

COGSBP12

Complete Life Cycle Assessments in Support of Sustainable Business Practice



Overview

This standard is about completing life cycle assessments 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 complete life cycle assessments for a product and/or service. It involves establishing the scope of the assessment, obtaining the resources required to complete the assessment and then implementing the assessment itself.

The ability to communicate the results of the assessment to 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 product life cycle assessment
 - P2 determine the scope and boundaries of the life cycle assessment in accordance with organisational **sustainability objectives**
 - P3 identify and obtain the **resources** required to support the assessment activities
 - P4 implement the life cycle **assessments** in accordance with organisational requirements
 - P5 manage data recording and analysis in support of life cycle assessment
 - P6 ensure the validity of the processes used for data collection and analysis
 - P7 communicate effectively with all those involved in life cycle assessment
 - P8 interpret and accurately report life cycle assessment data
 - P9 recommend improvements to sustainable business practice based on life cycle findings
 - P10 report life cycle assessment outcomes 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 how organisational activities, products and services impact on the environment
- K5 the sustainability objectives of the organisation
- K6 how drivers can influence the life cycle assessment
- K7 the predicted effects of climate change
- K8 how product or service life cycles are used as indicators of environmental performance
- K9 how to specify the scope and guiding principles of a life cycle assessment
- K10 how the activities of the organisation can contribute to a product or service life cycle
- K11 how to complete a life cycle assessment including how to collect, record and store life cycle data
- K12 the data that is needed to monitor all the different stages of the life cycle
- K13 how to ensure the validity of the processes used for data collection and analysis
- K14 the concepts of 'cradle to cradle' and 'cradle to grave' in life cycle assessment
- K15 the terms and definitions used commonly within the life cycle assessment
- K16 how the principles of relevance, completeness, consistency, accuracy and transparency underpin life cycle assessment
- K17 how life cycle assessment can be used to help to reduce the environmental impact of an organisation
- K18 how to report a life cycle assessment
- K19 how to communicate life cycle assessment outcomes
- K20 how to engage with different stakeholders

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Additional Information

Scope/range related to performance criteria

Drivers include:

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

Resources include:

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

Assessments of:

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

Sustainability objectives include:

- 1 economic
- 2 social and ethical
- 3 environmental

Stakeholders include:

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

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