



TOGETHER FOR  
SUSTAINABILITY

# The PCF Guideline

The gold standard for calculating  
the carbon footprint of your  
chemical products

Together for Sustainability (TfS) – a joint sustainability initiative of global chemical companies – is launching a **step-by-step guide** to help chemical suppliers more precisely calculate the carbon footprint of their products – **Product Carbon Footprint (PCF)** – in a way that is harmonised across the industry.

It's called the **PCF Guideline**.

**The first of its kind for the chemical industry**, the PCF Guideline offers specific guidance on PCF calculation requirements unique to the industry, building on commonly used international standards for Greenhouse Gas (GHG) accounting.

## What is the PCF Guideline?

An interactive .pdf, it is a step-by-step instruction guide for use by both chemical suppliers and corporations. Specific to calculating chemical product carbon footprints, the PCF Guideline increases transparency in chemical supply chains and reduces complexity in emissions data tracking – thanks to the harmonised calculation approach.

The PCF Guideline supports the calculation of GHG emissions of products and services used during a chemical's lifecycle, until it is delivered to the end user – from “cradle to gate”.

Until now, chemical PCFs were determined using generic information based on existing industry-agnostic standards that lack specific calculation guidance for chemical materials. The resulting PCFs therefore were not comparable to other companies' calculation results for the same products. The PCF Guideline offers an industry-specific, tailored solution with a more detailed description and interpretation of existing standards.

Reviewed by top standardisation bodies, TfS' PCF Guideline is compliant with both ISO quality management standards and the GHG Protocol accounting standards.

## How it can benefit you

As a supplier, you require easy-to-use guidance to accurately calculate your PCFs to share with corporate customers. The PCF Guideline makes it easy for you to generate these PCFs and for your customers to integrate them into their emissions reporting.

By using the PCF Guideline, you can:

- **Easily calculate your chemical PCFs** – improving efficiency and reducing the amount of time spent using generic guidelines thanks to more specific guidance
- **Gain a better understanding of the GHG emissions associated with your products** – helping you improve your emissions tracking and sustainability performance and reach your reduction targets
- **Create a basis to work with your own suppliers** – enabling you to drive sustainability upstream in your value chain
- **Report your PCFs to the level of specificity many customers are requesting** – decreasing resources required, increasing customer satisfaction and generating new sales



## How to use the PCF Guideline

The PCF Guideline comes in an easily navigable, interactive .pdf format, so you can jump directly to the section that best applies to your company.

Within the PCF Guideline, you will find key calculation criteria and instructions for developing your chemical PCFs. Once calculated, you can provide these PCFs to your corporate customers so they may more accurately calculate their Scope 3.1 emissions<sup>1</sup>.

The PCF Guideline is open source and will be easily accessible on TfS' website beginning in autumn 2022.

## Why is this important right now?

Climate change is a well-known threat to our planet and to the future of business. Companies around the world are taking action to reduce GHG emissions in support of the Paris Agreement goal to limit global warming to well below 2°C.

The chemical industry is accountable for a high-level of global GHG emissions, 77% of which are in Scope 3<sup>2</sup>. As corporations set stronger sustainability targets, they are increasingly looking to build more sustainable supply chains and reduce their associated emissions.

As a chemical supplier, determining the carbon footprint of your products provides the best product-level information for the identification, tracking and reduction of these Scope 3 emissions. By providing accurate chemical PCFs to your corporate customers, you can help them to accurately report their emissions and advance sustainability in the chemical industry.

To download the PCF Guideline and learn more about how you can play your part in creating a sustainable chemical supply chain, visit:  
**[tfs-initiative.com/scope-3-ghg-emissions](https://tfs-initiative.com/scope-3-ghg-emissions)**

<sup>1</sup> Upstream GHG emissions from the production of purchased goods and services.

<sup>2</sup> Source: CDP, “Running Hot - Accelerating Europe's path to Paris” (page 31).