International Reference Life Cycle Data System (ILCD): Compliance rules for the ILCD Data Network

Cover document for the ILCD quality, method, nomenclature, review and documentation compliance rules

Draft

Disclaimer: This is a draft that will undergo further consultation which may result in significant changes of the document. As soon as a next version becomes available it supersedes this version.

24 November 2008

1   Introduction

This documents identifies the documents/sources for the quality, method, nomenclature, review and documentation compliance rules of the International Reference Life Cycle Data System (ILCD).

These rules have the **purpose** to ensure the appropriateness and necessary compatibility of the data sets in the ILCD Data Network e.g. regarding methods, use of the same underlying elementary flows and nomenclature, ensure appropriate documentation for data users, and giving a guarantee regarding the data quality via reviews.

Of **main practical interest** to LCA practitioners are the rules related to Process data sets. Most of the rules for most of the other data set types are never or rarely required to be actively used / checked by normal LCA practitioners. (The main exception is a correct and structured naming of new flows defined by the practitioner.)

The following type of compliance rules are defined for the different data set types:

Data set type	Compliance area				
	Method	**Quality**	**Nomenclature**	**Review**	**Documentation**
Process	X	X	X	X	X
Flow	X		X		X
Flow property	X		X		X
LCIA method	X	X	X	X	X
Unit group	X		X		X
Source			X		X
Contact			X		X

Overview and reference to the ILCD compliance definition documents:

- **Quality compliance** *(work in progress / under consultation)*: for Process data sets this covers the technological, geographical and time-related representativeness as well as completeness and precision of the inventory. For Process data sets the requirements are specified in the ILCD Handbook "guidance document on generic/average LCI data sets" and for LCIA method data sets in the "LCIA guidance" document.

- **Method compliance** *(work in progress / under consultation)*: covers mainly the applied LCI modelling approach (e.g. attributional, consequential) and the related allocation and other method choices as well as a few methodological issues of the Inputs/Outputs for ensuring a proper link to the impact assessment. For Process data sets the requirements are defined in the ILCD Handbook "guidance document on generic/average LCI data sets" and for LCIA method data sets in the

"LCIA guidance" document. The few provisions for Flow, Flow property, and Unit group are defined in an annex to the ILCD general guidance document.

- **Nomenclature compliance:** refers on one part to a structured and consistent naming of all data set types and some related conventions, the used elementary flow categories, and the classifications for structuring the data sets in the ILCD Data Network. The compliance rules for all data set types are defined in the document "Nomenclature and other conventions for Flows, Flow properties, and Units, as well as for Contacts and Sources". On the other part this refers to the use of correct LCA terminology, which is defined in the ILCD terminology *(terminology work in progress)*.

- **Review compliance** *(work in progress / under consultation)***:** defines the necessary minimum requirements on critical review of Process and LCIA method data sets. They are specified in the "LCA review frame and schemes document" in the part relating to generic/average, respectively producer-specific LCI data sets and LCIA methods, respectively.

- **Documentation compliance:** ensures that a data set is properly identified and both correctly and appropriately documented to inform the user what the data set actually represents. For Process data sets the requirements closely relate to the provisions of the ILCD Handbook "guidance document on generic/average LCI data sets" and for LCIA method data sets to the "LCIA guidance" document. The exact scope of minimum documentation requirement for all data set types is defined in the "ILCD documentation compliance" document.