Evaluation of ILCD Data Network Entry-Level and PEF data quality requirements in LCA databases

Abstract:
In its 2013 Communication on “Building the Single Market for Green Products”[1], and in response to commitments in the Communication on “A resource-efficient Europe - Flagship initiative under the Europe 2020 Strategy” [2], the Commission adopted a Recommendation on the use of the Environmental Footprint [3] as methods to measure and communicate the environmental performance of products and of organisations. The ILCD Data Network (ILCD DN) on the data infrastructure that is critical for further uptake of these and other life cycle based methods for their successful implementation in business and policy decision support. It is a web-based infrastructure aimed at providing access to consistent and quality-assured life cycle inventory (LCI) datasets from various providers. To be part of the network, datasets have to fulfil ILCD DN entry-level quality requirements [4]. Indeed, data quality requirements have been also developed for datasets to be used in studies that are in line with the PEF/OEF, many of which are common to PEF quality requirements, but others differ in the degree of strictness. This contribution describes the approach adopted for analysing the extent to which life cycle datasets available in LCA databases meet ILCD DN entry-level and PEF data quality requirements, together with key issues emerged from the analysis. The analysis has been carried out on a sample of datasets of ECOINVENT v3.0, GaBi and EIME databases and the findings have then been extrapolated to the database level and to other third-party databases.

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Publication Year:
2014
Publisher:
SETAC EUROPE
ISSN: