1 CHECK = 1 POINT

Audit-Ready LCA Self-Assessment Scorecard

16 checks to find methodology gaps before a TÜV audit or TfS review.

Tick only what your team can provde with evidence. Built from the four ISO phases used in Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) and Product Carbon Footprint (PCF) work.

1 Goal & Scope Definition

- ☐ Is the intended application clear enough to steer each modelling choice?
- ☐ Are the target audience, reason for the study and public-claim intent documented?
- ☐ Is the functional or declared unit quantified so products can be compared fairly?
- ☐ Are system boundaries and cut-off rules clearly stated and aligned with the study goal?
- ☐ Did you check the relevant standards, sector guidelines and Product Category Rules before modelling?

2 Life Cycle Inventory

- ☐ Are foreground flows, wastes, co-products and elementary flows mapped and traceable?
- ☐ Is your hierarchy for selecting background data clearly documented and consistently applied?
- ☐ If you use supplier data, do you understand the underlying modelling choices and assumptions?
- ☐ Are allocation choices justified before mass, economic or other criteria are applied?
- ☐ Is your team using data based on a certified methodology where it matters most?

3 Impact Assessment

- ☐ Are impact categories and characterization methods aligned with the goal of the study?
- ☐ Are climate results reported with transparent factors, time horizon and a clear distinction between fossil and biogenic origins?
- ☐ Do you understand and discuss all relevant impact categories, not only climate change?

4 Interpretation & Reporting

- ☐ Have hotspots been identified by raw material, process, energy source and life cycle stage?
- ☐ Have completeness, consistency and sensitivity checks been run on the main assumptions?
- ☐ Is your team trained to execute this consistently, including a clear onboarding strategy?

3 common pitfalls that create review tension

1. Allocation risk

Allocation can significantly change your result. Using mass allocation without checking the rule set can be hard to defend, especially when economic values differ strongly.

2. Data selection risk

Mixing background databases without a clear hierarchy creates weak evidence. Lowest-number shopping is easy to spot and difficult to defend.

3. Public-claim risk

Public product comparisons need the right level of review. The bigger risk is making a claim before the necessary third-party critical review is in place.

SCORING KEY

0-6 POINTS: HIGH RISK	Your methodology likely has gaps that will fail a TÜV audit or TfS review.
7-12 POINTS: FOUNDATION BUILT	Basics exist. But errors in allocation, data selection or public claims could create greenwashing risks.
13-16 POINTS: AUDIT-READY	Your process is robust and ready for external verification.

Don't leave your compliance to chance.

Master the pitfalls in Life Cycle Assessment and learn how to consistently navigate these four phases in our next 3-day technical deep dive.

VIEW COURSE CURRICULUM & BOOK YOUR SPOT

Need a second set of eyes? Get your methodology pre-checked by our experts.

Based on Carbon Minds training notes: ISO phases, allocation, data hierarchy, public claims, reporting and verification readiness.

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