TIC COUNCIL

SUSTAINABILITY
PROCESS CERTIFICATION
BY TIC COUNCIL

Food sector

January 2026

TIC Council and Sustainability Process Certification scheme

Sustainability Process Certification is a certification scheme developed by TIC Council. This program is aimed at companies seeking to streamline their environmental data management for later data uses such as environmental claims, Environmental Product Declaration (EPD) verification or corporate reporting. Following the initial certification, the use of this data should be streamlined for many uses.

This certification scheme aims at certifying or standardising different internal data streams following the LCA methodology. This can include environmental data (emissions, resource use), laboratory and analytical results, packaging information, and datasets supporting sustainability or labelling claims. For the certified company, it has clear Business-to-Business advantages, as well as Business-to-Consumers. It allows for a mutual recognition among verifiers of the data to streamline compliance and external verification.

Sector-specific context and challenges

Considering the needs of food companies to manage and sort the environmental data of their products and supply chains, for companies in the food sector, this certification can support with the following challenges:

1. Complexity of data collection:

    a. Complex supply chains and multiplicity of sites (from farm level to retail packaging)

    b. Data gaps from suppliers

    c. Quality and traceability of data, fitting with LCA needs

2. Compliance with changing regulatory requirements

3. Marketing challenges:

    a. Green and health claims communication, avoiding unfair commercial practices

4. Expertise and time needed:

    a. Sometimes teams need to be reinforced with external consultants

    b. In any case, the teams need to invest weeks or months to develop all the requirements

5. Internal management:

    a. Development of data governance processes, involving different teams

    b. Continuous updating of these processes

Sustainability Process Certification will consider the global and national needs of companies to use the data when drafting the parameter of the certification.

While not exhaustive, the main global regulatory and non-regulatory needs of the food sector for demonstrating product performance against environmental rules and programs are summarised on the following pages.

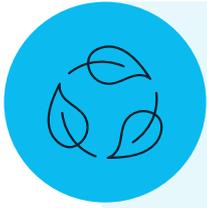| Regulation/Program/Service	Food sector needs / Certification-Verification services
GLOBAL	
Environmental Product Declarations (EPD)	• (Type III) Third-party verification • Development of a LCA covering raw materials, production, transport, use, end-of-life, verified/recognised calculation • LCA tool • Verified EPD report • Registration in a recognised EPD programme
International voluntary labels	• Organic, Fairtrade, Rainforest Alliance, Carbon footprint labels
(Voluntary) claims and KPI reporting	• Based on strong LCA or EPD processes.
EUROPEAN UNION	
Food Safety Regulation (Regulation 178/2002)	• Tracking of ingredients, suppliers, and batches • Reporting of food safety incidents
Hygiene Regulations (Regulations EC 852/2004, 853/2004 and 854/2004)	• Require HACCP (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points), temperature monitoring, and compliance documentation
Labelling requirements (Regulation EU 1169/2011)	• Nutrition, allergens, country of origin, ingredient declaration
Additives, contaminants, pesticides	• Residues, pesticide maximum levels, and authorized additives
Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD)	• Report environmental impacts, GHG emissions, water, circular economy metrics
Health and green claims and labels (Regulation EU 2015/2283, 1924/2006), Empowering Consumers for the Green Transition Directive (2024/825)	• Pre-market authorisation and substantiation of health claims • EU Ecolabel • ECGT requires companies to substantiate their verifiable claims, with a strong data management system to ensure accuracy and auditability of product information • Future Green Claims Directive
Food contact materials (Regulation 1935/2004)	• Safety of packaging materials
Packaging & Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR; Regulation 2025/40)	• Tracking of recycled content percentage, packaging material composition, and compliance documentation for recyclability and safety.
EU Regulation on organic products (Regulation 2018/848)	• Framework for organic production, processing, and labelling within the European Union

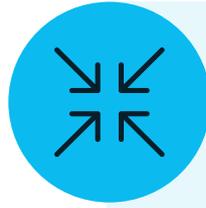| Regulation/Program/Service	Food sector needs / Certification-Verification services
UNITED STATES	
FDA Food Safety Modernisation Act (FSMA)	• Preventive controls, supply chain controls, traceability, recall data, sanitation & training records
US Nutrition Labelling & Packaging (FDA)	• Nutritional composition, ingredient list, allergens, claims compliance, label format
ASIA	
China Food Safety Law	• Ingredient & additive information, labelling data, testing & quality, traceability, import documentation
Japan FOSHU and Food Labelling	• Product composition, health claims, labelling requirements, traceability, testing & quality assurance

Benefits of Sustainability Process Certification

This certification can bring companies in the chemicals sector the following benefits:

Harmonise and standardise internal data management system when it comes to the different reporting scopes, adapting to the company's perimeter and operations

Streamline the verification of claims and labels, such as organic, Fairtrade, Rainforest Alliance, Carbon footprint labels, ensuring swift adaptation to changes in legislation

Aggregate testing data from laboratories, track compliance, and automate regulatory submissions

Streamline internal and/or external KPI reporting about environmental matters

Save time and money for the company, and the use of dedicated professionals to standardise the internal methodologies

The process to achieve Sustainability Process Certification

1. **Selection of a participating Certification Body in the program.**

2. **Application & Quotation:**

   a. The applicant shall complete, sign and send the Application Form to the Certification Body.

   b. The Certification Body will then provide the related certification offer, certification scope, certification plan, timing and information about the allocated resources and the quotation for the service. The Certification Body will agree with the company the perimeter of the certification. The perimeter includes all the different needs that the company has for the data, including ulterior verifications, labels, environmental declarations, green claims, environmental programs and regulatory compliance. The certification and cost will be then adapted to the needs of the company.

3. **Evaluation:** Assessment of the data management system of the applicant and the implementation of the process.

4. **Review:** The results of the evaluation are reviewed by the Certification Body to ensure that all the requirements of the certification program are fulfilled.

5. **Decision and issuance of the initial certificate:** If the review is positive, the Certification Body issues the certificate.

   a. **Example:** "Sustainability process Certification for XYZ"

   b. The certificate is valid for three years, with annual revisions to ensure continuous compliance.

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