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Good Environmental Choice Australia

Environmental Performance Standard

Sustainable Products and Services (Life Cycle Assessment based)

Core SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals):









Issued by: Good Environmental Choice Australia Ltd

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USE OF GECA STANDARDS

This standard identifies environmental, quality, regulatory and social criteria that the top environmentally performing products sold in the Australian marketplace can meet in order to be recognised by GECA as "environmentally preferable".

This standard seeks to set the benchmark for environmentally preferable products. The Australian Ecolabel Program is based on the international standard ISO 14024: "Environmental Labels and Declarations - Guiding Principles" which requires environmental labelling specifications to include criteria that are objective, reasonable and verifiable.

This standard may be used by GECA-approved assessors to verify whether a product fully conforms to the criteria set by this standard. Where a product is certified for the Australian Ecolabel Program, it may display the GECA Ecolabel (the "Good Environmental Choice Australia Mark") to show that the product has been independently assessed and demonstrates conformance with the environmental and social criteria detailed in this standard.

The purpose of voluntary environmental labels and declarations is the communication of verifiable and accurate information for the numerous environmental aspects of goods and services. As required by the Trade Practices Act the information cannot be misleading. Such information encourages the demand for, and supply of, those products that cause less harm to the environment, thereby stimulating the potential for market-driven continuous environmental improvement. Where a company has a product certified as conforming to this standard, it may gain a marketing advantage in government and business procurement programs, as well as greater market recognition in general because of its independently verified environmental attributes.

The principles of Life-Cycle Analysis have been used to set these criteria to address relevant environmental loads typical in a product category. As such, this standard may also offer guidance for Australian producers to reduce the environmentally harmful impacts of their product(s). Producers may use the environmental criteria in this standard to design and refine the processing, manufacturing and delivery of their product(s). In addition producers may find other environmental issues and more measures along the product's life cycle, which are beyond the content of this standard. Producers are encouraged to include and adapt improvements in their environment programs and designs to aim for even better environmental results where technically possible. GECA welcomes feedback where this has been achieved.

While all GECA standards are voluntary, they contain criteria that address compliance with specific laws. In addition, a GECA standard may recognise specific Australian Standards. A prerequisite for certification under the GECA Ecolabel is to satisfy the relevant Australian or International Standard, where it is required by law. However Australian Standards typically define "fit-for-purpose" criteria and usually do not provide assurance of environmental preferability. GECA standards go beyond Australian Standards and define an environmental benchmark for the product category.

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Sustainable Products and Services (Life Cycle Assessment based)

DOCUMENT HISTORY

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Version: 2.0

Versions	Date Published	Summary of Changes
1.0	June 2007	
1.0i	July 2017	Update: Alignment with GHS in relevant criteria; "Definitions and Acronyms"; Inclusion of notes in 'How to apply for GECA Certification' and 'Social and Legal Compliance' sections.
2.0	February 2020	Revision: change of criterion 3, addition of criteria 29 and 30 about modern slavery and human and labour right, removing of criterion 6. Update of details e.g. addition of new terminologies, change of GECA address, change of text in "USE OF GECA STANDARDS", change of text in "HOW to APPLY FOR GECA CERTIFICATION", change of DOCUMENT HISTORY, replacing OHSAS18001 by ISO45001:2018 in DoC 26.3. change of exemption, audit, auditor and auditing body to exception, assessment, assessor and assurance provider, respectively according to the new scheme rules, Addition of SDGs.

HOW TO APPLY FOR GECA CERTIFICATION

Manufacturers or service suppliers interested in GECA certification using the Environmental Choice Australia Ecolabel are encouraged to read carefully through the entire standard and to evaluate whether their products are likely to conform to the standard and to pass the assessment process.

To launch an application, please complete the enquiry form on our website http://www.geca.eco/contact-us/or contact GECA via email info@geca.org.au and GECA will forward you an application form.

The completed application form is to be sent to GECA by email.

After receiving the completed application form and the application fee, GECA refers the verification process to an appointed assurance provider. The assurance provider contacts the applicant and gives a clear overview of the steps needed to achieve certification for their particular product type.

STRUCTURE OF THE STANDARD

Each section within this standard contains criteria and demonstration of conformance (DoC). The criteria state the requirements for the product and applicant company with respect to its environmental performance. The DoCs list the information required to verify compliance to the criteria. Selected sections also contain introductory text which outlines the purpose behind the criteria.

REQUESTING ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE

Demonstration of Conformance items are listed for each criterion. The GECA approved assessor/s will request additional information to ensure conformance on a case by case basis. Hence, the conformance items listed below



are considered a guide to the minimum Demonstration of Conformance items that will be required from the applicant company.

DEFINITIONS AND ACRONYMS

Allocation: Partitioning the input or output flows of a process.

Assessment: Process performed by the assessor to determine if the product conforms with the applicable GECA Standard

Assessment report: Full document composed by the assurance provider that states how the nominated product conforms or fails to conform to GECA standards. This report shall include appropriate and substantial evidence to justify conformance decision.

Assessor: The individual performing the assessment as an employee or contractor of the Assurance Provider.

Assurance provider: Person or organisation accredited by the Independent Appointment Panel performing the conformance assessment.

ASTM: American Society for Testing and Materials.

Attributional LCA: A system modelling approach in which inputs and outputs are attributed to the functional unit of a product system by linking and/or partitioning the unit processes of the system according to a normative rule.

AusLCI: Australian Life Cycle Inventory Database Initiative

Cradle to grave: The full life cycle assessment from resource extraction ('cradle') to use phase and disposal phase ('grave')

Ecoinvent: The world's leading LCI database

Exception: An exception is granted when an applicant is given permission by the GECA CEO or Board to become certified despite not meeting a particular criterion in the standard as identified during the assessment process, usually with a mandatory transition period.

Functional Unit: Quantified description of the performance of the product systems, for use as a reference unit.

GECA Approved Assessor: An Assessor that has been accredited to assess against GECAs Scheme Rules.

GECA Scheme rules: Requirements for bodies and individuals seeking to assess applicant and licensee products.

GHS: Global Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals.

Label: means the Good Environmental Choice Australia Label.

LCA: Life cycle assessment

LCA Certified Practitioner (LCACP): ... through ALCAS / LCANZ / ACLCA

Life cycle impact assessment: The step in LCA associated with evaluating the magnitude and significance of potential environmental impacts of a product system.

Life cycle inventory: The step in LCA associated with the quantification and aggregation of exchanges with the environment (inputs and outputs) for a give product system through its life cycle

Peer review: a process of subjecting an author's scholarly work, research or ideas to the scrutiny of others who are experts in the same field.

Primary Environmental Loads: A load on a structure usually caused by natural forces such as wind, rain, snow, earthquakes, or extreme temperatures.

PVC: Polyvinylchloride

ReCiPe endpoint assessment: An impact assessment method developed by RIVM, CML, PRé Consultants, and



Radboud Universiteit Nijmegen.

Reference product / reference service: A property of a product/ service for which a difference in performance causes a change in production output.

VOCs /TVOCs: Volatile organic compounds/Total volatile organic compounds.



BACKGROUND

This Standard specifies environmental performance requirements for the award of the Australian ecolabel to products and services that may objectively be classified as sustainable (Life Cycle Assessment based). The Australian Ecolabel Program complies with ISO 14024: "Environmental labels and declarations - Guiding principles" which requires environmental labelling specifications to include criteria that are objective, reasonable and verifiable.

This Standard seeks to provide a framework for the recognition of good environmental performance for sustainable products and services. Voluntary environmental labelling standards implemented by Good Environmental Choice Australia (GECA), as managers of the Australian ecolabel program, aim to specify environmental performance criteria for the environmental loads of products and services throughout the major aspects of their life cycle. The production and consumption of products and services invariably generates a number of environmental loads, many of which result in the degradation of our natural environment. The purpose of this Standard is to define the environmental load reduction requirements for a diverse range of products and services for the Australian market which can be classed as sustainable products and services (Life Cycle Assessment based)".

There is a growing public awareness of the need for sustainable consumption and a concomitant increase in consumer demand for products and services that reduce the environmental burden of day to day life. Product designers are increasingly aware of the environmental impact of their choices, and continuous technological innovations are creating opportunities for significant environmental gains by allowing the redesign of previously environmentally harmful products or the invention of new functional products with a greatly reduced ecological footprint.

Good Environmental Choice Australia uses this Standard to recognise and support truly sustainable products and services where there is clear evidence of strong environmental load reductions compared to competing products performing the same function in the Australian market.

Note: GECA reserves the right to refuse any application without explanation, should it be deemed necessary by GECA. This decision is deemed final and without further consequence to GECA.



FIT FOR PURPOSE CRITERIA

SDGs 12

1 STANDARD CATEGORY SCOPE

This standard is applicable to the full range of products and services on the Australian market.

2 FITNESS FOR PURPOSE

Certified products and services should be good performers in their intended application. Certain standards of quality and product performance are implicit in the Label. The manufacturer of the product must ensure that the product is fit for its intended purpose.

2.1 Applicable Standards

Criterion 1: The product or service meets or exceeds the requirements of the relevant Australian Standard for its intended application, or the product or service meets or exceeds the applicable and accepted standard in its target market if it is to be exported.

If another GECA standard exists for a certain product or service, all standards listed under that Fitness for Purpose section apply.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 1.1: A detailed description of the product or service as it relates to relevant Australian (or other equivalent) standards.

2.2 Other Evidence of Fitness for Purpose

Criterion 2: Where there is no suitable industry standard governing fitness for purpose, the product can demonstrate sufficient quality by providing testing reports from an independent organisation or case studies from installations demonstrating market suitability and quality.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 2.1: Testing reports from independent organisation; or

DoC 2.2: Case studies from installations demonstrating market suitability and quality.



3 ENVIRONMENTAL LOAD REDUCTION, LIFE CYCLE ASSESSMENT

Criterion 3: The product or service shall exhibit an environmental improvement or have innate properties that demonstrate a significant reduction of environmental load compared to products/services that meet the same consumer need. This reduction must be related to the primary environmental loads of the product/service and not be limited to small or insignificant improvements. The principles and framework of Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) outlined in ISO 14 040: "Environmental management -- Life cycle assessment -- Principles and framework" and requirements outlined in ISO 14 044: "Environmental management -- Life cycle assessment -- Requirements and guidelines" for attributional LCA shall be used.

The required scope is cradle to grave, and specific life cycle stages can only be excluded if they are reasonably demonstrated to be immaterial. The LCA model shall be developed assuming current market conditions, practices and technologies. For example, current grid electricity mixes, current typical user behavior, current recycling rates, current waste management practices. In the case of absence of real life data on end of life of the product, the end of life scenario should comply with national statistics for the same materials. The functional unit for a service shall represent an annual average.

The primary life cycle inventory data (e.g. data from the manufacturer) must be representative of current conditions, and not more than five years old. The background data shall be less than ten years old, and sourced from a set hierarchy of data sources with consistent methodologies, e.g. AusLCl and ecoinvent. The method applied shall be as consistent as possible across the datasets. For example, if the economic allocation is used for the background data, economic allocation shall be used for the primary data, when applicable. The LCA must not be older than five years.

The life cycle impact assessment method must be the most up to date ReCiPe endpoint assessment method (Hierarchist model).

Sustainability shall be demonstrated in the product or service exhibiting environmental load reductions of at least 20% in one (out of the three) end point categories which is material to the product (based on LCA analysis) and other two end point categories should not be lower than of industry average. (three main endpoint categories include human health, ecological quality and resource depletion).

The product or service shall be benchmarked with current typical products/services and practices, normalised in a common functional unit. The standard practice reference product/service shall be agreed through consultation with GECA. The standard practice reference product/service must have the same:

- Function.
- aesthetics,
- intended market,
- regulatory constraints,
- and where applicable further properties.

The LCA must be peer reviewed by an independent practitioner as stated in ISO 14044 Clauses 6.1 and 6.2. The review shall be performed to provide assurance of the credibility of the LCA and its results. In general, the peer review shall include investigation of whether:

- The LCA conforms to the requirements and intent of this standard, including (but not limited to)
 appropriateness of scope, functional unit and reference product/service.
- The methods used to carry out the LCA are consistent with ISO 14040 and 14044.
- The methods used to carry out the LCA are scientifically and technically valid.
- The data used are appropriate and reasonable in relation to the goal of the LCA.
- The interpretations reflect the limitations identified and the goal of the LCA.



The LCA report is transparent and consistent.

The peer review statement must also confirm that the LCA report that has been reviewed is the same LCA report (including any revisions) that has been provided for assessment.

The aim of the peer review is to provide a third-party opinion on how the LCA was conducted and whether the results are acceptable to demonstrate compliance with this standard.

The competencies of the LCA practitioner to undertake LCA and peer reviewer to review LCA must be demonstrated. For the purpose of this standard, a Competent LCA practitioner is either:

- An individual or organisation who have produced, co-produced and/or independently peer reviewed at least five LCA studies in the past three years; or a person who is
- Qualified as an "LCA Certified Practitioner" (LCACP) through ALCAS / LCANZ / ACLCA.

The LCA practitioner and peer reviewer cannot be the same individual or organisation. Projects are required to submit competency statements or LCACP qualifications from the practitioners undertaking both the LCA and the peer review. A competency statement shall include reference to the five previous studies; product or service LCA study is acceptable.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 3.1: Peer reviewed LCA of the product or service as described above including a comparison with a reference product/service.



HEALTH CRITERIA

SDGs 3, 14, 15

4 HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES

This section is applicable to products, not to services.

The criteria in this section are intended to address some of the main hazardous substances added to the product, or to ingredients during manufacturing. The intention of this section is to reduce the use of hazardous materials and to prevent pollutants entering the environment.

Criterion 4: Products and individual components such as adhesives, textiles, refrigerants, timber or natural fibres that fall under an existing GECA Standard category, must fulfil the requirements of the relevant GECA Standard. Users of this standard should check the GECA website for a full list of products covered by existing standards at the time of application.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 4.1: All relevant documents of conformance of the applicable GECA standard.

4.1 Banned Substances

Criterion 5: In order to promote the reduction of pollutant hazards in the manufacture, use, or disposal of products the following substances (and where appropriate, their compounds) shall not be added to products or used during manufacture:

- Compounds or ingredients that are or may decompose into substances that are classified as a known or suspected endocrine disruptor, carcinogen, mutagen or teratogen, including:
- any R45 (H350), R46 (H340), R48 (H372, H373), R49 (H350) substances,
- IARC group 1 or 2A substances,
- EU consolidated list of C/M/R category 1 or 2 substances.
- Substances of Very High Concern listed on the REACH Candidate list (http://echa.europa.eu/candidate-list-table).
- Toxic heavy metals and their compounds, or ingredients containing heavy metals and their compounds, including lead (Pb), cadmium (Cd), mercury (Hg), chromium (Cr), arsenic (As), selenium (Se), cobalt (Co), tin (Sn) and antimony (Sb), and Nickel must not be deliberately added or used.

Exceptions:

Above substances may be present as contaminants. Contaminants are defined as residues from raw material production or from a previous life cycle (in case of recycled materials) present in the finished product, in raw materials or in alternative fuels, but not substances that are added to a raw material or product for a purpose, irrespective of quantity. Trace levels of contaminants may not exceed publicly available safety standards.

Exceptions for a specific substance may be permitted only where the applicant can demonstrate that the substance:

- is necessary for performance or safety reasons; and
- is stored and managed in a manner that prevents environmental pollution during manufacture; and
- is chemically bound in a way that will prevent environmental pollution upon disposal by landfill or incineration.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 5.1: A schedule of the constituent chemical substances in g/kg used in the manufacture of the product that are classified as harmful, and relevant SDS; and



DoC 5.2: Where an exception is claimed, the applicant must provide a signed declaration from an Executive Director of the applicant company stating that attempts have been undertaken to find alternatives for the substance(s) for which the exception is claimed; and the purpose for which the given substance is necessary; documentation clearly outlining how each chemical is used, managed and stored; and evidence that human exposure or environmental contamination is prevented.

4.2 Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs)

Volatile Organic Compounds released by solvents and other substances reduce indoor air quality in buildings. Indoor air quality is vital for occupant health. Thus, limiting the VOC content is important for a healthy building.

Criterion 6: If the product is intended for indoor use (fully or partly), the product must not produce a total VOC emission greater than 0.5 mg/m²hr. The results should be quantified using ASTM D5116-06 for small chamber or ASTM D6670-01(2007) for full-Scale Chamber Determination of Volatile Organic Emissions.

If the product/service falls within the scope of another GECA standard, the VOC limits of the other standard apply.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 6.1: A copy of test results reported by a NATA- accredited or ISO 17025 certified analytical laboratory obtained according to the test methods as outlined in criterion 7.

4.3 Formaldehyde

Criterion 7: If the product is intended for indoor use (fully or partly), the product must comply with the following air emission limits for formaldehyde:

The total amount of formaldehyde should not exceed 0.0423 mg/m²hr. Results should be quantified using ASTM D5116-06 for small chamber or ASTM D6670-01(2007) for full-Scale Chamber Determination of Volatile Organic Emissions.

If the product/service falls within the scope of another GECA standard, the formaldehyde limits of the other standard apply.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 7.1: A copy of test results reported by a NATA- accredited or ISO 17025 certified analytical laboratory according to the test methods as outlined in criterion 8.

4.4 Polyvinylchloride

Criterion 8: If a product is made from PVC, it must fulfil the guidelines and recommendations laid out in the Green Building Council of Australia publication "Literature Review and Best Practice Guidelines – Life cycle of PVC building products".

If the product falls within the scope of another GECA standard and this other standard excludes PVC products, then the product must not contain PVC.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 8.1: Third party assessed document explaining how the mentioned PVC best practice guidelines are met.



ENVIRONMENTAL CRITERIA

SDGs 6, 14, 15

5 PACKAGING, END OF LIFE AND PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP

This section is applicable to products, not to services.

5.1 Packaging Requirements

Criterion 9: Packaging shall comply with at least one of the following:

- Each material constituting >20% by weight of the total primary and secondary packaging used, must contain at least 50% recycled content by weight;
- Each material constituting >20% by weight of the total primary and secondary packaging used, must be derived from plant-based materials (e.g. PLA plastics); or
- Each separable item constituting >20% by weight of the total primary and secondary packaging, must be
 recyclable in Australia. This may be demonstrated using the Australian Packaging Covenant's Packaging
 Recyclability Evaluation Portal (PREP).
- Paper and cardboard packaging must be either certified under recognised forest certification scheme (e.g. FSC or PEFC) or contain at least 30% recycled content by weight.

Material used for the transport of products (tertiary packaging) and whose disposal is not the responsibility of the end-consumer may be excepted from the above requirements if they are re-used by the applicant, or are recyclable in specialist recycling facilities.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 9.1: Details of materials used as packaging, including information on the input of recycled and virgin materials reported by weight if applicable. The recycled content can be averaged over a twelve month period to find the amount or range of recycled content; and / or

- DoC 9.2: Evidence of recyclability or copy of PREP Assessment Report; and/or
- DoC 9.3: Evidence of certification under relevant forest certification scheme; and/or
- **DoC 9.4:** Details of re-use programs for transport materials within the applicant company.

4.5 Post-Consumer Recycling and Product Stewardship

The criteria in this section are intended to ensure that products are designed with the post-consumer phase in mind. Together with the section for Separability/Design for Disassembly there is an increased chance that recycling will actually happen at the end of a product's useful life.

Criterion 10: Certified products must not be impregnated, coated or otherwise treated in a manner that would prevent recycling in Australia or in the country where the product is used. Exceptions may be made where a coating imparts a very long life span to the product that cannot be achieved in any other way.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 10.1: Detailed description of each coating or treatment applied to the product or component, or declaration of non-use; and

DoC 10.2: Explanation of how each coating affects the recyclability of the product or component; and



DoC 10.3: Description of the end-of-life options for the coated or treated components (e.g., "this coated component may be recycled at <facility name>") with written confirmation from a recycler able to accept the component.

Criterion 11: All glass must be recyclable in local council recycling systems or by a specialist recycling facility as nominated in the Product Stewardship criterion. If the glass cannot be recycled in local council recycling systems the applicant must include notification to this effect in the product information in order to avoid contamination or glass that is recyclable in these systems.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 11.1: If glass is used in the product, the applicant must provide a specification of the type of glass used and details of any tints, colourings or coatings; and

DoC 11.2: A copy of receipts or arrangements for the recycling of glass in either a local council facility or specialist facility; and

DoC 11.3: A copy of the information provided with the product.

Criterion 12: All plastic parts weighing greater than 50 g shall be marked / stamped / embossed with an appropriate resin identification code promulgated by the Plastics and Chemical Industry Association (see http://www.pacia.org.au) or in compliance with ISO 11 469.

An exceptions may be allowed for product(s) where the circumstances of the manufacturing process or the size and shape of the product restrict the use of the plastics resin identification code on the product. Excepted product needs appropriate information describing disposal methods for the product (including the relevant resin identification code) to be provided at the time of sale of the product to encourage further recycling.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 12.1: Visual assessment from a product sample or during a site visit; or

DoC 12.2: Direct and clear inclusion of this requirement in DoC 23.2 in the engineer's report or demonstration.

Criterion 13: The applicant shall:

- accept their product without additional cost (excluding transportation costs) for further recycling in a specialist recycling facility; or
- have arrangements with a recycler to accept the product. A local recycler is preferable where possible; or
- have an established product stewardship program. Products collected under the scheme shall not be disposed of in landfill or by incineration; or
- have contractual arrangements with a third party who are able to recycle or refurbish the item.
 Contractual arrangements with the third party should nominate the estimated volume of product to be processed annually.

Overall, the applicant shall demonstrate that the necessary arrangements are in place to deliver the claims of the product stewardship program. Details relating to the above product stewardship program requirements and contact details for the programme operator(s) shall also be made publically available from the official company website and/or in product information supplied at point of sale.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 13.1: Copy of instructions outlining the take back service including the costs, contact details of the take-back service, relevant website documentation; and



DoC 13.2: Copy of contractual agreements existing between the applicant(s) with either of the following: third party suppliers, transport companies, charities, second hand retailers or refurbishment companies.

4.6 Separability/Design for Disassembly

Products that are difficult to separate into recyclable parts at the end of the product life are significantly more likely to contribute to landfill, even if the component materials are recyclable. Products designed to be separable into recyclable parts ensure that the end-user or disposer does not face unnecessary barriers to "doing the right thing" at the end of the products useful life, thus minimising the chances of some potentially significant environmental loads.

Ensuring the availability of replacement parts is a simple way of allowing end-users to extend the useful life of an existing product, thus reducing the need for early replacement and minimising the associated environmental impacts of disposal and new production.

Criterion 14: The product shall be separable into recyclable or re-useable units. Products shall be easily disassembled without the use of specialist tools. Component parts shall be easily identifiable for separation. At the discretion of the assessor/s, instructions for the disassembly method may be required to be provided with the furniture at point of sale where the method for disassembly is not immediately evident; and

Criterion 15: The product shall not contain inseparable bonds between material types that cannot be processed together in the same recycling stream.

Demonstration of Conformance (for both Criteria 15 and 16; only two DoCs required)

DoC 15.1: Where the product is comprised of more than two material types, instructions showing how disassembly can be achieved with commonly available tools; or

DoC 15.2: Engineer's report or disassembly demonstration. A demonstration may be performed as part of the site-visit or provided as a video with an application.

DoC 15.3: Mandatory: Details of materials used in the product.

Criterion 16: For those parts of a product that are subject to wear (e.g., hinges, locks, table leaves), functionally compatible replacements shall be guaranteed for a period of at least seven years. The manufacturer shall make individual replacement parts available to end-users.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 16.1: Evidence that the end-user is made aware of the availability of replacement parts. This may be part of the care instructions, user manual, or other information physically provided with the product, and/or is made available on the company website; and

DoC 16.2: Signed declaration by an Executive Officer of the producer confirming a commitment to the provision of replacement parts.

4.7 **Product Information**

Criterion 17: The manufacturer shall provide written information to the consumer clearly stating:

- The intended use of the product;
- Instructions for correct use and storage so as to maximise the product lifetime;
- Maintenance instructions, including cleaning instructions, if required. Maintenance instructions shall not specify the use of any chemical or coating limited by any part of this standard; and



Recycling instructions for the product end-of-life.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 17.1: Copy of documentation to be supplied with the product clearly stating the required information.

6 REQUIREMENTS FOR SERVICES

This section is applicable to services, not to products.

6.1 Standard Operating Procedures

Criterion 18: A nominated individual must be responsible for environmental management. GECA must be notified if this individual changes during the certification period.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 18.1: Signed declaration from an executive director confirming the person responsible for environmental management in the company.

Criterion 19: The service provider shall have in place written guidelines that define standard operating procedures. These shall, as a minimum, include suitable directions on:

- Equipment inspection and maintenance;
- Communication protocols;
- Training requirements (see criterion 17 including required service specific / waste generators' inductions and HSE requirements);
- Quality assurance procedures including:
 - Identifying customer requirements;
 - Demonstrating how compliance is monitored and maintained; Accurate record keeping & reporting;
- Preventative maintenance schedules and reports.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 19.1: Quality assurance document covering all the above, at a minimum, either in one or more documents.

6.2 Hazard Control

Criterion 20: The service provider must have in place procedures for dealing with hazards as they may arise on a work site. These procedures must be made freely available to all staff and incorporated in regular training.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 20.1: Written procedures for hazard control and proof that they are available to staff.

Criterion 21: No substances banned in criterion 5 may be used. The same exceptions as in criterion 5 apply.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 21.1: A schedule of the constituent chemical substances in g/kg used in the service that are classified as harmful, and relevant SDS; and



DoC 21.2: Where an exception is claimed, the applicant must provide a signed declaration from an Executive Director of the applicant company stating that attempts have been undertaken to find alternatives for the substance(s) for which the exception is claimed; and the purpose for which the given substance is necessary; documentation clearly outlining how each chemical is used, managed and stored; and evidence that human exposure or environmental contamination is prevented.

6.3 Accident Control

Criterion 22: The service provider must have an appropriate accident control policy governing the procedure to be followed in the case of an accident. Accident report forms must be kept on all work sites and be readily accessible to all staff. A basic first aid kit (as a minimum) must be provided for each work site.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 22.1: Written procedures for accident control and examples of accident report forms and proof that they are available to staff.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL CLAIMS

This section addresses the need to ensure that any environmental claims made beyond the scope of this standard by the manufacturer are verifiable.

Criterion 23: Public claims made by the applicant regarding the products environmental performance that are beyond the scope of this standard (other than GECA certified content) shall be independently verified as compliant with ISO 14021: Environmental Labels and Declarations – 'Self-Declared Environmental Claims' (Type II Environmental Labelling) requirements. Also refer to the GECA Rules for the Use of the Good Environmental Choice Australia Mark.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 23.1: Report or statement from the applicant listing all public environmental claims regarding the product by the applicant, demonstrating compliance to ISO14021; and

DoC 23.2: A signed declaration from an Executive Director of the applicant company stating that any environmental claims made by the company regarding the product in the future will be verified using ISO 14021 and/or the GECA certification.



SOCIAL CRITERIA

SDGs 10, 11, 12

8 SOCIAL AND LEGAL COMPLIANCE

This section addresses compliance with law and social attributes of the producer and the applicant company. Criteria for social aspects of the product or service are required under the international standard on ecolabelling (ISO 14024), and this section is common to all GECA standards. Equivalent sections are included in standards of all other GEN member ecolabelling bodies around the world. The social aspect partially addresses the third dimension of sustainability – Society. This was first understood by producers under the name "Corporate Social Responsibility" (CSR). In this standard social criteria include laws for equal opportunity, safety and protection of workers. GECA certification cannot be given to any company that illegally exploits workers or their families.

Note: In cases where there is a conflict between GECA requirements in this section and relevant legislation or regulations introduced by governments and agencies, national legislation overrides state legislation and state legislation overrides regulations and standards issued by GECA.

8.1 Environmental Legislation

Criterion 24: The producer of the product / the service provider and applicant company shall as per law comply with relevant environmental legislation and government orders at the Local, State, and Commonwealth levels, (if these have been issued). Where a producer is from an overseas jurisdiction, it is that jurisdiction's environmental regulations that apply. Where the producer has been found guilty of a breach of any environmental legislation or permit(s) within the last 2 years, there must be evidence of corrective action.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 24.1: Signed declaration from an Executive Officer of the organisation stating compliance to environmental legislation and government orders; as well as declaration of any breaches of environmental legislation or permits and the date of the breach. Applicant shall:

DoC 24.2: Provide a Legal Register listing applicable environmental legislation (including applicable Regulations under that legislation) in, or as an attachment to, this declaration. The Legal Register shall, for each applicable Act and Regulation listed, state whether the manufacturer and applicant company comply; or

DoC 24.3: Have a certified ISO 14001, Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) or equivalent environmental management system in place; and;

DoC 24.4: Any relevant permits granted by the EPA or an equivalent national, state or local body;

DoC 24.5: Evidence of corrective action following a guilty verdict, if applicable.

In this criterion, 'Regulation' means an entire regulatory instrument (for example, the Environmentally Hazardous Chemicals Regulation 2008) and not the individual sections, provisions or clauses of a regulatory instrument.

8.2 Fair Pay

Criterion 25: All employees shall be covered by a Federal or State award or a certified industrial agreement or a registered agreement as determined by the Australian Government Workplace Authority, or a State or Territory Workplace Relations Agency, or a workplace agreement in compliance with Fair Work Act 2009 section 61 – National Employment Standard. A manufacturer / applicant company shall demonstrate compliance to the following requirements as taken from the ILO Convention: Convention 100 – Equal Remuneration Convention.



Where a producer is from an overseas jurisdiction, it is that jurisdiction's equivalent regulations that apply.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 25.1: Signed declaration from an Executive Officer of the organisation;

DoC 25.2: Text or template of a typical workplace agreement offered to employees of the company; and

DoC 25.3: Sample payslips.

8.3 Workplace Health and Safety

Criterion 26: A manufacturer/applicant company must demonstrate compliance to the following requirements as taken from the ILO Conventions:

- a) Convention 155 Occupational Safety and Health and its accompanying Recommendation No. 164;
- b) Convention 161 Occupational Health Services and its accompanying Recommendation No. 171;

And

general compliance with State or Territory Legislation concerning Occupational, Health and Safety (OHS) / Work Health and Safety (WHS) and/or the Commonwealth Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988, where applicable. Where a manufacturer is from an overseas jurisdiction, it is that jurisdiction's equivalent regulations that apply. Where a producer/applicant company has been found guilty of a breach of relevant legislation within the last 2 years, there shall be evidence of corrective action.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 26.1: Signed declaration from an Executive Officer of the organization stating compliance to workplace legislation and government orders, as well as declaration of any breaches of legislation and the date of the breach. Applicants shall list all applicable legislation in, or as an attachment to, this declaration;

DoC 26.2: Copy of the company Occupational / Workplace H&S policy and procedures;

DoC 26.3: Copy of employee induction records, training records, meeting records and risk assessments; or current ISO 45001:2018 (or former OHSAS 18001), AS/NZS 4801 or equivalent certification; or third party certification stating compliance to Work Health and Safety Act 2011 and the Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011 or equivalent jurisdiction specific legislation; and

DoC 26.4: Evidence of corrective action following a guilty verdict, if applicable.

8.4 Equal Opportunity

Criterion 27: The manufacturer / applicant company shall demonstrate general compliance with the requirements of the Racial Discrimination Act 1975, Sex Discrimination Act 1984, Disability Discrimination Act 1992, Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Act 1999, and complementary State Legislation. The manufacturer cannot be in the list of 'named' or non-compliant employers under the Workplace Gender Equality Act 2012. Where a manufacturer /applicant company is from an overseas jurisdiction, it is that jurisdiction's equivalent regulations that apply. Where a manufacturer has been found guilty of a breach of relevant legislation within the last two years, there shall be evidence of corrective action.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 27.1: Signed declaration from an Executive Officer of the organisation;

DoC 27.2: Copy of relevant company policies and procedures;

DoC 27.3: Evidence of corrective action following a guilty verdict, if applicable; and

DoC 27.4: The assessor will verify that the company does not appear on the following list:

https://www.wgea.gov.au/non-compliant-list



8.5 Lawful Conduct

Criterion 28: The manufacturer / applicant company shall not have been convicted of any breach of criminal law, any breach of the Competition and Consumer Act 2010 or the Corporations Act 2001, including prosecution or delisting by the Australian Stock Exchange (ASX, or international equivalent). Where a manufacturer is from an overseas jurisdiction, it is that jurisdiction's equivalent regulations that apply. Where a producer has been found guilty of a breach of relevant legislation within the last 2 years, there must be evidence of corrective action.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 28.1: Signed declaration from an Executive Officer of the organisation; and

DoC 28.2: Evidence of corrective action following a guilty verdict, if applicable.

8.6 Modern Slavery

Criterion 29: The applicant company shall promote the elimination of Modern Slavery through collaboration with their supply chain, in accordance with the Australian Commonwealth Modern Slavery Act 2018 or NSW Modern Slavery Act 2018 and the following requirements as taken from the ILO Conventions:

- a) Conventions 29 and 105 Elimination of Forced and Compulsory Labour; and
- b) Convention 182 Worst Forms of Child Labour

Where an applicant has found instances of modern slavery in their business operations and or supply chains in the past two years, there shall be evidence of a corrective action.

This criterion shall be valid for applicant companies of any size and it not restricted to any annual revenue threshold.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 29.1: Copy of the published Modern Slavery Statement from within the previous 12 months. The Modern Slavery Statement shall comply with the seven mandatory criteria of the Act as below:

- a) Identify the reporting entity
- b) Describe reporting entity's structure, operations and supply chains
- c) Describe the risks of modern slavery practices in the operations and supply chains of the reporting entity
- d) and any entities it owns or controls
- e) Describe the actions taken by the reporting entity and any entities it owns or controls to assess and address
- f) these risks, including due diligence and remediation processes
- g) Describe how the reporting entity assesses the effectiveness of these actions
- h) fDescribe the process of consultation with any entities the reporting entity owns or controls
- i) In addition to the modern slavery report, some supporting documents may be asked to be cited at the main
- site of manufacturing during the on-site assessment:

If unable to be presented, a rationale will be required; also in case that supportive documentation is unavailable at time of certification, a grace period of 3 year or one certification period may be granted (no more than one certification period will be given).

The documents may include but not limited to the following documentation to support the modern slavery report:

- h) Employment records
- i) List of contractors
- j) Leave entitlements policy
- k) Any relevant Human Resources policy
- I) Payslips/ wage scales/ remuneration policy
- m) Minimum age of employment policy



n) Any other relevant information

Where an organisation has not previously reported on the Australian Commonwealth Modern Slavery Act 2018 or NSW Modern Slavery Act 2018 and does not meet the reporting threshold of the NSW or Commonwealth legislation, the organisation shall publish a Modern Slavery Statement within 3 years of Certification on a voluntary basis. A grace period of up to 1 cycle of certification may be granted depending on the company's reporting period.

8.7 Human and Labour Rights

Criterion 30: The manufacturer/applicant company shall promote social justice and internationally recognised human and labour rights and show compliance to the following requirements as taken from the ILO Conventions:

- a) Conventions 100 and 111 Elimination of Discrimination in respect of employment and occupation; and
- b) Convention 138 Minimum Age Convention; and
- c) Conventions 87 and 98 Freedom of Association and Collective Bargaining

Where a manufacturer has been found to breach this criterion in the past two years, there must be evidence of corrective action.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 30.1: The manufacturer/applicant shall provide: Map of at least one tier of their supply chain (this is related to the products undergoing application for certification).; and

DoC 30.2: Evidence of implementation of a Supplier 'Code of Conduct'; Code of conduct to include Human Rights, Health and Safety of workers - following ILO Conventions

ILO Conventions to include:

- No child / forced / bonded labour (ILO 29 and 105)
- Minimum age convention (ILO 138)
- Worst forms of child labour (ILO182)
- Health and safety procedures and training (155, 161 and 171)
- Right of freedom of association (ILO 87 and 98)
- Non-discrimination (ILO 100 and 111)
- Discipline / harassment and grievance procedures
- Fair working hours and compensation
- Anti-corruption and bribery

Code of conduct to include Environmental compliance – following UN Global Compact Code of Conduct Code of conduct to include as a minimum (Human rights & Labour)

Assessment and recommendations for improvements (Scorecards) by the applicant company of their supply chain;

and

- **DoC 30.3:** Evidence of ISO 20400 implementation; or
- DoC 30.4: Evidence of valid SA8000 certification, or other equivalent certification; or
- **DoC 30.5:** Evidence of being a signatory to the UN Global Compact; or
- **DoC 30.6:** SEDEX membership (https://www.sedexglobal.com/); or



DoC 30.7: GRI 400 Report (Global Report Initiative) https://www.globalreporting.org/standards/gristandardsdownload-center/?g=36c8c7e6-f3ac-4f25-b744-e5474b9ef279.

And

DoC 30.8: Evidence of corrective action, if applicable.

If DoCs 30.3 - 30.7 cannot be provided, manufacturer/ applicant shall provide:

DoC 30.9: Evidence of commitment to achieve certification in accordance with DoC 30.4 within one year; or

DoC 30.10: Evidence of becoming a signatory to the UN Global Compact within six months;

and

DoC 30.11: Evidence of corrective action, if applicable.

GECA acknowledges that this is an emerging area of compliance and conformance. Therefore, alternative certifications, standards, ethical membership organisations or compliance reporting may be recognised as demonstration of conformance where an exception is granted by the GECA Board.



EVIDENCE OF CONFORMANCE

DEMONSTRATION OF CONFORMANCE (DOC)

This section lists the sources of evidence to be considered during an assessment to establish conformance against GECA's standards. This list is provided in order to guide the applicant manufacturer through the requirements of the standard and to facilitate the preparation of an application.

The DoC requirements as specified along with each criterion in the standard define specific sources of evidence acceptable to GECA. In cases where criteria offer several DoC requirements, it is the sole decision of the appointed assurance provider to choose the appropriate option in course of the preliminary stage of the assessment. If none of the recommended DoC requirements stipulated for a particular criterion in the standard is applicable for a product under assessment, then the appointed assurance provider may choose an alternative but equivalent source of evidence. In cases where alternative sources of evidence have been accepted for the verification of the product, the assurance provider will inform GECA by providing a report on the details as far as appropriate. GECA will use this information to continuously improve the DoC requirements stipulated by that standard.

All laboratory testing and analysis shall be carried out by a NATA (National Association of Testing Authorities) accredited laboratory. For tests carried out overseas all analysis shall be carried out by a reputable lab accredited by an ILAC (International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation) member.

The applicant/manufacturer shall have processes in place to ensure on-going compliance with the criteria in this standard; for example in relation to hazardous substances, having a process in place for completing a checklist (signed and dated by the authorised person) that lists all the substances and requirements in that section prior to using in/with the GECA product/s. The process may be carried out by relevant supplier/s of relevant material/s if there is no in-house capacity within the organisation being assessed to carry out this process. Documented information about any communication in regards to this process (i.e. between applicant and suppliers) shall be maintained.

The DoC requirements are summarised in Appendix A to assist applicants in preparing documentation for the verification process with a GECA Approved Assessor.



APPENDIX A APPLICATION CHECKLIST

The Application Checklist is intended to guide the applicant company through the application and verification process. The company may collect all information that is required for the verification of the product and attach the relevant documents to their application. The table below summarises the DoC requirements for each criterion in the standard.

Criterion Number	Criterion Content	Demonstration of Conformance See standard body for details	Evidence Attached	Complies Y/ N or NA
FITNESS FO	I R PURPOSE CRITERIA			
Criterion 1	Applicable Standards	A detailed description of the product or service as it relates to relevant Australian (or other equivalent) standards.		
Criterion 2	Other Evidence of Fitness for Purpose	Testing reports from independent organisation; or		
		Case studies from installations demonstrating market suitability and quality		
Criterion 3	Environmental load reduction, life cycle assessment	Peer reviewed LCA of the product or service as described above including a comparison with a reference product/service.		
HEALTH CRI	TERA		ı	1
Hazardous S	ubstances	(0//)		
Criterion 4	Hazardous substances	All relevant documents of conformance of the applicable GECA standard		
Criterion 5	Banned Substances	A schedule of the constituent chemical substances in g/kg used in the manufacture of the product that are classified as harmful, and relevant SDS; and		
		Where an exception is claimed, the applicant must provide a signed declaration from an Executive Director of the applicant company stating that attempts have been undertaken to find alternatives for the substance(s) for which the exception is claimed; and the purpose for which the given substance is necessary; documentation clearly outlining how each chemical is used, managed and stored; and evidence that human exposure or environmental contamination is prevented.		
Criterion 6	Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs)	A copy of test results reported by a NATA- accredited or ISO 17025 certified analytical laboratory obtained according to the test methods as outlined in criterion 6.		



Criterion Number	Criterion Content	Demonstration of Conformance See standard body for details	Evidence Attached	Complies Y/ N or NA
Criterion 7	Formaldehyde	A copy of test results reported by a NATA- accredited or ISO 17025 certified analytical laboratory according to the test methods as outlined in criterion 7.		
Criterion 8	Polyvinylchloride	Third party assessed document explaining how the mentioned PVC best practice guidelines are met.		
Packaging, I	I End of Life and Product Stewar	rdship		<u> </u>
Criterion 9 Packaging Requirement	Packaging Requirements	Details of materials used as packaging, including information on the input of recycled and virgin materials reported by weight if applicable. The recycled content can be averaged over a twelve month period to find the amount or range of recycled content; and / or		
		Evidence of recyclability or copy of PREP Assessment Report; and/or		
		Evidence of certification under relevant forest certification scheme; and/or		
		Details of re-use programs for transport materials within the applicant company.		
	Post-Consumer Recycling and Product Stewardship	Detailed description of each coating or treatment applied to the product or component, or declaration of non-use; and		
	, (<i>I</i>) '	Explanation of how each coating affects the recyclability of the product or component; and		
		Description of the end-of-life options for the coated or treated components (e.g., "this coated component may be recycled at <facility name="">") with written confirmation from a recycler able to accept the component.</facility>		
Criterion 11	Glass recycling	If glass is used in the product, the applicant must provide a specification of the type of glass used and details of any tints, colourings or coatings; and		
		A copy of receipts or arrangements for the recycling of glass in either a local council facility or specialist facility; and		
		A copy of the information provided with the product		



Criterion Number	Criterion Content	Demonstration of Conformance See standard body for details	Evidence Attached	Complies Y/ N or NA
Criterion 12	Resin identification code	Copy of instructions outlining the take back service including the costs, contact details of the take-back service, relevant website documentation; and		
		Copy of contractual agreements existing between the applicant(s) with either of the following: third party suppliers, transport companies, charities, second hand retailers or refurbishment companies.		
Criterion 13	Product stewardship	Copy of instructions outlining the take back service including the costs, contact details of the take-back service, relevant website documentation; and		
		Copy of contractual agreements existing between the applicant(s) with either of the following: third party suppliers, transport companies, charities, second hand retailers or refurbishment companies.		
Criterion 14 and 15	Separability/Design for Disassembly	Where the product is comprised of more than two material types, instructions showing how disassembly can be achieved with commonly available tools; or		
		Engineer's report or disassembly demonstration. A demonstration may be performed as part of the site-visit or provided as a video with an application.		
		Details of materials used in the product.		
Criterion 16		Evidence that the end-user is made aware of the availability of replacement parts. This may be part of the care instructions, user manual, or other information physically provided with the product, and/or is made available on the company website; and		
		Signed declaration by an Executive Officer of the producer confirming a commitment to the provision of replacement parts.		
Criterion 17	Product Information	Copy of documentation to be supplied with the product clearly stating the required information		



Criterion Number	Criterion Content	Demonstration of Conformance See standard body for details	Evidence Attached	Complies Y/ N or NA
Criterion 18	Standard Operating Procedures	Signed declaration from an executive director confirming the person responsible for environmental management in the company.		
Requirement	ts for Services			
Criterion 19	Standard Operating Procedures	Quality assurance document covering all the above, at a minimum, either in one or more documents		
Criterion 20	Hazard Control	Written procedures for hazard control and proof that they are available to staff.		
Criterion 21		A schedule of the constituent chemical substances in g/kg used in the service that are classified as harmful, and relevant SDS; and		
		Where an exception is claimed, the applicant must provide a signed declaration from an Executive Director of the applicant company stating that attempts have been undertaken to find alternatives for the substance(s) for which the exception is claimed; and the purpose for which the given substance is necessary; documentation clearly outlining how each chemical is used, managed and stored; and evidence that human exposure or environmental contamination is prevented.		
Criterion 22	Accident Control	Written procedures for accident control and examples of accident report forms and proof that they are available to staff.		
Criterion 23	Environmental claims	Report or statement from the applicant listing all public environmental claims regarding the product by the applicant, demonstrating compliance to ISO14021; and		
		A signed declaration from an Executive Director of the applicant company stating that any environmental claims made by the company regarding the product in the future will be verified using ISO 14021 and/or the GECA certification		
Criterion 24	Environmental Legislation	Signed declaration confirming conformance to the criterion; and		



Criterion Number	Criterion Content	Demonstration of Conformance See standard body for details	Evidence Attached	Complies Y/ N or NA
		Have a certified ISO 14001, Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) or equivalent environmental management system in place; and;		
		Legal Register listing applicable environmental legislation		
		Permits granted by EPA or an equivalent national body (if applicable)		
		Evidence of corrective action following a guilty verdict, if applicable.		•
SOCIAL CRI	TERIA			
Criterion 25	Fair Pay	Signed declaration confirming conformance to the criterion and		
		Text or template of the typical workplace agreement offered to employees		
		Sample workplace agreement, Payslips		
Criterion 26	Workplace Health and Safety	Signed declaration confirming conformance to the criterion and		
		OHS/WHS policies and procedures and		
	<	Evidence of corrective action (if applicable)		
Criterion 27	Equal Opportunity	Signed declaration confirming conformance to the criterion and		
		Relevant policies and procedures and		
		Evidence of corrective action (if applicable)		
Criterion 28	Lawful Conduct	Signed declaration confirming conformance to the criterion and		
		Evidence of corrective action (if applicable)		
Criterion 29	Modern Slavery	Copy of the published Modern Slavery Statement from within the previous 12 months		
Criterion 30	Compliance with International Labour	Map of at least one tier of their supply chain; and		
	Organisation (ILO) Conventions.	Evidence of implementation of a Supplier 'Code of Conduct', and		
		Evidence of ISO 20400 implementation; or		
		Evidence of valid SA8000 certification, , or other equivalent certification; or		



Criterion Number	Criterion Content	Demonstration of Conformance See standard body for details	Evidence Attached	Complies Y/ N or NA
		Evidence of becoming a signatory to the UN Global Compact within six months of certification; or		
		SEDEX Membership, or		
		GRI400 Report ; and		
		Evidence of corrective action (if applicable).		
		Evidence of commitment to achieve certification in accordance with DoC 36.4 within one year		
		Evidence of becoming a signatory to the UN Global Compact within six months;		
		And		
		Evidence of corrective action (if applicable)		

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