Verification programme

Product Carbon Footprint (PCF)

to

DIN EN ISO 14067

in connection with
DIN EN ISO 14064-3

(Edition: October 2024)

Foreword

DIN CERTCO was founded in 1972 by DIN Deutsches Institut für Normung e. V., is now part of the TÜV Rheinland Group and is the certification body for issuing the DIN mark and other certification marks for products, persons, services and companies on the basis of DIN standards and similar specifications. Due to its independence, neutrality, expertise and many years of experience, DIN CERTCO enjoys a high reputation both at home and abroad.

In order to prove the functionality of the system and our competence as a certification body, we have had ourselves accredited, certified or recognised by independent domestic and foreign bodies in both the voluntary and legally regulated areas. Our accreditations.

In addition to the greenhouse gas declaration, this verification programme offers the opportunity to prove with the independent "Product Carbon Footprint - DIN-Geprüft" verification mark that the greenhouse gas balance, the greenhouse gas report and the greenhouse gas declaration of a product comply with the requirements of the DIN EN ISO 14067 or GHG Protocol Product Life Cycle Accounting and Reporting Standard.

The CO_2 footprint for products or product carbon footprint (PCF) comprises the greenhouse gases (GHG) emitted along the entire value chain of a functional unit. A functional unit can have the complexity of a T-shirt, a lamp or a car.

At the beginning of a product's value chain is the extraction of raw materials, followed by production and distribution through to utilisation and subsequent recovery (recycling). Balance sheet boundaries can be set at various points in the product life cycle. The analysis can be carried out from the raw material to the production output (cradle to gate), to utilisation and disposal (cradle to grave) or the recycling process can be included (cradle to cradle) (see Figure 1 Value chain and PCF stages).

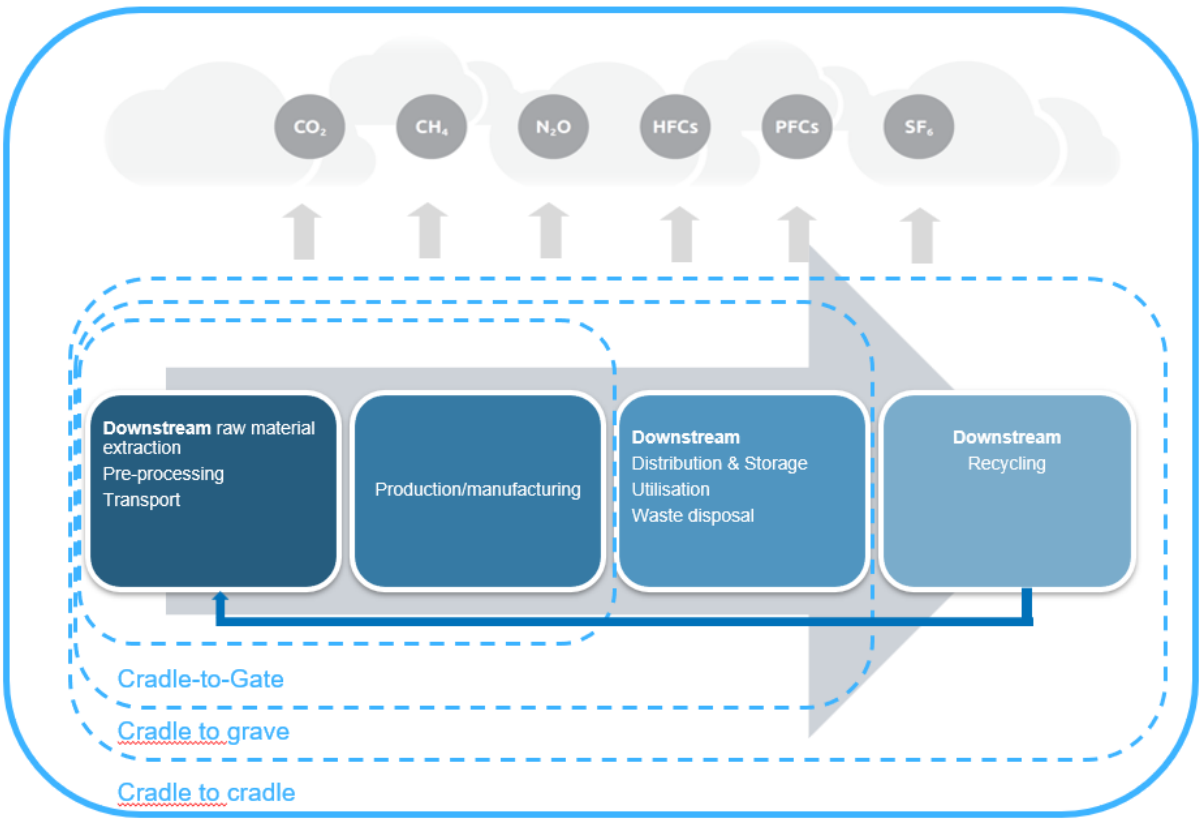

Figure 1: Value chain and PCF stages

In addition to DIN CERTCO's General Terms and Conditions, this verification programme forms the basis for Companies to label their products with the "Product Carbon Footprint - DIN-Geprüft" verification mark.

The verification mark gives the consumer confidence that an independent, neutral and competent body has carefully analysed and verified the emissions data of the product and the value chain in accordance with DIN EN ISO 14064-3. This gives the end customer added value that they can take into account when making their purchase decision.

For products for which the greenhouse gas balance was prepared in accordance with DIN EN ISO 14067 or an equivalent standard, the system for collecting the data and the greenhouse gas data itself are checked and verified in accordance with DIN EN ISO 14064-3. The verification steps are described in Figure 2 and explained in detail in Chapter 6. Once the greenhouse gas claim has been verified, the "Product Carbon Footprint - DIN-Geprüft" label is awarded.

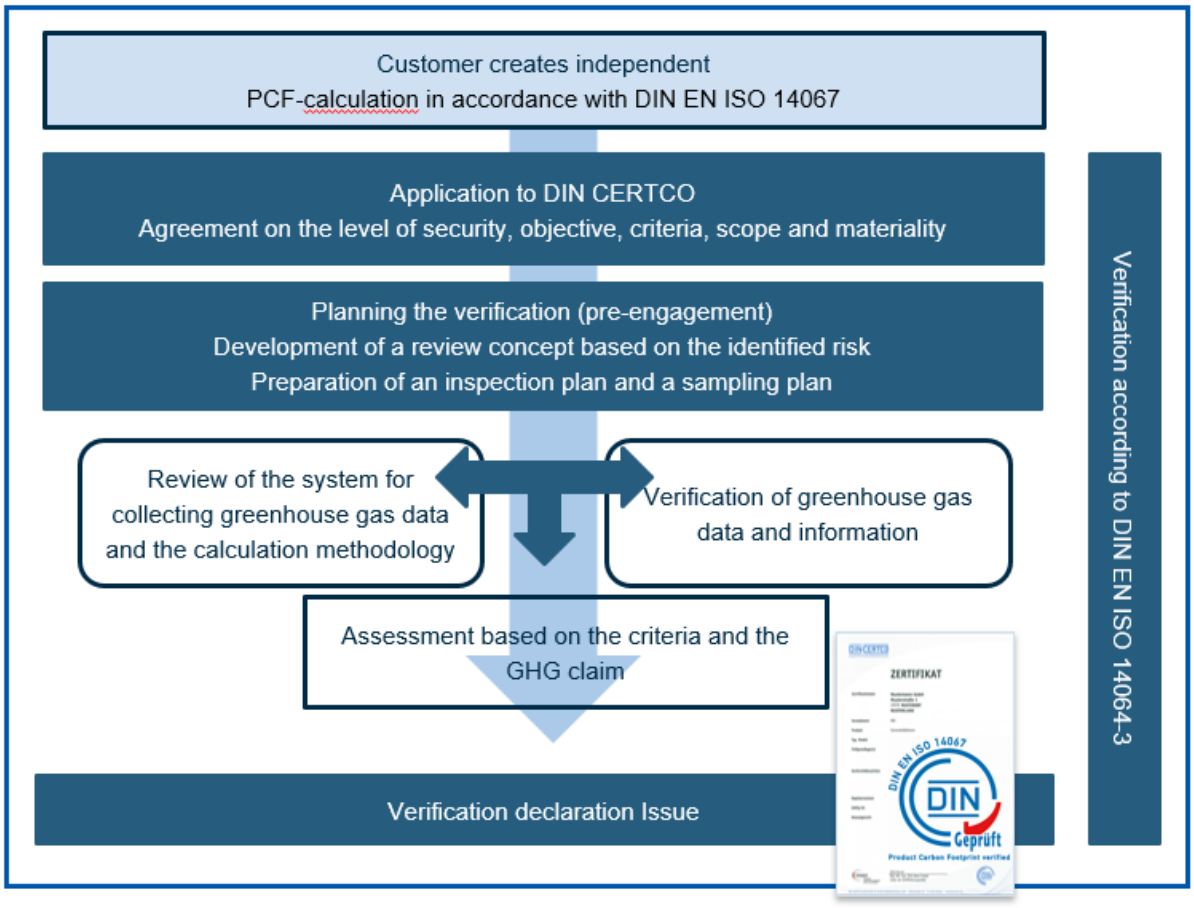

Figure 2: Verification process

All label holders can be called up on the DIN CERTCO homepage (www.dincertco.de) on a daily basis.

The Product Carbon Footprint (PCF) verification programme is based on the "General principles and requirements for validation and verification bodies" ISO/IEC 17029. The standard formulates general requirements for verification bodies. Requirements for verifications in accordance with EN ISO 14064-3 have also been incorporated into the verification programme.

The ISO/IEC 17029 requirements, which apply unchanged to the "Product Carbon Footprint (PCF)" verification programme, are referenced in this verification programme.

1 Scope

This verification programme applies to products in connection with the test principles listed below and all requirements for awarding the "Product Carbon Footprint - DIN-Geprüft" verification mark. The verification programme focuses on the verification of the emission data of the product and the associated emissions along the value chain, which were determined by the customer in accordance with DIN EN ISO 14067 or the GHG Protocol Product Life Cycle Accounting and Reporting Standard. It does not make any statements about the quality, functionality or physical properties of the product.

This verification programme specifies requirements for the verification of a product in accordance with ISO 14064-3.

2 Basis for verification

The standards and documents listed below form the basis for testing and verification. In the case of dated references, only the version referred to applies. In the case of undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document applies, including all amendments.

– DIN EN ISO 14067 Greenhouse gases - Carbon footprint of products - Requirements and guidelines for quantification
– GHG Protocol Product Life Cycle Accounting and Reporting Standard
– DIN EN ISO 14064-3 Greenhouse gases - Part 3: Specification with guidance for validation and verification of greenhouse gas declarations
– DIN EN ISO/IEC 17029 Conformity assessment - General principles and requirements for validation and verification bodies
– DIN EN ISO 14065 General principles and requirements for validation and verification bodies of environmental information
– this verification programme
– the General Terms and Conditions of DIN CERTCO
– the DIN CERTCO Testing, Registration and Certification Regulations
– the corresponding DIN CERTCO fee schedule

3 Terms

For the application of this document, the terms according to ISO/IEC 17000 and the standards listed above apply.

3.1 Statement

Information provided by the customer:

Note 1 to entry: The GHG-Statement is the subject of conformity assessment by verification.

Note 2 to entry: The GHG-Statement may describe a situation at a specific point in time or refer to a period of time.

Note 3 to entry: The GHG-Statement should be clearly identifiable and capable of consistent evaluation or measurement against specified requirements by the verification statement.

Note 4 The statement may be presented in the form of a report, statement, declaration, project plan or consolidated data.

3.2 Validation

Confirmation of a claim by providing objective evidence that the requirements for a specific intended future use or application have been met.

Note 1 to entry: Objective evidence can come from real or simulated sources.

Note 2 to entry: Validation is the process of assessing whether the relevant assumptions, constraints and procedures sufficiently support a statement about the outcome of future activities.

Note 3 to entry: Validation is applied to statements that are based on predicted information regarding an intended future use (confirmation of plausibility).

3.3 Verification

Confirmation of an GHG-Statement by providing objective evidence that specified requirements have been met.

Note 1 to entry: Verification is considered to be the process of evaluating an statement based on historical data and information to determine whether the statement is materially correct and meets the specified requirements.

Note 2 to entry: Verification is applied to statements that refer to events that have already occurred or results that have already been obtained (confirmation of truth).

3.4 Verification body

Body that carries out verifications.

3.5 Verification statement

Explanation of the result of the verification process by the verification body.

3.6 Verification programme

Rules, procedures and management for the implementation of verification activities in a specific sector.

Note 1 to entry: Verification programmes can be operated at international, regional, national, sub-national or sector-specific level.

Note 2 on the term: A programme in English can also be referred to as a "scheme".

Note 3 to entry: A set of standards capable of covering all the requirements of this document may serve as a programme.

3.7 Programme owner

Person or organisation responsible for developing and maintaining a specific verification programme.

Note 1 to entry: The programme owner can be the verification body itself, an authority, a professional association, a group of verification bodies, an external programme owner or others.

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC 17065:2012, 3.11, modified - The words " verification programme" have been replaced by "verification programme" in the definition.]

3.8 Scope of the verification

Identification of:
- of the statement that will be the subject of the verification, including the boundaries of the statement,
- the verification programme to be applied and
- the standards and other normative documents, including the date of their publication, against which the claim is validated/verified.

3.9 Impartiality

Presence of objectivity.

Note 1 to entry: Objectivity means that conflicts of interest do not exist or have been resolved so as not to adversely affect the activities of the verification body.

Note 2 to entry: Other terms that are useful in conveying the element of impartiality are "independence", "freedom from conflict of interest", "freedom from bias", "absence of prejudice", "neutrality", "fairness", "open-mindedness", "straightforwardness", "detachment" and "balance".

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015, modified - The words "subsequent activities of the certification body" have been replaced by "activities of the verification body" in Note 1 to the term]

3.10 Customer

Organisation or person requesting verification.

3.11 Counselling

Participation in the preparation of the claim that will be subject to verification.

Note 1 to entry: The term "consultancy" is used in connection with the activities of verification bodies and their personnel and organisations associated or linked with them.

Note 2 to entry: Participation in the preparation of the statement also includes participation in the development of objects that lead to the preparation of the statement, as well as the provision of object-specific knowledge that supports the preparation of the statement.

Note 3 to entry: Organisation of training and participation as a trainer is not considered to be advice, provided that the training, if it relates to the claim being verified, is limited to the provision of general information, i.e. trainers should not provide solutions specific to the client.

3.12 Level of assurance

Level of confidence in the statement e.g. GHG statement or also called level of assurance in this verification programme.

Note 1 to entry: The degree of certainty and the conditions for obtaining it may be specified in the programme (e.g. absolute, sufficient, limited).

The degree of certainty in the data quality of the GHG declaration is determined by the customer.

3.12.1 Reasonable assurance

Level of assurance where the nature and extent of verification activities are designed to provide a high, but not absolute, level of assurance over historical data and information.

3.12.2 Limited assurance

Level of assurance at which the nature and extent of verification activities are designed to provide a reduced level of assurance over historical data and information.

3.13 Materiality

Significant for the intended user.

Note 1 to entry: Materiality is the concept that misstatements, individually or in the aggregate, may affect the reliability of the statement or judgements made by the intended user.

Note 2 to the term: Materiality can be qualitative or quantitative.

3.14 further terms

Greenhouse gas (GHG)
Gaseous component of the atmosphere, both of natural and anthropogenic origin, which absorbs and emits radiation at specific wavelengths within the spectrum of infrared radiation emitted by the earth's surface, the atmosphere and clouds
Note 1 to entry: Greenhouse gases include carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4), nitrous oxide (N2O), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (P-HFCs) and sulphur hexafluoride (SF6).

Carbon footprint of a product (CFP or PCF)
Sum of GHG emissions and removals in a product system, expressed as CO2 equivalents and based on a life cycle assessment using the single impact category of climate change.

Product
Goods or services

Functional unit
Quantified benefit of a product system for use as a reference unit.

Note 1 to entry: Since the PCF deals with information at the level of a product, an additional calculation can be presented on the basis of a declared unit.

Declared unit
Quantity of a product for use as a unit of comparison in the quantification of a partial PCF EXAMPLE Mass (1 kg primary steel), volume (1 m^3 crude oil).

Product system
Product system is the combination of process modules with elementary flows and product flows that models the life cycle of a product and fulfils one or more defined functions.

Process module
The smallest component included in the life cycle inventory for which input and output data are quantified.

Elemental flow
Substance or energy added to the analysed system and removed from the environment without prior treatment by humans, or substance or energy leaving the analysed system and released to the environment without subsequent treatment by humans.

Carbon footprint of a product study
All activities required to quantify and report a CFP or a partial CFP

are necessary.

Responsible body
Person or persons responsible for preparing the greenhouse gas statement and providing the supporting data on greenhouse gases.

Intended user
Individual or organisation identified by the entity reporting the GHG-related information as the entity that relies on that information for decision-making.

4 Product requirements DIN EN ISO 14067 and GHG Protocol Product Life Cycle Accounting and Reporting Standard

4.1 General information

DIN EN ISO 14067 and the GHG Protocol Product Life Cycle Accounting and Reporting Standard are standard frameworks that deal with the calculation and reporting of greenhouse gas emissions over the life cycle of products. Both standards are authorised for the calculation of greenhouse gas emissions.

Both standards require a consistent approach to calculating and reporting emissions, which improves comparability.
They emphasise transparent reporting in order to strengthen the trust of stakeholders.
Companies can use these standards to set benchmarks and track progress in reducing emissions.

The standards provide a framework for the communication of environmental information, including the use of environmental labels and declarations.

Third-party verification is an important component of both standards in order to ensure the credibility of the reported information. This can be carried out during the project by the critical review or by independent verification bodies.

4.2 DIN EN ISO 14067

DIN EN ISO 14067 is an international standard that deals with the quantification and declaration of the carbon footprint of products. It sets out principles, requirements and guidelines for quantifying and communicating the carbon footprint of a product based on life cycle assessments and was developed by the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO). The most important key points are

Objective and area of application:
The standard aims to provide a harmonised methodology for calculating the carbon footprint of products. It is applicable to all types of products, regardless of the industry.

Life cycle approach:
The PCF is calculated on the basis of a life cycle assessment (LCA), which covers all phases of the product life cycle - from raw material extraction to production, use and disposal.

Greenhouse gas emissions:
The standard considers all relevant greenhouse gas emissions directly or indirectly associated with the product, including CO2, CH4, N2O, HFCs, PFCs and SF6.

Modular design:
The standard allows a modular structure of the analysis so that individual life cycle phases can be considered and evaluated separately.

Critical review:
A critical review by third parties is provided for the credibility of the results, especially if the PCF is used for external communication.

Data quality:
The standard specifies requirements for the quality and origin of the data used. Data should be up-to-date, representative and reliable.

Communication:
The standard specifies how the PCF should be communicated in order to ensure transparency and comparability. This also includes the use of labels or product declarations.

Comparability:
The standard emphasises that PCF results are only comparable if they are based on the same methodology and the same assumptions.

DIN EN ISO 14067 is an important tool for companies to assess and communicate the environmental impact of their products, and it supports efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the context of climate protection.

4.3 GHG Protocol Product Life Cycle Accounting and Reporting Standard

The GHG Protocol Product Life Cycle Accounting and Reporting Standard is an internationally recognised standard used by companies and organisations to record and report greenhouse gas emissions over the entire life cycle of their products. The most important cornerstones of this standard are

Life cycle approach:
The standard requires emissions to be recorded over the entire life cycle of a product, from raw material extraction to production, distribution, use and disposal or recycling.

Scope division:
emissions are divided into three areas:
Scope 1: Direct emissions from owned or controlled sources.
Scope 2: Indirect emissions from the generation of purchased energy.
Scope 3: All other indirect emissions generated in the company's value chain, including the use and disposal of products.

Relevance:
The standard emphasises the importance of identifying and reporting the most relevant emissions to ensure that companies focus on the areas that have the greatest impact.

Quantification:
Methods for quantifying greenhouse gas emissions are provided that are based on recognised life cycle analysis principles.

Data quality:
The standard emphasises the use of high-quality data and calls on companies to improve the accuracy, completeness and consistency of their emissions data.

Transparency:
Companies are encouraged to disclose their methods and results in order to increase the credibility of their reports and enable stakeholders to verify the information.

Continuous improvement:
The standard is designed to help companies reduce their emissions over time by providing the basis for setting emission reduction targets and tracking progress.

Reporting:
The standard specifies how and in what format the results should be communicated in order to ensure clarity and consistency in reporting.

External review:
For increased credibility, an independent external review of the reported information is recommended.

The GHG Protocol Product Life Cycle Accounting and Reporting Standard is an essential tool for companies to understand and manage their environmental impacts and to communicate transparently to customers, investors and other stakeholders.

5 Principles

5.1 General information

The principles described in this section are the basis for the requirements set out in this document. These principles should be used as a guideline for decisions that may need to be made in unforeseen situations.
The overarching goal of verification is to provide confidence to all parties that a verified claim fulfils the requirements. The value of verification is the level of confidence established by an impartial and competent assessment by a verification body.
Parties with an interest in verification include, but are not limited to:

a. Customers of the verification centres;
b. Programme owner;
c. Users of verified claims;
d. Authorities.

5.2 Principles for the verification process

5.2.1 Evidence-based approach for decision-making

The process utilises a method that leads to reliable and understandable conclusions of verification and is based on sufficient and appropriate objective evidence. The verification statement is based on evidence gathered as part of an objective verification of the statement.

5.2.2 Documentation

The verification process is documented and provides the basis for the conclusion and decision regarding the conformity of the claim with the specified requirements.

5.2.3 Credible presentation

Activities, findings, conclusions and statements within the scope of a verification are reported truthfully and accurately. This includes significant obstacles during the process and unresolved differences of opinion between the verification body and the client.

6 Process requirements

6.1 General

The verification activities include the following process steps:

– Pre-engagement
– Engagement;
– Planning;
– Verification execution;
– Review;

– Decision and issuance of the verification statement;
– facts established after the issuance of the verification statement;
– Dealing with objections;
– Dealing with complaints;
– Records.

6.2 Pre- engagement (pre-audit)

6.2.1 Request for verification

The applicant (client) must provide sufficient information to enable a pre-engagement review to ensure that:

a. an applicable programme exists or a programme is established;
b. the claim is understood (e.g. context, content and complexity);
c. the objectives and scope of the verification have been agreed with the customer;
d. the specified requirements against which the statement is verified have been identified and are appropriate;
e. where applicable, the materiality and degree of certainty were agreed;
f. the process of verification activities can come about (e.g. activities to collect evidence, evaluation of the evidence collected);
g. the duration of the verification can be estimated;
h. the verification body has identified and has access to the necessary resources and competences to carry out the verification;
i. the timeframe for the planned verification can be proposed.

The following documents must be submitted to DIN CERTCO by the applicant:

– Product data sheet
– Product flowchart diagram (or similar overview of the company structure and value chain)
– Proposal for the statement to be verified;
– Locations where the customer's activities are carried out;
– Verification programme and the associated specified requirements against which the statement is verified;
– the objectives and scope of the verification;
– Reports, studies, data and other relevant information;
– materiality and the degree of certainty, to the extent known and applicable at this stage;

Following the preliminary review of the information submitted by the customer, DIN CERTCO will prepare a quotation.

The offer is accepted when the customer confirms the offer and sends the application for verification with a legally binding signature to DIN CERTCO. After receipt of the application, the applicant receives an order confirmation from DIN CERTCO with a procedure number and information on the further course of the verification procedure and any missing application documents.

6.3 Engagement

With the application and the confirmed offer, an agreement is concluded on the performance of the verification activities in accordance with the relevant standard requirements and the verification programme.

It is ensured that the agreement obliges the customer to fulfil at least the following:

a. the verification requirements;

b. make all necessary arrangements for the performance of the verification, including arrangements for the review of documentation and access to all relevant processes, areas, records and personnel;
c. where applicable, make arrangements for the involvement of observers;
d. Compliance with the regulations of the verification body for the reference to verification or the use of the conformity mark "Product Carbon Footprint DIN-Geprüft".

6.4 Planning

After commissioning, DIN CERTCO selects a team that has the necessary skills and qualifications to carry out the verification.

When planning the verification, the verification team must carry out a strategic analysis to understand the activities and complexity of the product and determine the nature and scope of the verification activities. This must include the following for products:

– Results of the life cycle assessment, including conclusions and limitations
– Product, the functional or declared unit
– the characteristics of the unit process
– the life cycle phases
– Cut-offs.

Based on the strategic analysis, the verification team shall perform a risk assessment on the greenhouse gas accounting of the PCF to identify the risk of material misstatement or non-compliance with the criteria. The risk assessment is carried out according to compliance with the materiality standards.

The risk of misrepresentation must be assessed and the type and scope of activities to collect evidence must be determined. Inherent risks, control risks and detection risks must be identified and assessed for the greenhouse gas statement.
The verification team will now draw up a verification plan that describes the activities and timeline and contains the following:

a. Objectives and scope of verification;
b. Specification of the members of the verification team and their roles and responsibilities within the team (e.g. team leader, observer);
c. Timeframe and duration of verification activities;
d. defined requirements.

Random samples of evidence are recorded to verify the data. For this purpose, the verification team draws up a plan for site inspections and a plan for checking and recording data and evidence.
The verification team carries out an initial site visit to obtain data and information for the risk assessment.
The verification team may perform high-level analyses to determine other risk areas. These high-level analysis procedures may include the following:

a) Assessment of changes in the intensity of greenhouse gas emissions;
b) Assessment of changes in greenhouse gas emissions, removals and storage over time;
c) Assessment of expected greenhouse gas emissions, removals and storage of greenhouse gases compared to the emissions stated in the report.

Verification body must inform the customer of the names and roles of the team members in advance of the verification plan so that objections to the appointment of a team member can be raised.

The plan for site inspections and collection of data and evidence is also made available prior to verification.

6.5 Execution of the verification

The verification activities are carried out in accordance with the verification plan.
The verification plan must be revised as necessary during the execution of the verification activities.
All revisions to the verification plan must be documented internally, stating the reasons, and communicated to the customer.

The verification team must carry out the verification in accordance with the verification plan, the site visit plan and the evidence collection plan.
This includes the verification of the greenhouse gas data collection system and the calculation methodology of the greenhouse gas data and information according to the requirements of the client's GHG claim.

As soon as requests for clarification regarding material misstatements and non-compliant changes to the greenhouse gas statement are made during the verification process, the verifier must assess and document these changes. The execution of the verification can only be finalised once all requests for clarification have been closed.

6.6 Review

The assessment is carried out by persons who were not involved in carrying out the verification.

The evaluation must confirm:

a. that all verification activities have been completed in accordance with the agreement and the programme;
b. that the evidence is sufficient and appropriate to justify the decision;
c. whether significant findings have been identified, clarified and documented.

All records of the verification activities must be available for the assessment.

DIN CERTCO carries out the assessment on the basis of the submitted application documents and the results of the verification.

6.7 Decision and issuance of the verification statement

6.7.1 Decision

Once the verification assessment has been completed, the verification body must decide whether or not to confirm the claim.

The decision must be made by persons who were not involved in carrying out the verification.

Based on this decision, a verification statement is issued or not issued in accordance with the programme requirements.

If no verification statement is issued, the customer will be informed accordingly.

On the basis of a positive decision, a verification certificate is issued in accordance with the verification programme requirements.

6.8 Facts established after the issuance of the verification statement

Market participants or interested parties can submit information about the verification statement to DIN CERTCO at any time.

If new facts or information are discovered after the date of issue that could materially affect the verification statement, the verification body must report the matter to the client and appropriate action must be taken and consideration given to whether the verification statement requires revision or withdrawal.

If the verification statement requires revision, processes for issuing a new statement must be implemented, including stating the reasons for the revision. This may mean that relevant steps of the verification are repeated.

The verification body may also inform other interested parties of the fact that the reliability of the original statement may be impaired in the light of new facts or information.

6.9 Verification typs

The Verification types include an audit to check the processes and reproducibility of data collection and the implementation of data collection in order to determine the accuracy of the data. For this purpose, the information system on greenhouse gases and data traces are randomly analysed and the data quality is determined. This can be done by checking documents.
The scope of the assessment of the greenhouse gas information system and the controls depends on the results of the risk analysis.

6.9.1 Initial verification

The initial verification serves to determine whether the greenhouse gas calculation of the product is correct. An on-site audit must be carried out for the initial verification. A verification plan for the overall process and an audit plan are drawn up for this purpose. Furthermore, a plan is drawn up for recording the data with a defined sample size.

If the applicant presents several production sites for the product to be verified and it is necessary for the verification of the data, DIN CERTCO can carry out random inspections of several sites in consultation with the responsible verifier.

6.9.2 Surveillance

The monitoring audit is required annually and serves to determine whether the procedures continue to be applied correctly and whether the determination of the greenhouse gas calculation and the labelling of the product continue to meet the requirements of the verification programme.

The annual monitoring check takes the form of audits and spot checks of the greenhouse gas calculation of the sample to be determined by DIN CERTCO. It is permissible to carry out a remote audit instead of an on-site audit. The verifier is responsible for the decision.

6.9.3 Additional verification

An additional verification is carried out if additions, extensions or changes (see section 7.4) have been made to the process, the value chain or the product which have an influence on the process for determining the greenhouse gas of the product, e.g. changes to the suppliers involved, changes to the raw materials used or changes to the material composition.

The type and scope of the supplementary test are determined by DIN CERTCO on a case-by-case basis.

6.9.4 Special verification

A special verification takes place:

– if defects are detected
– after production has been suspended for a period of more than 12 months
– at the justified request of DIN CERTCO
– at the justified written request of third parties, if they have a special interest in the maintenance of orderly market operations in terms of competition or quality.

The type and scope of a special test are determined by DIN CERTCO in each individual case, if necessary in consultation with the verifier responsible.

If defects are found during a special test, or if it is a special test due to the suspension of production, the owner of the label must bear the costs of the special test procedure.

If no defects are found during special inspections at the request of third parties, the costs shall be borne by the requesting third party.

7 Information requirements

7.1 Publicly available information

All verification certificate holders can be called up on a daily basis via the DIN CERTCO website (www.dincertco.de) under < Verification certificate holder or register number>. Manufacturers, users and consumers use this research option to find out about verified products.

7.2 The right to use of Mark

After successful evaluation of the submitted application and verification documents, DIN CERTCO issues a verification certificate to the applicant and grants the right to use the "Product Carbon Footprint - DIN-Geprüft" mark in conjunction with an associated registration number and the respective verification scopes "cradle to gate", "cradle to cradle" and "cradle to grave". This information must always be applied to the product in combination with the label.

Structure of the register number: **PCF0000**

Products for which the right to use the "Product Carbon Footprint - DIN-Geprüft" mark has been granted must be labelled with the corresponding registration number. The "Product Carbon Footprint - DIN-Geprüft" mark and the registration number may only be used for the product or product group for which the verification certificate has been issued.

One registration number is assigned per product. The same register number is issued for the product group of a type.

7.2.1 Classification of products and Product groups

The verification statement is issued for individual products. Products that differ from each other in key features relevant to verification, e.g. material, design, technical characteristics, function, etc., are defined as new products.

Product groups can be formed for products with the same product system, i.e. the material and energy flows are the same.
The right to use the trademark is granted for products or product groups.

7.3 Validity of the Verification statements and monitoring

The verification statement is valid for 3 years. The validity period is specified in the verification statement. Annual monitoring is mandatory. When the verification statement expires, the right to use the label in accordance with section 7.2 of the verification programme also expires.

7.4 Extension of Verification statements

If a verification statement is to be maintained beyond the period specified in the verification statement, a current positive verification report must be submitted to DIN CERTCO before its validity expires.

Proof of compliance with the requirements of the verification programme is provided in the form of verification, see Chapter 6.

7.5 Expiry of Verification statements

If the re-verification of conformity with the standard in accordance with section 6 has not taken place in good time before the expiry of the validity period, the right to use the "Product Carbon Footprint - DIN-Geprüft" mark with the associated registration number expires with immediate effect without the need for express notification from DIN CERTCO.

In addition, the verification statement may lapse, for example, if:

- the monitoring measures according to section 6.9.2 are not carried out on time or are incomplete,
- the label "Product Carbon Footprint- DIN-Geprüft" is misused by the label holder,
- the requirements arising from this verification programme or its accompanying documents are not met,
- the applicable verification fees are not paid on time,
- the requirements for issuing the verification statement are no longer met.

7.6 Alteration/Amendment

7.6.1 Alterations/Amendments of the product

The label holder is obliged to notify DIN CERTCO immediately of any changes to the product, the process participants and the raw materials used. DIN CERTCO decides, if necessary in consultation with the responsible verifier, to what extent a verification according to section 6 is to be carried out and whether it is a significant change.

If DIN CERTCO identifies a significant change, the verification statement with the corresponding registration number expires. A new application for initial verification and the right to use the "Product Carbon Footprint - DIN-Geprüft" mark can be submitted for the modified product.

The holder of the trade mark is also obliged to notify all changes to formal details (e.g. trade mark holder or his address).

The label holder can apply to DIN CERTCO for an extension of the existing verification statement for further types of execution (product groups). DIN CERTCO decides whether these additions require a supplementary test. If the requirements are met, the design types are included in the verification statement for the already certified product and are considered part of it.

7.6.2 Change to the test basis

If the test basis of the verification changes, an application to change the verification must be submitted within 6 months of notification by DIN CERTCO and, as a rule, after 12 months the claim with the changed test basis must be verified by submitting a positive verification report.

7.7 Product defects

If deviations from the processes or the verified product are identified in the market, the label holder is requested in writing by DIN CERTCO to rectify the defects.

If the holder of the mark does not remedy the defects, the verification certificate and thus the right to use the mark will be withdrawn.

If there are still grounds for complaint, the verification statement is initially suspended by DIN CERTCO and at the same time a final deadline is granted for rectification of the defects. If the label holder does not comply with the request or does not comply within the set deadline, or if the elimination of the defects cannot be proven again, the verification statement expires.