

## LIFE CYCLE ASSESSMENT POLICY

Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) is a method for evaluating the environmental load of processes and products during their life cycle from cradle to grave. It attempts to identify the environmental effects during all stages of the life of a product and produces a figure (or several figures) that represent the environmental load of a product. It is a process that is becoming more widely adopted in the context of national and international environmental regulations.

In a full Life Cycle Assessment, the energy and materials used, along with waste and pollutants produced as a consequence of a product or activity are quantified over the whole life cycle. The ISO 14040 standard refers to Life Cycle Assessment as, 'the collection and assessment of the inputs and outputs of any potential environmental impacts caused by the product system throughout its life cycle.

Life Cycle Assessment tools for use in environmental assessment can be classified in three levels:

- Level 1: Product comparison.
- Level 2: Whole-building design or decision support tools such as Envest (UK)
- Level 3: Whole-building assessment frameworks or systems such as BREEAM (UK)

Approaches that are categorised as level 1 are referred to as bottom-up approaches, as they focus on individual materials and components.

Level 2 tools are considered top-down in their approach as they consider the entire building as the starting point.

Level 3 approaches tend to be comparative scoring systems that can be applied across the building sector. They consider the whole life of the product in some sense.

As a company in a position to use all 3 approaches, where possible we will endeavour to influence our clients on their choice of designs, whole-building frameworks, interactions with existing and future structures and products and materials, to minimise any environmental impact in line with our ISO 14001 policy, along with consideration for the life cycle and span of the construction. The policy is reviewed annually and any improvements identified will be implemented.

Barbara Zanasi  
Avantgarde Tiling Ltd  
Managing Director

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