

### uvex

#### CO<sub>2</sub> footprint

# Definition

### What is CO<sub>2</sub>?

Carbon dioxide is a chemical compound made of carbon and oxygen. It is a natural component of air and one of the most significant greenhouse gases. Carbon dioxide is a natural by-product of the cell respiration of many living organisms and is also produced by burning wood, coal, oil and gas.

Unlike other substances, CO<sub>2</sub> does not degrade when released into the atmosphere. During the carbon cycle, released CO<sub>2</sub> is either physically stored by bodies of water or converted by green plants during photosynthesis.

However, it is not just natural processes that release  $CO_2$ , humans also leave a large  $CO_2$  footprint on our planet. The burning of coal, oil or natural gas used domestically to heat and power our homes, or industrially for the goods we consume, releases significantly more  $CO_2$  than can be absorbed. Natural carbon sinks cannot sufficiently bind or convert the additional  $CO_2$  caused by human activity. The natural interplay of emission and absorption is consequently out of balance. The greenhouse gases contained in the atmosphere absorb the heat emitted by the earth and immediately release it in all directions. Principally because of the increase in  $CO_2$  particles in the atmosphere, less and less heat radiation can escape into space.

The consequence? Global warming is accelerating.



#### Global warming:

The more greenhouse gases are released into the atmosphere, the more severely and rapidly the earth heats up as less long-wave heat radiation can escape into space.

### What do we mean by CO<sub>2</sub> footprint?

The  $CO_2$  footprint is the result of an emission calculation or balancing of all greenhouse gases released by an activity, process or action. The effect that various greenhouse gases have on the climate is expressed in  $CO_2$  equivalents\*.



### uvex product highlight

30% bio-based material

Headband 50% recycled materia

Product packaging
100%
recyclable



#### uvex pheos planet

The lightweight uvex pheos planet safety helmet features a sporty design and offers maximum wearer comfort. All individual packaging is made of regranulated material. The user instructions are printed on 100 percent recycled paper.







#### CO<sub>2</sub> footprint

# Motivation

# How and why are we calculating the CO<sub>2</sub> footprint of our products?

To help achieve the goals set out by the European Green Deal on climate neutrality by 2050 at the latest, the current emissions must first be calculated so that subsequent potential savings can be identified.

To determine the transparency of our products' greenhouse gas emissions throughout the entire supply chain and to provide our customers with a comprehensive view of the company's carbon footprint, we have started to calculate the first products'  $CO_2$  footprints.

## All processes that a product goes through are taken into account for the calculation

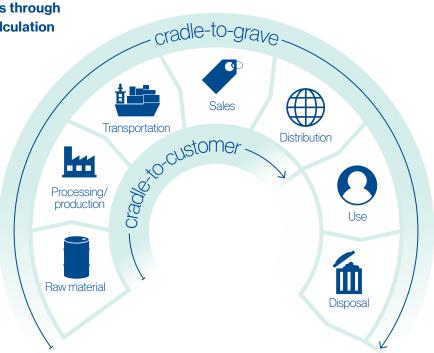
We distinguish between two principles.

#### cradle-to-customer

Calculation from raw material to customer.

#### cradle-to-grave

Includes the cradle-to-customer calculation and extends beyond the useful life to include disposal.







#### uvex suXXeed greencycle planet

This collection was designed to be recycled. At the end of the product's life, all of it can be returned to the cycle.



Cradle to Cradle Certified™ is a registered trademark of the Cradle to Cradle Products Innovation Institute.

In our customer communication we use the cradle-to-customer calculation, as we currently have no influence on the disposal process and  $CO_2$  emissions vary widely depending on this. For example, waste in Italy is mostly disposed of in landfills (1 kg of polycarbonate equals 0.097 kg of  $CO_2$ -eq.), while in Germany it is mostly incinerated (1 kg of polycarbonate corresponds to 2.34 kg of  $CO_2$ -eq.). As we can only speculate about the waste scenario and have no influence on the disposal of the product, we only show the cradle-to-grave value on the result data sheets.

In general, we use the data collected to identify potential CO<sub>2</sub> savings. The calculation may also be used as a basis for future design and product development processes.

In addition, the calculation can be used to compare different materials in products.

#### Example:

Comparison of the uvex 1 G2 planet safety shoe with the standard model, where the use of recycled raw materials and regranulated material leads to savings.

#### Results data sheet

Based on the findings, we are now preparing a results data sheet with all the important information, which can be used for presentation to the customer.

In this data sheet, the result is divided into the various emission ranges.

uvex		
Result CO <sub>2</sub> -fo	ootprint	
Scope of inve	estigation	
Overview CO	<sub>2</sub> -equivalents	
protecting people		

Detailed description of the product with image and data basis

Result of the calculation including method and creation date

Overview of the result with division into emission ranges

Within the footprint, a distinction is made between material, manufacturing process, packaging and transport



#### CO<sub>2</sub> footprint

# Measurement methodology

## Which measurement method do we use to calculate a product's CO<sub>2</sub> footprint?

uvex calculates the CO<sub>2</sub> footprint of products using the measurement method specified in the ISO 14067\* standard.

For the calculation, we use the SimaPro software package and the ecoinvent database, information we obtain from our suppliers and datasets based on our own measurements.

For independent verification of our measurement method and corresponding calculation of the CO<sub>2</sub> footprint, we prepared a calculation report of the uvex 1 G2 planet safety shoe and submitted it to external testing. This test is carried out in accordance with the specifications of ISO 14067. We chose the safety shoe for testing as it is our most comprehensive and complex product.

All products are calculated in the same way as in this method.



<sup>\*</sup> The ISO 14067 standard is the basis for the procedure for developing a 'Product Carbon Footprint'

<sup>\*\*\*</sup> Calculation method: IPCC 2021 GWP 100a (based on ISO 14067) SimaPro 9.4.02 Database ecoinvent 3.8. Scope: cradle to customer. The CO₂ values stated apply to the calculation period and may be subject to permanent changes.





#### **Collating supplier information**

This specifically includes contacting suppliers. We can also model processes ourselves using data from pre-suppliers. The more accurate the data of the pre-suppliers, the more accurate our calculation is. Therefore, changes in the result are possible at any time if a general value is replaced by a supplier's more accurate value.

#### **Example:**

For polyamide, depending on the source, you get between 2.8 kg of CO<sub>2</sub>-eq. and 12.2 kg CO<sub>2</sub>-eq. per kg of material.

#### Performing our own measurement

In our plants, we record waste figures, energy consumption and production figures. It is particularly important to know the individual production steps so that the carbon footprint can be represented as comprehensively as possible.

#### Calculation with 'SimaPro' software

To calculate the  $CO_2$  footprint of a product, we use the SimaPro software package with the ecoinvent database. This contains life cycle inventory data on energy, materials, transport etc.

Using this software, various factors such as materials, production processes, transport routes and methods as well as a disposal process are selected and put together to form a total component. The result including background processes is now calculated using the data obtained.

The values in the database are averages for common materials and cannot be broken down to a specific manufacturer's product.

These are therefore only general values. Nevertheless, the database is 'live' and regular updates ensure that additional data is added or known data is adapted. This means that changes to the result are possible at any time.

#### Important:

Calculation methods are constantly revised and are subject to change. It is possible that a different method may be used to evaluate our calculation at any time and that different results will be obtained from the same calculations. It is therefore important to include the method used and the calculation date in the communication.

As a calculation method, we currently use the IPCC 2021 GWP 100a\* (100-year time horizon Global Warming Potential) from the International **Panel** on **Climate Change**.



#### CO<sub>2</sub> footprint

# Comparability

# Why doesn't it make sense to compare our CO<sub>2</sub> footprints with other companies?

Due to the universal applicability of some standards and different calculation methods, there are interpretation issues and questions that can affect the consistency and comparability of results. When considering  $CO_2$  footprints from other companies, the methodology, system limit and functional unit must always be questioned to ensure a certain comparability.

### uvex product highlight



Side arms

Face seal >35% recycled granulate

Polyethylene bag
70%
recycled material

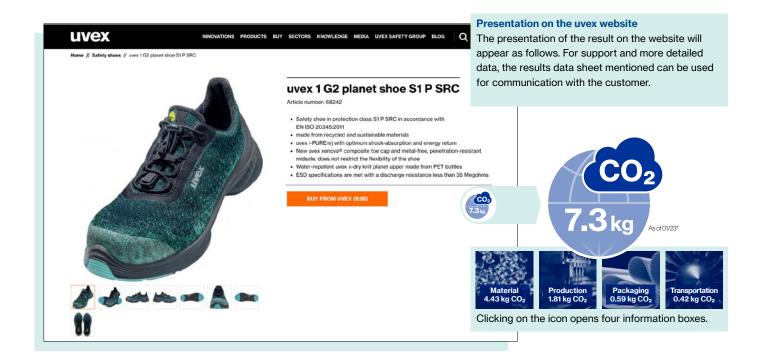
#### uvex i-guard planet

Part of the uvex i-range planet – versatile 3-in-1 protective eyewear range, for virtually any workplace hazard or environment. The flexible application options make an effective contribution to protecting the environment.



<sup>\*</sup> Calculation method: IPCC 2021 GWP 100a (based on ISO 14067) SimaPro 9.4.02 Database ecoinvent 3.8. Scope: cradle to customer. The CO₂ values stated apply to the calculation period and may be subject to permanent changes.





### Why is the CO<sub>2</sub> footprint a selling point?

With the CSRD and EU Taxonomy Regulation coming into force, the carbon footprint of every product used in a company becomes an important part of its overall carbon footprint.

By specifying the  $CO_2$  footprint of its products, uvex already offers a high level of transparency, thus aiding in the selection and evaluation of more sustainable products. The determined  $CO_2$  values allow a comparison between uvex standard products and products with sustainable features, such as proportions of recycled or bio-based materials.

The amount of CO<sub>2</sub> saved per product can easily be extrapolated to the number of employees in a company. This can quickly lead to significant savings in relation to the service life, thus immediately reducing the company's CO<sub>2</sub> footprint. For example, a uvex 1 G2 planet with 7.3 kg CO<sub>2</sub> saves 1.1 kg CO<sub>2</sub> per pair compared to a uvex 1 G2 with a knitted shaft with 8.4 kg CO<sub>2</sub>. Assuming a service life of 12 months this would be just under one tonne of CO<sub>2</sub> per year for 900 employees. That is equivalent to a journey of 4900 kilometres with a mid-range petrol engine.



<sup>\*</sup> Calculation method: IPCC 2021 GWP 100a (based on ISO 14067) SimaPro 9.4.02 Database ecoinvent 3.8. Scope: cradle to customer. The CO<sub>2</sub> values stated apply to the calculation period and may be subject to permanent changes.



protecting people

uvex-safety.com