Expert Group Profile

Description of the Expert Group

Related Committee	*Sustainability Committee*
Name of the Expert Group	*PCF Methodology & Verification*
Association Contact	*Stan Faldin*

Description:

The PCF Methodology & Verification Expert Group develops and maintains the methodological and trustworthiness foundation for credible, comparable, and scalable Product Carbon Footprints within the Catena-X eco-system. Its work covers calculation rules, data-quality requirements, and proportionate approaches for building trust in exchanged PCF data. The Expert Group will clearly distinguish between two application fields: retrospective PCFs supporting Scope 3.1 corporate reporting and prospective PCFs supporting RFQ, sourcing, and product-development decisions. While both applications should share consistent core principles and calculation rules, they require different rules for reference periods, uncertainty, evidence, validation, and permitted business use. This distinction is essential because the next version of the PCF rulebook shall enable and ensure conformity with requirements for PCFs usage within corporate Scope 3.1 accounting under the GHG Protocol Corporate Standard. The Expert Group will therefore assess the revisions of ISO 14067 and the GHG Protocol Corporate Standards, translate these implications into the Catena-X PCF Rulebook, coordinate alignment with relevant sectoral and international initiatives, and update the PCF Verification and PCF Program Certification Framework to reflect audit approaches and auditor requirement for GHG accounting assurance. The expert group is responsible for the potentially resulting updated descriptions of the PCF Exchange Data Model attribute.

Goals:

- **Maintain a robust and applicable PCF methodology**
  Ensure that the Catena-X PCF Rulebook remains scientifically sound, sufficiently specific for the automotive value chain, implementable by companies of different sizes and capable of producing comparable PCF results that reflect interventions with a specific supply chain. This includes that this group ensures maintenance and updating of Secondary Data made available through Catena-X on a regular basis.
- **Enable the use of Catena-X PCFs for Scope 3.1 corporate GHG reporting**
  Define the methodological, documentation, data-quality, consolidation, and assurance conditions under which retrospective Catena-X PCFs can support auditable corporate Scope 3.1 inventories and decarbonization reporting through a widely accepted updated PCF Verification and PCF Program Certification Framework or acceptance of other recognized approaches.
- **Establish a distinct methodology for prospective PCFs in RFQ processes**
  Provide practical rules for the calculation, communication, comparison, and updating of future-oriented PCFs used before production, including appropriate treatment of assumptions, scenarios, uncertainties, secondary data and expected production conditions. Establish trust requirements through PCF Program Certification.
- **Assess and implement changes arising from ISO 14067 and the GHG Protocol revisions**
  Continuously monitor both revision processes, perform a structured impact assessment, and translate relevant changes into concrete amendments to the PCF Rulebook, associated guidance, and verification requirements.
- **Improve interoperability and external methodological alignment**
  Coordinate the Catena-X methodology with relevant sectoral rules and initiatives, including WBCSD

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PACT, Together for Sustainability, worldsteel, European Aluminum, the International Aluminum Institute, and applicable product-category rules, while transparently documenting remaining differences. Acceptance criteria related to PCF of Science Based Target Initiative should be checked and reflected in the rulebook and framework.

Why should I participate?

- Co-shape industry standards by actively contributing
- Receive and share first-hand user feedback on standards and applications
- Make compliance a team effort to keep up with evolving regulation
- Keep the Catena-X ecosystem competitive through collaboration among technical and subject matter experts
- Contribute to cross-industry standards enhancing feasibility, regulatory alignment, and automation

Participants are required as group to bring the following know-how and experience:

- Solid knowledge of PCF methodology according to ISO 14067, knowledge of the regulatory landscape with PCF requirements and associated business processes
- Solid knowledge of GHG Accounting requirements according to the GHG protocol corporate standards family, knowledge of the regulatory landscape of Corporate GHG reporting and the associated business processes
- Experience with PCF verification and/or Scope 3 verification in an auditing role.
- IT expertise in regard to building data models for PCFs and experience with Catena-X
- Knowledge of other sector's PCF methods and data models is a plus
- Minimum availability of **10 hours/month** (bi-/weekly meetings + task group preparatory work)
- Commitment to regular participation and active contribution using English as working language

As Member of the Expert Group you will:

- **Develop a two-application methodology framework**
  Create a clear requirements matrix distinguishing:
  - retrospective PCFs for Scope 3 corporate reporting, and
  - prospective PCFs for RFQ, sourcing, and product-development processes.

  The matrix should define the respective purpose, reference period, system boundary, permissible data sources, uncertainty treatment, update triggers, evidence requirements, verification approach, and limitations of use.
- **Perform a Gap analysis with the revised ISO 14067 and GHG Protocol corporate standards**
  Analyse and document the impact on all areas through a structured gap analysis and concrete change proposals based on the Catena-X PCF Rulebook V4.1 and the PCF Verification and PCF Program Certification Framework V2.0.
- **Identify and describe Scope 3.1 reporting and auditor-readiness requirements**
  Engage corporate carbon-accounting experts and assurance providers to determine which controls, documentation, traceability, data-quality indicators, consolidation rules, and evidence are required for Catena-X PCFs to support auditable Scope 3.1 reporting.
- **Establish and get feedback on prospective PCF guidance for RFQ use**
  Develop practical guidance and worked examples for prospective PCFs, including scenario definition, expected energy mix and production volume, treatment of supplier quotations, uncertainty ranges, comparison rules, validity periods, and transition from a prospective PCF to a retrospective production-based PCF.
- **Validate and update the PCF verification and PCF Program Certification framework**
  Specify proportionate trust levels for both application fields, including dataset checks, PCF-program certification, and product-level verification or validation where appropriate. Validate the approach through real use cases with suppliers, OEMs, solution providers, and attestation providers, such as assurance bodies, and provide reusable templates, minimum evidence packages, control requirements, and acceptance criteria.

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- **Revise and maintain the Catena-X PCF Rulebook**
  Prepare the next Rulebook update. Clearly distinguish mandatory requirements, recommendations, transition provisions, and application-specific rules for retrospective and prospective PCFs.

Operations & Handover:

- First handover session with the current PCF EG is anticipated to take place on December 1st from 1 to 2:30 pm

For more information on the responsibilities of an Expert Group, have a look at the Working Model.

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