

TfS PCF Exchange solution

FAQs for suppliers

Q: Is it permissible to have duplicate IDs?

A: It is not possible to add two products with the same product ID, each product ID should be unique. When trying to upload a product with an already available product ID via Excel upload, the system does not let you save either as each ID should be unique.

Q: Is it permissible to select multiple production sites for the same product?

A: It is possible to create one product and link it to multiple factories or manufacturing locations. You can then create multiple PCFs for the same product, each PCF related to a specific location. Or you can create multiple products and allocate them to different sites.

Q: How can a supplier pro-actively share PCF?

A: In order for your supplier to proactively share a PCF with you, a connection first needs to be established, meaning that you need to send them an invitation via the TfS PCF Exchange solution and send out at least 1 PCF request. Once they respond to you, the connection is made in the system, and they can proactively share future PCFs. If you have not invited them or sent a PCF request, they are not able to proactively share a PCF.

The invitation link is valid for **30 days**. Please note it is a unique link and it cannot be forwarded, meaning the supplier contact who receives the invitation cannot forward it to another colleague. They would need to register and invite the other colleague.

Q: How can I download the list of Product tasks?

A: At the moment, it is not possible to download a list of Product, Component or Verification Tasks. This will be introduced in future releases.

Q: What is the cost of using the TfS PCF Exchange solution?

A: There are no associated costs with using the basic version of the solution for your customers or your suppliers. If you wish to use APIs, that might require an extra cost.

Q: Who can edit an incorrectly named product family?

A: At the moment, only a Company Admin can add or edit Product Families in the solution. In this case, the product manager would need to reach out to the company admin and request the change or ask to create a new product family.

Q: Is it necessary for both suppliers and customers to have access to the TfS PCF Exchange solution in order to submit the PCF?

A: In order to use the free basic features of the solution, both customers and suppliers need to use the platform. However, if you are using APIs, then you can use other platforms.

Q: What are the data quality scores?

A: When creating a PCF credential with the TfS PCF Exchange solution, several data quality indicators are created, and data quality scores change depending on the level of PCF analysis and data provided to the solution while creating the PCF form. It also depends on whether you have filled out “Mandatory” inputs only or also “mandatory and optional” inputs.

The quality indicators will be presented in the form of a percentage and can range from 0-100% depending on the information you have shared regarding the PCF calculation and methodology.

Transparency is the quality of the documentation provided by you when disclosing the PCF information (expresses how well the PCF is documented).

Reliability or Assurance describes the level of audit from self-declaration. It's an internal PCF review which provides a score of 25%- and third-party verification provides a score of 100%. So, whether it is a self-declared PCF or whether the PCF is verified.

Validity & Data Accuracy or Data Quality Rating (DQR) is a score from 1 to 3 (e.g. 1.5); it is the average of the individual ratings of the quality indicators (1-good, 2-fair, 3-poor).

These are all internal data quality scores, not related to how standards rate the quality of this. To improve the DQR, we will change how the scoring will work in upcoming releases and we will communicate how they work.

Q: In which case are the email notifications sent?

A: If you are the Procurement Manager, you will receive emails when a supplier responds to a PCF request, or if you are assigned to a task.

If you are the Product Manager, you will receive emails when a customer requests a PCF or if you are assigned to a task.

Q: How can I input my data if I use “Meters” as a measuring unit?

A: The solution is limited to the units that are allowed by WBCSD Pathfinder. These units include m² and m³, but not m. This is mainly due to reasons of comparability of PCFs from different suppliers. Ideally, the user always declares also the mass per declared unit (which is not mandatory but should be to avoid any misunderstanding). Users can select pieces as the declared unit as well as provide mass per declared unit.

Q: What is meant with certifier and how can I add those to my platform?

A: PCF data entered in the solution can only be certified by accredited certified bodies. The solution recognizes accreditation by official institutions worldwide, such as DAKKS in Germany, CNAS in China or others listed by international networks, such as IAF (international accreditation forum). Currently only accredited verification bodies in the field of product carbon standards qualify as "certifiers".

In the solution, a peer review is currently not recognized as equivalent to a PCF verification done by an accredited verification body.

Here is a guide on how you can invite your certifiers to the platform.

Q: When a customer has access to my PCF, will they be able to see all the history of my PCFs? Or only the PCF related to the period they asked for?

A: Customers do not have access to your created PCFs, they are not able to see your PCF history. They only see the PCF you decide to share with them in response to their request.

Q: Can Siemens see our data?

A: No. Siemens only provides the infrastructure necessary to enable you the exchange of PCF. As per stated in Section 5.3. of [our T&Cs](#).

Q: Is there a way to edit the PCF declaration?

A: Once a PCF is created, it cannot be edited. You can export it to a new draft, and delete the previous version.

Q: Is it possible to share a PCF with more than one customer?

A: Yes, you can share the same PCF with multiple customers separately. It cannot be shared with multiple customers in bulk.

**Q: Is Excel the only format available to upload the data?
Is there another way to exchange data like json or html?**

A: At the moment only the SiGREEN format is possible.