

COGSBP06

Specify and Co-Ordinate Life Cycle Assessments in Support of Sustainable Business Practice



Overview

This standard is about supporting the application of life cycle assessment in support of sustainable business practice. Life cycle assessment (LCA) is a method of assessing the environmental impact of a product or service across its entire life or life cycle, taking account of such things as raw material utilisation, energy usage and waste production. LCA involves the collection and evaluation of quantitative data on the inputs and outputs of material, the energy and the waste flows associated with a product so that an environmental impact can be determined.

The role described by this standard requires the ability to specify the requirements of a life cycle assessment leading to the commissioning of the assessment itself. It involves monitoring assessment activities before analysing the outcomes and making recommendations for change.

The ability to communicate with others is an important part of the standard.

Target Group

This standard is for those responsible for supporting the development of sustainable business practice. It is likely to apply to technical staff and managers within organisations, those with responsibility for implementing environmental programmes..

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Performance criteria

- You must be able to:*
- P1 identify the **drivers** that direct and influence the product life cycle **assessment**
 - P2 specify the scope and guiding principles of the life cycle **assessment** in accordance with organisational **sustainability objectives**
 - P3 identify and obtain the **resources** required to support planned **assessment**
 - P4 commission life cycle **assessments** in accordance with organisational requirements
 - P5 support and co-ordinate the implementation of life cycle **assessments**
 - P6 monitor and evaluate life cycle **assessment** data and outcomes against specified requirements and life cycle principles
 - P7 use life cycle data to develop recommendations for change in support of more sustainable business practice
 - P8 report outcomes of life cycle assessments to **stakeholders**

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 the guiding principles of life cycle assessment
- K2 the legislation, industry standards, international standards and voluntary codes that support the development of life cycle thinking
- K3 how the implementation of life cycle thinking supports the economic, social and environmental principles of sustainability and sustainable business practice
- K4 the sustainability objectives of the organisation
- K5 how drivers can influence the life cycle assessment
- K6 how the activities of the organisation can contribute to a product or service life cycle
- K7 how product or service life cycles are used as indicators of environmental performance
- K8 how to specify the scope and guiding principles of a life cycle assessment
- K9 the resources required to complete life cycle assessments
- K10 the skills and knowledge required by those commissioned to complete a life cycle assessment
- K11 the concepts of 'cradle to cradle' and 'cradle to grave' in life cycle assessment
- K12 life cycle data collection, analysis and evaluation techniques
- K13 how the principles of relevance, completeness, consistency, accuracy and transparency underpin and ensure the completeness of the life cycle assessment
- K14 how life cycle assessment can be used to help to reduce the environmental impact of an organisation
- K15 how to monitor and report a life cycle assessment
- K16 how to communicate life cycle assessment outcomes
- K17 how to engage with different stakeholders

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Additional Information

Scope/range related to performance criteria

Drivers can be:

- 1 economic
- 2 social and ethical
- 3 environmental
- 4 customer and stakeholder perception
- 5 legislation
- 6 compliance
- 7 government policy
- 8 organisational governance

Assessments of:

- 1 inputs
- 2 outputs
- 3 energy usage
- 4 waste flows

Sustainability objectives include:

- 1 economic
- 2 social and ethical
- 3 environmental

Resources include:

- 1 people
- 2 finance
- 3 technology
- 4 knowledge

Stakeholders include:

- 1 decision makers
- 2 organisational colleagues
- 3 customers
- 4 suppliers

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