AMERICAN
WOOD COUNCIL

Environmental Product Declaration

U.S. Southern Softwood Plywood

American Wood Council

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ASTM Certified Environmental Product Declaration

PROGRAM OPERATOR	ASTM International 100 Barr Harbor Drive PO Box C700 West Conshohocken, PA, 19428-2959 USA www.astm.org
GENERAL PROGRAM INSTRUCTIONS AND VERSION NUMBER	ASTM Program Operator Rules. Version: 8.0, Revised 04/29/20
DECLARATION OWNER	American Wood Council
DECLARATION NUMBER	EPD 978
DECLARED PRODUCT	Softwood Plywood produced in the Southern region, United States
DECLARED UNIT	1 m^3 of softwood plywood
REFERENCE PCR AND VERSION NUMBER	ISO 21930:2017 Sustainability in Building and Civil Engineering works – Core Rules for environmental Product Declaration of Construction Products and Services. [9] UL Environment: Product Category Rules for Building-Related Products and Services Part A: Calculation Rules for the Life Cycle Assessment and Requirements on the Project Report, v3.2 2018 [15] Part B: Structural and Architectural Wood Products EPD Requirements, v1.1 2020 [16]
DESCRIPTION OF PRODUCT'S INTENDED APPLICATION AND USE	Softwood plywood is used in building construction (residential and commercial), furniture manufacturer, and others
MARKETS OF APPLICABILITY	Construction Sector, North America
DATE OF ISSUE	May 7, 2025
PERIOD OF VALIDITY	5 years
EPD TYPE	Industry-average
EPD SCOPE	Cradle to gate
YEAR OF REPORTED MANUFACTURER PRIMARY DATA	2022/2023
LCA SOFTWARE	SimaPro v9.6
LCI DATABASES	USLCI [11], Ecoinvent 3.9.1 [17], Datasmart 2023 [10]

LCIA METHODOLOGY	TRACI 2.1 v1.08 [4], CML-IA Baseline V3.08, CED, LHV 1.0
THE SUB-CATEGORY PCR REVIEW WAS CONDUCTED BY:	Dr. Thomas Gloria (chair) t.gloria@industrial-ecology.com
LCA AND EPD DEVELOPER This life cycle assessment was conducted in accordance with ISO 14044 and the reference PCR by:	The Consortium for Research on Renewable Industrial Materials (CORRIM) PO Box 2432 Corvallis, OR 97330 541-231-2627 www.corrim.org

This declaration was independently verified in accordance with ISO 14025:2006.
The UL Environment "Part A: Calculation Rules for the Life Cycle Assessment and Requirements on the Project Report," v3.2 (December 2018), in conformance with ISO 21930:2017, serves as the core PCR,
with additional considerations from the USGBC/UL Environment Part A Enhancement (2017).

Tim Brooke, ASTM International

☐ Internal ☐ x External

INDEPENDENT VERIFIER
This life cycle assessment was independently verified in accordance with ISO 14044 and the reference PCR by:

LIMITATIONS

- Environmental declarations from different programs (ISO 14025) may not be comparable.
- Comparison of the environmental performance of Structural and Architectural Wood Products using EPD information shall be based on the product's use and impacts at the construction works level, and therefore EPDs may not be used for comparability purposes when not considering the construction works energy use phase as instructed under this PCR
- Full conformance with the PCR for Southern softwood plywood allows EPD comparability only when all stages of a life cycle have been considered, when they comply with all referenced standards (ISO 21930:2017 §5.5, use the same sub-category Part B PCR, and use equivalent scenarios with respect to construction works. However, variations and deviations are possible. It should be noted that different LCA software and background LCI datasets may lead to different results for upstream or downstream of the life cycle stages declared.

Description of Industry and Product

Description of Southern Softwood Plywood Industry

The plywood industry is a subset of the very broad forest products industry which also produces plywood, fiberboard, particleboard, paper, cabinetry, furniture, millwork, and other products derived from trees. A distinction is often made between primary and secondary forest product industries, with the former including products such as panels and plywood and the latter including products derived from plywood, veneer, and panels, such as cabinets and furniture.

The plywood industry can be further segmented in other ways. For example, there are significant differences between processing hardwood logs and softwood logs into plywood and there are very different markets for the products. There are also regional differences. The inputs and processing of Southern softwood plywood and Western softwood plywood yield similar (but not identical) allocations of by-products, but the inputs come from completely different forest management regimes and the outputs go to different markets.

The Southern softwood plywood production region is represented by the states from Texas in the West to Kentucky and Virginia in the North. Southern regional mills accounted for 55 percent of the 7.90 million MSF 3/8-inch basis of U.S. softwood plywood capacity in 2022 (FEA 2024). The Southern region's capacity is 4.92 million MSF. Participating facilities for the LCA represented over 88 percent of the regional capacity.

Of the reporting facilities (n=16), the annual production ranged from128,567 MSF to 408,684 MSF with a weighted average of 269,654 MSF 3/8-inch basis (294,136 m^3 9.5-mm basis). This EPD represents the cradle-to-gate energy and materials required for manufacturing softwood plywood produced in the Southern region of the United States (U.S.). All members of the American Wood Council (AWC), APA – The Engineered Wood Association, and/or Softwood Lumber Board (SLB) meet the eligibility requirements as participants in this EPD.

Softwood plywood is categorized by United Nations Standard Products and Services Code (UNSPSC) 111220 01 and Construction Specifications Institute (CSI) codes for sheathing 06 16 00, 06 16 23 for subflooring, and 06 16 26 for underlayment (Table 1).

Table 1. United Nations Standard Products and Services Code (UNSPSC) and Construction Specification Institute (CSI) MasterFormat Code for Softwood Plywood.

Classification Standard	Category	Subcategory	Product Code
UNSPSC	Engineered wood products	Plywood	111220 01
CSI/CSC	Plywood (Softwood)	Sheathing	06 16 00
		Subflooring	06 16 23
		Underlayment	06 16 26

Plywood in the Southern region are produced from southern pine (Table 2). This is a mixture of several species with similar characteristics. The species are primarily longleaf (*Pinus palustris*), loblolly (*P. taeda*), short leaf (*P. echinata*), and slash pine (*P. elliottii*). Since every facility reported the wood species as "southern pine" a 50:50 mix loblolly and slash pine was used. Southern pine is defined as those species whose major range is in the United States, south of the Mason-Dixon line and east of the Great Plains

Table 2. Species and Representation for the Southern Plywood Region.

Species Grouping	Scientific Name	Survey Composition
Loblolly pine	*Pinus taeda*	50%
Slash pine	*Pinus elliottii*	50%
		100%

Description of Product

Structural plywood is a strong, durable, and versatile engineered wood product widely used in construction and industrial applications. Made by bonding multiple layers (or plies) of wood veneer together with adhesives, structural plywood is designed to provide high strength, stability, and resistance to environmental factors. The grain direction of each layer is alternated, enhancing its dimensional stability and reducing the risk of warping, splitting, or shrinking.

One of the primary advantages of structural plywood is its load-bearing capacity, making it ideal for flooring, roofing, wall sheathing, and formwork in concrete construction. It meets strict manufacturing standards, such as PS 1-22, ensuring reliability and performance under heavy loads and varying weather conditions. It can be treated for added moisture, fire, or insect resistance, further expanding its applications. Additionally, it is available in various grades and thicknesses to suit different construction needs.

Although plywood is produced in different grades and thickness, a commonly used unit of volume in the industry is one thousand square feet (MSF) 3/8-inch basis (0.885 cubic meters) (Briggs 1994). Plywood is also used as a component in other engineered wood products and systems in applications such as prefabricated I-joists, box beams, stressed-skin panels, and panelized roofing

Plywood is a panel product built up wholly or primarily of sheets of veneer called plies (Figure 1). Softwood plywood in the U.S. is produced by peeling logs into veneer sheets, drying the veneer, applying resin (phenol-formaldehyde) to the veneer sheets, and stacking sheets together, typically with alternating grain orientation. The veneer stacks are put into a hot press where pressure and heat are used to provide contact and curing, and the cured panel is then removed and sawn to standard sizes, with 1.22 × 2.44 meters (4 × 8 feet) sheets being the most common.

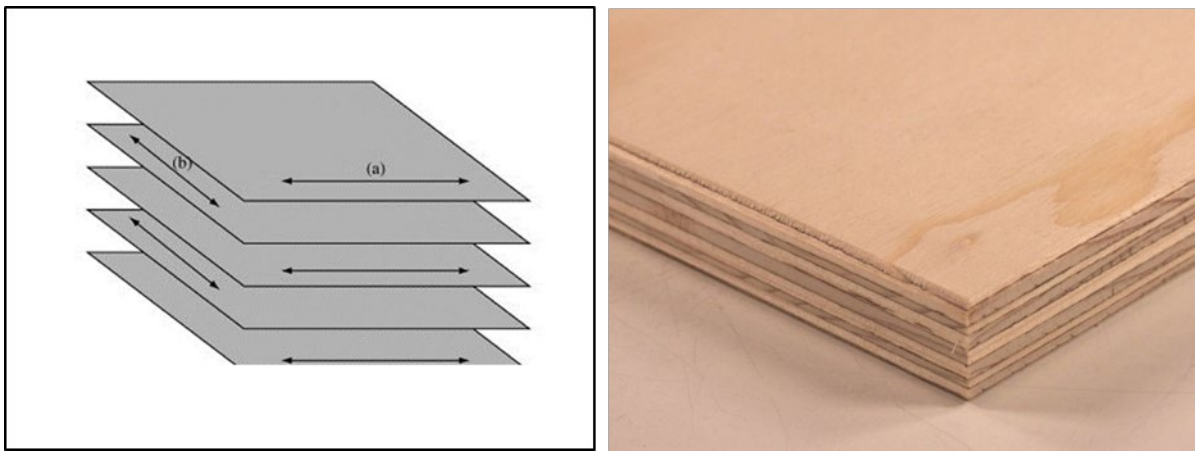


Figure 1. Softwood Plywood. Arrangement of Veneer Plies in Plywood (L) and the Finished Product (R)

The product profile presented in this EPD is for a declared unit of 1 cubic meter (1 m^3) of softwood plywood One cubic meter of Southern softwood plywood weighs 585 kg, excluding the variable moisture content (Table 3).

Table 3. Properties of 1 m^3 Southern Softwood Plywood.

Average Product Composition	Unit	Weighted Avg.
Mass of product	kg	610.50
Density, oven dry	kg/m^3	585.00
Density @ 7.1% MC	kg/m^3	610.50
Moisture Content	%	7.10
Thickness	mm	9.525

Softwood Plywood Production

Plywood manufacturing can be divided into six-unit processes: log debarking, log conditioning, veneer peeling, veneer drying, layup and pressing, and final trimming and packaging. The wood boiler represents a seventh process that provides heat energy. Figure 2 shows the relationship between the processes and the wood inputs to and from each process. Table 4 further describes the wood flow in and out of each unit process and type of energy input needed. Table 4 and Figure 2 are reported as information only on the general production processes of plywood. The data was collected by facility and not by unit process.

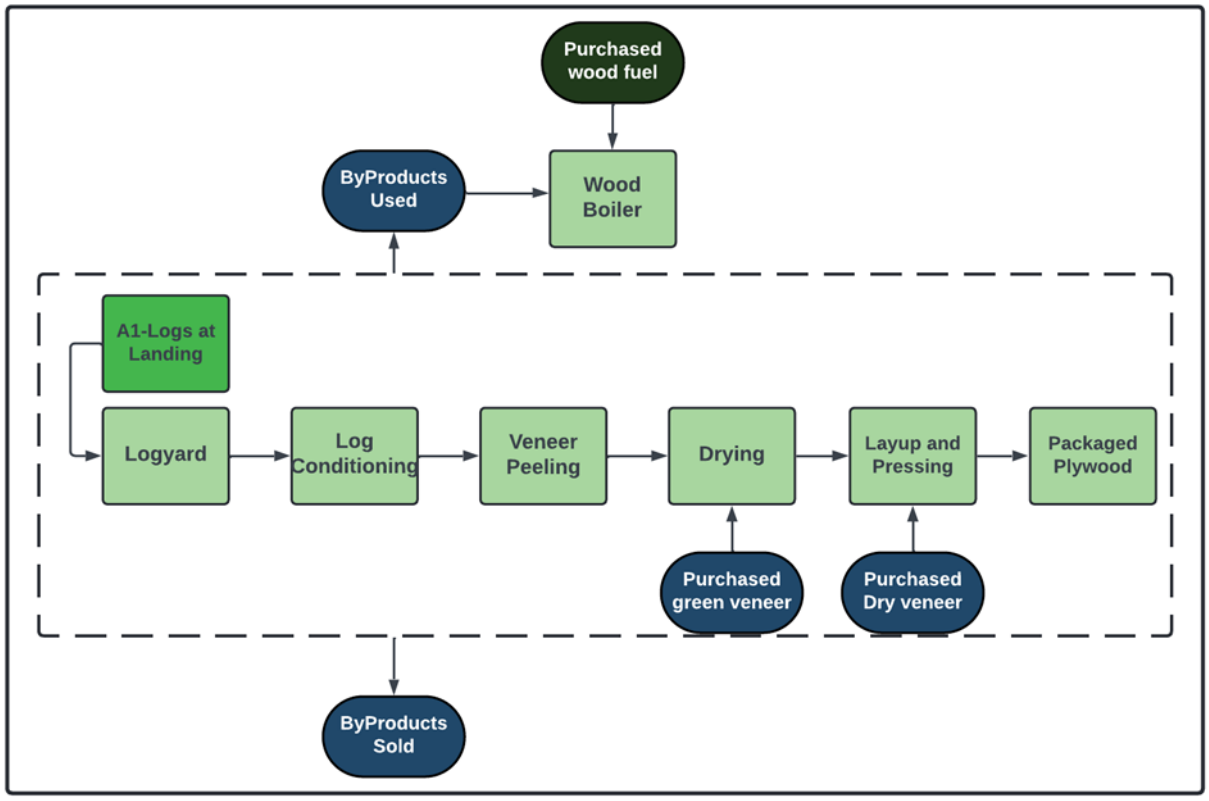


Figure 2. Plywood Unit Processes from Roundwood to Packaged Plywood.

Table 4 Description of the production flow of plywood and the associated inputs and outputs of each unit process

Average Product Composition		Unit	Weighted Avg.
1. Log/Yard & Debarking	Logs are bucked (cut to length) on the log yard. Logs are debarked.	• Logs • Fossil fuels • Electricity	• Debarked logs • Wood waste
2. Conditioning	Conditioning of debarked logs with hot water or steam	• Debarked logs • Thermal energy • Water	• Conditioned logs
3. Veneer Peeling	Logs are peeled in the lathe to make veneer. Veneer is clipped to size and sorted by moisture content	• Conditioned logs • Electricity	• Veneer (green) • Peeler cores • Veneer clippings and trim (downfall)
4. Drying	Veneers are dried to 4-6% MC. The re-drying rate for processed veneer is 2-18%, according to the surveys	• Veneer (green) • Thermal energy • Electricity	• Veneer (dry) • Water vapor • Air emissions
5. Layup and Press	The adhesive is applied on the veneers, and the veneers are cross-laminated in a mat, and the mat is pressed	• Veneer (dry) • Adhesive • Thermal heat • Electricity	• Plywood • Layup scrap • Water vapor • Air emissions
6. Trimming, sawing, packaging	The plywood panels are sawn to appropriate dimensions. Packaging material consists of wrapping, strapping, and spacers	• Plywood • Electricity • LPG	• Sawn plywood • Plywood trim • Sawdust • Wood waste

Most wood raw material for plywood production arrives in the form of roundwood (logs) and is converted to finished plywood on-site. In some instances, veneer (green or dry) can be a by-product as well as a purchased a raw material for plywood production.

Packing materials represent only 0.52 percent of the mass of the main product. The wood stickers and runners make up the bulk of the mass, representing 96 percent of the total packaging. The wrapping materials represent <1 percent, followed by the strapping and cardboard at 3.6 percent of the total packaging mass. The packaging is allocated 100 percent to the primary product.

The technical requirements for softwood plywood represented in this EPD are defined by DOC PS 1-22 Structural Plywood or PS 2-18 Performance Standard for Wood Structural Panels (APA).

Methodological Framework

The underlying LCA [14] was performed in conformance with ISO 14040/44 [7,8], ISO 21930 [9] and EN15804 [5], as well as the PCR.

Type of EPD and Life Cycle Stages

This EPD is intended to represent an industry wide life cycle assessment (LCA) for softwood plywood produced in the Southern region of the U.S. Sixteen facilities contributed production data, resource use, energy and fuel use, transportation distances, and onsite processing emissions. These data were weighted average based on production to produce the life cycle inventory data for the life cycle impact assessment (LCIA). The underlying LCA [14] investigates plywood production from cradle-to-gate. Information modules included in the LCA are shown in Table 5. This EPD includes mandatory modules A1-A3 for a cradle-to-gate analysis.

Table 5. Life Cycle Stages & Information Modules per ISO 21930.

PRODUCTION STAGE			CONSTRUCTION STAGE		USE STAGE							END-OF-LIFE STAGE				OPTIONAL BENEFITS
A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	B6	B7	C1	C2	C3	C4	D
Extraction and up-stream production	Transport to factory	Manufacturing	Transport to site	Installation	Use	Maintenance	Repair	Replacement	Refurbishment	Building Operational Energy Use During Product Use	Building Operational Water Use During Product Use	Deconstruction	Transport	Waste	Disposal	Reuse, Recycle, & Recovery benefits
X	X	X	MND	MND	MND	MND	MND	MND	MND	MND	MND	MND	MND	MND	MND	MND

System Boundaries and Product Flow Diagram

The product system described in Figure 3 includes the following information modules and unit processes:

A1 - RAW MATERIAL EXTRACTION	A1 includes the cradle to gate forestry operation [12] that may include nursery operations (which include fertilizer, irrigation, energy for greenhouses if applicable etc.), site preparation, as well as planting, fertilization, thinning and other management operations. A1 includes the cradle to gate adhesive production data [3]
A2 - RAW MATERIAL TRANSPORT	Average or specific transportation of raw materials (including secondary materials and fuels) from extraction site or source to manufacturing site (including any recovered materials from source to be recycled in the process).
A3 - MANUFACTURING	Manufacturing of softwood plywood including energy consumption and fuel use, resource use, water use, emissions to air and water, waste disposal, and packaging. Packaging materials represent less than one percent (0.59%) of the mass of the main product. The packaging is allocated 100 percent to plywood.

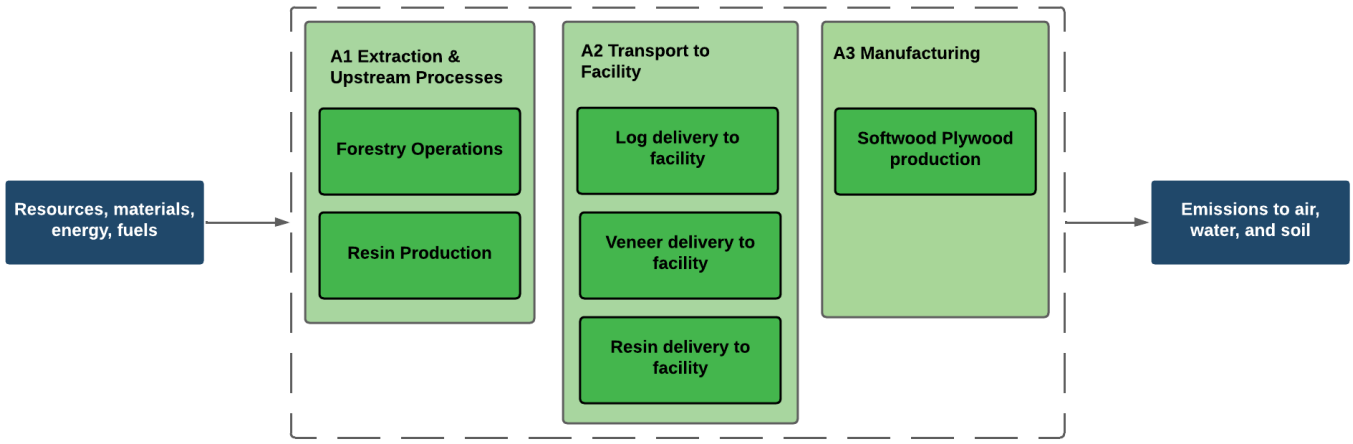


Figure 3. Cradle-to-Gate (A1-A3) System Boundary for Southern Softwood Plywood Production.

Declared Unit

The declared product consists solely of softwood. The percent composition is shown in Table 6.

Table 6. Product Composition.

Product Component	Percentage of Declared Product
Softwood veneer	97.0%
Adhesives	3.0%

Allocation Methods

Allocation is the method used to partition the environmental load of a process when several products or functions share the same process. The input material for producing softwood plywood is a round log with bark. Processing the log involves multiple steps with generation of by-products (e.g., sawdust, chips, bark). Following the PCR (UL 2018, 2020) and ISO 21930:2017, allocation is based on physical properties (e.g., mass or volume). For this study, a mass allocation was used for the primary product and subsequent by-products. Some by-products used internally were used for on-site energy generation. Packaging inputs are not related to the by-products and are allocated 100% to the final product.

Cut-off Criteria

The cut-off criteria for all activity stage flows considered within the system boundary conform with ISO 21930: 2017 Section 7.1.8. Specifically, the cut-off criteria were applied as follows:

- All inputs and outputs for which data are available are included in the calculated effects and no collected core process data are excluded.
- A one percent cut-off is considered for renewable and non-renewable primary energy consumption and the total mass of inputs within a unit process. The sum of the total neglected flows does not exceed 5% of all energy consumption and mass of inputs.
- All flows known to contribute a significant impact or to uncertainty are included.
- The cut-off rules are not applied to hazardous and toxic material flows – all of which are included in the life cycle inventory.

No material or energy input or output was knowingly excluded from the system boundary.

Data Sources

Primary and secondary data sources, as well as the respective data quality assessment, are documented in the underlying LCA project report in accordance with UL PCR 2020.

Third party verified ISO [6,7,8] secondary LCI data sets contribute 76-100% of total impact to any of the required impact categories identified by the applicable PCR [15,16].

Treatment of Biogenic Carbon

Biogenic carbon emissions and removals are reported in accordance with ISO 21930 7.2.7. and 7.2.12. ISO 21930 requires a demonstration of forest sustainability to characterize carbon removals with a factor of -1 kg CO_2eq/kg CO_2. ISO 21930 Section 7.2.11 Note 2 states the following regarding demonstrating forest sustainability: “Other evidence such as national reporting under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) can be used to identify forests with stable or increasing forest carbon stocks.” The United States UNFCCC annual report Table 6-1 provides annual NET GHG Flux Estimates for different land use categories. This reporting indicates non-decreasing forest carbon stocks and thus the source forests meet the conditions for characterization of removals with a factor of -1 kg CO_2eq/kg CO_2.

Environmental Parameters Derived from the LCA

The impact categories and characterization factors for the LCIA were derived from the U.S. EPA Tool for the Reduction and Assessment of Chemical and Other Environmental Impacts - TRACI 2.1 v1.08 [4]. The total primary energy consumption is tabulated from the LCI results based on the Cumulative Energy Demand Method (CED, LHV, V1.0) published by Ecoinvent [17]. Lower heating value of primary energy carriers is used to calculate the primary energy values reported in the study.

Other inventory parameters concerning material use, waste, water use, and biogenic carbon were drawn from the LCI results. We followed the ACLCA’s Guidance to Calculating non-LCIA Inventory Metrics in accordance with ISO 21930:2017 [1]. SimaPro 9.6 [13] was used to organize and accumulate the LCI data, and to calculate the LCIA results (Table 7).

Table 7. Selected Impact Category Indicators and Inventory Parameters.

Core Mandatory Impact Indicator	Abbreviation	Units	Method
Global warming potential, Total	GWP_{TOTAL}	kg CO_2 eq	$GWP_{BIOGENIC}$ + GWP_{FOSSIL}
Global warming potential, Biogenic	$GWP_{BIOGENIC}$	kg CO_2 eq	TRACI 2.1 V1.08+ LCI Indicatory
Global warming potential, Fossil	GWP_{FOSSIL}	kg CO_2 eq	TRACI 2.1 V1.08
Depletion potential of the stratospheric ozone layer	ODP	kg CFC11 eq	TRACI 2.1 V1.08
Acidification potential of soil and water sources	AP	kg SO_2 eq	TRACI 2.1 V1.08
Eutrophication potential	EP	kg N eq	TRACI 2.1 V1.08
Formation potential of tropospheric ozone	SFP	kg O_3 eq	TRACI 2.1 V1.08
Abiotic depletion potential (ADP fossil) for fossil resources;	ADPf	MJ, LHV	CML-IA Baseline V3.08
Fossil fuel depletion	FFD	MJ Surplus	TRACI 2.1 V1.08
Use of Primary Resources			
Renewable primary energy carrier used as energy	RPRE	MJ, LHV [a/]	CED (LHV) V1.00
Renewable primary energy carrier used as material	RPRM	MJ, LHV	LCI Indicator
Non-renewable primary energy carrier used as energy	NRPRE	MJ, LHV	CED (LHV) V1.00
Renewable primary energy carrier used as material	NRPRM	MJ, LHV	LCI Indicator
Secondary material, secondary fuel and recovered energy			
Secondary material	SM	kg	LCI Indicator
Renewable secondary fuel	RSF	MJ, LHV	LCI Indicator
Non-renewable secondary fuel	NRSF	MJ, LHV	LCI Indicator
Recovered energy	RE	MJ, LHV	LCI Indicator
Mandatory Inventory Parameters			
Consumption of freshwater resources;	FW	m^3	LCI Indicator
Indicators Describing Waste			
Hazardous waste disposed	HWD	kg	LCI Indicator
Non-hazardous waste disposed	NHWD	kg	LCI Indicator
High-level radioactive waste, conditioned, to final repository	HLRW	m^3	LCI Indicator
Intermediate- and low-level radioactive waste, conditioned, to final repository	ILLRW	m^3	LCI Indicator
Components for re-use	CRU	kg	LCI Indicator
Materials for recycling	MR	kg	LCI Indicator
Materials for energy recovery	MER	kg	LCI Indicator
Recovered energy exported from the product system	EE	MJ, LHV	LCI Indicator
Additional Inventory Parameters			
Biogenic Carbon Removal from Product	BCRP	kg CO_2	LCI Indicator
Biogenic Carbon Emission from Product	BCEP	kg CO_2	LCI Indicator
Biogenic Carbon Removal from Packaging	BCRK	kg CO_2	LCI Indicator
Biogenic Carbon Emission from Packaging	BCEK	kg CO_2	LCI Indicator
Biogenic Carbon Emission from Combustion of Waste from Renewable Sources Used in Production	BCEW	kg CO_2	LCI Indicator

Life Cycle Impact Assessment Results

Tables 8-10 presents the cradle-to-gate (A1-A3) LCIA and LCI parameter results for the declared unit of 1 m^3 of softwood plywood. No permanent carbon storage is included in the cradle-to-gate (A1-A3) results. As a result, the biogenic carbon balance for the cradle-to-gate portion of the life cycle is net neutral. Cradle-to-gate results for plywood on a relative basis are presented in Tables 11-13 and Figure 3.

Table 8. Cradle-to-Gate LCIA Results for 1 m^3 of Southern Softwood Plywood – Absolute Basis.

Core Mandatory Impact Indicator	Total	A1	A2	A3
GWP_{TOTAL} [kg CO_2 eq]	174.32	(2,001.43)	11.09	2,164.66
$GWP_{BIOGENIC}$ [kg CO_2 eq]	0.00	(2,043.39)	0.00	2,043.39
GWP_{FOSSIL} [kg CO_2 eq]	174.32	41.95	11.09	121.27
ODP [kg CF-11eq]	3.70E-06	2.78E-06	1.96E-08	9.05E-07
AP [kg SO_2 eq]	0.80	0.28	0.06	0.46
EP [kg N eq]	0.47	0.17	0.00	0.29
SFP [kg O_3 eq]	20.13	6.41	1.77	11.95
FFD [MJ, surplus]	337.66	107.04	20.83	209.79
ADP_{FOSSIL} [MJ, LHV]	2,548.47	813.77	138.72	1,595.98

Table 9. Cradle-to-Gate Resource Use Results for 1 m^3 of Southern Softwood Plywood – Absolute Basis.

Use of Primary Resources	Total	A1	A2	A3
RPRE [MJ, LHV]	3,908.30	46.06	0.32	3,861.93
RPRM [MJ, LHV]	14,259.29	14,259.29	0.00	0.00
NRPRE [MJ, LHV]	3,061.31	851.60	140.76	2,068.95
NRPRM [MJ, LHV]	431.97	431.97	0.00	0.00
SM [kg]	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
RSF [MJ, LHV]	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
NRSF [MJ, LHV]	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
RE [MJ, LHV]	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
FW [m^3]	1.9992	0.8526	0.0012	1.1454

Table 10. Cradle-to-Gate Output Flows for 1 m^3 of Southern Softwood Plywood – Absolute Basis

Indicators Describing Waste	Total	A1	A2	A3
HWD [kg]	1.40E-02	2.22E-03	4.42E-05	1.17E-02
NHWD [kg]	2.51E+01	5.21E+00	1.59E+00	1.82E+01
HLRW [m^3]	4.51E-07	1.68E-09	0.00E+00	4.49E-07
ILLRW [m^3]	6.00E-06	5.51E-08	2.25E-09	5.94E-06
CRU [kg]	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
MR [kg]	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
MER [kg]	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
EE [MJ, LHV]	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Table 11. Cradle-to-Gate LCIA Results for 1 m^3 of Southern Softwood Plywood – Relative Basis.

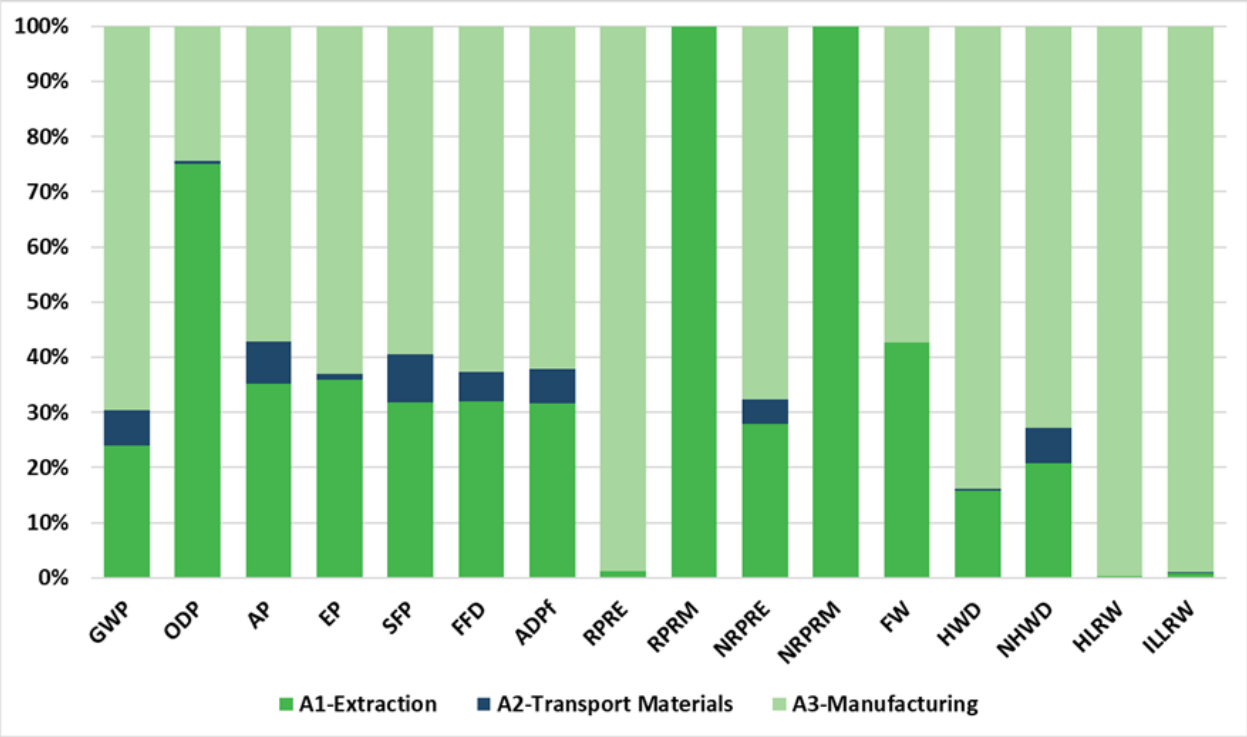
Core Mandatory Impact Indicator	Total	A1	A2	A3
GWP_{FOSSIL} [kg CO_2 eq]	100%	24.1%	6.4%	69.6%
ODP [kg CF-11eq]	100%	75.1%	0.5%	24.4%
AP [kg SO_2 eq]	100%	35.2%	7.6%	57.1%
EP [kg N eq]	100%	35.9%	1.1%	63.0%
SFP [kg O_3 eq]	100%	31.8%	8.8%	59.4%
FFD [MJ, surplus]	100%	31.9%	5.4%	62.6%
ADP_{FOSSIL} [MJ, LHV]	100%	31.7%	6.2%	62.1%

Table 12. Cradle-to-Gate Resource Use Results for 1 m^3 of Southern Softwood Plywood – Relative Basis.

Use of Primary Resources	Total	A1	A2	A3
RPRE [MJ, LHV]	100%	1.2%	0.0%	98.8%
RPRM [MJ, LHV]	100%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%
NRPRE [MJ, LHV]	100%	27.8%	4.6%	67.6%
NRPRM [MJ, LHV]	0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%
FW [m^3]	100%	42.6%	0.1%	57.3%

Table 13. Cradle-to-Gate Output Flows for 1 m^3 of Southern Softwood Plywood – Relative Basis.

Indicators Describing Waste	Total	A1	A2	A3
HWD [kg]	100%	15.8%	0.3%	83.9%
NHWD [kg]	100%	20.8%	6.4%	72.8%
HLRW [m^3]	100%	0.4%	0.0%	99.6%
ILLRW [m^3]	100%	0.9%	0.0%	99.0%



GWP	Global warming potential
ODP	Depletion potential of the stratospheric ozone layer
AP	Acidification potential of soil and water sources
EP	Eutrophication potential
SFP	Formation potential of tropospheric ozone
ADPf	Abiotic depletion potential (ADP fossil) for fossil resource
FFD	Fossil fuel depletion
RPRM	Renewable primary energy carrier used as energy
RPRM	Renewable primary energy carrier used as material.
NRPE	Non-renewable primary energy carrier used as energy.
NRPRM	Renewable primary energy carrier used as material.
FW	Consumption of freshwater resources
HWD	Hazardous waste disposed.
NHWD	Non-hazardous waste disposed.
HLRW	High-level radioactive waste, conditioned, to final repository
ILLRW	Intermediate- and low-level radioactive waste, conditioned to final repository

Figure 4. Cradle-to-Gate LCIA Results for the Production Southern Softwood Plywood – Relative Basis.

Biogenic Carbon Results

Cradle-to-Gate Results

Wood is a biobased material and thus contains biogenic carbon. The accounting of biogenic carbon follows the requirements set out in ISO 21930:2017 where biogenic carbon enters the product system (removal) as primary or secondary material. Carbon removal is considered a negative emission. The biogenic carbon leaves the system (emission) as a product, by-products, or directly to the atmosphere when combusted for heat energy. These mass flows of biogenic carbon from and to nature are listed in the LCI and are expressed in kg CO_2.

Table 14 shows the biogenic carbon removal and emissions. All carbon dioxide flows (kg CO_2) presented in Table 14 are unallocated to include by-products leaving the system boundary in module A3. Even though the system boundary for this LCA only includes module A1-A3, in accordance with ISO 21930, emission from packaging (BCEK) is reported in A5-Construction and emission from the main product (BCEP) is reported in C3/C4-End-of-Life[1]. The net carbon emission across the cradle-to-gate life cycle is zero. It is assumed that all carbon removed from the atmosphere is eventually emitted to the atmosphere as CO_2.

Table 14. Biogenic Carbon Inventory Parameters for Southern Softwood Plywood.

	A1	A2	A3	A5	C3/C4	Total
BCRP [kg CO_2]	(2,043.39)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	(2,043.39)
BCEP [kg CO_2]	0.00	0.00	654.07	0.00	1,072.50	1,726.57
BCRK [kg CO_2]	0.00	0.00	(5.41)	0.00	0.00	(5.41)
BCEK [kg CO_2]	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.41	0.00	5.41
BCEW [kg CO_2]	0.00	0.00	316.82	0.00	0.00	316.82

[1] These products are reported in modules outside the scope of this LCA system boundary to provide reference for EoL waste and emissions if a full cradle-to-grave LCA were to be performed.

Cradle-to-Grave Results

The product system represented in this EPD includes the information modules 'A1 Extraction and upstream production', 'A2 Transport to factory' and 'A3 Manufacturing'. As per ISO 21930, the net biogenic carbon emissions across the reported modules are zero (carbon neutral). This conservative assumption excludes the permanent sequestration of biogenic carbon if the LCA were to consider the typical end-of-life treatment for wood products, landfilling.

UL Environment published an addendum to the reference PCR that estimates the emissions from landfilling of wood products (UL 2020 Appendix A). The carbon sequestration addendum is based on the United States EPA WARM model and aligns with the biogenic accounting rules in ISO 21930 Section 7.2.7 and Section 7.2.12. Because the end-of-life fate of this material is unknown, we have applied the default disposal pathway from the PCR Part A (UL 2018) Section 2.8.5, 100% landfill.

The following results apply the addendum methodology (UL 2020 Appendix A) to the biogenic carbon present in the primary product as it leaves the manufacturer in Module A3[2].

1 m^3 softwood plywood = 585.00 oven dry kg = 292.50 kg carbon = 1,072.50 kg CO_2 eq

Carbon sequestered in product at manufacturing gate:
1,072.50 kg CO_2 eq = -1,072.50 kg CO_2 eq

Methane emitted from fugitive landfill gas:
2.07 kg CH_4 = 51.73 kg CO_2 eq emission[3]

Carbon dioxide emitted from fugitive landfill gas and the combustion captured landfill gas:
120.51 kg CO_2 eq emission[4]

Permanent carbon sequestration, net of biogenic carbon emissions:
900.26 kg CO_2 eq = -900.26 kg CO_2 eq emission[5]

[2] Background assumptions for EoL and 100% Landfill: methane emission = 3.53E-03 kg CH4/kg dry wood; carbon dioxide emission = 2.06E-01 kg CO2/kg dry wood (UL 2020).
[3] Methane emissions= 3.53E-03 kg CH4/kg of dry wood X 585.00 kg of dry wood = 2.07 kg CH4; kg CO2 eq = 2.07 kg CH4 X 25.05 kg CH4/kg CO2 eq = 51.73 kg CO2 eq
[4] Carbon dioxide emissions= 2.06E-01 kg CO2/kg of dry wood X 585.00 = 120.51 kg CO2
[5] Final sequestration, net of biogenic emissions = CO2 eq in product at gate = 1,072.50 – (51.73 + 120.51) = 900.26 kg CO2 eq

LCA Interpretation

Comparability

Environmental declarations from different programs [6] may not be comparable. Comparison of the environmental performance using EPD information shall consider all relevant information modules over the full life cycle of the products within the building. This PCR allows EPD comparability only when the same functional requirements between products are ensured and the requirements of ISO 21930:2017 §5.5 are met. In addition, to be compared, EPDs must comply with the same core and sub-category PCRs (Part A and B) and include all relevant information modules. It should be noted that different LCA software and background LCI datasets may lead to different results for upstream or downstream of the life cycle stages declared.

Limitations

This LCA was created using manufacturer average data for upstream materials. Variation can result from differences in supplier locations, manufacturing processes, manufacturing efficiency and fuel type used. This LCA does not report all of the environmental impacts due to manufacturing of the product but rather reports the environmental impacts for those categories with established LCA-based methods to track and report. Unreported environmental impacts include (but are not limited to) factors attributable to human health, land use change, and habitat destruction. In order to assess the local impacts of product manufacturing, additional analysis is required.

Additional Environmental Information

According to ISO 21930 section 9.6, a manufacturer is required to report hazardous and/or dangerous substances. Drying and pressing processes contribute to the production of emissions during plywood manufacturing. Mills classed as major sources under EPA rules are required to report methanol, formaldehyde, phenol, acetaldehyde, propionaldehyde, and acrolein which are on the US Environmental Agency (EPA) Toxics Release Inventory. These emissions are reported in this EPD.

Southern plywood production facilities obtain their wood fiber from sources that are legally and sustainably sourced. Participating facilities reported Fiber Sourcing data for the three sourcing categories established in ASTM-D7612-21: Standard Practice for Categorizing Wood and Wood-Based Products According to Their Fiber Sources [2]. The standard provides criteria for differentiating wood products into three categories:

1. Non-controversial Sources of Forest Products,
2. Responsible Sources of Forest Products, and
3. Certified Sources of Forest Products.

Fiber from non-controversial, or legal, sources are from geographic areas with a low risk of illegal activity and are compliant with legal or other proprietary standards. Products from responsible sources are produced with wood fiber acquired according to an independently certified procurement standard or are from jurisdictions with regulatory or quasi-regulatory programs to implement best management practices. Independently certified procurement standards include FSC Controlled Wood and SFI Fiber Sourcing. To qualify for either standard, a plywood mill must have a system in place that verifies their logs are coming from areas in compliance with forestry best management practices to protect air and water quality and ensure all fiber comes from known and legal sources. Products from certified sources are independently certified to an internationally recognized forest management certification standard, such as those from the

Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI), Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC), American Tree Farm System (ATFS), or the Canadian Standards Association (CSA).

The sixteen facilities represented in this regional LCA reported, on average,100% of the fiber entering their mills to be non-controversial (legal), 100% to be responsible (following a certified procurement standard), and 20.8% from independently certified forests.

Forest Management

While this EPD does not address landscape level forest management impacts that influence forest carbon, wildlife habitat, endangered species, and soil and water quality, these potential impacts may be addressed through requirements put forth in regional regulatory frameworks, ASTM 7612-21 guidance, and ISO 21930 Section 7.2.11 including notes therein. These documents, combined with this EPD, may provide a more complete picture of environmental and social performance of wood products.

Scope of the EPD

EPDs can complement but cannot replace tools and certifications that are designed to address environmental impacts and/or set performance thresholds, e.g., Type 1 certifications, health assessments and declarations, etc.

Data

National or regional life cycle averaged data for raw material extraction does not distinguish between extraction practices at specific sites and can greatly affect the resulting impacts.

Accuracy of Results

EPDs regularly rely on estimations of impacts; the level of accuracy in estimation of effect differs for any product line and reported impact when averaging data.

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