A Manufacturing Sector’s Experience of integrating EPD alongside product, management system and responsible sourcing certification for public procurement

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Using LCA and EPD in Public Procurement

LCM 2017. 3-6 September 2017 in Luxembourg

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PRESENTATION OUTLINE

• Introduction to CARES
• Sustainable Constructional Steels Scheme
• Role of EPD’s and responsible sourcing
• Use in public procurement
• Lessons Learnt
INTRODUCTION

- Independent, not-for-profit certification body, established in 1983
- Offers certification schemes for constructional steels companies
  - Management system certification
  - Product Certification
  - CE Marking
  - Sustainable Constructional Steels Scheme

Its aim is to provide confidence to the users, purchasers and specifiers of constructional steels through a regime of 3rd party regulation, testing and inspection.
MAJOR PROJECTS AND RECOGNITIONS
Aims to improve construction sector sustainability performance

Applicable to primary producers of steel and steel fabricators

Based on inclusivity, integrity, stewardship and transparency

Stakeholder engagement critical to scheme and feeds periodic review
SCHEME BASIS AND STRUCTURE

REINFORCING STEEL BAR (REBAR) AS AN EXTENDED PRODUCT
HOW AUTHORITATIVE IS CARES DATA?

- Certification process: Application review; Stage 1 and Stage 2 detailed on-site audits each year
- Chances of data errors are reduced when compared to sample approach/less frequent audit cycle
- EPD data, which is updated once every 3 years, is subject to an additional verification stage by a third party – BRE
RESPONSIBLE SOURCING

- Life cycle thinking includes social and human rights impacts across whole value chain
- Increasing expectations of responsible sourcing from construction product buyers
- CARES helped develop and aligns with new standards like BES 6001 & BES 6002
PUBLIC PROCUREMENT DRIVERS

- The EU Non-Financial Reporting Directive
- UK government Procurement Policy Note 11/16
- UK Modern Slavery Act (MSA) introduced in March 2016
- Paris Accord and National Implementation Agreements

The UK MSA requires any business with a worldwide turnover above £36m to publicly report on its efforts to eradicate slavery and human trafficking in its entire value chain.
PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

• EPD / LCA data + social requirements are informing public procurement and funding of construction projects in Netherlands, France, Germany, Norway, UK

• E.g. Balanced scorecard themes – UK HS2
LESSONS LEARNT

• Expectations about the quality and availability of EPD and social data are growing
• Supply chain focus, data and information on human rights, social and community impacts
• Increasing regulation regarding the reporting of impacts associated with construction materials
• Collaborations and engagement key to achieving performance improvements

Third-Party Certification can enable expectations of public procurers to be met
LESSONS LEARNT

- Sustainable procurement is now a key part of major infrastructure and construction projects
- Some buying organisations have ‘Sustainable Materials Specialists’
- Public (and private) sector clients are expecting higher standards of evidence and certifications

Being able to demonstrate the Sustainability of steel construction materials is increasingly a minimum requirement on the biggest contracts
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