

Status and overview of the upcoming ISO TS 14072 of LCA for Organizations

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- Introduction and Motivation
- Background for ISO TS 14072
- Status of ISO TS 14072
- Challenges and Conclusions

- To analyse the environmental performance of products, it is standard practice today to use a life-cycle-perspective.
- For organizations (e.g. companies) such a life-cycle or value chain assessment is not yet broadly established.
- The first considerations concerning organizational footprinting have been conducted in the early and mid-90s, (e.g. Müller-Wenk, Unilever) but they never gained sufficient attention by science and industry to be further developed and applied.

Third International Conference on EcoBalance 1998

A Comprehensive Approach Towards Product and Organisation Related Environmental Management Tools for Japan

Dr. Matthias Finkbeiner, Dr. Konrad Saur & Prof. Peter Eyerer
PE Product Engineering, Germany

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National Institute for Resources and Environment, Japan

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- Corporate Carbon Footprint (CCF)
 - GHG-Protocol „Corporate Value Chain (Scope 3) Accounting and Reporting Standard” by WBCSD/WRI
 - ISO/TR 14069 Quantification and reporting of GHG emissions for organizations

- Water Footprint (WF)
 - ISO 14046 includes both products and organizations

- how to deal with organizations within ISO/TC207/SC5 Life Cycle Assessment?

- Products were the starting point, but LCA can be applied on organizations as well!
 - ISO TS 14072 Environmental management – Life cycle assessment – Requirements and guidelines to apply life cycle thinking to organizations
 - Revision of the scope of SC5

Standardization in the field of life cycle assessment and related environmental management tools for products and **organizations**. It includes life cycle based resource efficiency and eco-efficiency assessment, and encompasses consideration of a life cycle perspective in the assessment of impacts from the extraction of raw materials to the final disposal of waste."

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- Project approved in February 2012; deadline 36 months
- Convenor: Philippe Osset (France), Co-Convenor: Chen Liang (China)
- Secretariat: France
- Document status: WD4, but for a TS only one voting round!
- Meetings: Bangkok (June 2012),
Japan (November 2012),
Paris (March 2013),
Gaborone (June 2013),
Berlin (December 2013)
Panama City (May 2014)

Environmental management – Life cycle assessment – Requirements and guidelines to apply life cycle thinking to organizations

This international Technical Specification (TS) provides additional requirements and guidelines to organizations for an easier and more effective application of ISO 14040 and ISO 14044. This international TS details:

- the application of life cycle assessment (LCA) to organizations;
- the benefits that LCA may bring to organizations by using LCA methodology at organizational level;
- the system boundary;
- the limitations regarding reporting, environmental declarations and comparative assertions.

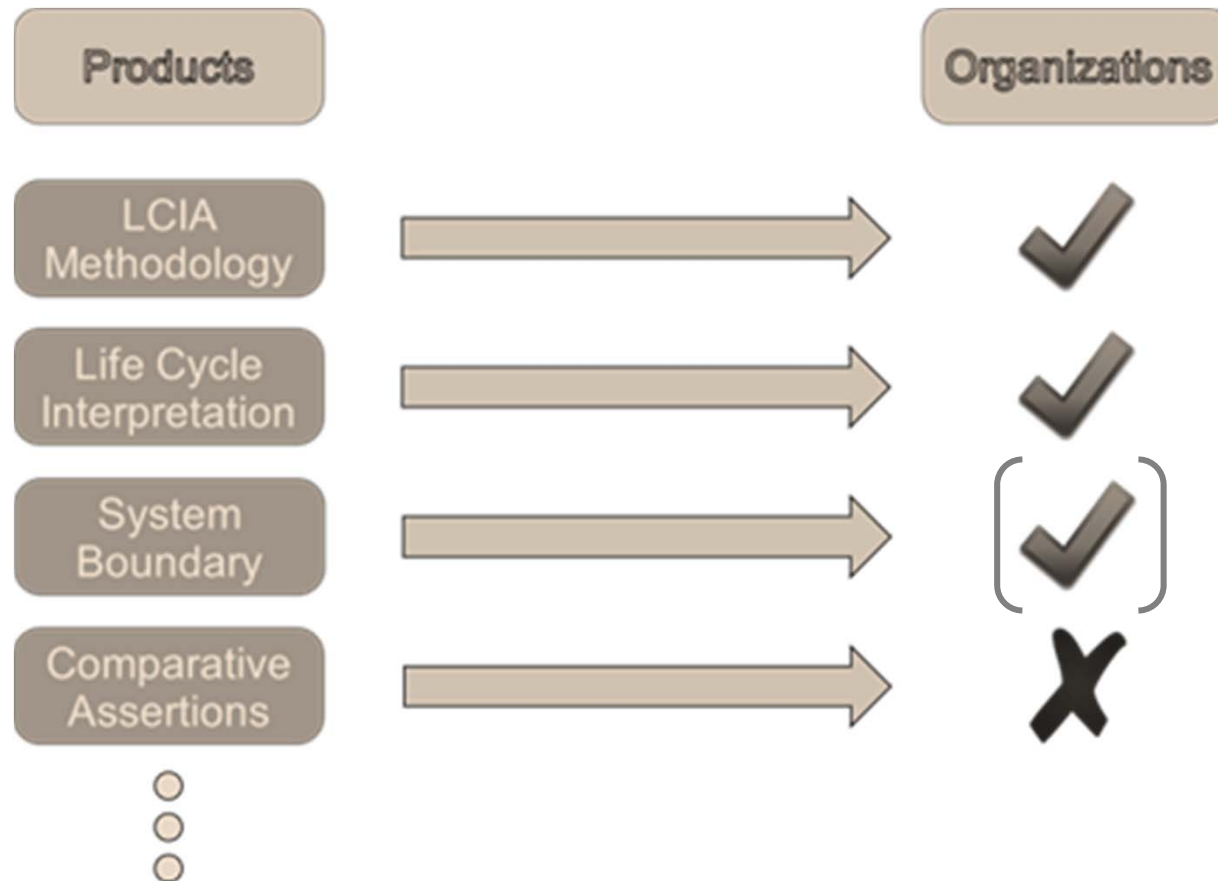
This document applies to any organization that has interest in applying LCA. It is not intended for the interpretation of ISO 14001 and specifically covers the goals of ISO 14040 and ISO 14044.

LCA of organization

compilation and evaluation of the inputs, outputs and potential environmental impacts of the activities associated with the organization adopting a life cycle perspective

→ my proposal: “organizational LCA - OLCA”

→ Transfer of ISO 14044 requirements from products to organizations

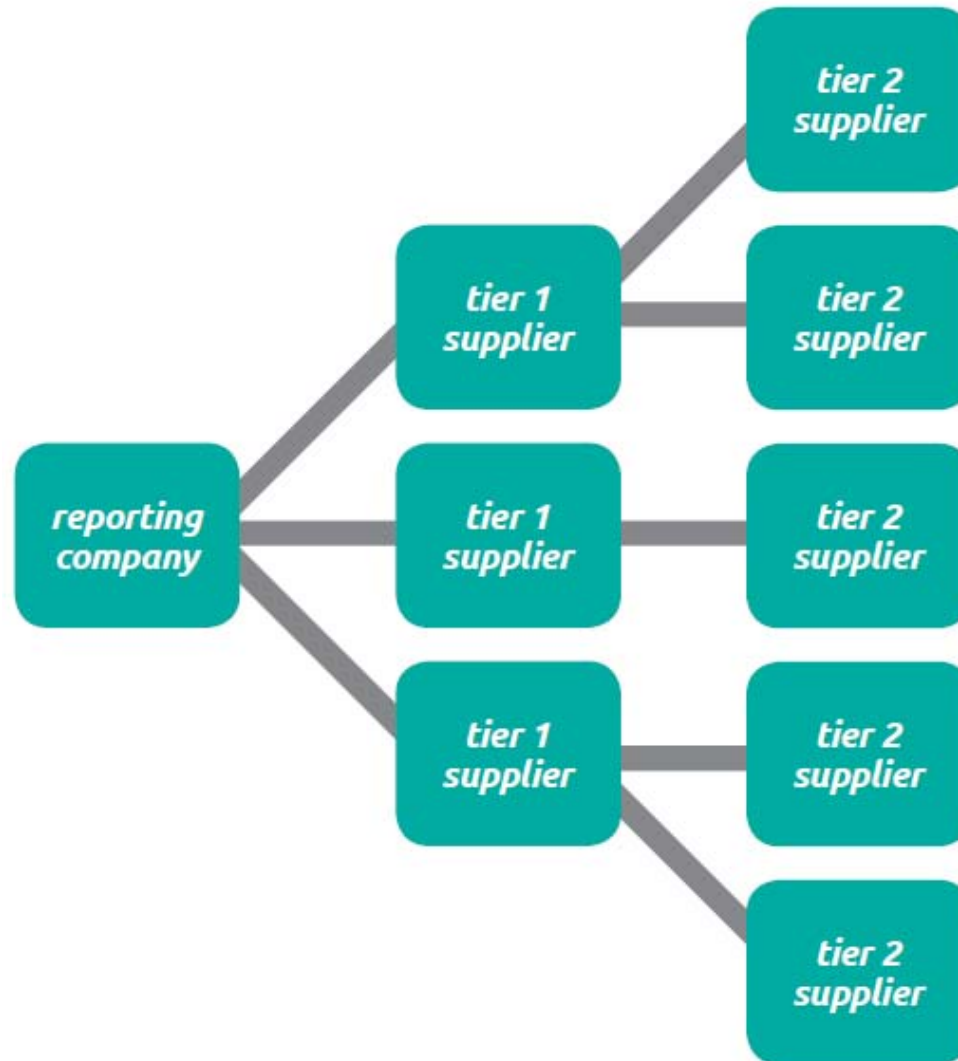


→ Some methodological specifics

- Most sections taken from ISO 14044 were basically transferrable.
- Those sections which did not apply are mostly related to the issue of comparative assertions.
- However, the current consensus is, that a comparative assertion with regard to organizations is NOT a robust and meaningful application at this point in time.
 - different organizations have vastly variable portfolios.
 - even within the same sector: the size, the location, the product segment, the vertical integration, the financial transactions and overall business model can be significantly different.

Methodological specifics: No organization LCA without product LCAs (I)

Figure from GHG Protocol



Scope 3 of the reporting company =

Scope 1&2 tier 1 +
Scope 1&2 tier 2 +
Scope 1&2 tier 3 +

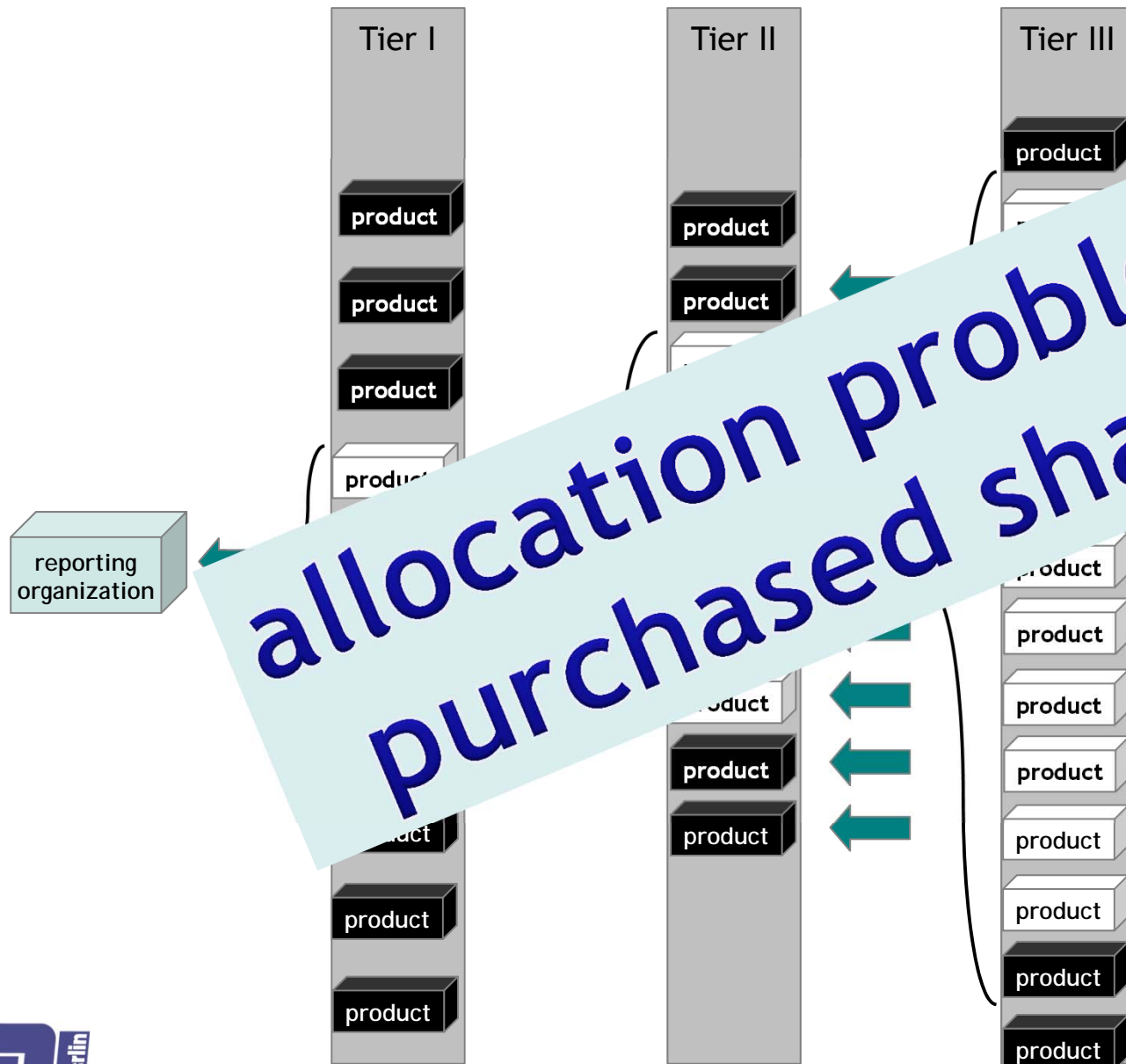
....

or

Σ Scope 3 all tier 1

Only in theory!

Methodological specifics: No organization LCA without product LCAs (II)



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- It was shown that the application of LCA on organizations is relevant, meaningful and already possible based on existing standards and guidelines.
- ISO TS 14072 will further detail the global, international agreements on organizational LCA.
- An OLCA seems impossible without decidedly assessing the life cycles of the product portfolio and the application of product level data.
- Due to the unresolved challenges in comparing different organizations, an OLCA should for now focus on
 - performance tracking for continual improvement
 - identification of hotspots
 - prioritisation for product LCAs

- Further case studies and research are needed with regard to the key remaining challenges in the field of inclusion and exclusion criteria for processes and entities (e.g. investments, system boundary).
- There is not a “one-size-fits-all” approach to OLCA. There are several ways towards OLCA depending on where an organization comes from.
- Several LCA stakeholders from developing countries see potential for OLCA.
- OLCA could be the most promising path for SLCA.

→ Flagship project of the UNEP/SETAC Life Cycle Initiative

Thank you ...

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