



Additive Sustainability Footprint

The Additive Sustainability Footprint helps you assess and move towards the sustainable use of additives

Application Form

vinylplus.eu/asf

Additive Sustainability Footprint	Application Form	December 2021
	VinylPlus Additive Sustainability Footprint	

Company details

Company Name	
Company Address	
Postcode	
Contact Name	
Position	
Telephone	
E-mail	
Is your company a partner of VinylPlus®? (Y/N)	
How long has your company been a VinylPlus® Partner?	
Position of your company in the PVC value chain?	<input type="checkbox"/> Additive producer <input type="checkbox"/> PVC compounder <input type="checkbox"/> PVC converter <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please specify):

Application

Scope of application	Number of additives: Type of additives:	Specific Site(s):
Additive description	Description	Typical uses
Any other information		
I have read the ASF Readiness Check and would like to register as follows:		
<input type="checkbox"/> VinylPlus ASF Company Training Programme Spring 2022 <input type="checkbox"/> VinylPlus ASF Company Training Programme Fall 2022 <input type="checkbox"/> Keep me informed about upcoming training and assessment opportunities		
I've read the Terms and Conditions (see next pages)		
<input type="checkbox"/> I agree <input type="checkbox"/> I consent to the storage of my data according to the Privacy Policy		

Please send your filled Application Form to info@vinylplus.eu

Terms and Conditions

Rules and Obligations – Additive Sustainability Footprint for VinylPlus® partners (member companies)

1. The fundamentals

Additive Sustainability Footprint (ASF) is a tool designed to apply The Natural Step Framework for Strategic Sustainable Development and principles to assess chemical additives used in PVC products from an overall life cycle perspective. It is a customized application of The Natural Step's Strategic Life Cycle Assessment (SLCA) protocol and has been developed in partnership between VinylPlus and The Natural Step. The Natural Step is the methodology provider and works closely with VinylPlus to ensure Additive Sustainability Footprint is developed in alignment with The Natural Step Framework.

VinylPlus has commissioned the development of Additive Sustainability Footprint (ASF) to provide a consistent and credible way to assess and move toward the sustainable use of PVC additives within the European PVC industry. ASF has been developed primarily for the benefit of VinylPlus members for in-house self-assessment and improvement purposes in accordance with these terms of access. Use of ASF outside of VinylPlus will first be agreed between The Natural Step and VinylPlus, with the intent being to stimulate global innovation in sustainable use of additives.

2. Use of Additive Sustainability Footprint within company - General

Additive Sustainability Footprint is a facilitated team self-assessment that requires a trained Project Leader who is familiar with The Natural Step's overall framework and SLCA methodology. The Natural Step, in collaboration with VinylPlus, is offering a Company Training Programme to introduce the method to partner companies. Accredited Advisors from The Natural Step will initially act as coaches (ASF Coaches) to help companies build their capacity through use of the tool in a pilot assessment. The Natural Step will provide validation that the tool is being used appropriately within companies by producing a Snapshot Report, which summarizes the assessment results and provides company recommendations related to the use of ASF and general application of The Natural Step's methodology.

3. Use of Additive Sustainability Footprint within company – Certified User

To use Additive Sustainability Footprint, companies are required to nominate at least one person to be trained as a Company Project Leader responsible for coordinating the use of the tool within their company. Upon successful completion of the training programme, the Company Project Leader will be considered as a certified user of The Natural Step's Strategic Life Cycle Assessment (SLCA) protocol, which underpins Additive Sustainability Footprint. The Company Project Leader will be kept informed about any developments with SLCA by The Natural Step. Unless otherwise agreed, the period of use and certification is limited to the adaptations made for Additive Sustainability Footprint, which are set by The Natural Step in coordination with VinylPlus.

4. Use of Additive Sustainability Footprint – materials and content

For the period that a company has a Certified User, the company is entitled to make use of materials developed for Additive Sustainability Footprint, such as assessment questionnaires, training resources and guidance documentation. Such materials are considered part of ASF as a tool. The terms of use for such materials are that the company agrees:

- Not to make derivatives or adaptations of the tool
- Not distribute the tool to external parties
- Only make use of the tool within their organization
- Not to sell or use the tool itself for commercial purposes
- Work constructively with The Natural Step and VinylPlus to improve the tool
- Keep up and make use of the latest version of the tool if such updates are made.

5. Use of Additive Sustainability Footprint – use of results

Results of using Additive Sustainability Footprint include answers to a self-assessment questionnaire as well as insights on life cycle hotspots, interpretation of priorities and improvement plans that have been developed through use of ASF. Such results are intended to support company sustainability innovation efforts.

An additional result is a Snapshot Report produced by an ASF Coach as evidence that the company has applied ASF with coaching support. This is intended as a record of the training

programme, assessment scope, key findings and outcomes from the initial use of ASF. The intent is that the Snapshot Report is a living document that is updated with new assessment results as any improvements or actions are taken after an initial assessment is complete.

Companies must not use the Snapshot Report or the overall results of Additive Sustainability Footprint as any form of public disclosure or product declaration but may communicate they are using the approach to assess additives and guide improvements.

The use of Additive Sustainability Footprint may also serve as evidence for companies seeking the VinylPlus Sustainability Certificate or VinylPlus Product Label. Findings from the assessment may also be used in dialogues with customers and suppliers.

While The Natural Step will verify that the process is followed and seek to ensure that evidence for company responses is provided, companies must stand for the quality and accuracy of the results from their use of the tool. As the purpose of the tool is to help companies build their capacity to design and innovate for sustainability, companies should recognize the self-benefit of checking that their assessment results are based on best available knowledge.

6. Use of Additive Sustainability Footprint – branding and communication

The VinylPlus branding and logo rules have to be strictly respected. The replication or reproduction of any logo and branding can only be made with the authorisation of VinylPlus.

The Natural Step branding and logo must also be respected. Upon successful completion of the Company Training programme, the company is entitled to state that they have completed the training and to communicate that they have a registered user trained in SLCA and its adaptation of Additive Sustainability Footprint within their organization.

The use of Additive Sustainability must not be used to imply approval of additives that have not been assessed.

7. Standard Amendment or Withdrawal

Snapshot Reports are valid from the date of an initial assessment for 2 years. After this time, the use of SLCA and Additive Sustainability Footprint need to be revisited and any updates

to the overall methodology need to be incorporated. If Additive Sustainability Footprint is amended, it is expected that Certified Users make use of any updates as soon as practical.

If the VinylPlus withdraws the use of Additive Sustainability Footprint or it becomes obsolete, companies are expected to cease use of it.

8. Intellectual Property Rights

In accordance with a Memorandum of Understanding between VinylPlus and The Natural Step, Additive Sustainability Footprint is acknowledged as a customized use of The Natural Step's methodology, based on published research and intellectual property of The Natural Step. This document does not confer any right, title or interest in the Additive Sustainability Footprint or the work of The Natural Step, which shall remain the property of VinylPlus and The Natural Step respectively. Both parties reserve their respective licensing and enforcement rights, and may update this rules and guidance document from time to time.

9. Misuse

Unauthorised use and/or misuse of The Natural Step's methodology and Additive Sustainability Footprint is not permitted. The Natural Step and VinylPlus will work closely with to ensure ASF is used as intended. If proven, unauthorised use and/or misuse may lead to suspension and withdrawal of recognition as, publication of the transgression, legal action, or a fine.