



A Comprehensive Guide to DIGITAL PRODUCT PASSPORT FOR TEXTILES

<https://thetextilethinktank.org/>

January 6, 2025

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Foreword

The textile industry stands at a pivotal crossroads, where innovation, regulation, and sustainability converge to define its future. As the global demand for accountability and environmental stewardship intensifies, the European Union’s introduction of the **Digital Product Passport (DPP)** under the **Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation (EPR)** marks a groundbreaking step toward transforming how we design, produce, and manage textiles. This initiative is not merely a regulatory requirement—it is a roadmap to a circular economy, fostering transparency, traceability, and sustainability across the entire value chain.

The **Digital Product Passport** is more than a tool; it is a vision for a sustainable future. By enabling detailed documentation of a product's composition, lifecycle, and environmental impact, the DPP empowers stakeholders—manufacturers, policymakers, consumers, and recyclers alike—with the information needed to make responsible and informed decisions. It holds the promise of unlocking new opportunities for innovation, compliance, and competitive advantage in the global textile market.

For manufacturers, particularly those from textile-exporting nations, the DPP represents both a challenge and an opportunity. It demands a reevaluation of production processes, supply chain operations, and data management systems. At the same time, it offers a gateway to align with global sustainability trends, enhance market access, and build trust with environmentally conscious consumers. This guide is a practical response to these dual imperatives.

In the pages that follow, you will find a comprehensive exploration of the Digital Product Passport—its purpose, implementation, and transformative potential. From understanding its foundational principles to addressing its challenges and leveraging cutting-edge technologies, this guide is designed to equip textile manufacturers with actionable insights to navigate the evolving regulatory landscape. Additionally, it offers tailored recommendations for Pakistani textile exporters and policymakers, recognizing their critical role in meeting EU requirements and fostering sustainable growth.

As you embark on this journey of adaptation and innovation, remember that the transition to sustainability is not merely a compliance exercise—it is a shared commitment to a better future. The Digital Product Passport is your partner in this transformation, enabling you to lead the textile industry toward a model that prioritizes longevity, accountability, and environmental care.

Let us seize this opportunity to shape a resilient, transparent, and sustainable textile ecosystem that will serve as a benchmark for generations to come.

1. Introduction

Overview of the EU's Push for Sustainability in Textiles

The European Union (EU) has long been a global leader in advancing sustainability, and its efforts in the textile sector are no exception. Textiles are among the industries with significant environmental and social footprints. With consumption patterns shifting towards fast fashion, the textile industry faces challenges like resource-intensive production, high greenhouse gas emissions, chemical pollution, and massive volumes of waste. It is estimated that less than 1% of all textiles globally are recycled into new textiles, highlighting a critical need for transformative change.

Recognizing this, the EU has introduced a suite of policies and initiatives under the broader framework of the **European Green Deal**, the **Circular Economy Action Plan**, and the **EU Strategy for Sustainable and Circular Textiles**. These efforts aim to minimize the environmental impacts of textile production, promote circularity, and ensure that textiles placed on the EU market are durable, repairable, and recyclable.

Among the many strategies to achieve these goals, the **Digital Product Passport (DPP)** has emerged as a cornerstone. The DPP is a transformative tool that seeks to empower stakeholders across the textile value chain with the transparency and information needed to foster sustainability, ensure compliance, and drive innovation.

Introduction to the Digital Product Passport (DPP) Concept

The **Digital Product Passport (DPP)** is a digital record designed to capture and store essential information about a product's lifecycle. It provides detailed data about the materials, chemicals, and processes involved in the product's creation, as well as guidelines for its use, repair, reuse, and recycling.

DPPs will be mandatory for certain product categories under the **Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation (ESPR)**, with textiles being a high-priority sector. The primary purpose of the DPP is to support a shift towards circular business models by enhancing traceability, reducing waste, and enabling better resource efficiency. It also aligns with the EU's vision of fostering sustainable consumption and production patterns.

For the textile industry, the DPP represents a significant leap forward in providing actionable information to manufacturers, retailers, recyclers, and consumers. By leveraging digital technology, the DPP ensures that products meet environmental and social standards while enabling informed decision-making across the value chain.

Key features of the DPP include:

- **Transparency:** Clear data on a product’s origin, composition, and environmental impact.
 - **Traceability:** End-to-end tracking of materials and processes across the value chain.
 - **Accountability:** Ensuring compliance with EU regulations and sustainability benchmarks.
 - **Circularity:** Promoting reuse, repair, and recycling to close the material loop.
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Purpose of the Guide and Its Target Audience

The **Ultimate Guide to Digital Product Passports for Textiles** has been created to provide a comprehensive, actionable roadmap for understanding and implementing the DPP in the textile sector. This guide aims to bridge the knowledge gap for stakeholders who are grappling with the complexities of EU regulations and their practical implications for the industry.

Primary Objectives:

1. To demystify the concept of the Digital Product Passport and its role in achieving sustainability goals.
2. To outline the regulatory requirements and timelines associated with the DPP.
3. To provide practical steps for textile manufacturers to prepare for and implement DPPs effectively.
4. To address the challenges and opportunities that DPPs present for stakeholders along the textile value chain.

Target Audience:

- **Textile Manufacturers:** To understand the compliance requirements and operational adjustments needed to align with the DPP framework.
- **Policymakers:** To gain insights into how DPPs align with broader sustainability goals and regulatory measures.
- **Supply Chain Stakeholders:** Including material suppliers, recyclers, and logistics providers, to ensure collaborative efforts in creating and maintaining DPPs.

- **Retailers and Exporters:** To leverage DPPs for meeting market expectations and enhancing product credibility in the EU market.
- **Consumers and NGOs:** To utilize the information provided by DPPs for informed choices and advocacy.

By equipping stakeholders with the knowledge and tools to adopt DPPs, this guide aims to foster a future where the textile industry thrives on sustainability, innovation, and accountability.

2. What is a Digital Product Passport (DPP)?

Definition and Core Features

A **Digital Product Passport (DPP)** is a dynamic digital record that stores and communicates essential information about a product throughout its entire lifecycle. The DPP is designed to provide detailed data on the materials, components, and processes used in creating a product, along with information on its environmental and social impacts. It is a powerful tool to enable transparency, traceability, and sustainability across the value chain.

For the textile industry, the DPP captures specific attributes of textile products, such as fiber content, chemical treatments, and recyclability. By making this information accessible to stakeholders like manufacturers, recyclers, regulators, and consumers, the DPP supports informed decision-making, fosters accountability, and promotes circular economy practices.

Core Features of the Digital Product Passport:

1. **Data Collection and Storage:** Comprehensive information on product composition, production processes, and end-of-life management.
2. **Traceability:** Enables tracking of raw materials and components throughout the supply chain, ensuring responsible sourcing and transparency.
3. **Accessibility:** Structured for easy access by different stakeholders, from consumers to policymakers, using technologies such as QR codes or RFID tags.
4. **Customizable Information:** Includes diverse data categories such as carbon footprint, water usage, chemical safety, durability, and repairability.
5. **Interoperability:** Designed to integrate with existing systems, databases, and platforms to ensure seamless data exchange.
6. **Secure and Reliable:** Protects sensitive business information while offering secure access to authorized parties.

The DPP is not just a compliance tool but also a mechanism to drive innovation and market competitiveness by promoting sustainability and circularity.

Legal Basis Under the Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation (EPR) and the EU Strategy for Sustainable and Circular Textiles

The **Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation (EPR)** provides the legal foundation for the implementation of DPPs across various product categories, including textiles. This regulation expands the scope of the earlier **Ecodesign Directive** by introducing sustainability requirements for a broader range of products and emphasizing circular economy principles.

Key provisions of the EPR that underpin the DPP:

- **Mandatory Information Requirements:** The EPR mandates manufacturers to include critical product information in the DPP, ensuring transparency for environmental and social compliance.
- **Sustainability Objectives:** The regulation aligns with the EU's climate neutrality goals by promoting resource efficiency, waste reduction, and the use of recycled materials.
- **Digitalization of Product Data:** By requiring a digital format, the DPP ensures that product information is easily accessible and transferable across the supply chain.

The **EU Strategy for Sustainable and Circular Textiles** identifies textiles as a high-priority sector for the implementation of DPPs. This strategy emphasizes reducing the environmental footprint of textiles, enhancing their durability, and supporting innovation in recycling and reuse technologies. The DPP is highlighted as a key enabler to achieve these goals by providing:

- Traceable information on material sourcing and production methods.
- Data on recyclability, enabling efficient sorting and recovery processes.
- A mechanism to prevent the destruction of unsold textiles, in line with waste management regulations.

The combination of the EPR and the Circular Textiles Strategy makes the DPP a legal and strategic requirement for textile manufacturers targeting the EU market.

Scope and Application for the Textile Sector

The DPP applies to a wide range of products within the textile sector, encompassing:

- **Clothing:** Including garments, outerwear, and undergarments.

- **Footwear:** Highlighting the use of materials like leather, rubber, and textiles.
- **Household Textiles:** Such as bedding, curtains, and towels.
- **Technical Textiles:** Including industrial fabrics, geotextiles, and medical textiles.

The scope of the DPP covers the entire product lifecycle, ensuring its relevance from raw material extraction to end-of-life management. Specific aspects include:

1. **Design Phase:** Encourages the use of eco-friendly materials, durability-focused designs, and modularity for repair and recycling.
2. **Production Phase:** Tracks the environmental and social impacts of manufacturing, including energy use, emissions, and labor conditions.
3. **Distribution and Retail Phase:** Provides detailed product information to consumers, fostering trust and enabling sustainable choices.
4. **End-of-Life Phase:** Supports recycling and reuse by delivering accurate data to waste management and recycling entities.

Key Applications in the Textile Sector:

- **Compliance:** Ensuring adherence to EU regulations, including REACH and Waste Framework Directive.
- **Circularity Enablement:** Facilitating the reuse, repair, and recycling of textiles by providing detailed material information.
- **Consumer Empowerment:** Enabling consumers to make informed purchasing decisions based on sustainability metrics.
- **Competitive Differentiation:** Allowing manufacturers to stand out in the market by showcasing transparent and sustainable practices.

The DPP represents a paradigm shift for the textile industry, transforming the way products are designed, marketed, and managed. It is both a compliance necessity and a strategic opportunity for manufacturers to align with the EU's vision of a sustainable and circular economy.

3. Why is the Digital Product Passport (DPP) Important for the Textile Industry?

The **Digital Product Passport (DPP)** is not merely a regulatory requirement; it is a transformative tool that can reshape the textile industry by addressing critical challenges and aligning with the EU's sustainability vision. Its importance lies in its ability to foster transparency, ensure compliance, and drive circular economy practices. Below is a detailed exploration of why the DPP is vital for the textile sector.

Enhancing Transparency and Traceability Across the Value Chain

The textile supply chain is highly complex, involving numerous stages, from raw material extraction to final production and distribution. This complexity often leads to a lack of visibility into sourcing, production, and environmental impact. The DPP addresses this issue by enabling:

1. **Detailed Data Collection:** Recording comprehensive information about raw materials, chemicals, and processes used at each stage of production.
2. **End-to-End Traceability:** Providing a clear record of the product's lifecycle, including sourcing, manufacturing, transportation, and disposal.
3. **Transparency for Stakeholders:** Offering stakeholders—including manufacturers, retailers, and consumers—access to critical data, enabling informed decisions and fostering trust.
4. **Accountability:** Empowering regulators and market surveillance authorities to verify compliance with environmental and social standards.

By improving transparency and traceability, the DPP can help address concerns such as forced labor, environmental degradation, and greenwashing in the textile industry.

Compliance with EU Regulatory Frameworks and Sustainability Targets

The EU has introduced stringent regulations to ensure that products placed on the market meet high sustainability standards. Key among these are the **Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation (EPR)** and the **EU Strategy for Sustainable and Circular Textiles**, which prioritize resource efficiency, durability, and recyclability.

The DPP is central to achieving compliance by:

- **Meeting Information Requirements:** Ensuring that all relevant data—such as material composition, environmental footprint, and recyclability—is accessible and verifiable.
- **Facilitating Market Surveillance:** Helping authorities monitor and enforce compliance with sustainability standards.
- **Supporting Waste Management Goals:** Providing recyclers and waste managers with the data needed to process end-of-life textiles effectively.

Failure to comply with these frameworks can result in market restrictions, financial penalties, and reputational damage, making the DPP a critical compliance tool.

Benefits for Manufacturers

1. Market Access in the EU

The EU is one of the largest textile markets globally, with sustainability rapidly becoming a key market entry requirement. The DPP ensures that manufacturers meet EU regulations, enabling them to:

- Maintain uninterrupted market access.
- Build trust with environmentally conscious consumers.
- Strengthen partnerships with EU-based brands and retailers that prioritize sustainable sourcing.

2. Improved Resource Efficiency and Reduced Waste

The DPP encourages manufacturers to rethink their production processes by:

- Promoting the use of recycled and renewable materials.
- Identifying inefficiencies in material use and energy consumption.
- Reducing production waste and minimizing environmental impact.

This not only supports regulatory compliance but also improves cost efficiency by optimizing resource utilization.

3. Competitive Differentiation Through Sustainability Credentials

As consumer preferences shift towards sustainable products, the DPP enables manufacturers to:

- Showcase their commitment to transparency and environmental responsibility.
- Differentiate their products in a competitive marketplace.
- Strengthen their brand reputation by adhering to globally recognized sustainability standards.

Sustainability is increasingly becoming a key driver of consumer loyalty and brand value, making the DPP an essential marketing asset.

Role in Supporting Circular Economy Goals (Repair, Reuse, Recycling)

The textile industry has historically followed a linear "take-make-dispose" model, leading to significant waste and environmental degradation. The DPP plays a pivotal role in transitioning to a circular economy by:

- **Facilitating Repair and Reuse:**
 - Providing detailed product information, such as material composition and repairability scores, to extend product lifespan.
 - Enabling repair businesses and consumers to access the necessary technical data to fix damaged textiles.
- **Enhancing Recycling Efforts:**
 - Supplying recyclers with precise data on fibers, blends, and chemical treatments to improve sorting and material recovery.
 - Supporting the development of closed-loop systems where materials are recycled back into textiles.
- **Encouraging Circular Business Models:**
 - Enabling leasing, resale, and refurbishment initiatives by ensuring accurate product information is readily available.
 - Supporting reverse logistics and take-back schemes by providing transparency on product origins and end-of-life options.

The DPP thus ensures that textiles are not only sustainably produced but also sustainably consumed and disposed of, closing the material loop.

The **Digital Product Passport** represents a significant step forward for the textile industry. It offers a practical solution to some of the sector's most pressing challenges while unlocking new opportunities for innovation, compliance, and competitiveness. By embracing the DPP, manufacturers can not only meet EU regulatory requirements but also position themselves as leaders in the global transition to a sustainable and circular textile economy.

4. Key Components of the Digital Product Passport (DPP)

The **Digital Product Passport (DPP)** is a structured and dynamic digital repository designed to capture and share essential data about a product throughout its lifecycle. Its components are tailored to enhance transparency, compliance, and circularity in the textile industry. Below is a detailed breakdown of the DPP's key components and their significance.

1. Information Categories

The DPP organizes critical product information into specific categories, ensuring that all stakeholders have access to the data they need.

a. Product Composition

- **Fibers:** Identifies the types of fibers (e.g., cotton, polyester, wool) used in the product, including details on fiber blends.
- **Chemicals:** Lists chemicals used during production, including dyes, finishes, and treatments, highlighting those that may impact health, safety, or recyclability.
- **Durability:** Provides data on the product's expected performance/lifespan, resistance to wear and tear, and repairability, supporting informed consumer choices and sustainability efforts.

b. Sustainability Metrics

- **Carbon Footprint:** Details greenhouse gas emissions generated during production, transportation, and disposal.
- **Water Footprint:** Quantifies water consumption and pollution across the product lifecycle.
- **Recyclability:** Offers information on the ease of recycling the product, including compatibility with existing recycling systems and the presence of components that hinder recyclability.

c. Supply Chain Data

- **Origin of Materials:** Specifies the geographical origin of raw materials and components, ensuring transparency and traceability.

- **Manufacturing Processes:** Documents the steps involved in production, from spinning and dyeing to assembly, along with information on energy use and waste generation.

d. End-of-Life Handling Instructions

- **Reuse and Repair:** Provides guidelines for extending the product's life through reuse or repair, including reparability scores and availability of spare parts.
 - **Recycling Instructions:** Includes details on proper disposal methods, sorting instructions, and recycling potential.
 - **Take-Back Programs:** Points to available schemes for returning the product for reuse, refurbishment, or recycling.
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2. Data Carriers and Technical Specifications

The DPP uses digital technologies to ensure the seamless storage and retrieval of product data. Common data carriers include:

a. QR Codes

- **Specifications:** Easily scannable, these codes link directly to the DPP database, providing access to product-specific information.
- **Advantages:** Cost-effective, widely adopted, and compatible with most smartphones.

b. RFID Tags

- **Specifications:** Embedded tags that store data electronically and can be read remotely using radio frequency identification technology.
- **Advantages:** Ideal for high-volume tracking in warehouses and supply chains, offering real-time data access.

c. NFC Chips

- **Specifications:** Similar to RFID tags but optimized for short-range interactions, such as with smartphones.
- **Advantages:** Useful for consumer-facing applications, enabling easy access to product information at the point of sale.

Technical Standards and Interoperability

To ensure reliability and compatibility, DPP data carriers must adhere to internationally recognized standards:

- **ISO Standards:** For data encoding and transmission.
 - **Interoperability:** Ensures seamless integration with existing systems and databases, such as the EU SCIP database and other regulatory frameworks.
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3. Differentiated Access for Stakeholders

The DPP is designed to serve diverse stakeholders by providing differentiated access to data based on their roles and needs.

a. Consumers

- **Access Needs:**
 - Information on product sustainability, such as fiber composition, durability, and environmental footprint.
 - Repairability scores and end-of-life options (e.g., recycling, reuse).
- **Purpose:** Empower consumers to make informed, sustainable choices and care for their textiles responsibly.

b. Market Regulators

- **Access Needs:**
 - Verification of compliance with EU regulations, such as the Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation.
 - Monitoring of hazardous chemicals and adherence to safety and environmental standards.
- **Purpose:** Facilitate enforcement of regulations, market surveillance, and compliance verification.

c. Supply Chain Actors

- **Manufacturers:**
 - Access to detailed data on raw materials and production processes to optimize sustainability practices and meet regulatory requirements.

- **Recyclers:**
 - Information on fiber content, chemical treatments, and recyclability to enhance material recovery efficiency.
- **Retailers and Distributors:**
 - Insights into product origins and sustainability metrics to support transparency in sales and marketing.

Role of Access Differentiation:

- **Data Security:** Ensures sensitive business information is protected while providing stakeholders with the data they need.
- **Customizable Access Levels:** Tailors data availability to specific stakeholder requirements, preventing information overload and enhancing usability.

The **Digital Product Passport** is an essential enabler for the sustainable transformation of the textile industry. By providing detailed, accessible, and secure product data, it empowers stakeholders to drive transparency, circularity, and compliance while fostering trust and collaboration across the value chain.

5. When Will Digital Product Passports (DPPs) Become Mandatory?

The Digital Product Passport (DPP) is a cornerstone of the EU's strategy for enhancing sustainability and circularity across industries, including textiles. Its implementation is governed by the **Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation (EPR)** and is being rolled out through a phased timeline. Below is a detailed exploration of the timeline, deadlines, and preparatory measures associated with the mandatory adoption of DPPs for the textile sector.

Timeline for Implementation Under the Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation

The **Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation (ESPR)** entered into force on 18 July 2024, as part of the EU's legislative push to align product design with its climate neutrality and circular economy goals. The ESPR replaces the earlier **Ecodesign Directive** and introduces the DPP as a mandatory requirement for specific product categories.

Key Milestones Under the ESPR:

1. **July 2024:** Adoption of the ESPR by the European Parliament and Council.
2. **2025-2026:**
 - Development of technical standards and specifications for the DPP by the European Commission, in collaboration with standardization bodies and industry stakeholders.
 - Initial rollout of DPP requirements for priority product categories such as textiles, electronics, and batteries.
3. **2027 Onward:** Gradual expansion of DPP requirements to additional product groups, as outlined in the EU's working plans and delegated acts.

The implementation of DPPs is closely linked to product-specific **delegated acts**, which define the precise requirements, timelines, and data categories for each sector.

Specific Deadlines for Textiles as Outlined in the EU's Working Plans

Textiles are a high-priority sector under the **EU Strategy for Sustainable and Circular Textiles**, which recognizes their significant environmental impact and resource intensity. As such, the introduction of DPPs for textiles is being fast-tracked.

Proposed Deadlines for Textiles:

1. 2025:

- Publication of the first **delegated act** under the ESPR to establish DPP requirements for textiles.
- Initial focus on product categories such as garments, footwear, and household textiles.

2. 2026-2027:

- Full implementation of DPP requirements for textiles placed on the EU market, covering detailed product information, sustainability metrics, and end-of-life handling instructions.
- Mandatory adoption of DPPs for manufacturers, importers, and distributors targeting the EU market.

3. 2028 and Beyond:

- Expansion of DPP requirements to include additional textile categories, such as technical textiles and industrial fabrics.
- Integration with broader EU circular economy initiatives, such as mandatory reparability and durability scoring.

The exact timeline for textiles will depend on the progress of the delegated acts and technical guidelines, which are subject to stakeholder consultation and impact assessment.

Transitional Arrangements and Preparatory Measures

To ensure a smooth transition to the mandatory adoption of DPPs, the EU has outlined several transitional arrangements and support mechanisms for industries, including textiles.

1. Gradual Implementation

- The DPP requirements will be introduced incrementally, starting with priority product categories, allowing manufacturers time to adapt.
- Transitional deadlines will provide flexibility for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), with longer grace periods to comply with the new requirements.

2. Technical Support and Guidance

- **Development of Standards:** The European Commission will work with standardization bodies such as **CEN/TC 248** to create harmonized standards for data collection, storage, and sharing.
- **Guidelines for Manufacturers:** Detailed guidelines and templates will be published to help manufacturers understand the required data categories and technical specifications for DPPs.

3. Financial Assistance

- The EU and Member States will provide financial incentives, such as grants and subsidies, to support the adoption of DPP systems, particularly for SMEs.
- Access to EU-funded programs, including the **Horizon Europe** initiative, to drive innovation in digitalization and circularity.

4. Capacity Building

- Training programs for manufacturers and supply chain actors to build technical expertise in DPP implementation.
- Awareness campaigns to educate stakeholders on the benefits of DPPs and their role in achieving compliance and sustainability.

5. Integration with Existing Systems

- The DPP will be designed to integrate seamlessly with existing EU databases, such as the **SCIP database** (for hazardous substances) and the **EPREL registry** (for energy labeling).
- Manufacturers will be encouraged to leverage existing product information systems to populate their DPPs, minimizing the need for duplicate efforts.

The mandatory adoption of DPPs represents a significant shift for the textile industry, but the phased approach and supportive measures will help ensure that stakeholders can adapt effectively. Textile manufacturers targeting the EU market must start preparing now by investing in digital systems, mapping supply chains, and collaborating with industry partners to meet the upcoming requirements. This proactive approach will not only ensure compliance but also unlock new opportunities for innovation and competitiveness in the evolving sustainable textiles landscape.

6. Who is Responsible for Implementing Digital Product Passports (DPPs)?

The implementation of Digital Product Passports (DPPs) involves multiple stakeholders across the textile value chain. Each actor has specific obligations and roles to ensure compliance with the EU's sustainability goals and the **Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation (EPR)**. Collaboration is critical to the successful adoption and operationalization of DPPs.

Obligations for Manufacturers, Importers, and Distributors

1. Manufacturers

Manufacturers bear the primary responsibility for creating and maintaining the DPP for textiles they produce and place on the EU market. Their obligations include:

- **Data Compilation:**
 - Collecting comprehensive data on product composition, material sourcing, chemical treatments, and production processes.
 - Including sustainability metrics such as carbon footprint, water usage, and recyclability.
- **Compliance:**
 - Ensuring that the DPP meets the technical specifications and standards defined under the EPR and related delegated acts.
 - Updating the DPP when there are changes in the product design, composition, or regulatory requirements.
- **Transparency:**
 - Making the DPP accessible to stakeholders through digital technologies, such as QR codes or RFID tags embedded in the product.

2. Importers

Importers play a critical role in ensuring that textiles produced outside the EU comply with DPP requirements. Their obligations include:

- **Verification:**
 - Confirming that the DPP provided by non-EU manufacturers meets EU standards before importing products.
- **Maintenance:**
 - Keeping the DPP data accurate and up-to-date for the products they bring into the EU market.
- **Traceability:**
 - Ensuring that imported products are traceable throughout their lifecycle in accordance with EU regulations.

3. Distributors

Distributors ensure that the DPP is accessible to consumers and downstream supply chain actors. Their obligations include:

- **Provision of Information:**
 - Making the DPP available to consumers, recyclers, and regulators through product labels, QR codes, or other means.
- **Transparency:**
 - Providing clear and accurate information to retailers and end-users, facilitating informed decision-making.

Roles of Market Surveillance Authorities and Customs

1. Market Surveillance Authorities

Market surveillance authorities are responsible for enforcing compliance with the DPP requirements. Their roles include:

- **Monitoring and Inspection:**
 - Verifying that manufacturers, importers, and distributors comply with DPP regulations.
 - Ensuring the accuracy and completeness of the information provided in the DPP.

- **Enforcement:**
 - Imposing penalties for non-compliance, such as fines, product recalls, or restrictions on market access.
- **Consumer Protection:**
 - Ensuring that consumers have access to transparent, reliable, and accurate product information through the DPP.

2. Customs Authorities

Customs authorities play a key role in ensuring compliance for imported goods. Their responsibilities include:

- **Verification at Borders:**
 - Checking that imported textiles are accompanied by a valid DPP that meets EU standards.
 - Ensuring that the unique registration identifier in the DPP matches the product data stored in the EU's central registry.
- **Facilitating Trade:**
 - Leveraging DPP data to expedite customs clearance for compliant products while flagging non-compliant shipments.

Collaboration Across the Supply Chain

Effective DPP implementation requires seamless collaboration among various supply chain actors.

1. Material Suppliers

Material suppliers provide the foundational data required for the DPP, including:

- **Material Information:**
 - Details on the origin and characteristics of raw materials (e.g., cotton, wool, synthetic fibers).
 - Chemical treatments applied to the materials.
- **Transparency:**

- Ensuring traceability of materials by sharing detailed data with manufacturers and other stakeholders.

2. Digital Service Providers

Digital service providers play a critical role in the technical implementation of DPPs. Their contributions include:

- **Platform Development:**
 - Building interoperable systems for storing, managing, and sharing DPP data across the value chain.
- **Data Security:**
 - Ensuring the confidentiality and integrity of sensitive business information while enabling differentiated access to stakeholders.
- **Integration:**
 - Aligning DPP systems with existing EU databases, such as the SCIP database for hazardous substances and EPREL for energy labeling.

3. Recycling and Waste Management Entities

Recycling and waste management entities use DPP data to improve the end-of-life management of textile products. Their roles include:

- **Recyclability Assessment:**
 - Analyzing the information in the DPP to determine the most efficient recycling methods for specific textile products.
- **Sorting and Processing:**
 - Using DPP data to streamline the sorting and separation of materials, improving recycling yields.
- **Innovation:**
 - Leveraging insights from DPPs to develop new technologies and processes for recycling and material recovery.

The implementation of Digital Product Passports is a collective effort involving diverse stakeholders. By fulfilling their respective roles and collaborating effectively, these actors

can ensure that the DPP system achieves its intended goals of transparency, compliance, and sustainability.

7. How to Implement DPP in the Textile Industry

The implementation of Digital Product Passports (DPPs) in the textile industry requires a structured approach to align operations, supply chains, and data management systems with the EU's regulatory and sustainability goals. Below is a step-by-step roadmap designed to help textile manufacturers prepare for and adopt DPPs effectively.

Step-by-Step Roadmap for Manufacturers

1. Conduct a Readiness Assessment

Start by evaluating your current capabilities and identifying areas that need improvement.

- **Assess Current Data Management Capabilities:**
 - Review your existing systems for capturing and storing product data, such as material composition, supply chain information, and environmental metrics.
 - Determine whether these systems are capable of meeting the technical and informational requirements of the DPP.
 - **Identify Gaps in Compliance:**
 - Compare your current practices with the requirements outlined in the Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation (EPR) and related EU directives.
 - Highlight areas where additional data collection, process changes, or system upgrades are necessary.
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2. Engage with Digital Infrastructure Providers

Work with technology partners to establish a robust digital infrastructure for managing DPPs.

- **Select Appropriate Tools and Platforms:**
 - Partner with digital service providers that specialize in supply chain transparency, product traceability, and data security.

- Ensure the chosen system supports real-time data updates, integrates with EU databases, and complies with international standards.
 - **Customize Solutions for Textiles:**
 - Ensure that the platform can capture specific textile-related data, such as fiber types, chemical treatments, and durability metrics.
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3. Map Supply Chain and Collect Necessary Data

A comprehensive supply chain map is crucial for generating accurate and reliable DPPs.

- **Document the Entire Supply Chain:**
 - Identify all stakeholders, including material suppliers, production facilities, and logistics providers.
 - Collect detailed information on the origin of raw materials, processing methods, and production locations.
 - **Standardize Data Collection:**
 - Develop templates or digital forms for suppliers to provide required data, such as material certifications, environmental footprints, and chemical safety information.
 - Ensure consistency in data formats to facilitate integration with DPP systems.
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4. Ensure Interoperability of Data Systems with EU Databases

Interoperability is essential for seamless integration with existing EU systems.

- **Align with SCIP Database:**
 - If your products contain hazardous substances, ensure data is formatted for compatibility with the Substances of Concern in Products (SCIP) database.
- **Integrate with Other EU Platforms:**
 - Link your DPP systems to the European Product Registry for Energy Labeling (EPREL) and other relevant databases for broader regulatory compliance.
- **Adopt Global Standards:**

- Use ISO-certified frameworks to ensure your data systems are compatible with international supply chains and standards.
-

5. Establish Internal Processes for Data Updates and Validation

Develop processes to maintain the accuracy and reliability of the information within the DPP.

- **Set Up Regular Data Audits:**
 - Implement routine checks to ensure all data, including product specifications and supply chain details, are current and accurate.
 - **Automate Data Updates:**
 - Utilize digital tools to automate updates from suppliers and internal systems, reducing the risk of errors and inconsistencies.
 - **Create Validation Protocols:**
 - Designate a team to review and validate data before it is published in the DPP.
-

6. Train Employees and Suppliers on DPP Requirements and Usage

Educating your team and supply chain partners is critical for successful implementation.

- **Employee Training:**
 - Conduct workshops and training sessions to familiarize employees with DPP requirements, data entry protocols, and compliance standards.
 - Emphasize the role of DPPs in achieving sustainability and regulatory goals.
 - **Supplier Engagement:**
 - Share detailed guidelines and expectations with suppliers to ensure they understand their role in providing accurate and timely data.
 - Establish feedback loops to address any questions or challenges suppliers may face.
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7. Leverage Existing Standards and Certifications

Utilize established frameworks and certifications to streamline the implementation process.

- **Adopt CEN/TC 248 Standards:**

- Follow the standards developed by the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) for the textile and clothing sector, particularly those related to circularity and traceability.

- **Certifications for Credibility:**

- Use certifications like the **EU Ecolabel** to verify and showcase compliance with sustainability criteria, simplifying the creation of DPPs.
 - Leverage other recognized certifications, such as Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS) or OEKO-TEX, to validate product sustainability claims.
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8. Challenges in Digital Product Passport (DPP) Implementation

While the Digital Product Passport (DPP) presents significant opportunities for transparency and sustainability in the textile industry, its implementation poses several challenges. These hurdles must be addressed to ensure successful adoption and compliance with EU requirements.

Data Collection and Standardization Across Diverse Supply Chains

1. Complex Global Supply Chains

- Textile supply chains often span multiple countries and involve diverse stakeholders, including raw material suppliers, manufacturers, and distributors. This complexity makes it challenging to collect accurate and complete data for the DPP.
- Variations in data collection practices and formats across regions hinder the standardization necessary for seamless integration with DPP systems.

2. Ensuring Data Quality

- Inconsistent or incomplete data from suppliers can lead to inaccuracies in the DPP, affecting compliance and credibility.
- Many suppliers lack the technical capacity or awareness to provide the detailed information required, such as material origin, chemical treatments, or environmental impact metrics.

Solutions:

- Develop standard templates for data collection aligned with EU requirements.
 - Collaborate with suppliers to build their capacity for data reporting through training and support programs.
-

Balancing Transparency with Intellectual Property (IP) Protection

1. Protecting Proprietary Information

- The DPP requires detailed disclosures about materials, processes, and supply chains, which could inadvertently reveal trade secrets or sensitive business information.
- Concerns over IP protection may deter manufacturers from fully embracing transparency.

2. Ensuring Competitive Advantage

- Transparency risks giving competitors insights into innovative processes or unique sourcing strategies, potentially eroding competitive advantages.

Solutions:

- Implement tiered access levels in the DPP, ensuring that sensitive data is accessible only to authorized stakeholders (e.g., regulators) while providing essential information to consumers and recyclers.
- Use blockchain technology to secure sensitive information and control data-sharing permissions.

Financial and Technological Barriers for SMEs

1. High Implementation Costs

- Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), which dominate the textile industry in many countries, often lack the financial resources to invest in the technology and infrastructure needed for DPP implementation.
- Costs associated with adopting digital systems, integrating traceability tools, and training staff can be prohibitive.

2. Limited Access to Technology

- SMEs may face difficulties in accessing advanced technologies such as blockchain or IoT, which are crucial for efficient DPP implementation.
- Lack of expertise in digital transformation further compounds these challenges.

Solutions:

- Provide financial support to SMEs through subsidies, grants, or low-interest loans to facilitate technology adoption.

- Establish shared digital infrastructure hubs that SMEs can access for DPP-related data management and compliance.
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Navigating the Transition Period and Avoiding Non-Compliance Penalties

1. Limited Awareness of Regulatory Requirements

- Many manufacturers, particularly in non-EU countries, are unaware of the specific requirements and timelines for DPP implementation under the **Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation (EPR)**.

2. Risk of Non-Compliance

- Failure to meet DPP requirements can result in penalties, product recalls, or restricted market access, which could severely impact businesses.

Solutions:

- Engage in capacity-building initiatives to educate manufacturers about DPP requirements and deadlines.
 - Establish industry associations or governmental bodies to provide guidance and support during the transition period.
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9. Case Studies

Examples of Early Adopters in the Textile Industry

1. H&M Group (Sweden)

- **Initiatives:**
 - H&M has implemented a pilot program for digital product passports, focusing on providing detailed information about materials, recyclability, and repairability.
 - They use QR codes on clothing tags that link consumers to the DPP for each product.
- **Outcomes:**
 - Improved transparency and consumer engagement.
 - Enhanced compliance with EU sustainability standards.

2. Adidas (Germany)

- **Initiatives:**
 - Adidas integrates DPP-like systems into its supply chain, leveraging blockchain to trace the origin and sustainability credentials of raw materials.
 - The company provides detailed end-of-life handling instructions through digital platforms accessible to recyclers.
- **Outcomes:**
 - Increased consumer trust and alignment with circular economy goals.

3. Eileen Fisher (USA)

- **Initiatives:**
 - Eileen Fisher’s “Renew” program uses a DPP approach to track the lifecycle of garments, emphasizing repair, reuse, and recycling.
 - Collaborations with recycling partners ensure that garments are responsibly processed at the end of their life.
- **Outcomes:**
 - Strengthened brand reputation as a leader in sustainability.

- Enhanced product circularity and reduced environmental impact.
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Lessons Learned and Best Practices

1. Early Engagement with Supply Chains

- **Lesson:** Success in implementing DPPs relies on early collaboration with supply chain partners to ensure data availability and accuracy.
- **Best Practice:** Establish long-term partnerships with suppliers and offer training programs to build their capacity for compliance.

2. Leverage Technology for Efficiency

- **Lesson:** Digital tools such as blockchain, IoT, and data analytics are critical for managing complex supply chains and ensuring traceability.
- **Best Practice:** Adopt scalable and interoperable technologies that align with international standards and can be integrated across diverse stakeholders.

3. Consumer-Centric Design

- **Lesson:** Consumers value accessible and clear information about product sustainability.
- **Best Practice:** Design DPPs with user-friendly interfaces and include practical information, such as repairability scores and recycling instructions.

4. Collaboration Across Industry and Government

- **Lesson:** Collaboration between private industry and policymakers is essential for creating supportive regulatory environments and technical frameworks.
 - **Best Practice:** Engage with industry associations, such as EURATEX, and participate in governmental initiatives to align with evolving regulations.
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Conclusion

The implementation of DPPs in the textile industry brings transformative benefits but also comes with challenges. By learning from early adopters and addressing barriers through collaboration, investment, and innovation, manufacturers can unlock the full potential of this groundbreaking initiative.

10. Recommendations for Textile Exporting Countries

The European Union (EU) is a critical market for textile exports. As the EU enforces stringent sustainability requirements, including the adoption of **Digital Product Passports (DPPs)**, Textile manufacturers must proactively align their operations to maintain market access and remain competitive.

Compliance Roadmap for Exporters

1. Aligning Production Processes with EU Sustainability Requirements

Textile manufacturers must integrate sustainable practices into their production processes to comply with EU regulations. Key steps include:

- **Adopt Sustainable Raw Materials:**
 - Use organic or recycled fibers, such as Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS)-certified cotton or post-consumer recycled polyester.
 - Ensure chemical treatments comply with the EU's **REACH Regulation** and avoid restricted substances.
- **Reduce Environmental Footprints:**
 - Implement energy-efficient technologies to lower greenhouse gas emissions.
 - Optimize water usage through advanced wastewater treatment and recycling systems.
 - Minimize production waste by adopting lean manufacturing practices.

2. Partnering with EU-Based Tech Providers for DPP Solutions

Collaboration with technology providers familiar with EU regulatory frameworks is critical for implementing DPPs:

- **Leverage Expertise:**
 - Engage with EU-based digital service providers to develop compliant DPP systems tailored to textiles.
 - Use platforms that integrate seamlessly with EU databases, such as the SCIP database for hazardous substances.

- **Adopt Interoperable Solutions:**

- Ensure that digital tools meet international standards and support real-time data updates across the supply chain.

- **Build Long-Term Partnerships:**

- Collaborate with EU buyers and tech providers for ongoing support in managing and updating DPPs.

3. Investing in Eco-Certifications and Traceability Systems

Obtaining recognized certifications and deploying traceability systems will enhance credibility and compliance:

- **Eco-Certifications:**

- Acquire certifications such as the **EU Ecolabel**, OEKO-TEX, or GOTS, which verify sustainable practices and products.
- Highlight these certifications to EU buyers as proof of adherence to sustainability standards.

- **Traceability Systems:**

- Use blockchain or similar technologies to trace raw materials and production processes from source to end product.
- Provide transparent data on material origin, processing, and recyclability to support DPP creation.

Policy Suggestions for Exporting Countries

1. Incentivizing Sustainable Practices Through Subsidies and Tax Breaks

To support the industry's transition to sustainability and compliance with EU requirements, the government should:

- **Offer Financial Incentives:**

- Provide subsidies for adopting energy-efficient machinery, wastewater treatment systems, and other green technologies.
- Reduce import duties on eco-friendly raw materials and digital tools required for DPP implementation.

- **Tax Breaks:**

- Introduce tax relief for manufacturers meeting sustainability benchmarks or obtaining eco-certifications.
- Reward exporters who invest in traceability systems and comply with EU regulations.

2. Establishing National Standards Aligned with EU Requirements

Developing a cohesive regulatory framework aligned with EU sustainability standards will streamline compliance for exporters:

- **Harmonize Standards:**

- Align national textile standards with EU directives, such as the **Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation** and the **EU Strategy for Sustainable and Circular Textiles**.
- Incorporate DPP-related requirements into the country's textile export policies.

- **Encourage Industry Collaboration:**

- Work with textile associations and EU stakeholders to ensure alignment with international standards.

3. Building Capacity for SMEs to Adopt DPP Technologies

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are a significant part of the country's textile industry and require targeted support to implement DPPs:

- **Training and Education:**

- Launch capacity-building programs to educate SMEs on EU sustainability requirements and DPP implementation.
- Collaborate with universities and technical institutes to offer specialized training in sustainable manufacturing and digital systems.

- **Financial Support:**

- Provide low-interest loans or grants to help SMEs invest in traceability systems, eco-certifications, and digital tools.

- **Shared Resources:**

- Establish shared digital infrastructure hubs or technology centers where SMEs can access DPP-related tools and expertise.
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Conclusion

Adopting **Digital Product Passports (DPPs)** is not just a compliance requirement but an opportunity for textile manufacturers to enhance their competitiveness and marketability in the EU. By aligning production processes with sustainability standards, collaborating with EU tech providers, and investing in certifications and traceability, exporters can secure long-term market access. Simultaneously, government support through incentives, harmonized standards, and SME capacity-building programs is crucial to enable the industry's smooth transition to sustainable practices. Proactive efforts today will ensure that the textile sector thrives in an increasingly sustainability-driven global market.

11. Future Trends and Innovations in Digital Product Passports (DPP)

The **Digital Product Passport (DPP)** is evolving into a transformative tool for transparency, compliance, and circularity. Innovations and emerging trends will further enhance its capabilities, addressing industry needs while supporting the EU's sustainability goals.

Integration with Emerging Technologies (Blockchain, IoT)

1. Blockchain Technology

Blockchain offers a decentralized and tamper-proof system for recording and sharing data, making it ideal for enhancing the DPP's traceability and transparency features:

- **End-to-End Traceability:**
 - Blockchain enables real-time tracking of materials and processes across the supply chain, ensuring the authenticity of data in the DPP.
- **Secure Data Sharing:**
 - Sensitive information, such as proprietary production techniques or chemical formulations, can be securely shared with authorized stakeholders.
- **Proof of Compliance:**
 - Smart contracts can automate compliance verification, providing instant validation of sustainability metrics.

2. Internet of Things (IoT)

IoT devices are poised to revolutionize how data is collected and integrated into DPPs:

- **Smart Sensors in Production:**
 - Sensors in factories can monitor and report real-time data on energy usage, emissions, and waste, populating the DPP with up-to-date sustainability metrics.
- **Enhanced Durability Monitoring:**
 - IoT-enabled products can track wear and tear, providing insights into product longevity and repair needs.

- **Simplified Data Collection:**

- IoT technology can streamline data gathering, particularly for recyclers, by transmitting material composition and recycling instructions.

Expansion of DPP to Address Consumer Repairability and Recycling Demands

As part of the EU's circular economy goals, DPPs will increasingly address product repairability and recyclability:

- **Repairability Scores:**

- DPPs will include standardized repairability ratings to inform consumers and repair businesses about ease of repair.
- Detailed instructions for repairing textiles, including component replacement guides, will be embedded in the passport.

- **Recycling Information:**

- The DPP will expand to include detailed disassembly instructions, material separation guides, and compatibility with recycling systems.

- **Integration with Right-to-Repair Initiatives:**

- The EU's **Right-to-Repair Initiative** aligns with the DPP's focus on extending product lifespans by providing consumers with accessible repair options.

EU's Vision for Global Harmonization of Product Passports

The EU aims to establish the DPP as a global standard for product traceability and sustainability:

- **International Alignment:**

- Collaboration with international organizations like the **United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)** to harmonize DPP frameworks across regions.

- **Cross-Border Data Compatibility:**

- Developing interoperable systems to ensure that DPPs used in the EU are recognized globally, facilitating trade and compliance for non-EU manufacturers.
- **Setting a Global Benchmark:**
 - By pioneering the DPP, the EU seeks to lead global efforts in creating universal standards for sustainability, transparency, and circularity in textiles and other industries.

The future of DPPs lies in leveraging technology, expanding their scope to meet consumer demands, and promoting global collaboration to make sustainable practices the norm across borders.

12. Conclusion

Summary of Key Takeaways

- The **Digital Product Passport (DPP)** is a cornerstone of the EU's sustainability strategy, offering transparency, traceability, and data-driven solutions to meet regulatory and market demands.
- The DPP aligns with the **Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation (EPR)** and the **EU Strategy for Sustainable and Circular Textiles**, ensuring compliance and promoting circularity.
- Textile manufacturers must:
 - Understand DPP requirements and their impact.
 - Implement changes in production processes to meet sustainability and data transparency goals.
 - Leverage technologies and certifications to enhance competitiveness and maintain EU market access.
- Future trends in DPPs include integration with **blockchain** and **IoT**, expanded focus on reparability and recyclability, and global harmonization of product traceability standards.

Call to Action for Textile Manufacturers to Begin Preparations

The shift towards sustainable and circular textiles is not just a regulatory requirement but a competitive necessity. Textile manufacturers targeting the EU market must act now:

1. **Assess Readiness:** Conduct an internal audit of current processes and data systems.
2. **Adopt Technologies:** Collaborate with tech providers to develop robust DPP systems.
3. **Engage Supply Chains:** Work closely with suppliers and partners to ensure transparency and data availability.
4. **Invest in Training:** Equip teams with the knowledge and skills needed for compliance.

5. **Leverage Opportunities:** Use DPPs to differentiate products and strengthen market positioning.
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Resources for Further Learning and Support

1. **EU Regulations and Guidelines:**

- Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation (EPR)
- EU Strategy for Sustainable and Circular Textiles
- European Green Deal and Circular Economy Action Plan

2. **Certifications and Standards:**

- Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS)
- OEKO-TEX and EU Ecolabel
- CEN/TC 248 standards for textiles

3. **Technology Partners:**

- Platforms specializing in blockchain, IoT, and traceability solutions for textiles.

4. **Industry Associations:**

- European Apparel and Textile Confederation (EURATEX)
- International Textile Manufacturers Federation (ITMF)

5. **Training and Capacity Building:**

- EU-funded programs like Horizon Europe
- Local initiatives and workshops tailored for exporters.

The journey toward implementing **Digital Product Passports** represents a unique opportunity for textile manufacturers to lead the global transition to sustainable practices. By preparing now, manufacturers can secure their place in a future defined by transparency, innovation, and sustainability.