

InDiCo-Global Factsheet

# The Digital Product Passport (DPP):

## Europe's New Standards for Sustainable Trade

### A New Kind of Passport — And Why It Affects You

In the European Union, a quiet but transformative shift is underway. Soon, most products will require a **Digital Product Passport (DPP)** — not to cross borders, but to demonstrate compliance with the EU's high standards for **sustainability, transparency, and circularity**.

The DPP is a central measure under the proposed **Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation (ESPR)** — the EU's overarching legislative framework for making sustainable products the norm. Replacing the existing Ecodesign Directive, the ESPR expands environmental requirements across a wider range of product groups and introduces digital tools like the DPP to support transparency, traceability, and regulatory enforcement.



The DPP will apply to all products placed on the EU Single Market, regardless of whether they are produced within the EU or imported. It sets uniform requirements for sharing product information to support sustainability, safety, and circularity. For manufacturers and exporters, meeting these obligations is essential to ensure continued access to the EU market under the new regulatory framework.

This factsheet outlines what the DPP is, why it matters for international stakeholders, and how **standardisation** will shape its global reach.

## Why It Matters For Industry & Exporters



DPPs will gradually become mandatory for a range of products placed on the EU market - starting with priority groups identified in the European Commission's 2025–2030 Working Plan. These include textiles and apparel (excluding footwear), furniture, tyres, mattresses, and intermediate products such as aluminium and steel.



Compliance is essential to maintain EU market access, avoid delays, and build a strong sustainability reputation.

## Why it Matters For Regulators & Standards Bodies

Understanding the DPP is key to helping local & international industries align with emerging EU requirements and maintain access to international markets. Engaging in international standardisation ensures interoperability and avoids duplicative compliance efforts.



Early alignment enables smoother trade, stronger cooperation, and harmonised digital infrastructures.





## So, What Is the Digital Product Passport (DPP)?

The DPP is a structured, digitally accessible dataset linked to a specific product. It enables relevant stakeholders across the value chain - including producers, suppliers, regulators, recyclers, and consumers - to access and exchange essential information, including:

- Materials and chemical substances
- Environmental performance (e.g. carbon footprint, energy performance etc.)
- Reusability, repairability, recyclability
- End-of-life handling and circularity metrics
- Supply chain traceability and compliance

The DPP is a cornerstone of the EU's **green and digital transitions** — turning sustainability into something **measurable, verifiable, and trade-relevant**.



## What's Driving It? EU Legislation and Policy

The Digital Product Passport (DPP) is a key tool under the proposed Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation (ESPR), which aims to make sustainable products the norm in the EU. As part of this broader framework, the DPP will help improve transparency, traceability, and circularity across product lifecycles, supporting the shift toward a greener, more resource-efficient economy.

### Legal Anchor: Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation (ESPR) – (EU) 2024/1781



Establishes the **legal basis** for mandatory DPPs in various sectors



ESPR will be complemented by future Delegated Acts (on a per product category basis) to be adopted by the European Commission  
Expands the scope and repeals the current Ecodesign Directive (2009/125/EC)



Applies to **EU and non-EU manufacturers** placing products on the EU market



### Supporting Policy Frameworks



**European Green Deal and Circular Economy Action Plan (CEAP)** provide the political mandate for product transparency and circularity



**Digital Europe Programme and Horizon Europe** fund development of DPP-enabling technologies — including **cloud services, interoperability, blockchain, and data spaces**



## Standardisation: The DPP's Foundation

The DPP depends on **interoperable, internationally aligned standards** for consistent implementation and cross-border recognition.

### European Standardisation Efforts

The development of standards for DPP is a coordinated effort between CEN, CENELEC and ETSI. These topics include:

Data formats and interoperability

Digital infrastructure architecture

Access and governance mechanisms

IoT integration

Secure traceability

Machine-readable, decentralised data exchange

As the European Commission rolls out product-specific delegated acts under the ESPR, additional CEN, CENELEC, and ETSI Technical Committees, i.e., CEN-CLC/JTC 24 and ETSI TC EE, will play a key role in developing standards tailored to those sectors. These standards will help industry assess and communicate compliance with new performance and sustainability requirements — making them critical tools for both market access and innovation.



### Global Coordination

European stakeholders are actively engaging with ISO/IEC and relevant international partners to ensure DPP standards are globally compatible and avoid trade fragmentation.

## How InDiCo-Global Supports Your Engagement

InDiCo-Global is a Horizon Europe Coordination and Support Action that aims at establishing and strengthening bridges between Europe and partner geographies to coordinate and foster dialogues on digital policies and the standardisation activities supporting them.

Visit the InDiCo-Global website to learn more about upcoming activities related to DPP and contact the project team to discuss a possible involvement.