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For Immediate Release

PCI Issues Guidance for Requesting EPDs for Precast Concrete

CHICAGO, September 29, 2026 – The Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute (PCI) Board of Directors has unanimously approved a position paper giving owners, architects, engineers, and specifiers clear guidance on requesting Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs) for precast concrete. *EPD Requests for Precast Concrete: What Is Valid, What Is Not, and Why It Matters* addresses two increasingly common specification requirements that precast producers cannot meet: concrete mix-only EPDs, and “verified” project-specific EPDs before components are fabricated.

“Specifiers are asking for EPDs because they want reliable carbon data, and that’s exactly what our manufacturers want to give them,” said Thomas Ketron, PCI’s director of resilience and sustainability.

“However, a concrete mix-only EPD cannot appropriately describe a prefabricated concrete product, and nobody can verify a project-specific EPD for system components that have not been made yet. This position paper addresses these requests and gives design teams a clear path to the information they need.”

Under the Product Category Rule (PCR) for Precast Concrete, EPDs must cover the complete product system: concrete, reinforcement, hardware, and other embedded materials such as insulation, along with the full manufacturing impacts. This is why system boundaries for precast concrete products differ fundamentally from those for ready-mixed concrete.

“It is therefore impossible for precast concrete producers to provide concrete mix-only EPDs,” the paper states. “It is also impossible for precast concrete producers to provide ‘verified’ project-specific EPDs before precast concrete components are fabricated. EPDs generated under these conditions are incomplete and do not conform to relevant International Organization for Standardization (ISO) standards or the PCR for precast concrete.”

The paper outlines standards-conforming alternatives so project teams can specify embodied carbon requirements that precast producers are able to meet. When specifications call for EPDs that do not conform, producers are encouraged to cite PCI’s position paper and point project teams to these alternatives.

PCI-certified manufacturers have been providing EPD data for several years. PCI published Regionalized Industry-Average EPDs for architectural, insulated, and structural precast concrete products in May 2025, and an industry-wide average EPD for glass-fiber reinforced concrete (GFRC) in 2023. To date, 75 PCI-certified plants (30% of all certified plants) have submitted data to PCI's industry-wide EPD program.

Visit [here](#) to read the entire PCI position paper. Click [here](#) to read more about PCI's Sustainability initiatives.

About PCI

Founded in 1954, The Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute (PCI) is a technical institute for the precast concrete structures and systems industry. PCI develops maintains, and disseminates the Body of Knowledge for the design, fabrication, and construction of precast concrete structures and systems. PCI develops consensus base standards, industry handbooks, quality assurance programs, certification, research and development projects, design manuals, continuing education, and periodical publications. PCI members include precast concrete producers, erectors, suppliers, professional engineers and architects, educators, students, and industry consultants who complement the wide range of knowledge of precast concrete. For more information, visit pci.org/howprecastbuilds.