

Questions & Answers from CX PCF Rulebook v4 Q&A Session

Hinweis: Questions are in their original order and wording.

No.	Question	detailed answer
1	Chain of custody (Rule 1): what do you mean by significant change? what percentage?	The Catena-X Rulebook does not define a fixed percentage for a "significant change." (in other words : Significant change to reduce greenhouse gas emissions)The involved parties should agree bilaterally on a threshold that qualifies as significant. Future guidance may specify this more concretely.
2	Are there any plans/initiatives to synchronize rulebooks for PCF and for Battery Pass PCF component (Art.7 Batt. Reg.)?	Currently, the Catena-X PCF Rulebook and the latest Draft-Version of the Battery Regulation (Art.7) are not compatible. However, interoperability is planned once the EU Delegated Act is finalized. An annex will then be provided in the data model to meet requirements. In addition there is a position paper : "Assessment of Differences between Catena-X and EU Battery Regulation PCF Calculation Methodology" download at : https://catena-x.academy/index.php?gf-download=2024%2F11%2FCatena-X-Guidance_Battery_PCF_clean.pdf&form-id=1&field-id=5&hash=564d98b56812b5c8e4e59ec44fc0fe8a24d288c5d7cff5b97b1a6f0e14b27827
3	What if validity period end is set to a date later than one year after issue date by the supplier. Is there a clear instruction, which timeframe is allowed?	The validity of a PCF per se is of one year. After this period, it must be checked (via a screening analysis) whether relevant changes have occurred that require an update.
4	Is biogenic Uptake same as CO2 stored in Product?	Yes, biogenic CO2 uptake refers to the amount of CO2 removed from the atmosphere and stored in the product. This equals the biogenic carbon stored in the product.

5	Similar to EUBR PCF calculation: Even if the final document is not ready yet, how does the current Catena-X rulebook fit to the foreseen UNECE "rulebook"?	Indirectly Catena-X is involved in the UNECE methodology consultations (via CLEPA and ACEA) and aims for maximum alignment. Potential adaptation of the rulebook will occur after the UNECE standard is published.
6	Will the GWP value of the CX provided secondary data include all GWP factors as described by Florian required or optional in the data model?	Secondary data provided by Catena-X will include all mandatory GWP factors required in the data model. Guidance will be provided how to deal with optional data.
7	On prospective PCFs: How should those justifications be reported? Outside of Catena-X or within the data model?	Justifications for assumptions for prospective PCFs must be documented but subject to standard.
8	How to deal with commercial secondary databases that include infrastructure in general?	It must be checked whether infrastructure emissions are already included in the data. Catena-X guidance specifies how to avoid double counting. In case of doubt, Catena-X guidance prevails.
9	We planned to get PCF values for battery components via PCF use case - but the rulebooks differ. Could you again explain the planned approach to address this?	Catena-X is working on interoperability with the Battery Passport. Once the Delegated Act is finalized, an annex will be provided in the data model to meet battery regulation requirements.
10	Do we have to determine the (production) machine values for each machine from each factory or are the average values sufficient for us, independent of the factory?	Average values are allowed as long as they are representative for production. For regulatory or specific requirements, detailed data per machine and site may be necessary.
11	Infrastructure emission in Electricity EF: is it aligned with GHG protocol, ISO standard and any standard applied by Electricity energy producer?	Not even between ISO standards there is consistency in the requirement to include infrastructure emissions for electricity. To our knowledge the Catena-X rulebook is currently the only standard explicitly defining how infrastructure emissions for the electricity system shall be quantified.

12	There are secondary databases who include infrastructure in energy supply. How to avoid double counting, when applying the approach of the rule book?	EF from secondary databases must be checked whether infrastructure emissions are already included. In case of doubts a conservative approach is recommended.
13	How should I know how the production process waste will be treated e.g. plastics. It can be used as energy source (burned) or as input for mechanical regrind.	For new products without a predecessor, all available information and realistic estimates should be used. Waste treatment can be modeled based on typical processes or assumptions.
14	More a comment that ISO 14064.1 and 14067 are also looking at including guidance on CoC	Note, not a question.
15	How to verify? Who will verify?	Verification is performed following the Catena-X verification framework. Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) appointed by Catena-X will conduct the verification.
16	PCF value audit relevant, how is the evidence documented and verified?	Evidence must be documented and is checked as part of the verification process. Documentation follows defined standards and must be traceable for auditors.
17	About the mandatory DQR. Is it only mandatory from 2027?	Data Quality Rating (DQR) is optional until 2027 and will then become mandatory for all PCF calculations in the Catena-X context.
18	Who decides that two parties should or should not use chain of custody?	The rulebook sets minimum requirements but cannot enforce any decisions. A company is free to decide on the application of MB in it's production. A customer could insist on PCFs w/o MB but this can only be adresssed to the direct supplier. MB deep in the supply chain can not be altered on customer request!

19	Impact of the infrastructure, how is CO2 from end-of-life activities—such as dismantling and removal of the installation—accounted for?	Emissions from construction and decommissioning are considered based on the best available literature data. Absolute precision is not possible, but Catena-X will provide reference values. (In the upcoming Secondary Data WG Document)
20	Why is electricity accounting so complicated? Who do you think can calculate this correctly?	The complexity arises from different contract models for electricity, technical factors, and regulatory requirements. Catena-X will provide further guidance to facilitate correct calculation.
21	Why bring this complexity to electricity accounting if this is responsibility of the energy sector? Are these infrastructure emissions mandatory?	Including infrastructure emissions is an intensely disputed issue in industry. Explaining all the pros and cons would go beyond the scope of the Q&A. Infrastructure emissions are now considered in the rulebook and the inclusion is relevant for the overall balance.
22	How are RECs (Renewable Energy Certificates) accounted? Is the CO2e from 1kWh considered = 0?	RECs do not necessarily provide a carbon footprint information, generation is considered CO2-free. Still infrastructure emissions must be considered and added.
23	In v4, the validity period end is required, while in v3, it is optional. How long is a PCF valid if no validity period is stated?	The validity of a PCF per se is of one year. After this period, it must be checked (via a screening analysis) whether relevant changes have occurred that require an update.
24	Any guidance on which emission factors can be used? For example, for fuels,ecoinvent includes infrastructure which has a biogenic component. IPCC does not.	The secondary data working group is working on providing emission factors that can be used and meet the requirements.
25	How does CX RB 4.0 fit to the new EU LC CO2 methodology from DG Clima which is announced to be released by end of 2025?	We work closely with other initiatives with the overarching goal of harmonizing methods. Up to now only basic informatin on the EU Methodology was shared by the COM.
26	Why is Catena X introducing a different calculation method than the one accepted in the rest of the world? Acc. ISO Standards...	Catena-X is generally based on ISO standards but supplements them with industry-specific requirements and harmonization for the automotive sector.

27	Is a breakdown of PCF-Value in the Data Model to the share coming from the (Raw) Material, Production, Logistik, AUX, ... planned?	A detailed breakdown is not planned. The data model only separates the production phase and distribution, with no further subdivision.
28	What about other standards not mentioned in the rulebook, is it up to the practitioner to both find them and ensure that they are in line with the CX rulebook?	The appendix of the rulebook currently lists three other industry standards. More will be added after alignment and harmonization. As long as a standard is not mentioned, it is considered as not aligned with C-X PCF Rulebook.
29	How about the interoperability with Chinese DPP/DBP/PCF standards?	Currently, there is no interoperability with Chinese standards, but Catena-X is expanding cooperation with Asian partners.
30	Are there any particular secondary databases that Catena-X is tied up and suggests to use for secondary data?	Catena-X must not recommend any specific (commercial) secondary data base for compliance reasons. However Catena-X will provide secondary data to ease PCF reporting.
31	How to conduct precise screening analysis in order to determine if we are within or outside recommended range for re-calculation?	A screening analysis must be performed to determine if the PCF has changed by more than 10%. If exceeded, recalculation is required.
32	Will training sessions be organized for suppliers on the changes that have been introduced?	No further training sessions are currently planned. Instead, additional guidance documents will be published to explain the application of Catena-X rules.
33	Unless explicitly stated in a given section, does the provision apply to both Prospective PCF and Retrospective PCF?	Yes, unless explicitly stated otherwise, the provisions apply to both PCF types. Special rules for prospective PCF are listed separately in the rulebook.
34	How should the provisions of 5.2.4 Accounting for waste treatment be interpreted, especially regarding Pros. PCF for a product without any forerunner?	For new products without a predecessor, all available information and realistic estimates should be used to model waste treatment.

35	How does Catena-X ensure the accuracy and reliability of GHG data across partners and supply chain tiers, and what governance mechanisms prevent discrepancies?	The accuracy and reliability of GHG data is ensured by certification and verification according to the Catena-X verification framework. Therein review and validation of data by auditors is defined.
36	What if a supplier just can do economical value calculations, are they considered as well to be uploaded in Catena X?	Top-down approaches, e.g., using the company carbon footprint as a basis for PCF, are currently not permitted. A product-specific, bottom-up calculation is required.
37	Many of the Semiconductor companies are already doing their PCF calculations with their own methodology. Any plan to get them onto C-X PCF rule book?	Catena-X is working on sectoral annexes and harmonization to integrate further industries such as semiconductors. Exchange with industry representatives is planned.