



Western Regional Carbon
Conversion/Utilization Procurement Grant
Workshop 9/13/22

Scott Fong

Department of General Services

What is the Buy Clean California Act?

- The Buy Clean California Act (BCCA) targets carbon emissions associated with the production of **structural steel** (hot-rolled sections, hollow structural sections, and plate), **concrete reinforcing steel**, **flat glass**, and **mineral wool board insulation**. When used in public works projects, these eligible materials must have a global warming potential (GWP) that does not exceed the limit set by DGS.
- The Buy Clean California Act (formerly AB 262) was signed into law on October 15, 2017. It is published under California Public Contract Code, section 3500-3505.

Updates to the Buy Clean California Act

Original law required limits to be set by 1/1/19 and implementation by 7/1/19. Assembly Bills AB 1817 (6/27/18) and AB 137 (7/16/21) modified the Buy Clean California Act to:

- Extend implementation dates.
- Introduce a two year “phase-in” period to collect facility-specific Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs).
- Allow exclusion of emissions during fabrication.
- Allow setting of separate limits for different products within each category of materials.
- Introduce exemptions that could be taken by the awarding authorities.
- Require DGS to consult with California Air Resources Board prior to setting GWP limits

Key legislation dates

January 1, 2022

- DGS shall establish and publish a maximum acceptable global warming potential for each category of eligible materials.

July 1, 2022

- Contracts entered on or after this date between successful bidders and the awarding authorities will be subject to the requirements of the Buy Clean California Act.

January 1, 2025 and every three years thereafter

- DGS shall review the maximum acceptable global warming potential for each category of eligible materials and may adjust the number downward to reflect industry improvements.

January 1, 2023

- DGS shall submit a report to the Legislature on any obstacles to the implementation and effectiveness of the Buy Clean California Act to reduce global warming potential.

Materials and agencies affected

- Applies to four construction materials: structural steel, carbon steel rebar, flat glass, and mineral wool board insulation.
- Applies to public works contracts with the following state agencies:
 - Department of General Services (Real Estate Services Division)
 - Department of Transportation
 - Department of Water Resources
 - Department of Parks and Recreation
 - Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
 - University of California
 - California State University
 - Military Department
 - High-Speed Rail Authority

What are EPDs and where do I get them?

- An EPD is an independently verified and registered document that reports a product's environmental impact over its life cycle.
- They are developed according to Product Category Rule (PCR) guidelines as well as ISO standards.
- EPDs are publicly available once published by program operator. Manufacturers of the affected construction materials will have to develop an EPD which will be used for the determination of compliance.

EPDs Allowed for Compliance

Acceptable

- Facility-specific producer/manufacturer EPDs

Not-Acceptable

- Fabricator EPDs
- Industry-wide/industry-average EPDs
- Multiple facility, production-weighted EPDs from a single producer* or fabricator

*Unless producer also reports GWP for each facility separately

Differentiating Producers vs. Fabricators

Producer

- Facility that produces the base material before it is sent for fabrication
- Steel mill
- Rebar mill
- Mineral wool board insulation plant
- Flat glass plant

Fabricator

- Facility that conducts additional processing to base materials
- Bending, tempering, cutting, etc.
- May obtain base material from multiple manufacturers

Structural Steel PCR

PCR:

Title: Part B: Designated Steel Construction Product EPD Requirements

Valid through: August 26, 2025

Version: 2.0

Program operator: UL Environment

BCCA material scope:

- Hot-rolled sections
- Hollow structural sections
- Plate

Carbon Steel Rebar PCR

PCR:

Title: Part B: Designated Steel Construction Product EPD Requirements

Valid through: August 26, 2025

Version: 2.0

Program operator: UL Environment

BCCA material scope:

- Concrete reinforcement steel per ASTM A615/A615M, A706/706M, A767/A767M, and A775/A775M

Flat Glass PCR

PCR:

Title: NGA PCR for Flat Glass: UN CPC 3711

Valid through: September 30, 2025

Version: 2

Program operator: NSF International

BCCA material scope:

- Clear or tinted float and rolled glass without additional processing such as coatings, tempering, and laminating

Mineral Wool Board Insulation PCR

PCR:

Title: Part B: Building Envelope Thermal Insulation EPD requirements

Valid through: April 10, 2023

Version: 2.0

Program operator: UL Environment

BCCA material scope:

- Low and high-density mineral wool board made of rock and slag
- Light-density: 2.5 – 4.2 lb/ft³ | 40 kg/m³ – 67.3 kg/m³
- Heavy-density: 4.3 – 8.0 lb/ft³ | 68.9 kg/m³ – 128 kg/m³

Resources

Buy Clean California Webpage

- [Buy Clean California Act](#)

Buy Clean California Mailbox

- BuyCleanCalifornia@dgs.ca.gov