

VSL CLIMATE SCORE GUIDELINES

The VSL Climate Score for steel strands is the classification of steel strands based on Global Warming Potential (GWP), measured in embodied carbon dioxide equivalent per tonne of strand (TCO₂e/T).

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RATING

The VSL Climate Score is expressed in emission factor, i.e carbon dioxide equivalent per tonne of steel strand (TCO₂e /T).

The ratings is divided into six equally spaced bands (A to F).

Rating	Description	Emission Factor (EF)
A	Ultra low carbon	$EF \leq 0.6 \text{ TCO}_2\text{e/T}$
B	Low carbon	$0.6 \text{ TCO}_2\text{e/T} < EF \leq 1.1 \text{ TCO}_2\text{e/T}$
C	Moderate carbon	$1.1 \text{ TCO}_2\text{e/T} < EF \leq 1.6 \text{ TCO}_2\text{e/T}$
D	Intermediate carbon	$1.6 \text{ TCO}_2\text{e/T} < EF \leq 2.1 \text{ TCO}_2\text{e/T}$
E	High carbon	$2.1 \text{ TCO}_2\text{e/T} < EF \leq 2.6 \text{ TCO}_2\text{e/T}$
F	Very high carbon	$EF > 2.6 \text{ TCO}_2\text{e/T}$



EPD METHODOLOGY

The VSL Climate score for steel strands uses the following EPD methodology:

- **Standards:** EN 15804+A2, PCR 2019:14 Construction Product
- **Database:** ecoinvent
- **Scope:** cradle-to-gate (A1-A3: raw material extraction, transportation, and manufacturing)
- **GWP-total:** global warming potential

CLASSIFYING A PRODUCT

To determine a product's rating:

- A manufacturer calculates the product GWP in accordance with EPD methodology.
- GWP-total is compared with VSL Climate Score rating.

An EPD is a third party verified document, meaning that a producer can simply rate their products based on the GWP-total value.

VSL CLIMATE SCORE KIT

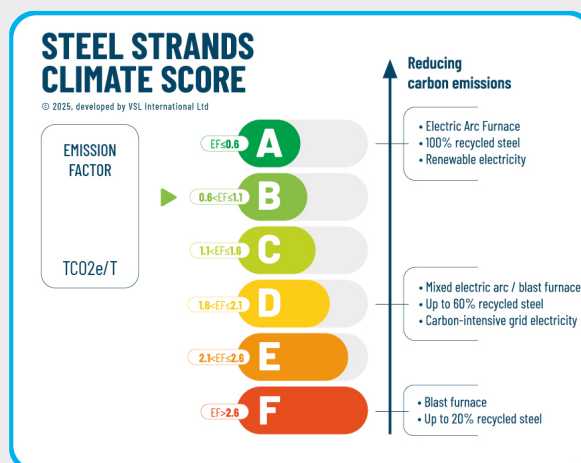
The VSL Climate score kit can be downloaded from VSL International website. Each illustration is available in standard format and simplified format.

Depending on the Emission Factor of your steel strands, you can directly select the corresponding label (A, B, ... or F) in the kit.

You'll then simply need to insert your Emission Factor in the "Emission Factor" field - this can even be simply done in Word or PowerPoint by adding a text box.

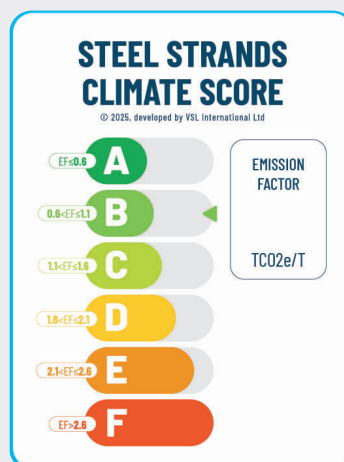
Standard format

This provides information about actual product emission factor, rating position as well as an indicative information about where the supplier is positioned on the decarbonization pathway.



Simplified format

This provides information about actual product emission factor and rating position.



WHO CAN USE THE VSL CLIMATE SCORE

Everybody can download the kit from the VSL International website and use it – but the document must not be modified in any way. This includes the format, data, and the “© 2025, developed by VSL International Ltd” mention, which must remain unchanged.

Steel strands producers, to:

- Enforce communication about GWP of their products,
- Define and implement clear, actionable plans for emissions reduction,
- Benchmark your carbon performance against industry peers,
- Gain visible recognition for their progress and commitment.

Contractors, to:

- Provide transparent comparison of options including the carbon footprint of steel strands from different manufacturers.
- Define and implement purchasing targets per rating to reduce its scope 3 emissions.

Designers & consultants, to:

- Specify the maximum rating for steel strand emission factor in the project specifications.

Clients, to:

- Make informed and responsible decisions to reduce the embedded emissions of its structure based on transparent information.

