

Your Handy Guide

Steel Sustainability Australia (SSA) Level 1 Certification & Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs)



AUSTRALASIA EPD®
INTERNATIONAL EPD SYSTEM

General Description

The Green Star rating system, developed by the Green Building Council of Australia (GBCA), is a nationally recognised framework used to assess the performance of buildings and other projects.

EPDs, ResponsibleSteel™ and SSA certification are recognised initiatives in the Green Star Responsible Products Framework, supporting you or your client to meet the goals of delivering high-performing, sustainable buildings.

This guide answers some of the most frequently asked questions about these certification and credential and explains how they contribute to meeting Green Star project requirements.

SSA Level 1 Certification v1.4

What is SSA Level 1 Certification?

SSA Level 1 Certification is the entry-level tier of the Steel Sustainability Australia certification program. It verifies that a steel supplier meets recommended practice standards in governance, environmental management, and occupational health and safety (OHS), and that the majority of their steel feedstock is sourced from a responsible steel manufacturer or producer.

What are the benefits of being SSA Level 1 certified?

- Recognition under the Green Building Council of Australia's (GBCA) Responsible Products Framework
- Contribution to Green Star rating points for construction projects
- Enhanced customer credibility and sustainability credentials
- Alignment with ESG expectations in the construction and infrastructure sectors

How SSA Certification Contributes to Green Star Points

Steel Sustainability Australia (SSA) certification plays a direct role in helping construction projects earn Green Star credit points under the Green Building Council of Australia (GBCA) framework.

1. Recognised Under Green Star - Buildings

SSA Level - 1 Certification requires compliance to recommended practice governance, environmental and OHS management criteria and verifies majority of the steel feedstock is sourced from a responsible steel manufacturer or producer.

2. Contributes to Green Star Points

Projects using steel from SSA-Level 1 certified suppliers can claim 4 RPV points for:

- Governance
- Responsible sourcing
- Environmental management systems
- Supply chain transparency

These points can be combined with others, such as EPD and ResponsibleSteel™ to achieve 'Best Practice' under the Responsible Products Framework.

What Is SSA?

Steel Sustainability Australia (SSA) is a national certification program established by the Australian Steel Institute (ASI) that assesses both upstream (steel producers) and downstream (fabricators, roll formers, reinforcing processors) steel businesses. It evaluates their operations against recommended practice environmental, social, and governance (ESG) indicators, aligned with the Green Building Council of Australia's (GBCA) Responsible Products Framework.

[For more info, you can visit the SSA official website for resources, guides, and support.](#)

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Orrcon Manufacturing Pty Ltd ABN 15 113 998 066.

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EPD (Environmental Product Declaration)

What is an EPD?

An EPD is a standardized document (based on ISO 14025 and EN 15804) that provides transparent, verified data about the environmental impact of a product throughout its life cycle. Orrcon Steel Manufacturing has undertaken Life Cycle Analysis of its manufactured product range and developed an Environmental Product Declaration (EPD) that covers our range of Pipe and Tube Products from all manufacturing sites.

It includes metrics like: Greenhouse gas emissions (carbon footprint), energy and water use, resource depletion and waste generation.

[Further details can be found at EPD Australasia.](#)

Why EPDs Matter

1. Supports Green Building Certifications

EPDs are often required in Green Star, LEED, and Infrastructure Sustainability (IS) ratings. Using steel with an EPD can contribute to points under:

- Materials transparency
- Embodied carbon comparison
- Life cycle assessment

2. Enables Carbon Footprint Comparisons

EPDs allow comparisons between different steel products or suppliers, helping project teams choose lower-impact options.

Care is required in understanding system boundaries and assumptions to determine if same measures are being used.

3. Builds Trust and Transparency

Because EPDs are third-party verified, they provide credible evidence of a product's environmental performance—essential for ESG reporting and procurement.

4. Aligns with Regulatory and Market Trends

Governments and clients increasingly require low-carbon materials. EPDs help steel producers and fabricators demonstrate compliance and competitiveness.

5. Drives Continuous Improvement

By quantifying impacts, EPDs help manufacturers identify hotspots in their production processes and target areas for sustainability improvements.

These points can be combined with others, such as EPD and ResponsibleSteel™ to achieve 'Best Practice' under the Responsible Products Framework.

Have a question? [Book a meeting with our expert](#) to learn more about how our SSA Level 1, ResponsibleSteel™ certifications and EPD can support your business.

A combination of ResponsibleSteel, Product-Specific EPD and SSA Level 1 under GBCA's RPV methodology results in an RPV equivalent to a Best Practice product (≥15).

[Click here to visit Responsible Products Score Checker - Green Building Council Australia](#)



[BlueScope, a Verified SSA Supplier and with a ResponsibleSteel™ certified Site](#)



**'Best Practice' Product
RPV ≥ 15**