factory and manufacturing, i.e. the impacts up to the factory gate. They exclude transport to site, installation, use and end of life.

## STANDARDS AND SOURCES

- BS EN 15804:2012+A2:2019 (identical to EN 15804:2012+A2:2019/AC:2021): BSI listing read 5 Nov 2026: published 30 Sep 2021, Current, Under Review. Paywalled, not read.
- NPCR 026 Part B for Furniture and components of furniture, version 3.0: issued 8 Oct 2024, valid to 8 Oct 2027. Read in full.
- International EPD System: c-PCR 2019:14-c-PCR-021 Furniture and components of furniture: library page read: version 2.0.1, valid until 8 Oct 2027. PDF not read.
- International EPD System: General Programme Instructions, version 5.0.0 (19 Jun 2024): hosted copy read. Current 5.0.1 (27 Feb 2025) not read.
- ISO 14025 (Type III environmental declarations): BSI lists the 2010 edition as withdrawn from 9 Jul 2026; a 2026 revision was not read.

Full guide: https://makebespoke.com/trade/technical/how-to-read-an-epd. 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.