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

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

Using LCA and EPD in Public Procurement

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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
UK CERTIFICATION AUTHORITY FOR REINFORCING STEELS (CARES)

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 publically report on its efforts to eradicate slavery and human trafficking in its entire value chain.
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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