

INTEGRATING SUSTAINABILITY IN PRODUCT REQUIREMENTS

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Abstract

Trade-offs between sustainability criteria and engineering design variables can lead to sub-optimisations and costly short-term priorities. This study explores how sustainability requirements can be identified and integrated in product requirements to guide strategic and tactical decisions in product development including sustainability perspectives. Literature review and action research resulted in a proposed systematic approach that: define sustainability criteria and indicators; use correlation analysis with QFD; and adds identified specific sustainability requirements to requirement list.

Keywords: sustainability, requirements management, early design phase, product development

1. Introduction

The sustainability performance of a product is highly dependent on decisions made early in the concept phase of product development (Hallstedt, 2017). In this phase, the basic components of a new design are conceptualised through identification of business opportunities, generation and selection of ideas, and, finally, product and technology development (Koen et al., 2001). Sustainability-related design variables are therefore important to identify and use in the early phases to guide a development towards more sustainable solutions (Byggeth et al., 2007). This research aims to explore and learn from previous research how sustainability requirements have been identified and integrated in the product requirements to guide product development.

Previous research has shown that there is a desire among product development practitioners to integrate sustainability criteria into decision support systems (Knight and Jenkins, 2009; Zetterlund et al., 2016). Sustainability aspects might otherwise be given less priority (Gaziulusoy et al., 2013). However, researchers have also concluded that decision support tools designed for sustainable product (and service) development lacks i) a strategic sustainability perspective (Zetterlund et al., 2016) and ii) support for trade-offs between sustainability criteria and traditional design variables (Byggeth and Hochschorner, 2006). These deficiencies can result in sub-optimisations and short-term priorities in trade-off situations, which can be costly for the company in the long run. Furthermore, there is often a lack of a sustainability perspective that includes both an ecological and social sustainability perspective. These perspectives are sometimes separated, as social sustainability has been harder to define and quantify compared to ecological impacts. However, recent work with guidance on social responsibility by the International Standard Organization (SS-ISO, 2010) and UNEP's suggested guidelines for social life-cycle assessment of products (Benoît and Mazijn, 2009) as well as research, e.g., Missimer et al. (2017), have taken this a step further.

Purpose and aim

In the light of the perceived gap described above, and as sustainability criteria tend to be traded off in favor for traditional design variables (Bertoni, 2017), this study aims to explore i) how research up until

now has approached integration of sustainability criteria in product requirements, and ii) how certain sustainability criteria were selected. The research questions are the following; *What methods are being applied to facilitate integration of sustainability aspects into product requirements? How are sustainability criteria and indicators identified?* In addition, a process that uses sustainability criteria to guide product requirements is suggested. The continuing of this paper is structured as follows; Section 2 outlines a background and description of strategic sustainable product development, Section 3 presents the methodological approach for this research study, Section 4 outlines the results of the literature review, and in Section 5 an introductory approach to strategically define sustainability aspects to consider in product development. Finally, a concluding discussion is held in Section 6, in which a novel process to guide integration of sustainability in requirements is presented.

2. A strategic sustainability perspective in the product development process

A strategic sustainability perspective means here that solutions are developed to fit into, or act as stepping stones to other solutions that will fit into, a future sustainable society defined from overarching sustainability principles (SPs) using a backcasting perspective (Dreborg, 1996). This means that in a sustainable society, nature is not subject to systematically increasing ... (SP1) ... concentrations of substances from the Earth's crust, (SP2) ... concentrations of substances produced by society, (SP3) ...degradations by physical means, and, in that society people are not subject to structural obstacles to ... (SP4) health, (SP5) influence, (SP6) competence, (SP7) impartiality, and, (SP8) meaning-making. (Broman and Robert, 2017; Missimer et al., 2017). This definition does not directly nor easily integrate into the product innovation process; i.e., the principles from a backcasting perspective do not constitute a tool that can simply be embedded into existing decision systems. In short, backcasting means imagining success in the future and then looking back to today to assess the present situation through the lens of this success definition, and to explore ways to reach that success (Dreborg, 1996; Vergragt and Quist, 2011). The challenge is to operationalize the sustainability principles and develop commercialized decision support tools. Therefore, previous research suggests informing other tools or integrate other tools that product developers use with SPs, e.g., Robert et al. (2002); Ny et al. (2006); Byggeth et al. (2007); Waage (2007); Thompson et al. (2012). More recent efforts involve both conceptual frameworks for strategic integration of sustainability into company decision making and the product development process, such as the Method for Integrated Product Development oriented to Sustainability (Fernandes et al., 2017). Examples of recent tactical support methods and tools, are Checklist for Sustainable Product Development (Schöggl et al., 2017) and the Sustainability Design Space (Hallstedt, 2017), aiming to provide designers and decision makers with strategic qualitatively obtained actions and indicators to be implemented in the early phases of product development. Although these approaches provide strategic guidance to select relevant sustainability criteria and indicators on strategic and tactical levels, they do not address how the criteria and indicators should be identified and integrated into product requirements on the operational level. In Bertoni (2017), operational decision level support is defined as tools to be used in the design environment for decision making, concept generation and down-selection between concepts, requirements and technologies. Tactical decision level support involves e.g. guidelines, indicators or support processes that are framed from the strategic decision level i.e. the top management business targets and strategies. Meta level refers to decision support that expands over more than one organisational decision level. These are the definitions that are applied in this study.

The importance of product requirements for the product development process

The design process is a process under which a product concept is being realised to a product description, a step prior to manufacturing in the product development process. This process is largely driven by product requirements which define the objectives that a design should fulfil, both in terms of structuraland performance aspects (Zeng and Gu, 1999). A requirement is a *"statement that identifies a product* or process operational, functional, or design characteristic or constraint, which is unambiguous, testable or measurable, and necessary for product or process acceptability (by consumers or internal quality assurance guidelines)" (IEEE, 2007). The requirement list is a key foundation for success in all projects, as it offers guidance and can be used for monitoring the decisions so that they lead towards the overall target, which is to satisfy stakeholder needs (Hull et al., 2005). Adequate requirements are necessary for guiding designers in developing solutions that perform well throughout the whole lifecycle, in regards to economic, ecological and social aspects (IEEE, 2007).

3. Research approach

The research approach of this paper consists of a combination of a systematic literature review and a prescriptive research study conducted at a case company.

Systematic literature review

A systematic review of previous publications, i.e., following a "transparent, rational and replicable" process (Tranfield et al., 2003), was applied to explore the state of the art of the research field, see Figure 1. The search architecture was obtained from two snowball sampling analyses (SBAs), i.e., a study of "references to references" (Wohlin, 2014), of previous academic publications discussing integration of sustainability into product development and requirements. The first SBA started in Jaghbeer et al. (2017), leading towards authors such as (Byggeth and Hochschorner, 2006; Bovea and Pérez-Belis, 2012; Inoue et al., 2012; Gaziulusoy et al., 2013; Hallstedt et al., 2013; Schöggl et al., 2016; Zetterlund et al., 2016; Hallstedt, 2017). A research map that visualised the referencing between these articles led towards (Hallstedt et al., 2013), which was chosen as a reference point for a second SBA. The second SBA led to authors such as (Kaebernick et al., 2003; Maxwell and Van der Vorst, 2003; Pujari et al., 2004; Lindahl, 2005; Byggeth and Hochschorner, 2006; Waage, 2007), and others.

From summarising and analysing frequency of keywords used in papers found in the SBAs, it was possible to build a concept map which was used as inspiration for the literature search. Frequently used key words, e.g., "sustainability", "criteria", "integration", "product requirement", etc., including similar words, terms or phrases, were used as operators in the search query. The same query was used to search in title, abstracts and key words in Scopus database and within 'topic' in the Web of Science (WoS) database. The searches were limited to journal papers, book chapters and conference proceedings written in English and published after 1999. A brief title and abstract screening was made for filtering the search results, using 'relevancy for integration of sustainability in product requirements' and 'relevancy for sustainability trade-offs' as criteria for inclusion (papers were considered 'relevant' even though only environmental aspects were considered). To complement the search results, a second, streamlined literature search was conducted in the same databases, although now only searching for titles in the Scopus database, but otherwise with the same limitations. The same filtering criteria were applied to the results in the second search. The first search queries combined keywords with relevant Boolean operators, for example, ("sustainab*" AND ("sustainab* product development" OR (similar term)) AND ("decision?making" OR "design requirement*" "product requirement*" OR (similar term)), while the streamlined search combined words and terms such as ((product*development* OR sustainable*product*development* OR (similar term)) AND (integrat* OR (similar term)). Remaining contributions were added through a third SBA. A first categorisation of papers was made based on the decision level architecture, namely meta, strategic, tactical and operational, as described above. The papers were thereafter sorted in regard to means to manage sustainability- and integration.



Figure 1. Schematic overview of the literature review process

Action research

A Sustainability Design Space, i.e. strategically tailored leading sustainability criteria, indicators for those, as well as the method itself together with a sustainability compliance index-scale, was developed for a case company in an action research-based study approach (Hallstedt, 2017). Action research

(Avison et al., 1999) here meant an involvement of the researcher at the case company, working closelywith the design team during several years to understand and reflect on the challenges relevant for developing a Sustainability Design Space. This included several steps: i) gathering data and information about existing sustainability requirements and guidelines, which were crosschecked by using multiple sources to search for regularities and certainty in the data collection, ii) and iii) were descriptive studies in which key sustainability aspects were identified and a sustainability compliance index was formulated, as support for companies to estimate their sustainability maturity level (Hallstedt, 2017). Altogether about 20 company documents and reports, feedback from five workshops, assessment data and semi-structured interviews with product developers and engineers have been used to support the development of the prescriptive results. The findings were validated with pilot tests iv) and iteratively discussed with a design team, which consisted of an expert group of four engineers, active in the early phases of the technology- and product development process at the company. Leading sustainability criteria and indicators have been identified for the case company and are presented in the results.

The case company is an engine component manufacturer in the aerospace industry in which the research and development department were interested in increasing the capability to integrate a sustainability perspective in their decision-making system. Since an inability to clarify and understand the sustainability implications compared to performance features of concepts had been identified. Sustainability includes a rich set of features important for a successful introduction of new products and product-service solutions to the market. Therefore, a better understanding of relations between requirements and sustainability aspects and of how these can be included in the product requirement list was of interest to the case company.

4. Literature review results

This chapter will outline the results of the literature review in regards to: decision level in Section 4.1 and, integrated approaches with a sustainability perspective in Section 4.2.

4.1. Sustainability integration efforts per decision level

The literature review showed that efforts to integrate sustainability into product requirements can be found on all decision levels, with different sustainability perspectives and with support from different tools and methods. In total, 75 papers qualified in the initial filtering of the systematic search results. These papers were distributed into four categories; taxonomies and conceptual frameworks, strategic- and meta level efforts, tactical methods and tools and operational efforts, as have been described above. Sixteen of these papers were placed in the category of taxonomies and conceptual frameworks and were found useful for the interpretation of the other search results. They are however not described in more detail in this paper.

Strategic decision level and meta-level

Three of the papers described frameworks or methods for inclusion of sustainability in the product development process. Contributions taking place on this level included: the BECE framework (Mendoza et al., 2017) in which backcasting and eco-design are utilised to achieve alignment with circular economy principles; The Value Ideation process (Geissdoerfer et al., 2016) where design thinking is employed in the early innovation process to define alternative value drivers; and the Systemic double flow scenario method (Gaziulusoy et al., 2013) where product requirements are influenced from linking product development projects to societal structures. Four papers proposed meta-level perspectives, i.e., management of sustainability integration in the product development process (Brones and de Carvalho, 2015), including both concept generation (Maxwell and Van der Vorst, 2003; Waage et al., 2005; Waage, 2007) and redesign of a concept (Fargnoli et al., 2014).

Tactical decision level

Sixteen papers presented methods to obtain sustainability indicators, or to select design strategies to be used for decision making. Contributions that suggest approaches to defining sustainability-oriented key performance indicators (KPI) and that suggest when in the product development process they should be applied, include Method for integrated product development oriented to sustainability (Fernandes et al.,

2017), Checklist for Sustainable Product Development (Schöggl et al., 2017), Strategic eco-design map of the complex products (Keivanpour and Ait Kadi, 2017) and several others, see Table 1. The characteristic property of these contributions is that they offer support for defining sustainability focus areas and indicators for these, but without articulating how these supportive indicators and focus areas should be integrated in the product development process.

Decision level	Results	Name of method/tool	Reference	
Meta/Strategic	Frameworks for implementation or promotion of sustainability into the product development process	BECE framework; Value ideation process; Systemic double-flow scenario method	Mendoza et al. (2017); Geissdoerfer, Bocken and Hultink (2016); Gaziulusoy et al. (2013)	
	Modifications/ organisation of product development management	Design Management for Sustainability: Sustainability-oriented adaptations on the product development process; Model for integrating ecological, social, and financial factors into business decision-making; Method for Sustainable Product Service Development	Fargnoli et al. (2014); Waage (2007); Waage et al. (2005); Maxwell and van der Vorst (2003)	
Tactical	Select sustainability-oriented KPI	Strategic eco-design map of the complex products; Method for integrated product development oriented to sustainability; Sustainability Design Space; Guideline for the deployment of Product Requirements from Product-Related Environmental Legislation; Material Criticality Assessment; Life cycle IndeX (LInX)	Keivanpour and Ait Kadi (2017), Fernandes et al. (2017); Hallstedt (2017); Hallstedt and Isaksson (2017); Pigosso et al., (2016); Byggeth et al. (2007); Khan, Sadiq and Veitch (2004)	
	Select sustainability-oriented focus/strategy	Checklist for Sustainable Product Development; Integration of environmental and business aspects toward sustainable product development; Methodology of ecodesign for the development of more sustainable electro-electronic equipment	Schöggl et al. (2017)	

Table 1. Overview of strategic-, meta- and tactical approaches

Operational decision level

The largest category consisted of 34 papers describing operational efforts which integrated, and translated, sustainability indicators into product requirements. In contrast to the tactical approaches, operational efforts propose operational support for sustainability integration. Although most contributions combine several methods to facilitate integration, transformation and prioritisation of sustainability oriented aspects, it was possible to distinguish a main focus, see Table 2. Matrix-based tools, e.g., Quality Function Deployment (QFD), Functional Analysis (FA), Modular Design and Axiomatic Design (AD) tools were proposed in 23 of the 34 papers in this category, and thereby constituted the most frequently used approach. Less frequent approaches involved Preference Set-Based Design and Case-based reasoning, e.g. in Inoue et al. (2012), (Life cycle-) costing (Grote et al., 2007; Lu et al., 2011; Chan et al., 2014), and separate sustainability compliance requirements (Peças et al., 2013; Heintz et al., 2014; Ma and Okudan Kremer, 2014; Broeren et al., 2016). These efforts will not be assessed in more detail due to their low representation within the search results.

Main integrative approach	Number	References
Matrix tools; Functional Analysis; Modular Analysis	3	Lacasa, Santolaya and Biedermann (2016); Lacasa et al. (2015); Chou (2014);
Quality Function Deployment; 18		Popoff, A. and Millet, D (2017); Alemam and Li (2016); Germani et al. (2016); Salari and Bhuiyan (2016); Romli et al. (2015); Vinodh, Kamala and Jayakrishna (2014); Russo, Rizzi and Montelascini (2014); Bereketli and Genevois (2013); Buyukozkan and Cifci (2013); Vinodh and Rathod (2011); Zhang et al. (2011); Rathod, Vinodhb and Madhyasta (2011); Devanathan et al. (2010); Sakao (2007); Kobayashi (2006); Kobayashi et al. (2005); Kaebernick, Kara and Sun (2003); Masui (2003)
Axiomatic Design	2	Beng and Omar (2014); Morrison et al. (2013);
"Sustainability-compliance" requirement	6	Broeren et al. (2016); Ma and Kremer (2015); Heintz, Belaud and Gerbaud (2014); Poudelet et al. (2013); Ng and Chuah (2012); Pecas et al. (2013)
Preference Set-based Design / Case- based-reasoning	2	Inoue et al. (2012); Yang and Chen (2011)
Lifecycle costing/cost focus	3	Chang, Wang and Raffoni (2014); Lu et al (2011); Grote et al. (2007)

Table 2. Overview of operational approaches

Matrix tools are commonly used tools for translating different stakeholder requirements into product requirements to be targeted by designers. They use expertise to correlate the stakeholder requirements with traditional design parameters such as cost, weight, manufacturability and so forth. Modular Design and FA can also be combined with QFD, as found among the 15 QFD-focused papers, e.g., in Alemam and Li (2016) and Devanathan et al. (2010). The common characteristic for these approaches is that they

semantically correlate sustainability (or rather environmental) aspects into functional requirements. In QFD, for instance, an eco-design strategy such as 'reduce material use' can be translated into the functional requirement of 'low product weight' (Romli et al., 2015; Alemam and Li, 2016; Salari and Bhuiyan, 2016). Similarly, AD and FA allow designers to construct design parameters from functional requirements, which can be oriented towards sustainability and evaluated in matrices (Morrison et al., 2013; Beng and Omar, 2014; Lacasa et al., 2015; Lacasa et al., 2016).

4.2. Sustainability-oriented adaptions of the QFD process

QFD came out as the most frequently used tool for integration of sustainability aspects in the process of generating product requirements and therefore this section will explore the method and its sustainability adaptions in more detail. QFD is a matrix tool that transforms customer requirements into technical- or product- requirements to be fulfilled by all steps in the product development process (ranging from strategies and planning, to manufacturing and sales) (Sullivan, 1986). The House of Quality (HoQ) is an essential part of the QFD, where different customer requirements, 'Voices of the Customer' (VoC), are mapped, classified, weighted and related to relevant engineering metrics (Akao, 1990). QFD is an important design tool as it encourages thorough understanding of customer preferences and priorities and because it "provides a tangible method to manage new product development" (Akao and Mazur, 2003). Several efforts have been made to integrate sustainability-oriented aspects into QFD with the aim to support the development of more sustainable products (Popoff and Millet, 2017). Examples will be described in the section below.

Sustainability perspective

The efforts found in this literature review mainly focus on cost, quality and environmental performance, few include social aspects. As described in Hallstedt (2017), a criterion can be defined as a target of a prioritized aspect or the level of the aspect that we strive for, e.g., "no raw material used" and "no hazardous chemicals used". An indicator can be defined as a measurement or fact, qualitative or quantitative, that can indicate the state or level of the criterion e.g., "material used in total and per unit of product" and "kilograms of persistent bio-accumulative and toxic chemicals used". The selection of environmental criteria or sustainability indicators can be managed either with support from assessment tools e.g., LCA or eco-design principles, or through an "ad hoc" approach. Ad hoc here refers to how sustainability requirements and indicators are chosen without support from an assessment that defines sustainability criteria with high relevance for the actual product or solution (Mitchell, 1996). An ad hoc approach can thus involve designer preferences or apply the same criteria as in previous research, without a strategic perspective (Ny et al., 2006). Zhang et al. (1999) made improvements to the Green OFD (GFD) (Cristofari et al., 1996) by incorporating life-cycle costing in the GOFDII. Kaebernick et al. (2003) propose the ECQFD, in which environmental performance is introduced as a new VoC in the QFD, where the results are evaluated with a LCA. Kobayashi et al. (2005) proposes using a simplified LCA endpoint analysis combined with a "willingness to pay analysis", i.e., considering human health, public assets, biodiversity and primary production capacity, to obtain an environmental impact driver. Another way to include environmental aspects is to use environmental aspects as VoC's. For instance, Masui et al. (2003) utilise ad hoc eco-design principles concerning, e.g., material and energy consumption, lifetime, end of life, emissions, maintenance, etc., to comply with environmental requirements from governments, recyclers and traditional customers while noting that LCA can be used to define critical design objectives. A similar approach is used in Vinodh et al. (2014), and in Salari and Bhuiyan (2016) where the Life Cycle Design Strategies are used to formulate customer requirements in a Green OFD. Romli et al. (2015) and Alemam and Li (2016) use eco-design strategies to formulate environmental criteria, to which ad hoc social considerations, such as human health and working conditions, are added. Recently, Popoff and Millet (2017) proposed the EcoCSP-QFD in which environmental performance, i.e., climate change, human health, ecosystem quality and resources, and costs are used to conduct the QFD. In contrast to these ad hoc efforts, Sakao (2007) suggests using LCA to define environmental hotspots to be translated into requirements. Table 3 summarises the sustainability approaches used by several authors.

LCA or Eco-design principles				AD hoc (LCA) indicators					
Env. LCA and eco-design	Env. LCA and stakehol der analysis	Env. LCA, WTP	Streamlined (env.) LCA	Climate Change, Ecosystem Quality, Human Health and Resources, costs	"Env. VOC"	Quality, costs and env. indicator	Env, Social, Economic indicators	GWP and E199 (triple- bottom line indicator)	Eco-design principle - indicators
Romli et al. (2015); Bereketli and Genevois (2013); Buyukozkan and Cifci (2013); Rathod et al. (2011); Devanathan et al. (2010); Sakao (2007)	Zhang et al. (2011)	Kobayas hi et al. (2005)	Kaebernick, Kara and Sun (2003)	Popoff and Millet (2017)	Vinod h and Ratho d (2011)	Kobayash i (2006)	Masui (2003)	Vinodh et al. (2014)	Alemam and Li (2016) ; Germani et al. (2016) ; Salari and Bhuiyan (2016)

Table 3. Approaches to obtain sustainability criteria and indicators

5. An introductory approach to identify and select sustainability indicators to guide product requirements

Based on results from the action research the needs of the case company were: i) to better understand which product requirements that relate to sustainability; ii) to know what additional sustainability-related requirements need to be included; and, iii) to understand how to include these to the product requirement list. An introductory approach to define and select sustainability indicators to guide product requirement is therefore suggested. From the development of the Design Space, leading sustainability criteria and indicators were identified for the case company. Leading sustainability criteria for each life-cycle phase from the Sustainability Design Space were developed and selected to represent the most important sustainability aspects that can be accomplished within the time-constrained early development situation (Hallstedt and Isaksson, 2017). Indicators to the leading criteria and 11 indicators, see Figure 2.

Decision aspects concerning product life-cycle phases:	Sustainability aspects guided by Sustainability Principles (Broman and Robert, 2017; Missimer, 2015)						
<u>Raw materials:</u> materials and chemicals that are used for the product	No risk-materials used according to material criticality list.	No materials for products and/or production used that contain or result in emissions of substances included in the SIN-list.*	No use of raw materials/ chemicals and its production that cause physical degradation.	No organizational practices at the suppliers of raw materials that create structural obstacles for people's health, influence, competence, impartiality and meaning-making.		J	
Production: production by suppliers of sub-	Only recycled materials are used, with no metal emissions and all scrap metals are recycled into pure fractions.	No emissions and waste products from production sites (even at the suppliers) contain substances in the SIN-list.	No production of product or product components used that cause degradation of Nature by physical means.	No organizational practices during production and post processes that create structural obstacles for people's health, influence, competence, impartiality and meaning-making.	Life cycle phase	Leading criteria highlights	Indicators
materials, as well as production of products at the	Only renewable energy sources are used in the production processes to become a CO2- neutral facility and the energy				Raw material acquisition and extraction	Critical material	Critical materials: SCI scores for alloys
own company.	usage in the production processes are efficiently used.					i) Recycled materials ii) Scrap recyclability	% recycled materials in input materials Recycling rate (%)
Distribution: transportation of materials, substances and products connected to the company products and its	Only renewable fuels are used for distribution of materials, substances and products.	No emissions of green house gases due to transportation of materials, substances and products from the company.	No new land areas, otherwise used for renewable resources and recreation, are used for transportation of materials, substances and/or products.	No risk today or in the future for ineffcient and unsafe transports of materials, substances and products related to the company's products. No organizational practices during distribution that create structural obstacles for people's health, influence, competence, impartiality and meaning-making.	Production	 iii) Risk of manufacturing iv) Emissions, waste products and chemicals listed in REACH/IAEG lists v) Health and safety 	Robustness index chemicals/hazardous materials used/generated in the production that are included in the REACH/IEAC Number of injuries, risk of exposure, leakages
Use and Maintenance: activities and design that affect the	Optimized design of the product from a material and energy perspective.	The design of the product contain no restricted substances or materials.	The design of the product do not contribute to degradation of nature due to noise, odour or emissions during use and/or maintenance of	Product use does not create structural obstacles for people's health, influence, competence, impartiality and meaning-making.	Distribution Use and Maintenance	kisk of being exposed to dangerous substances i) Optimised product weight ii) No noise to surroundings All valuable materials are	distribution (per year) component) in % compared to previous solution compared to previous solution % remanufacturable
impact during the usage and maintenance.		No greenhouse gas emissions during the usage and maintenance stage.	products.	No organizational practices during maintenance that create structural obstacles for people's health, influence, competence, immariality and meaniamaking	End of Life	returned to the value chain for remanufacturing and recycling	components and % recyclable components
End of Life: activities and design that affect the sustainability impact during the end of life phase.	All valuable materials/component are returned to the value chain for remanufacturing and recycling.	Emissions and waste from end of life phase must not contribute to an accumulation in Nature.	No physical degradation of Nature caused by waste from end of life phase.	No organizational practices during end-of-life activities that create structural obstacles for people's health, influence, competence, impartiality and meaning-making.			

Figure 2. The case company sustainability criteria, the selected leading criteria (marked) and the sustainability indicators derived from the leading sustainability criteria

This suggested approach does not give answers to how qualitative, and on which level of accuracy, sustainability data can be transferred into quantitative sustainability data in early design stages. For this, further studies are needed. In addition, a better understanding of the relationship and the influence between sustainability indicators and design requirements is needed to support the identifying of which sustainability requirements to add to the product requirement list in the early design phase. The main contribution of this work is to offer clear reasoning and a systematic support for how to select sustainability indicators to guide product requirements.

6. Concluding discussion

The aim and purpose of this paper was to present the current state of research regarding how to perform integration of sustainability criteria into product requirements. An explorative systematic literature review and a prescriptive research case study were conducted to answer the research questions.

How can sustainability criteria be integrated into product requirements, and what methods can be used?

In line with previous research, the importance of sustainability and how it should be integrated in the organisation is decided at a strategic decision level. Practical guidelines and systems to link the strategic objectives are formalised on a tactical decision level, as a means for communication. Product requirements can be interpreted as the operational means for guidance towards the business objectives (Hull et al., 2005). Whether sustainability is included in the product requirements can however be linked to the sustainability commitment on strategic and tactical levels (Schulte and Hallstedt, 2017). There are furthermore two main approaches to manage integration of sustainability criteria into the product requirements; i) as separate requirements such as complying with certain legislations and regulations, or ii) by relating sustainability criteria to traditional design requirements, e.g., relating "reduce material usage" to "low product weight" in a QFD (Masui et al., 2003; Romli et al., 2015; Popoff and Millet, 2017). The latter was most common within the literature review results, and QFD came out as the most frequently used tool. The sustainability perspective analysis was therefore limited to these results.

How are sustainability criteria and indicators identified?

In general, most of the articles focused on the environmental aspects of sustainability and the process for identifying sustainability criteria can be divided into two main perspectives: i) an environmental lifecycle assessment focus from which important sustainability aspects or eco-design strategies could be derived and integrated, or used to formulate separate sustainability requirements; and ii) an ad-hoc approach where no systematic strategy supported the selection of sustainability criteria. Both perspectives lack a full, strategic sustainability perspective, which indicates a gap between tactical efforts to sustainable product development and a gap of operational tools that support translation of sustainability criteria to product requirements.

Proposed process to strategically integrate sustainability in product requirements

In line with previous research, e.g., Bertoni (2017), the literature review concludes that tools on the operational level have most room for improvements. For example, tools for requirements generation lack a full sustainability perspective and have a tendency to lack a strategic process for defining suitable sustainability criteria and indicators to be integrated in the requirement list. The results from the prescriptive research case study showed that it is possible to obtain strategic sustainability criteria and indicators based on a full sustainability perspective. Since it is impossible to predict all future effects of unsustainable development, further research will focus on identifying and verifying sustainability indicators that can help companies to contribute to a sustainable development, and how these indicators can be implemented in the organisational environment.

Several operational matrix approaches, of which QFD was the most frequent tool, show that it can be possible to integrate sustainability criteria through correlation with traditional design requirements. From the results obtained in this study it is therefore proposed that sustainability is integrated in product requirements through a strategic approach that: i) defines sustainability criteria and indicators for those

criteria; ii) correlates the sustainability criteria with design variables in a QFD; and, iii) adds to the requirement list the sustainability requirements that cannot be related to traditional design requirements.

Next steps

To improve and increase the use of this approach, future research will further investigate how sustainability criteria influence traditional design requirements and what the impact is from a selected design solution and from a sustainability perspective, e.g., via system dynamics modelling (Jaghbeer et al., 2017), or other techniques. A deeper understanding of these relations, and of the possibility to visualise and communicate these, could further be assessed considering their influence on the sustainability awareness and commitment throughout an organisation. This awareness could have an impact on, e.g., the weighting of requirements and or criteria in decision making tools. This is an element that was delimited from this study, and that could add to previous research on how sustainability aspects can be quantified, modelled and integrated into traditional value models for decision making, e.g., Hallstedt et al. (2015), Bertoni (2017) and Jaghbeer et al. (2017). The literature review results also contained a range of different efforts that apply Theory of Inventive Solving (TRIZ) or Algorithm of Inventive Solving (ARIZ) to support concept generation in the complex decision situation (Kobayashi, 2006; Rathod et al., 2011), Fuzzy logic to handle the uncertainty of variables (Bereketli and Erol Genevois, 2013) and Multicriteria Decision Making to support ranking between design concepts or requirements (Vinodh et al., 2014; Romli et al., 2016; Salari et al., 2016). Future research should also investigate further how these tools can support integration of a full sustainability perspective into the product development process.

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