



## Data requirements and confidentiality considerations for companies participating in the PEF pilot project in Lebanon

Product environmental Footprints are based on data on the environmental impacts of industrial processes along the lifecycle of the product. This means data needs to be collected from all suppliers from the mining or agricultural processes until the factory gate and from there the route to the retail, the consumers and the end of life processes. In few PEF pilots, among which is paper, data collection stops when the product leaves the factory gate; in other cases however, such as wine, data collection extends to the other phases like production and disposal of packaging.

### Data types

The EU PEF rules distinguish two types of data:

1. Primary data: Data of industrial processes that are directly under control of the company. This refers to processes that take place in the company itself, or in some cases processes that take place in suppliers that are under control because they are completely dependent.
2. Secondary data on processes that are outside control, for instance the impacts of a truck that drives an 100 km, or the impacts of producing 1 kWh electricity from the Lebanese electricity grid.

Companies are expected to provide primary data. Secondary data will be collected from by the LCA expert, facilitated where feasible by the company. In cases where not directly available, secondary data from generic database will be used by the LCA expert instead.

### Examples of primary data to be collected from companies

Companies that want to take part in the pilot are expected to provide the primary data requested by the expert. These are some examples:

1. Data from processes under direct control, related to all relevant emissions including emissions from burning fuel, emissions to water, the evaporation of solvents etc.
2. The use of resources, and especially the purchase of materials from suppliers.

In some cases it will be needed to know more on how the supplier produces its deliveries. For example, in the case of wine it would be very useful to get data on the use of fertilisers and pesticides by the farmers who produce the wine. In the case of paper, it is very relevant to know about the way the forests are managed. Strictly speaking these are not primary data, but it is important to guide the expert to use the most appropriate secondary data.

3. The waste produced, and also the destination of the waste includes packaging waste.
4. An estimate of the transport distances and the mode of transport (ship, truck, air etc.); especially distances that exceed 500 km.





5. As far as possible, a description of what happens downstream, after the product left the factory gate, as this may help the expert to find the best secondary data

Please note that the environmental relevance of the product defines the data quality and precision. . For each product category, a list of relevant parameters has been established in the appropriate PEFCR. Usually there are only a few issues that are really relevant, and the focus should be on those, while less relevant data can sometimes also be based on qualified estimates, as they would not change the results.

### Confidentiality

It is clear that some of these data can be highly confidential, as they may reveal among others:

1. The relative efficiency or inefficiency of the production process, and some clients may want to misuse this in negotiations on price;
2. Some suppliers will not be willing to be very cooperative for the same reason;
3. Some companies may not be willing to reveal data about certain ingredients or some emissions to protect production or trade secrets etc.

The PEF project is aware of the risk and will sign with the company a strict confidentiality agreement. The EU or any other government or organisation will not be able to access this information. The report will make only a generic description of the processes and the findings, but will not specify any detail. Before the public report is released the company who supplied the data will get the opportunity to check this.

The Lebanese companies willing to take part in the PEF pilot will receive the same confidential treatment of their data as the European pilots, through consultants that are well aware and well trained in keeping data confidential.