



thinkstep

Sustainable illumination

Thousands of product-specific EPDs made possible with automation solution

Leinfelden-Echterdingen, September 2017. Life Cycle Assessments (LCAs) and Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs) deliver many advantages to the companies that issue them. The documents serve to optimize products and manufacturing processes and support their marketing. Nevertheless, companies grapple with the question of how they can quickly and efficiently create EPDs, particularly when they have large product portfolios or many customized solutions.

Zumtobel, an international leader in integrated lighting solutions, recognized the relevance of EPDs early on. For many years the company has provided product-specific EPDs for its lighting systems and has thereby contributed to the certification of sustainable buildings. When all variants of the systems are considered, the range of separate products numbers in the thousands. It would be not only much too labor-intensive and time-consuming to generate EPDs manually for each of those products, but uneconomical too. So Zumtobel relies on an automated solution from the sustainability specialist thinkstep. The tool can create individual product-specific EPDs with just a few clicks.

The core of the solution is the extensive LCA database GaBi, which supplies a large portion of the data required for the calculation of LCAs and EPDs. Zumtobel employees need only check the information on product materials and correct single values as required. The tool categorizes the materials according to their environmental impact and automatically calculates the ecological assessment for the product. With a simple mouse click, the calculated values can be transferred into an EPD form. All required standards such as EN 15804 are taken into account. That makes the EPDs transparent, comprehensible and comparable with other LCAs based on the same international standards. The EPD form can be customized with the insertion of text elements and illustrations and adapted to the company's own brand image.

With increasing frequency EPDs are demanded, particularly for large projects. In some cases the declarations may be a prerequisite to participating in Requests for Bids. Given that requirement, the issuance of product-specific EPDs can deliver a clear competitive edge.



thinkstep

Environmental Product Declarations also help to reinforce the trust and confidence in a company's commitment to environmental protection and in the quality of its products. For optimum product development, the entire life cycle – from cradle to grave – has to be considered for every lighting system. With the help of LCAs and EPDs, a company can experiment with and compare varied technical solutions during an early stage of product development and establish a basis for well-founded decisions. Consequently, LCAs and EPDs are fixed components in the product development process.

The implementation of an automated EPD tool makes sense especially for companies with extensive product portfolios or many customized solutions. In a pilot phase a company works with thinkstep to identify internal data sources and work processes and to analyze internal and external requirements. Then the processes for EPD automation can be jointly defined for the entire product portfolio.

With the EPD tool, Zumtobel embeds the Life Cycle Assessment in its core business without inordinate expenditures and generates customized EPDs quickly, flexibly and cost-efficiently.

About thinkstep

thinkstep accompanies organizations around the world on their way to sustainable success. Our leading software solutions, databases and consultancy services help companies to optimize business processes, exploit innovation potential, increase market value and comply with legal regulations. We work in 19 locations around the world with more than 4000 customers, including 40 percent of Fortune 500 companies such as BASF, Hewlett-Packard, Interface, Siemens, Unilever and Renault.



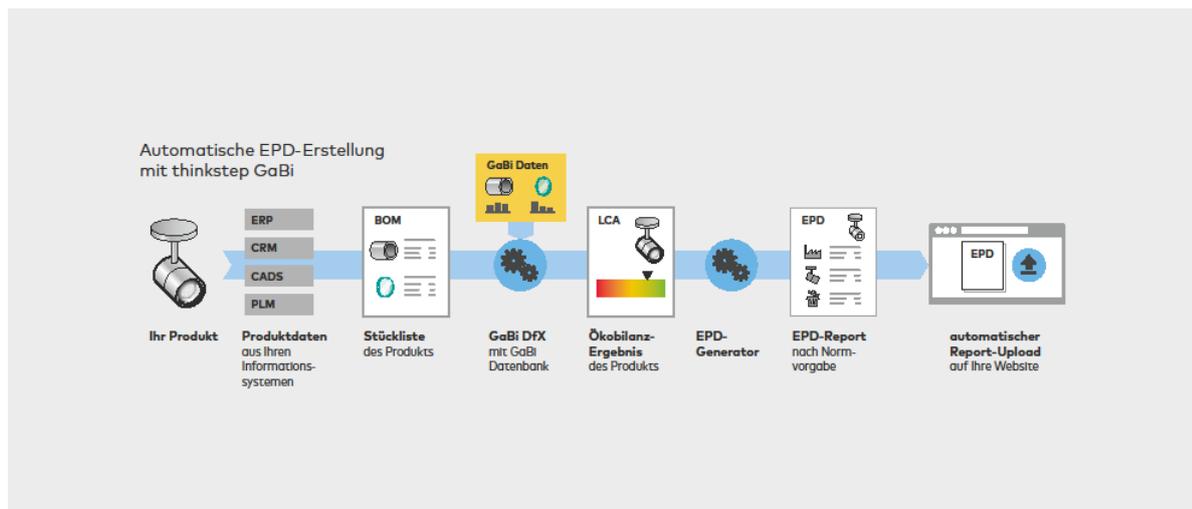
thinkstep

More Information

thinkstep
Hauptstraße 111-113
70771 Leinfelden-Echterdingen

Telephone: +49 (0)711 341817-0
email: info@thinkstep.com
Website: www.thinkstep.com

Illustration



Automatic EPD Generation with thinkstep GaBi,© thinkstep



Klaus Meyer-Pohl, Regulations Management and EPD Administration – Group Technology in the Zumtobel Group
© Klaus Meyer-Pohl



About 2800 special luminaires from Zumtobel artistically illuminate the Elbe Philharmonic Hall
Elbphilharmonie, Hamburg, Germany
© Zumtobel, Photograph: Michael Zapf