

AFRICA

DECORATIVE TOP-COAT FINISHING FOR INTERIORS, WITH METALLIC PATTERNS

Novacolor Srl gives priority to environmental protection and safety in the workplace. For this reason Novacolor constantly seeks to improve the quality of its products and their production cycles in order to reduce the overall impact on the environment and ensure quality and safety for customers.

This environmental data sheet shows the environmental information of AFRICA: LCA, LEED and other information.

AFRICA is a finishing top-coat for interiors, with soft metallic pigments. The patterns create a unique game of lights and shades.

LIFE CYCLE ASSESSMENT

Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) is a tool to quantify the environmental impact of a product or service throughout its entire life cycle. The LCA methodology, as defined by ISO 14040/44 [1-2], consists of four phases:

- goal and scope definition
- inventory analysis
- impact assessment
- interpretation

Goal and scope

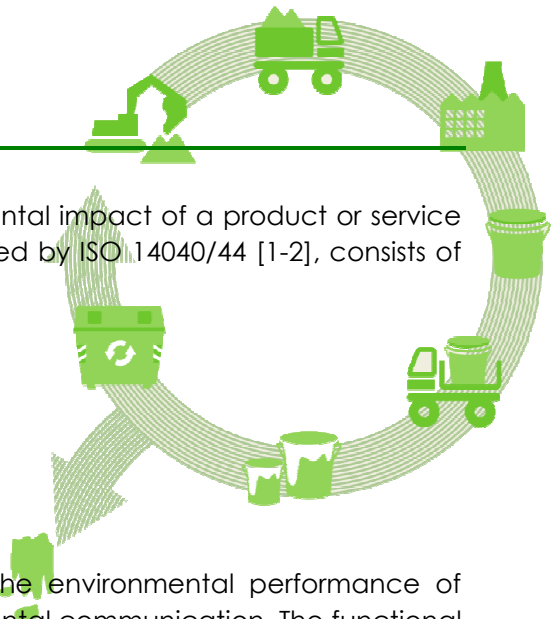
The **goal** of this LCA [3] is to provide transparency about the environmental performance of AFRICA, to create improvement options and support environmental communication. The functional unit is 1 kg of paint including packaging, with a spreading rate of 16-20 m²/l (per coat). The **system boundaries** include raw materials, their transportation, processing, packaging, distribution, use and packaging disposal. During the use phase the paint is hand-applied and the associated emissions are insignificant.

Inventory analysis

Primary data are used for the most significant processes, like the paint recipe, packaging and factory consumptions and emissions. Data refer to 2011 and are collected at the Novacolor's factory located in Forlì (FC). Secondary data originate from the ecoinvent v2 database [4]. The LCA calculations are performed with the LCA software SimaPro 7.3 [5].

Impact assessment

Life cycle impact assessment has been done with the method **PCR paint 2010:18 on paint** [6], as indicated in the EPD programme of the International EPD Consortium. This method consists of different environmental indicators including the Carbon Footprint, energy content, material resource consumption, water consumption and waste. Table 1 shows the LCA results.



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Table 1: LCA results.

		Unit	Total	Upstream	Core	Downstream
Impact categories	Global Warming (100 yr)	kg CO ₂ eq	1.48	1.14	0.07	0.28
	Ozone layer depletion (20 yr)	mg CFC-11 eq	0.326	0.290	0.007	0.028
	Photochemical oxidation	g C ₂ H ₄ eq	1.52	1.29	0.03	0.19
	Acidification	g SO ₂ eq	7.26	6.05	0.30	0.91
	Eutrophication	g PO ₄ ³⁻ eq	2.57	1.92	0.34	0.30
	Human toxicity infinite	kg 1,4-DB eq	0.857	0.736	0.030	0.091
	Fresh water aquatic ecotox.	kg 1,4-DB eq	0.592	0.404	0.016	0.171
	Freshwater sediment ecotox.	kg 1,4-DB eq	1.33	0.89	0.04	0.41
	Marine aquatic ecotox.	kg 1,4-DB eq	909	686	29	194
	Marine sediment ecotox.	kg 1,4-DB eq	651	464	19	167
Energy content	Non-renewable	MJ eq	29.3	25.3	1.0	3.1
	Renewable	MJ eq	1.31	2.21	0.09	-0.98
Material resource consumption	Non-renewable	kg	0.728	0.510	0.032	0.187
	Renewable	kg	52.4	50.9	0.9	0.7
Other	Material to recycling	kg	0.027	0.001	0.002	0.024
	Water consumption	kg	52.4	50.9	0.9	0.7
Waste	Non hazardous waste	kg	0.182	0.136	0.009	0.037
	Hazardous waste	g	1.47	0.32	0.51	0.64

Interpretation

The LCA results indicate that the largest contributions come from upstream processes (i.e. raw materials). The Carbon Footprint of AFRICA is 1.48 kg CO₂ eq and its water consumption is 52.4 litres. The negative value of renewable energy content is caused by the pallet reuse.

LEED

LEED means Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design. It is a voluntary program that provides third-party verification of green buildings. It provides building owners and operators a tool to understand their building's environmental performance and to create healthy indoor spaces.

In order to obtain LEED certification, projects must satisfy prerequisites and earn points (there is a threshold). The number of points the project earns determines its level of LEED certification.

LEED is a certification system that deals with the environmental performance of buildings based on overall characteristics of the project. Although LEED does not certify products and services of individual companies, products and services do play a role and can help projects with credit achievement.

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The table below shows AFRICA potential contribution to the different **LEED credits** of the LEED 2009 Rating System for New Construction and Major Renovations [7]. Table 1 shows the possible contribution of the paint to potential credits, if used properly.

Table 2: Potential LEED credits.

LEED Credits	Description	Possible points	Notes
MR credit 5	Regional Materials	1-2 points	According to the percentage of products locally extracted and manufactured
IEQ credit 3.2	Construction Indoor air quality management plan	1 point	More information are available on request
IEQ credit 4.2	Low-Emitting Materials Paints and Coatings	1 point	More information are available on request

Novacolor does not guarantee that credits will be obtained by projects pursuing LEED certification. The designer or engineer will need to evaluate and verify if the project complies with the LEED requirements.

OTHER INFORMATION

VOC Dir. 2004/42/EC

Limit value EU (Dir. 2004/42/EC) [8]

EU limit values for Africa (cat A/I) : Decorative effect coatings (water-base:200 g/l (2010)

Africa contains maximum 20 g/l of VOC

ECODESIGN INDEX

Counter of ecodesign activities affecting the coating, accomplished by the company.

N°	Activity item	Date
1	first issue	mar-2013

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References

- [1] ISO 14040, 2006: Environmental management, Life cycle assessment, Principles and framework. CEN, EN ISO 14040:2006 (www.iso.org).
- [2] ISO 14044, 2006: Environmental management, Life cycle assessment, Requirements and guidelines. CEN, EN ISO 14044:2006 (www.iso.org).
- [3] Colorificio San Marco e 2B Srl, LCA project, 2013.
- [4] Ecoinvent, 2011: Database ecoinvent v2.2. Swiss Centre for Life Cycle Assessment, (www.ecoinvent.ch).
- [5] PRé, 2011: LCA software SimaPro 7.3.3. PRé Consultants, the Netherlands (www.pre-sustainability.com).
- [6] PCR 2010:18. Paints and varnishes and related products. Product Category Rules (PCR) for preparing an environmental product declaration (EPD) for paints and varnishes and related products, the Swedish Environmental Management Council (www.environdec.com).
- [7] USGBC, LEED 2009 Rating System for New Construction and Major Renovations (new.usgbc.org/leed)
- [8] Directive 2004/42/CE of the European Parliament and of the Council on the limitation of emissions of volatile organic compounds due to the use of organic solvents in certain paints and varnishes and vehicle refinishing products and amending Directive 1999/13/EC (21 april 2004)

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