

Assessing the LCA data and methodology used for the Energy using Products (EuP) directive

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As part of the EU Integrated Product Policy, a new directive will be implemented that will affect all mass produced products sold in the EU that consume energy in the use phase. This Energy using Products (EuP) directive will come into effect in 2007/2008, specifying ecodesign guidelines for each product group. Guidelines can consist of either a target for energy use, or the requirement for an ecodesign dossier, which describes improvement actions for specific Key Environmental Performance Indicators (KEPIs). The EuP directive will specify ecodesign guidelines for each product group.

To determine the guidelines a special EuP methodology was developed for the EU by the Dutch consultants VHK. The life cycle impacts of a product are specified as 15 different indicators for the production, distribution, use and disposal phases. The characterisation factors for each indicators were derived from EU policy measures. Using this method, LCA comparisons between average products and “best of class” products are used to determine the improvement potential for each indicator. This will be the basis for setting guidelines for each product group. Currently 14 different product groups are being studied to determine the EuP guidelines. The advantage of this approach is that individual companies do not need to make an LCA, but LCA is used to set the requirements. The implementation of EuP and ecodesign in industry will also be discussed.

The presentation introduces the EuP policy and their impact on companies, describes the methodology and standard dataset used by the EU to perform the product studies, and will show how the results obtained in this way compare with more traditional LCA approaches.