

ENVIRONMENTAL PRODUCT DECLARATION

as per ISO 14025 and EN 15804+A2

Owner of the Declaration	Simpson Strong-Tie Europe
Publisher	Institut Bauen und Umwelt e.V. (IBU)
Programme holder	Institut Bauen und Umwelt e.V. (IBU)
Declaration number	EPD-SST-20240585-IBC1-EN
Issue date	04/03/2025
Valid to	03/03/2030

Fasteners (Screws) Simpson Strong-Tie

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EPD
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1. General Information

Simpson Strong-Tie

Programme holder

IBU – Institut Bauen und Umwelt e.V.
Hegelplatz 1
10117 Berlin
Germany

Declaration number

EPD-SST-20240585-IBC1-EN

This declaration is based on the product category rules:

Screws, 01/06/2023
(PCR checked and approved by the SVR)

Issue date

04/03/2025

Valid to

03/03/2030



Dipl.-Ing. Hans Peters
(Chairman of Institut Bauen und Umwelt e.V.)



Florian Pronold
(Managing Director Institut Bauen und Umwelt e.V.)

Fasteners (Screws)

Owner of the declaration

Simpson Strong-Tie Europe
Le Moulin des Ardillers -
85400 Sainte Gemme La Plaine
France

Declared product / declared unit

1 kg of installed Self-tapping screws

Scope:

This underlying LCA study covers Simpson Strong-Tie's fastener products (screws) manufactured at their facilities in Sweden. This EPD represents the average self-tapping screws group of products.

The owner of the declaration shall be liable for the underlying information and evidence; the IBU shall not be liable with respect to manufacturer information, life cycle assessment data and evidences.

The EPD was created according to the specifications of EN 15804+A2. In the following, the standard will be simplified as *EN 15804*.

Verification

The standard EN 15804 serves as the core PCR

Independent verification of the declaration and data according to ISO 14025:2011

internally

externally



Mrs Kim Allbury,
(Independent verifier)

resistance to intergranular corrosion post-welding, especially in sheet thicknesses up to 5 mm, even without subsequent heat treatment. Moreover, it is certified for thermal endurance up to 600 °C.

Galvanic zinc coating

In electro galvanising, a comparatively thin zinc layer is deposited on the component surface in an electrolytic process. The properties of the applied zinc layer depend, among other things, on the current strength, the time of the current flow and the electrolyte solution used.

Lubricating

Eco-friendly lubricating agents in the form of aqueous suspensions, emulsions, and dispersions are utilized, incorporating substances like paraffins, polymers, or waxes, tailored to specific applications. Additionally, certain lubricants may contain minimal amounts of alcohol.

This product/article/at least one partial article contains substances listed in *the candidate list (ECHA 2016)* exceeding 0.1 percentage by mass: no.

This product/article/at least one partial article contains other carcinogenic, mutagenic, reprotoxic (CMR) substances in categories 1A or 1B which are not on *the candidate list (ECHA 2016)*, exceeding 0.1 percentage by mass: no.

Biocide products were added to this construction product or it has been treated with biocide products (this then concerns a treated product as defined by the *(EU) Ordinance on Biocide Products No. 528/2012*): no.

2.6 Manufacture

To produce self-tapping screws, the following manufacturing process is mainly used nowadays:

The cold or hot forming process occurs on a multi-stage operation. Raw materials, typically wire wound on spools, are straightened and uncoiled in upstream equipment. Modern forming equipment operates in multiple stages, performing various operations sequentially. These operations include shearing the blank, preforming the screw head, final upsetting, deburring, and reducing the threaded part. Subsequently, threads are formed without cutting using a thread rolling machine. For self-drilling screws, thread rolling follows the operation of pinching the drill tip. Between each operation, parts undergo cleaning in a specially designed washing line. Finally, screws may undergo heat treatment for hardening and/or surface treatment such as galvanization or coating, if necessary.

2.7 Environment and health during manufacturing

The steels and production materials utilized in forming self-tapping screws are non-toxic, posing no harm to humans, the environment, or aquatic and terrestrial organisms. Vapours generated during manufacturing are extracted from production sites via specialized filtration and ventilation systems, and subsequently purified by filtration. Simpson Strong-Tie manufacturing sites adhere to stringent safety protocols, requiring appropriate work attire and hearing protection. These precautionary measures are implemented to mitigate risks and avert occupational accidents.

The Simpson Strong-Tie company has introduced an environmental management system and applies it to the development, production, testing and distribution of self-tapping screws.

2.8 Product processing/Installation

Self-tapping screws are used to fasten and connect timber-based elements or elements made of steel/masonry or concrete.

Installation of self-tapping screws must follow the instructions given in approval/technical documentation from Simpson Strong-Tie. The characteristics values listed in the approval documentation may be expected in this condition.

The recommendations of the manufacturers must be observed.

2.9 Packaging

Cardboard/paper (EAK 15 01 01), plastic boxes and plastic bags (EAK 15 01 02) are used for packaging. Waste products: Packaging materials can be recycled according to national legislations. For large orders, the screws are shipped on returnable or disposable pallets.

2.10 Condition of use

No material change is expected for the screws during use.

2.11 Environment and health during use

No negative effects on the environment or human health are known from self-tapping screws in the installed state.

2.12 Reference service life

Given the diverse applications, no specific reference service life is provided for self-tapping screws. Their expected longevity typically varies depending on their specific usage. The service life is significantly influenced by external factors prevailing in their environment.

According to the European Technical Approval and harmonized standards, the average service life is > 50 years. It should be noted that the screws are used in accordance with the technical regulations. Some fasteners have a limited lifetime of 15 years in outdoor environment but 50 years indoor.

2.13 Extraordinary effects

Fire

Self-tapping screws meet the fire resistance requirements of class A1 and can be categorized within resistance classes A1 and A1fl without the need for testing, as per *European Commission Decision 96/603/EC*. In the area of fire protection, the following building material class according to *EN 13501-1* is complied with:

Fire protection

Name	Value
Building material class	A1fl

Water

Water usually has no effect on the self-tapping screws, as these are made of a corrosion-resistant stainless steel or have a protective surface coating (galvanisation).

Mechanical destruction

The mechanical destruction of self-tapping screws has no impact on the environment.

2.14 Re-use phase

Screws (self-tapping and self-drilling) can generally be dismantled and thus be fed into the recycling process. Direct reuse would theoretically be possible, but is not recommended.

2.15 Disposal

The self-tapping screws can be disposed of separately (by appropriate dismantling) or directly with the installed elements during demolition. These are fed into the recycling process in

accordance with the applicable disposal guidelines. The waste code for screws made of corrosion-resistant stainless steel is 170407 and for screws made of steel 170405 (EWC).

2.16 Further information

3. LCA: Calculation rules

3.1 Declared Unit

The declared unit is 1 kg of installed screws.

Declared unit and mass reference

Name	Value	Unit
Declared unit	1	kg
Gross density	7800	kg/m ³

All screws go through a similar production process, with little variability in the manufacturing of various screw types. The background data for the average screw in the EPD is represented by geographical variability and regional differences in energy sources, raw material acquisition, and appropriate transport distances. The actual representation of the average screw production process can be considered high.

3.2 System boundary

Type of the EPD: cradle to gate - with options.

The environmental product declaration refers to the production stage (modules A1-A3), the installation phase (A4-A5), the End-of-Life (modules C1-C4) and credits and loads outside the system boundary (module D).

Module A1 to A3:

The product stage includes provision of all materials, products and energy, as well as waste processing up to the end-of-waste state or disposal of final residues during the product stage. These modules consider the manufacturing of system components/raw materials in particular metal parts, the transport to the production site and the assembly of the product under study. The impact of packaging materials is included.

Module A4:

The module considers 100 km of truck transport to the installation site.

Module A5:

No installation materials and energies are considered. Moreover, installation losses have not been accounted for, since such losses highly depend on site-specific factors. Benefits for potential avoided burdens due to energy substitution of electricity and thermal energy generation from the waste treatment of the packaging are declared in module D affecting only the rate of primary material (no secondary materials). Incineration with energy recovery has been used for plastics and paper.

Module C1 to C4:

The End-of-Life (EoL) stage is a mandatory information module. It starts when the product is replaced, dismantled or deconstructed from the building or construction works and does not provide any further function. It can also start at the end-of-life of the building, depending on the choice of the product's end-of-life scenario. This stage comprises:

Manual Dismantling (C1)

Transport to waste processing (C2)

Waste processing for reuse, recovery and/or recycling (C3)

Disposal (C4)

At EoL, materials are separated as far as possible for individual treatment after deinstallation, which only requires manual

Further information can be found at www.strongtie.eu or in the approvals, standards and specialist rules and installation guidelines already mentioned.

removal of Connectors and Fasteners (No loads in C1). Further dismantling and part separation of the product is manual as well and transportation to final disposal sites as 100 km by truck is considered (Module C2).

Module D:

Metals are assumed to reach the end of waste status directly at construction site. The treatment and credits for avoided primary production (for the net scrap amount only) are grouped to module D.

For the thermal and electrical energy generated in Modules A5 and C3 due to the thermal treatment of packaging and product waste, avoided burdens have been calculated by the inversion of the electricity grid mix and thermal energy from natural gas, using European datasets.

3.3 Estimates and assumptions

For fasteners, the Swedish grid mix has been utilized.

3.4 Cut-off criteria

No cut-off criteria are defined for this study. For the processes within the system boundary, all available energy and material flow data have been included in the model. In cases where no matching life cycle inventories are available to represent a flow, proxy data have been applied based on conservative assumptions regarding environmental impacts.

3.5 Background data

The background data from *LCA FE 2024.1* DB were used.

3.6 Data quality

As part of the update of the EPD, the data originally collected and checked for plausibility from 2023 was adopted. The primary data were provided by the company Simpson Strong-Tie. The quality and representativeness of the collected data can therefore be considered high. The data quality of the background data used was rated as good in terms of technical, geographical and temporal representativeness. The majority of the background data used comes from the reference year 2023.

3.7 Period under review

The data basis of this LCA is based on data collected in 2023. The period under consideration is 12 months.

3.8 Geographic Representativeness

Land or region, in which the declared product system is manufactured, used or handled at the end of the product's lifespan: Sweden

3.9 Allocation

The allocations details are as follows:

- Co-product allocation: There are no co-products within A1-A3. There is no co-product allocation in the LCA-model.
- Allocation of background data: If relevant, information about allocation procedure of single datasets is documented in the LCA FE online documentation: <https://gabi.sphera.com/support/gabi>
- Allocation in the foreground data: The overall production of Simpson Strong-Tie comprises of multiple products.

Production data (e.g., energy) is allocated during the data collection and entered in the tool refer to the declared product. Allocation of the production data is done according to the total mass of product produced.

- Allocation of multi-input processes: The modules A1-A3 include end-of-life datasets (e.g., for landfill and incineration of waste) in which different products are treated together within a single process. The allocation procedures followed in these cases are based on a physical allocation of the mass flows and are documented in the LCA FE online documentation.
- Allocation for waste materials: The following allocation procedures for reuse, recycling and recovery are applied:
 - External treatment of production waste materials generates electricity and thermal energy via incineration processes, and material benefits for metal and plastic

recycling. No energy benefits are taken. Material benefits from production waste recycling are declared in module D.

- Incineration of packaging (module A5) are also included in the system; resulting benefits for thermal and electrical energy are declared in module D.
- Material benefits from product recycling at its end of life (C3) are declared in module D.

More details can be found in the accompanying LCA report.

3.10 Comparability

Basically, a comparison or an evaluation of EPD data is only possible if all the data sets to be compared were created according to *EN 15804* and the building context, respectively the product-specific characteristics of performance, are taken into account. The background database used is *LCA FE Version 2024.1*.

4. LCA: Scenarios and additional technical information

Characteristic product properties of biogenic carbon

There is no biogenic carbon content in the product. The biogenic content in the accompanying packaging is as follows:

Information on describing the biogenic carbon content at factory gate

Name	Value	Unit
Biogenic carbon content in product	-	kg C
Biogenic carbon content in accompanying packaging	0.0162	kg C

Note: 1 kg of biogenic carbon is equivalent to 44/12 kg of CO₂.

Transport from the gate to the site (A4)

Name	Value	Unit
Transport distance	100	km

CE-marked screws are assumed to have a working lifetime of 50 years according to the technical approval.

No reference lifetime is given for non-CE marked screws.

End of life (C1-C4)

Name	Value	Unit
Collected separately waste type steel	1	kg
Collected as mixed construction waste	-	kg
Reuse	-	kg
Recycling	0.97	kg
Energy recovery	-	kg
Landfilling	0.03	kg

Reuse, recovery and/or recycling potentials (D), relevant scenario information

The balance includes the end-of-life of the declared products at the end of the use phase. For net scrap resulting from the screws, a credit is awarded in module D.

Name	Value	Unit
Collection Rate	95	%
Scrap Credit	0.92	kg

5. LCA: Results

the results of the indicators of impact assessment, resource use as well as waste and other output flows related to 1 kg of installed fasteners (screws) are presented below:

DESCRIPTION OF THE SYSTEM BOUNDARY (X = INCLUDED IN LCA; MND = MODULE OR INDICATOR NOT DECLARED; MNR = MODULE NOT RELEVANT)

Product stage			Construction process stage		Use stage							End of life stage				Benefits and loads beyond the system boundaries
Raw material supply	Transport	Manufacturing	Transport from the gate to the site	Assembly	Use	Maintenance	Repair	Replacement	Refurbishment	Operational energy use	Operational water use	De-contruction demolition	Transport	Waste processing	Disposal	Reuse-Recovery-Recycling-potential
A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	B6	B7	C1	C2	C3	C4	D
X	X	X	X	X	MND	MND	MNR	MNR	MNR	MND	MND	X	X	X	MND	X

RESULTS OF THE LCA - ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT according to EN 15804+A2: 1 kg Screws

Parameter	Unit	A1-A3	A4	A5	C1	C2	C3	D
GWP-total	kg CO ₂ eq	3.3E+00	7.82E-03	9.67E-02	0	7.45E-03	6.02E-03	-3.95E-01
GWP-fossil	kg CO ₂ eq	3.36E+00	7.82E-03	3.45E-02	0	7.44E-03	6.02E-03	-3.95E-01
GWP-biogenic	kg CO ₂ eq	-6.79E-02	2.08E-07	6.22E-02	0	1.98E-07	4.82E-07	6.35E-04
GWP-luluc	kg CO ₂ eq	1.15E-03	4.52E-06	1.15E-06	0	4.3E-06	1.02E-06	-1.89E-04
ODP	kg CFC11 eq	3.21E-12	1.02E-15	9.42E-15	0	9.7E-16	2.93E-13	1.25E-12
AP	mol H ⁺ eq	1.64E-02	4.41E-05	2.09E-05	0	4.2E-05	8.4E-06	-9.03E-04
EP-freshwater	kg P eq	2.43E-06	4.1E-08	4.5E-09	0	3.9E-08	3.3E-08	-3.61E-08
EP-marine	kg N eq	4.55E-03	2.22E-05	7.49E-06	0	2.12E-05	2.81E-06	-2.19E-04
EP-terrestrial	mol N eq	4.87E-02	2.44E-04	9.84E-05	0	2.32E-04	2.59E-05	-2.37E-03
POCP	kg NMVOC eq	1.38E-02	4.14E-05	1.93E-05	0	3.94E-05	7.06E-06	-7.28E-04
ADPE	kg Sb eq	1.68E-05	1.08E-09	1.5E-10	0	1.03E-09	5.33E-10	-4.35E-09
ADPF	MJ	3.83E+01	1.06E-01	2.61E-02	0	1.01E-01	3.41E-01	-3.01E+00
WDP	m ³ world eq deprived	6.98E-01	4.76E-04	9.99E-03	0	4.53E-04	5.79E-04	-3.22E-03

GWP = Global warming potential; ODP = Depletion potential of the stratospheric ozone layer; AP = Acidification potential of land and water; EP = Eutrophication potential; POCP = Formation potential of tropospheric ozone photochemical oxidants; ADPE = Abiotic depletion potential for non-fossil resources; ADPF = Abiotic depletion potential for fossil resources; WDP = Water (user) deprivation potential

RESULTS OF THE LCA - INDICATORS TO DESCRIBE RESOURCE USE according to EN 15804+A2: 1 kg Screws

Parameter	Unit	A1-A3	A4	A5	C1	C2	C3	D
PERE	MJ	5.58E+00	4.59E-03	-6.71E-01	0	4.37E-03	7.47E-02	5.27E-01
PERM	MJ	6.77E-01	0	0	0	0	0	0
PERT	MJ	6.26E+00	4.59E-03	6.02E-03	0	4.37E-03	7.47E-02	5.27E-01
PENRE	MJ	3.79E+01	1.06E-01	4.85E-01	0	1.01E-01	3.41E-01	-3.01E+00
PENRM	MJ	4.59E-01	0	-4.59E-01	0	0	0	0
PENRT	MJ	3.83E+01	1.06E-01	2.61E-02	0	1.01E-01	3.41E-01	-3.01E+00
SM	kg	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
RSF	MJ	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NRSF	MJ	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FW	m ³	2.68E-02	1.55E-05	2.35E-04	0	1.47E-05	8.72E-05	-2.64E-04

PERE = Use of renewable primary energy excluding renewable primary energy resources used as raw materials; PERM = Use of renewable primary energy resources used as raw materials; PERT = Total use of renewable primary energy resources; PENRE = Use of non-renewable primary energy excluding non-renewable primary energy resources used as raw materials; PENRM = Use of non-renewable primary energy resources used as raw materials; PENRT = Total use of non-renewable primary energy resources; SM = Use of secondary material; RSF = Use of renewable secondary fuels; NRSF = Use of non-renewable secondary fuels; FW = Use of net fresh water

RESULTS OF THE LCA - WASTE CATEGORIES AND OUTPUT FLOWS according to EN 15804+A2: 1 kg Screws

Parameter	Unit	A1-A3	A4	A5	C1	C2	C3	D
HWD	kg	1.36E-07	1.44E-11	1.28E-11	0	1.37E-11	3.58E-11	1.34E-09
NHWD	kg	7.58E-02	1.05E-05	1.89E-03	0	9.96E-06	5.26E-05	4.26E-02
RWD	kg	1.76E-04	2.75E-07	1.1E-06	0	2.62E-07	9.05E-05	4.77E-05
CRU	kg	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MFR	kg	1.61E-02	0	0	0	0	9.7E-01	0
MER	kg	2.24E-03	0	5E-02	0	0	0	0
EEE	MJ	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.58E-01
EET	MJ	0	0	0	0	0	0	2.96E-01

HWD = Hazardous waste disposed; NHWD = Non-hazardous waste disposed; RWD = Radioactive waste disposed; CRU = Components for re-use; MFR = Materials for recycling; MER = Materials for energy recovery; EEE = Exported electrical energy; EET = Exported thermal energy

**RESULTS OF THE LCA – additional impact categories according to EN 15804+A2-optional:
1 kg Screws**

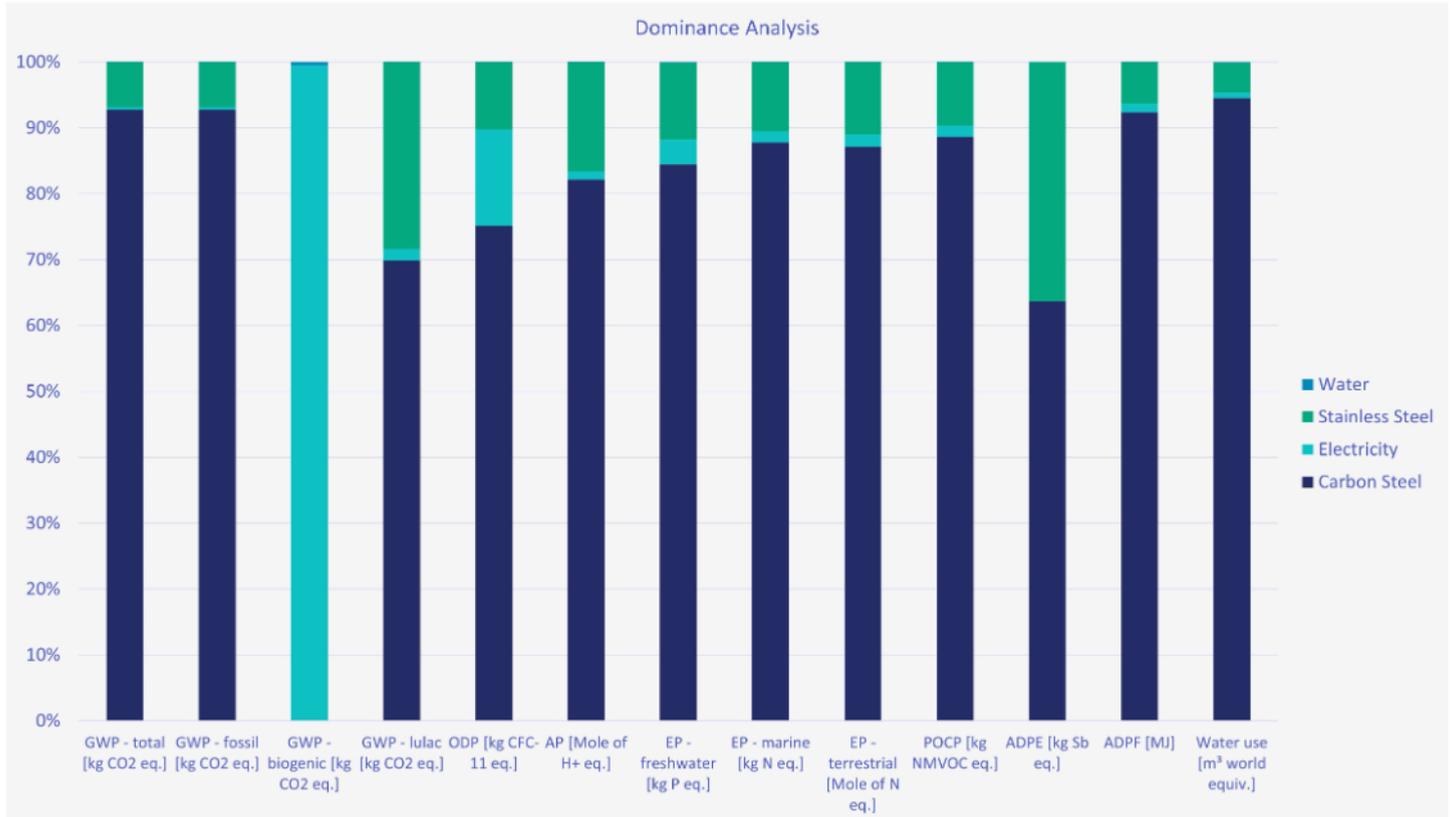
Parameter	Unit	A1-A3	A4	A5	C1	C2	C3	D
PM	Disease incidence	5.13E-07	2.69E-10	1.18E-10	0	2.56E-10	9.81E-11	-1.32E-08
IR	kBq U235 eq	4.93E-02	2.33E-05	1.72E-04	0	2.22E-05	1.05E-02	5.33E-03
ETP-fw	CTUe	8.79E+00	8.27E-02	1.3E-02	0	7.88E-02	1.24E-02	-4.5E-01
HTP-c	CTUh	6.74E-08	1.41E-12	7.28E-13	0	1.35E-12	1.37E-12	-6.19E-10
HTP-nc	CTUh	1.02E-08	3.22E-11	1.18E-11	0	3.06E-11	3.05E-11	5.45E-10
SQP	SQP	1.37E+01	2.07E-02	7.46E-03	0	1.97E-02	1.01E-01	2.78E-01

PM = Potential incidence of disease due to PM emissions; IR = Potential Human exposure efficiency relative to U235; ETP-fw = Potential comparative Toxic Unit for ecosystems; HTP-c = Potential comparative Toxic Unit for humans (cancerogenic); HTP-nc = Potential comparative Toxic Unit for humans (not cancerogenic); SQP = Potential soil quality index

Disclaimer 1 – for the indicator “Potential Human exposure efficiency relative to U235”. This impact category deals mainly with the eventual impact of low-dose ionizing radiation on human health of the nuclear fuel cycle. It does not consider effects due to possible nuclear accidents, occupational exposure or radioactive waste disposal in underground facilities. Potential ionizing radiation from the soil, radon and from some construction materials is also not measured by this indicator.

Disclaimer 2 – for the indicators “abiotic depletion potential for non-fossil resources”, “abiotic depletion potential for fossil resources”, “water (user) deprivation potential, deprivation-weighted water consumption”, “potential comparative toxic unit for ecosystems”, “potential comparative toxic unit for humans – cancerogenic”, “Potential comparative toxic unit for humans - not cancerogenic”, “potential soil quality index”. The results of this environmental impact indicator shall be used with care as the uncertainties on these results are high as there is limited experience with the indicator.

6. LCA: Interpretation



The figure above shows the dominance analysis of module A1, which influences the overall results significantly. As expected, the emissions from the purchase of carbon steel screws are the most important factor influencing the environmental profile of the product. All the impact categories including global warming potential, acidification, eutrophication

and ozone formation potential, etc. are dominated by this. Stainless steel screws also have a minor influence for most impact categories including land use, eutrophication potential, and acidification potential. There is some influence of the electricity in the ozone formation potential. Whereas, use of groundwater, has minimal to no impact on all impact categories

7. Requisite evidence

No evidence according to PCR is required for this EPD.

8. References

Standards

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EN 13501-1

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