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Visible with your product in the Dutch Environmental Database

Including information about the Compensation scheme **Filling
the Gaps**

Visible with your product in the Dutch Environmental Database

Summary

The Dutch Environmental Database (NMD) forms an important foundation for calculating and improving the environmental performance of construction products and buildings in the Netherlands. By being included in the NMD, products become visible to sustainability professionals and can be used in validated calculation tools to determine the environmental impact of buildings. This increases the likelihood of application in projects, provides insight into a company's own production chain through a life cycle assessment (LCA), and helps prepare for future legislation and regulations.

Inclusion in the NMD follows five steps:

1. Having an LCA carried out.
2. Registering as a data owner with Stichting NMD.
3. Entering the environmental data in the online portal.
4. Review by a recognised LCA verifier.
5. Publication in the database.

This procedure applies to all parties who wish to make their environmental data available.

Environmental performance is determined based on environmental declarations, in which the environmental effects of construction products are recorded. These declarations are based on an LCA and contain scores across various environmental impact categories, such as climate change, acidification and resource scarcity. When preparing environmental declarations, two datasets are used: the A1 set with 11 categories and the A2 set with 19 categories, which aligns with the European PEF methodology.

For certain product groups, financial support may be available. The Compensation scheme Filling the Gaps supports parties that contribute to completing missing data in the database. Each year, the product groups eligible for this scheme are determined again.

Making environmental data available through the NMD helps make the environmental impact of products transparent, stimulates better choices in construction and contributes to a transparent and future-proof construction sector.

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Introduction

The Dutch Environmental Database (NMD) forms the foundation for objectively determining the environmental performance of construction products and buildings in the Netherlands. This environmental performance is calculated based on validated data recorded in environmental declarations, derived from a life cycle assessment (LCA). An LCA maps the environmental impacts of a product or material across all phases of its life cycle: from raw material extraction and production to use and end of life.

To include a product in the NMD and thereby make it part of validated environmental performance calculations, a fixed process is followed. This process consists of the following five steps:

1. Having an LCA carried out.
2. Registration as a data owner with Stichting NMD
3. Entry of the environmental data in the online portal.
4. Review by a recognised LCA verifier.
5. Publication in the database.

For some product groups, financial support is available through the Compensation scheme Filling the Gaps. This scheme is intended for products for which validated data are not yet available in the NMD. The scheme is also explained in more detail in this document.

1. Why include my product in the NMD?

The Netherlands has ambitious climate targets for the future. The construction sector plays an important role in achieving these goals.

To determine the sustainability of a building, environmental performance is an important metric. The better the environmental performance of a building, the lower its environmental impact. This environmental performance is calculated using calculation tools validated by Stichting NMD. Data from the Dutch Environmental Database form the basis for these calculations.

For producers, it offers clear advantages to have a life cycle assessment (LCA) carried out for their product and to have it included in the Dutch Environmental Database (NMD).

1.1 Access to projects and MPG/MKI calculation tools

If your product is included in the environmental database, it becomes visible to sustainability professionals who work with MPG and MKI calculation tools. This increases the likelihood that your product will be used in sustainable construction projects.

1.2 Insight into the production chain

To have an environmental declaration included in the Dutch Environmental Database, a life cycle assessment must first be carried out. A life cycle assessment provides detailed information about the environmental impact of your product and its production processes. This information can help you improve and make your production and business processes more sustainable.

1.3 Transparent and future-oriented

The requirements for environmental performance calculations will become stricter in the coming years. Products with approved and verifiable environmental data (category 1 or 2 data) will therefore become essential. Because in some cases it can take a long time to prepare an LCA (for example due to the time required to collect information from specific sources), we advise organisations to start this process in good time.

Category 1, 2, 3 and 3a data in the Dutch Environmental Database

In the Dutch Environmental Database, four categories of environmental declarations containing environmental data are distinguished: category 1, 2, 3 and 3a.

Category 1: Verified, brand-specific data (owned by the producer)

Category 2: Verified, sector or industry-specific data (owned by the industry association)

Category 3: Non-brand-specific data (owned by Stichting NMD)

Category 3a: Non-brand-specific data focused on energy carriers (owned by Stichting NMD)

1.4 Possibility of compensation

Preparing an environmental declaration requires effort and expertise. Stichting NMD understands that this can be a barrier for many parties, especially when it concerns missing data in the Dutch Environmental Database. For this reason, a compensation scheme is available to facilitate the step towards inclusion in the NMD.

For producers, suppliers or industry associations that contribute to filling so-called “white spots” in the database, financial compensation may be available in some cases. You can read more about this in chapter 4.

2. Environmental performance and the role of the Dutch Environmental Database

A sustainable construction sector requires insight into the environmental impact of construction products and buildings. To make this impact measurable and comparable, environmental performance is used: an objective score representing the total environmental impact of construction products applied in a building.

Environmental performance is used for:

- The Environmental and Planning Act Decree (Besluit bouwwerken leefomgeving – Bbl) through the MPG requirement for new construction
- Sustainable procurement and tendering by public authorities
- Building certification
- Fiscal schemes such as MIA/VAMIL
- Infrastructure projects, through the Environmental Cost Indicator (Milieukostenindicator – MKI)

For both buildings (MPG) and civil engineering works (MKI), the environmental performance calculation is an important decision-making tool.

2.1 How is environmental performance determined?

Environmental performance is calculated based on a life cycle assessment (LCA) of the construction products used. An LCA maps the environmental impacts of a product across all phases of its life cycle: from raw material extraction and production to use, demolition and possible reuse.

The environmental impacts of a product are recorded in the form of an environmental declaration. This declaration contains scores across various impact categories and is managed within the Dutch Environmental Database (NMD).

The environmental performance of a complete building or structure is determined using calculation tools. These are online calculation tools that aggregate and weigh the environmental declarations of all applied materials.

MKI and MPG: two calculation methods, one foundation

The environmental performance of a building or structure starts with the environmental costs of the individual construction products. These are expressed per product in the Environmental Cost Indicator (MKI): a value in euros based on the total environmental impacts of that product, measured over its entire life cycle.

In residential construction, non-residential construction and infrastructure projects, these MKI values are used to determine the environmental impact of a building or structure. The differences lie in how this total is interpreted and applied.

In the B&U sector (residential and non-residential construction), the sum of MKI values results in the Environmental Performance of Buildings (MPG). This score is normalised to the gross floor area of the building and expressed in euros per m² per year. The MPG is mandatory for new construction and is a legal requirement, among other things under the Environmental and Planning Act Decree (Besluit bouwwerken leefomgeving – Bbl).

In the GWW sector (civil engineering, including ground, road and hydraulic engineering works), the MKI values are also added together, but as a total score without normalisation. The result is used directly as environmental costs in procurement or award criteria. The lower the total MKI of the design, the more sustainable the project.

2.2 Environmental impact categories: the building blocks of environmental performance

The environmental performance of a product or building is determined using impact categories: indicators that each measure a specific environmental effect, such as climate change, resource scarcity or air pollution.

Two datasets are used when preparing environmental declarations: A1 and A2. As of 1 July 2026, the A2 dataset will be the applicable set. The A2 set consists of 19 environmental impact categories and aligns with the European Product Environmental Footprint (PEF) methodology and the revised standard EN 15804+A2.

Environmental impact category	Indicator	Unit
Climate change – total	GWP-total	kg CO2-eq.
Climate change – fossil	GWP-fossil	kg CO2-eq.
Climate change – biogenic	GWP-biogenic	kg CO2-eq.
Climate change – land use and change to land use	GWP-luluc	kg CO2-eq.
Ozone layer depletion	ODP	kg CFC11-eq.

Acidification	AP	mol H ⁺ -eq.
Freshwater eutrophication	EP-freshwater	kg P-eq.
Seawater eutrophication	EP-seawater	kg N-eq.
Land eutrophication	EP-land	mol N-eq.
Photochemical oxidant formation	POCP	kg NMVOC-eq.
Depletion of abiotic resources minerals and metals	ADP-minerals&metals	kg Sb-eq.
Depletion of abiotic resources fossil fuels	ADP-fossil	MJ, net cal. val.
Water use	WDP	m ³ world eq. deprived
Particulate matter formation	Disease through PM	Disease incidence
Ionising radiation	Human exposure	kBq U235-eq.
Aquatic ecotoxicity (freshwater)	CTU ecosystem	CTUe
Human toxicity, carcinogenic	CTU human	CTUh
Human toxicity, non-carcinogenic	CTU human	CTUh
Land use-related impact/soil quality	Soil quality index	Dimensionless

Table 1 Overview of the A2 environmental impact categories as defined in EN 15804+A2.

In the period before 1 July 2026, the original A1 dataset remains the applicable set. This set consists of 11 environmental impact categories. In the A2 dataset, categories such as acidification, toxicity and eutrophication are split into sub-indicators. In addition, new categories have been added, such as ionising radiation, ecosystem impacts and land use.

Milieu-impactcategorie	Indicator	Eenheid
Depletion of abiotic resources, ex fossil energy carriers	ADP-elements	kg antimony
Depletion of fossil energy carriers	ADP-fuel	kg antimony
Climate change	GWP-100y	kg CO ₂
Ozone layer depletion	ODP	kg CFC 11
Photochemical oxidant formation	POCP	kg ethene
Acidification	AP	kg SO ₂
Eutrophication	EP	kg (PO ₄) ³⁻
Human toxicity	HTP	kg 1,4 dichlorobenzene
Aquatic ecotoxicity (freshwater)	FAETP	kg 1,4 dichlorobenzene
Aquatic ecotoxicity (seawater)	MAETP	kg 1,4 dichlorobenzene
Ecotoxicity (terrestrial)	TETP	kg 1,4 dichlorobenzene

Table 2 Overview of the A1 environmental impact categories.

3. My product in the NMD: a step-by-step plan

To make your product visible in the Dutch Environmental Database (NMD) and to qualify for the Compensation scheme Filling the Gaps, several steps must be completed: from analysis to verification and publication. The full process is explained below.

3.1 Having a life cycle assessment (LCA) carried out

An LCA maps the environmental impacts across the entire life cycle of a product: from raw material extraction to production, use and end of life. The LCA must comply with the NMD methodology.

Preparing an LCA requires specialised expertise. Many companies therefore engage a professional LCA consultancy with experience in the Assessment Method(s) and in preparing environmental declarations. An up-to-date overview of recognised LCA practitioners is available [on the website of Stichting NMD](#).

3.2 Registration as a data owner

Before the data can be entered into the database, you must register with Stichting NMD as a data owner. This registration is mandatory and provides the LCA practitioner with access to the online entry portal where the environmental data are managed.

3.3 Entering environmental data

The LCA practitioner then enters the environmental data via the entry portal. This is done based on the prepared environmental declaration. The data must be submitted completely, accurately and in accordance with the specified requirements so that the verification process can proceed smoothly.

3.4 Verification by a recognised LCA verifier

After submission, the data are assessed by an independent verifier. This verifier must be recognised by Stichting NMD and checks whether the data comply with the NMD Verification Protocol. Any corrections are implemented in consultation, after which the data can be approved.

3.5 Publication in the NMD

After approval, Stichting NMD officially publishes the data in the Dutch Environmental Database. From that moment on, the environmental declaration is visible in the NMD Viewer and available for use in validated environmental performance calculation tools.

3.6 Applying for the Compensation scheme Filling the Gaps

After publication of your environmental declaration in the NMD, you can submit an application for compensation. This can be done using [the application form provided by Stichting NMD](#).

Do you have a non-Dutch EPD?

An Environmental Product Declaration (EPD) prepared abroad follows a different entry process than a Dutch environmental declaration. Additional requirements and a separate procedure apply to these EPDs.

On our website you can find [an up-to-date explanation of the steps required to have a non-Dutch EPD included in the Dutch Environmental Database](#).



Visual overview of the product inclusion process.

4. The Compensation scheme Fill the Gaps

The Dutch Environmental Database aims to achieve as complete a representation as possible of construction products used in the Netherlands. However, many specific products are still missing from the database – these missing construction products are referred to as “gaps”. To address this, the Compensation scheme Filling the Gaps has been established. This scheme provides financial support to parties that have an environmental declaration prepared for these missing construction products.

4.1 What are “gaps”?

Gaps are product groups for which category 1 or 2 data are not yet available in the Dutch Environmental Database. These may include innovative, circular, biobased or reused products, but also commonly used construction materials that have not yet been submitted by a manufacturer or industry association. In the absence of specific, verified data, non-brand-specific data (category 3) are used for these products. These data include an additional factor and therefore provide a less accurate reflection of the actual situation than category 1 or 2 data.

To make the database more complete and representative, Stichting NMD encourages parties to provide data for these products. White spots are not determined only once: with each new round of the compensation scheme it is reassessed which product groups are most urgently missing and eligible for support.

4.2 Purpose of the scheme

The scheme is intended to lower barriers for producers and other parties who wish to have their product data included in the NMD. By offering compensation for preparing a life cycle assessment (LCA) and drafting an environmental declaration, it becomes easier to participate – particularly for smaller companies, innovative pioneers or sectors where this is not yet common practice.

Which products are currently eligible?

The Compensation scheme Filling the Gaps has been established to fill gaps in the Dutch Environmental Database with validated data. The following products may be eligible:

Products on the NMD “gaps” priority list

These are commonly used product groups for which no validated (category 1 or 2) data are currently available.

Products within the National Approach to Biobased Construction (NABB) scheme

Biobased materials that are currently underrepresented in the NMD.

Innovative products that demonstrably contribute to CO₂ reduction in the construction sector

For example, reused or modular components with a circular character.

4.3 Who is the compensation scheme intended for?

The scheme is open to a wide range of parties involved in the production or supply of construction products:

- Producers, suppliers and subcontractors of construction products or building installations who wish to have an LCA prepared and publish the data in the form of an environmental declaration in the Dutch Environmental Database.
- Start-ups and small enterprises that require additional support to comply with regulations ([specific conditions apply](#)).
- Industry associations submitting collective applications on behalf of multiple members.
- Producers of innovative materials or products that contribute to CO₂ reduction ([specific conditions apply](#)).
- Applicants who have previously used the scheme, provided they meet the conditions for repeated participation.

4.4 A continuous effort to fill the gaps

The compensation scheme forms part of a broader policy objective: achieving a complete and representative overview of environmental data within the Dutch construction sector. The government remains actively involved and encourages the market to contribute to closing gaps. New product groups are regularly evaluated and added to the priority list.

Read more about the Compensation scheme Filling the Gaps and the associated conditions and procedures [on our website](#).

Learning from previous practical experiences

Although this white paper does not highlight individual construction products, our website features a series of highlighted environmental declarations showing how a wide range of organisations — from small producers to industry associations — have successfully included their product data in the Dutch Environmental Database.

These practical examples provide insight into:

- The steps they went through
- The considerations they made during the LCA process
- What visibility in the NMD has delivered for them

Are you curious how others approached this process? Visit the [Featured environmental declarations](#) section on our website.

Contact

Do you have questions about the scheme, the process, or are you unsure whether your product is eligible? Please contact us via:

info@milieudatabase.nl

