

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Collaborative tool for calculation of product carbon footprint (PCF) for adhesive tapes

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The Product Carbon Footprint (PCF) refers to the amount of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions caused by a product in its various life cycle phases. Either an entire life cycle ("cradle-to-grave") or a defined life cycle phase (e.g. "cradle-to-gate") can be considered.¹

Afera supports the European Green Deal's (EGD) goal of reducing net emissions of GHG in the E.U. to zero by 2050 and becoming the first continent to become climate-neutral. Products of the adhesive tapes industry make a significant contribution to this goal. In this context, PCF value is becoming increasingly prominent as a key indicator for driving the transformation towards a sustainable, circular economy through innovation. It is an important index of the sustainability of a product, that, together with other indicators such as material and energy efficiency, durability and recyclability, make up a life cycle analysis (LCA). Availability of PCF is also a prerequisite for downstream users of a product to be able to calculate their GHG emissions (Scope 3 upstream). Users of adhesive tapes need specific information from their suppliers to be able to calculate the PCF of their own products accurately.



Established general standards such as ISO 14067 are used as a basis for the calculation of PCF, but specific assumptions are required for a particular sector or product.² Values for raw materials, logistics and energy use contributing to a PCF can be obtained from industry averages or database values (i.e. secondary data), but data quality can be variable. Real-world data from a company's own processes, as well as accurate (primary) data from third parties such as suppliers, service providers, end users and other players in the value chain, should be used whenever possible for calculating PCF. The availability of an aligned methodology and a curated tool for general use in a sector would facilitate the calculation of more accurate PCF values of a company's own products and increase transparency along the value chain. An industry standard for the chemical industry, for example, was established in 2022 through the "Together for Sustainability" (TfS) initiative.³

¹ Definition of greenhouse gas emission in: ISO 140671: 2018, Greenhouse gases - Carbon footprint of products - Requirements and guidelines for quantification.

² ISO 14067:2018, Greenhouse gases - Carbon footprint of products - Requirements and guidelines for quantification.

³ TfS-Guideline - PCF Guideline for the Chemical Industry.

Afera is committed to ensuring that PCFs of adhesive tape products are calculated in an aligned way and with little effort to meet future legal requirements and requests from the supply chain. To this aim, Afera is collaborating with the German Adhesives Association (IVK) to develop a methodology and tool for voluntary use to facilitate the calculation of PCFs of adhesive tapes. This tool would be curated to include the contribution to a PCF of the most commonly used raw materials, components, packaging materials and energy sources used in the manufacturing of adhesive tapes. By applying this methodology and utilising this tool, companies in the sector, and specifically members of Afera or IVK, will be readily able to generate reliable and accurate PCF values which can be communicated downstream in the supply chain. This will enable the calculation of PCFs of products which incorporate adhesive tapes in a dependable way.

More information about Afera's sustainability programme and jointly developed PCF calculation tool can be found at www.afera.com/adhesive-tapes-sustainability/flagship-sustainability-project/.



Pablo Englebienne
Regulatory Affairs & Sustainability Manager
Afera



Karla Pastor
Regulatory Affairs & sustainability Project Manager
Afera

[Afera, the European Adhesive Tape Association](http://www.afera.com) unites stakeholders along the value chain of the European tapes industry, to ensure and increase the relevance of the tapes business in the world of tomorrow. The go-to community of the European tapes industry is comprised of 120 member companies from more than 20 European countries that include adhesive tape manufacturers, suppliers (raw materials, machine and packaging), converters, national tape organisations, research institutions and universities. With the goal of making the tapes industry future-proof, Afera actively studies and involves itself in relevant market, standardisation, sustainability and regulatory issues, provides platforms and programmes for discussion and learning, and facilitates contact among its members and all other pertinent bodies at national and international levels. Founded in Paris in 1958, Afera has operated with its head office in The Hague, the Netherlands, since 1999 under the management of Lejeune Association Management.

For more information, please contact:

[Astrid Lejeune](#)
[Afera Secretary-General](#)
mail@afera.com
www.afera.com
Tel.: +31 (0)70 312 39 16
Fax: +31 (0)70 363 63 48

[Afera Secretariat](#)
[Lejeune Association Management](#)
Laan van Nieuw Oost-Indië 131-G
2593 BM The Hague
The Netherlands

