

GCCA EPD TOOL · GUIDE 7 OF 7

Moving from Version 5.2 to Version 6

For existing clients: what changed underneath, what to re-check, and how to plan the switch inside the six-month parallel run.

Version 6 keeps the workflow you know. What changed sits underneath it: the calculation engine, the background data and parts of the methodological content. That means your habits transfer, but your numbers may move. This guide is about managing that sensibly.

Nothing to install, nothing to re-register. Log in at **concrete-epd-tool.org** with your existing username and password, and choose International or North American on the welcome screen.

What actually changed

Area	Change and what it means for your results
Calculation engine	Now built on openLCA. More transparent and scalable, and the basis for the API and digital integration. Small differences from rounding and calculation order are normal.
Sector data	GCCA GNR 2023 replaces the previous dataset. Default clinker and cement figures move accordingly.
North American PCR	Latest cement PCR incorporated for Portland, blended, masonry, mortar and plastic cements.
Australia	Regionalisation within the International version: Australian electricity mixes and local default datasets. Not a separate version.
Electricity	Low, medium and high voltage modelled separately. Choose the level that matches your supply.
Materials	More detailed material properties and updated background data.
Concrete delivery	Electricity inputs for mixing trucks are now captured.
Construction stage	Regionalised electricity data for construction-stage activities.
Recarbonation	Refined calculation logic for concrete recarbonation during use and at end of life.
Electricity mix rules	The PCR hierarchy is now stated on the Manufacturing screen: specific mix with a Guarantee of Origin, then supplier residual mix, then market residual mix. The default regional average is not accepted for EPDs to be verified and published.

Expect result changes, and be ready to explain them. The same inputs can give different outputs in Version 6. That is the point of updating data and methodology, not a defect. Prepare a short internal note covering which products moved, in which direction, and why, before anyone in sales is asked the question by a customer.

A four-week migration plan

WEEK 1 · ORIENT

Log in and download the Version 6 reference documents: user guide, LCA model report, LCA database and verification report. Watch the Version 6 webinar. Identify who in your organisation owns EPD data, and list every published or in-use declaration with its validity date and the plant it covers.

WEEK 2 · REBUILD ONE PRODUCT

Pick a representative product with good data. Rebuild it in Version 6 and compare the results against the Version 5.2 record indicator by indicator. Note where they differ and use the detailed breakdown to understand why. This single comparison teaches you more than reading any report.

WEEK 3 · RE-CHECK THE INPUTS THAT CHANGED

Go through the areas Version 6 touched: electricity voltage level and mix evidence, mixing-truck fuel for concrete, construction-stage electricity, material properties, and any default that came from the old sector dataset. Replace defaults with primary data wherever you now can; this is the moment when it costs least.

WEEK 4 · ROLL OUT AND RECORD

Rebuild the rest of your portfolio, using duplicate to spin variants for other plants and countries. Export a fresh background report for each. Write the internal note on result changes. Agree with your verifier which declarations will be revised in Version 6 and when.

What to do about existing published EPDs

- **Still within validity, product unchanged:** nothing is required immediately. The declaration stands until its expiry date.
- **Due for renewal within twelve months:** renew in Version 6 rather than refreshing in the old version.
- **Product, process or supply chain has changed materially:** revise now, in Version 6.
- **Verification in progress:** finish it where it started. The six-month parallel run exists precisely for this.

Questions your team will ask

Do we have to re-verify everything?

No. Verified declarations remain valid for their stated period. Version 6 applies to new and revised EPDs.

Why did our number go up when we changed nothing?

Because the background data, the electricity modelling or the PCR content changed. Use the detailed breakdown to attribute the movement, and record the explanation.

Can we still compare our old and new EPDs?

Only with care. Comparability requires the same methodology, data quality and calculation rules; across model versions those differ. Compare within Version 6, and treat cross-version comparison as indicative only.

Will results be comparable with competitors' EPDs?

Comparability depends on the declared unit, system boundary, data quality and treatment of biogenic carbon and carbonation being equivalent, not just on both documents being called an EPD. Where competitors use the same sector model, your numbers are far more directly comparable.

On the roadmap

Already in place: the GCCA EPD Tool v6.0 is listed by the International EPD® System as a pre-verified tool, and EPDs calculated with it are verified with the **Simplified Verification Report** (version 2.0.1, aligned with GPI 5.0.1 and PCR 2019:14 v2.0.1), in which the methodological items are pre-ticked and the verifier checks only your data. Guide 6 explains how to use it.

Items GCCA has signalled for the tool after Version 6, subject to change: residual electricity mixes as selectable defaults; further alignment with the next PCR edition; and a step from self-declaration towards an automated EPD document. Check gccaepr.org/version-6 for the current status before planning around any of them.

Support during migration

Training material is included with every licence, and the GCCA team can run a session with your data. Documentation sits at gccaepr.org/epd-tool-documentation, webinars at gccaepr.org/webinars, and questions go to epdtool@gccassociation.org.