



Life Cycle Assessment Ahead of competition in environmental performance

Maritime operations face increasingly stringent environmental legislation. While the methods to evaluate project-related issues are well established in the maritime world (Environmental Assessment), other methods to evaluate the sustainability performance of products and services, such as Life Cycle Assessment (LCA), are widely applicable particularly for defining sustainability strategies of companies and port & waterway authorities as well as a working tool for sustainable product design.

LCA is a widely used method in many industry sectors (e.g. land transport) to estimate in a transparent and objective manner the actual environmental performance

of product and services. It also pinpoints easily the important contributors for environmental performance, so that the focus for further improvement can be defined. Not only the operational phase, but the whole life cycle is considered, in an integral approach (production, operation and disposal phases). Environmental performance and environmental benchmarking are becoming increasingly important to product and service suppliers (sustainable supply chain).

Approach

LCA methods are supported by ISO standards. By using LCA methods, the important contributors for environmental performance can be identified. It supports the definition of the focus for product development, and can be used to improve the performance of specific products to levels ahead of competition. This offers the product owner a competitive edge when bidding to tenders, particularly in the situations where supply chain sustainability is measured performance. For port and waterway authorities LCA methods evaluate possible solutions in the design phase and motivates best options in business cases for decision making.



Life Cycle Assessment setup

Phase 1

Defining the goal and scope of the LCA and gathering information on the product, service or project.

Phase 2

Making the assessment calculations, defining the environmental performance. Describing the focus for eventual improvement, benchmarking against other products or projects if desired.

Phase 3 (optional)

External review (desirable if external publication is expected) by a third party.



Why MTI

The Sustainability Cluster of IHC MTI has performed various LCA studies to assist IHC product development groups in identifying the important aspects and defining the focus points for the environmental performance of newly designed products and projects. IHC MTI has a solid understanding of the products in the maritime sector and has state-of-the-art LCA software and databases, thus rapidly responding to the needs and questions of its maritime partners on the field of environmental performance assessment.



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