



ELECTRONIC BLUEPRINT is the principal point of reference and knowledge base for Architects, Engineers and Builders and the only package that fully integrates regulatory & standards requirements with comprehensive, editable specifications, CAD details and approved industry training.

Sustainability Protocol

Electronic Blueprint and ENVIROSPEC provide building specifications and training, on safe and sustainable buildings, for architects, engineers and builders. Many products contribute significantly to building sustainability, either directly, by reducing energy, saving water, lowering toxicity etc, or indirectly, by providing low-cost efficient building solutions. The art of responsible green marketing is to clearly identify the effects of a particular product on our environment, and to present this honestly and simply to the design fraternity.

ENVIROSPEC has produced a Protocol to clearly define practical methodologies for classifying building products, such that their contribution to sustainability is easily identifiable. The comparison of comprehensive life cycle analyses, prepared for competing products, is the most equitable basis of selecting sustainable products. However, comprehensive life cycle analyses are controversial, because they involve numerous assumptions regarding the manufacture, transport, construction, demolition and re-use of the building products; and assumptions regarding their in-service performance. To date, Building Regulations have concentrated on only some aspects of in-service performance (e.g. specifying levels of insulation to achieve desired energy minimisation). The process of preparing such regulations has highlighted the problems in assessing the in-service performance of various products in various applications.

Reflecting the current approach of building regulators, Part 2 of the Protocol considers the special circumstances of in-service performance criteria, in isolation from the other life-cycle considerations. It deals with the effects of a building product on the sustainable operation of the building into which it is built, in the context of what is both common practice and what is permissible under the Building Regulations. It provides for:

- Collection of data for subsequent use in life-cycle analysis; and
- Methods of classifying building products by their in-service effect in specific applications.

Once in-service data is gathered by the methods described in Part 2, it may be used as one of the inputs into a comprehensive life-cycle analysis used to produce Environmental Declarations. Such declarations should account for the sustainability impacts of the manufacture, transport, construction, demolition and re-use of building products, together with their in-service performance.



For further information, please contact Electronic Blueprint www.electronicblueprint.com.au