

News Center



5. February 2024

Customer information regarding Product Carbon Footprint (PCF)

This article provides a communication template on the topic product carbon footprint (PCF) and gives additional background information on the current status.



Background

The carbon footprint is part of many discussions in society and politics. SEW also regularly receives inquiries about the CO₂ footprint of our products. With this news, we would like to inform to which extent we can meet the expectations of our customers and where there are still limits in terms of informative value.

At this point in time, it is not possible to calculate CO₂ footprints without room for interpretation and therefore make them comparable. The evaluation of the footprints is time-consuming and requires verification by an independent third party at the end of the process. Even with verification, the differences between a conservative calculation and an optimized calculation can be significant. Among other reasons, there are currently no legal requirements to determine and publish these CO₂ emission values for products.

As part of our sustainability program, determining the carbon footprint of our products is essential. We are aware that our products contribute via the supply chain to the carbon footprint of our customers and their products. Therefore, our customers want to include this important information into their sustainability assessment.

For this reason we are working on determining realistic and reliable values that we can provide. In the first step, we developed a basic procedure and had it approved by an external institute. We have already finished the calculations for selected products and have the results verified externally. As a result, we

currently have published values exclusively for a DRN132M motor, a MOVITRAC® advanced frequency inverter and a R87 gear box.

SEW offers a broad product portfolio with a very high product variance. The calculation of the CO₂ footprints for the entire SEW product portfolio is therefore complex and time-consuming and can only be managed with an automated calculation. We are working hard on such automation, but there are still several steps to be taken that take time accordingly.

Customer information

Due to normative specifications, this scaling of the values must not be performed by SEW, as this procedure only approximates the actual values. However, these approximate values are usually sufficient for customers to complete their evaluations.:

English:  [customer information](#) and  [PCF values and tool for scaling](#)

German:  [Kundeninformation](#) and  [PCF Werte und Skalierungstool](#)

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At this early stage of the PCF calculation, the documents provided here are to be used exclusively together and only to answer inquiries – not in a proactive manner.

The use of the Excel file by the customer is shown below using the example KAF77 DRN90L4/TF.

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Information tree

Product Life Cycle

Regulations and Laws

Product information

Approvals, certificates etc.