



“TEN YEARS WORKING TOGETHER FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE”

Benefits of integrating Life Cycle Assessment into the product development

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Abstract

The development of sustainable products has been perceived as a challenging issue in academia and industry. In order to meet the demands of sustainable development and minimize the complexity involved in this process, tools have been developed and applied to the product development process (PDP). Among them is the Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) that has been increasingly used to evaluate the environmental impacts of products and a new trend results in the application of LCA still in the PDP, from being retrospective to being prospective. This can bring several benefits to the organization. Therefore, the present article aims to make a survey of the main benefits obtained by the integration of LCA in the PDP. For this, a methodological approach was used to review the literature. With this study it can be noticed that despite the barriers found in the integration of the LCA in the PDP, the LCA has great potential to contribute significantly in the optimization of this process and to result in several benefits for the organization.

Keywords: life cycle assessment, product development process, integrating, benefits.