



How LCA information Can Support Competitive Advantage and Improved Reputation


Case Study
Zircon Industry Association & Sphera

Market Development of ZIA

- **Ability to conduct Life Cycle Assessment** in line with the most recognized and up-to-date methodologies and using industry-specific data.
- **LCA as a strategic tool for zircon producers** to benchmark with industry averages and to set continuous improvement goals.
- **An informed supply chain:** an accurate and independently-verified LCA, clearly showing that the very low environmental burden of zircon makes it the preferred choice as far as life cycle environmental performance is concerned.
- **Help to underpin ZIA member companies' sustainability profile.**
- **Additional communication opportunities** throughout the value chain, including building designers and users of ceramic tiles.
- **Benefits for downstream users:** in addition to the recognized superior technical performance of zircon, tile manufacturers can now reduce their own environmental footprint by demanding zircon as the preferred opacifier.

Sphera's Contribution

- **LCA consultancy services** using reliable, representative industry-specific data, supported by its GaBi Software and datasets.
- **Specific LCA model and methodology development** for comparing zircon and alternative products.
- **Hotspot identification.**
- **Suggestions for improvement strategies.**
- **Support to the independent review panel of LCA experts.**
- **Guidance for developing a robust, credible and accurate LCI dataset.**
- **Support with publication of the LCI and communication of the LCA outcomes.**



LCA as a Strategic Tool for Assessing the Environmental Burden of Zircon

"This LCA demonstrates our commitment to environmental transparency and will allow our members to develop meaningful targets as they continually strive to reduce environmental impacts."

Dr. Keven Harlow, Executive Director, ZIA

About ZIA

The Zircon Industry Association (ZIA) is an independent industry association for the entire zirconium value chain, from zircon sand production to a wide range of downstream products, including zircon flour, opacifiers, refractory materials, friction materials, fused zirconias

and zirconium chemicals, metal and alloys. The ZIA's mission is to represent and support the interests of the zircon, zirconia and zirconium value chains worldwide. ZIA members currently represent some 80% of the globally-produced zircon tonnage.



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About Sphera

Sphera is the leading global provider of Integrated Risk Management software and information services with a focus on Environment, Health, Safety & Sustainability (EHS&S), Operational Risk and Product Stewardship. Sphera has advanced Operational Excellence for more than 30 years, serving companies and customers across the globe to create a safer, more sustainable and productive world.