

## Core Sustainable Development Goals

**3** GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



**6** CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



**8** DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



**12** RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



# Cleaning Products

**Standard No:** CPv2.2iii-2012

Type 1 ecolabel standard in accordance with ISO 14024

Issued 26 May 2021 by GECA

(Good Environmental Choice Australia Ltd)



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# Cleaning Products

## DOCUMENT HISTORY

Status: **Current**

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Versions	Date Published	Summary of Changes
1	November 2007	
2.0	September 2012	Revision: Scope amended to include Hand Dishwashing Detergents. Modified criteria: biodegradability, VOCs, colours, sodium / grey water, phosphorus, enzymes, hazardous materials, product information and packaging. New criteria: palm oil, microorganisms, water emissions and waste minimisation
2.1	18 June 2013	Amendment: VOC definition, VOC levels, sodium, banned substances, limited substances, packaging and water emissions.
2.2	26 November 2013	Amendment: Palm oil, palm kernel oil, product classification, banned substances and limited substances.
2.2i	9 July 2013	Update: Addition of explanatory note in Criterion 19. Update of 'Definitions and Acronyms' section.change of social criteria.
2.2ii	6 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
2.2iii	26 May 2021	Social criteria updated: Modern slavery criterion added, human and labour rights criterion revised; reference to Sustainable Development Goals included, criteria reordered into four sections: fit for purpose – health – environmental – social, office address updated, broken links updated; change of terminology: exemption -> exception, audit -> assessment, CAB -> assurance.

## HOW TO APPLY FOR GECA CERTIFICATION

Organisations interested in GECA certification using the Good Environmental Choice Australia Ecolabel are encouraged to read carefully through the entire standard. A **checklist at the back of the standard** provides a helpful list of all criteria within the standard.

Please contact us via email [enquiries@geca.org.au](mailto:enquiries@geca.org.au) or complete the [brief form located here](#) on the GECA website to begin the application process. We will then forward an **information pack** and a link to complete an **obligation-free application form**. After receiving the completed application form, an approved GECA Assurance Provider will contact the applicant and give a clear overview of the steps needed to achieve certification and provide a quote for assessment.

Note: GECA reserves the right to refuse, suspend or postpone an application if (a) the organisation does not meet minimum compliance with Environmental Law, Labour Law, Fair Pay, Work, Health and Safety, Lawful behaviour (e.g. pending or ongoing lawsuits), (b) the organisation does not have transparent reporting that is available/accessible on request or (c) the core mission of the organisation and/or product is in conflict with GECA's mission and/or is perceived by GECA to pose a risk to the GECA brand or reputation.

## DEFINITIONS & ACRONYMS

**% w/w:** Percent weight/weight, equivalent to percent by mass.

**ACO:** Australian Certified Organic.

**ADG Code:** Australian Dangerous Goods Code.

**Aerobically biodegradable:** A substance that is biodegradable according to AS 4351.

**Aerosol:** In the context of this standard, refers to products packaged in pressurised cans or cans requiring the use of propellants. Pump or trigger sprays that are not pressurised and do not require the use of propellant are not considered aerosols in this standard.

**Anaerobically biodegradable:** A substance that, when measured as directed in ISO 11734 "Water quality - Evaluation of the "ultimate" anaerobic biodegradability of organic compounds in digested sludge - Method by measurement of the biogas production", achieves at least 60% degradation.

**APEO:** Alkylphenol ethoxylate. APEO and other alkylphenol derivatives.

**Aromatic Substance:** In the context of this standard, aromatic substances are chemicals which contain a planar unsaturated ring of atoms that is stabilised by an interaction of the bonds forming the ring. Such compounds are typified by benzene and its derivatives.

**AS:** Australian Standard.

**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.

**Bioaccumulative:** A substance is classified as potentially bioaccumulative if the log KOW (log water / octanol partition coefficient) is equal to or greater than 3.

**Biodegradable:** Organic substances that decompose in the natural environment due to the action of living organisms.

**Carcinogenic:** Capable of causing cancer. The International Agency for Research on Cancer is the internationally accepted body for the classification of carcinogenic substances. See <http://www.iarc.fr>

**CAS Number:** Chemical Abstract Service number. Unique CAS numbers are assigned to chemical compounds as a means of identification.

**CI Number:** Colour Index Number, as assigned by the Society of Dyers and Colourists and the American Association of Textile Chemists and Colourists.

**COD:** Chemical Oxygen Demand.

**CSPKO:** Certified Sustainable Palm Kernel Oil, Palm Kernel Oil sourced from plantations certified to meet criteria for sustainable management by e.g. RSPO.

**CSPO:** Certified Sustainable Palm Oil, Palm Oil sourced from plantations certified to meet criteria for sustainable management by e.g. RSPO.

**Dangerous Goods:** Any product classifiable as dangerous according to GHS criteria or Code of Practice for Managing Risks of Hazardous Chemicals in the Workplace or Australian Dangerous Goods (ADG) Code, including classification as an Environmentally Hazardous Substance.

**Dematerialisation:** The reduction of material inputs to increase efficiency of resource use.

**Demonstration of Conformance (DoC):** Defines sources of evidence acceptable to GECA to demonstrate compliance with each criterion of the standard. An applicant manufacturer must provide documentation to the GECA Approved Assessor in order to demonstrate conformance of its products under assessment. For further information on Demonstration of Conformance requirements see Appendix A - Evidence of Conformance at the end of this standard.

**DID List:** Detergent Ingredient Database List, as published by the European Union Ecolabel. Available at [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/ecolabel/documents/did\\_list/didlist\\_part\\_a\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/ecolabel/documents/did_list/didlist_part_a_en.pdf)

**EDTA:** Ethylene diamine-tetra-acetic acid or ethylene dinitrilo-tetra-acetic acid, or any of its salts or primary derivatives.

**EMS:** Environmental Management System.

**Endocrine Disruptor:** Substances which interfere with the endocrine system of the body, resulting in development, reproductive, neurological and immune health effects.

**Enzyme:** A substance, produced by an organism, which acts as a catalyst to specific biochemical reactions.

**EPA:** Environmental Protection Agency, or Environmental Protection Authority.

**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.

**FSANZ:** Food Standards Australia and New Zealand.

**GECA:** Good Environmental Choice Australia Ltd.

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

**GECA Mark:** The Environmental Choice Australia Mark, the mark awarded to applicants complying with GECA ecolabelling standards after assessment by a GECA Approved Assessor.

**GEN:** Global Ecolabelling Network.

**General purpose cleaners:** Any cleaner designed to perform on a variety of hard surfaces for household, institutional and / or recreational purposes.

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

**GreenPalm:** A certificate trading programme which allows manufacturers to support the sustainable palm oil production.

**Greywater:** Wastewater generated from washing machines, showers, baths and basins which, when used correctly, can replace drinking water for watering lawns and gardens. Water from kitchens can also be considered as greywater if the correct treatment processes are followed. Wastes from toilets are not included.

**Halogen:** Any element in Group 17 on the periodic table (previously Group VIIA). Halogens include fluorine, chlorine, bromine and iodine.

**Heavy Metal:** Elements including antimony (Sb), arsenic (As), cadmium (Cd), chromium (Cr), cobalt (Co), lead (Pb) mercury (Hg), and tin (Sn).

**IARC:** International Agency for Research on Cancer.

**IFRA:** International Fragrance Association.

**Industrial and institutional cleaning products:** Cleaning products that are intended to be sold to the professional market.

**Industrial and institutional specialty cleaning products:** Industrial and institutional cleaning products, intended for heavy duty applications.

**Impurities/contaminants:** Residual products from primary production that can be found in the product/ingredient in concentrations below 0.010% (100 ppm). Substances that are actively added to an ingredient or product for a particular purpose are not considered to be impurities, irrespective of quantity. Substances/products known to be liberated by an ingredient (e.g. formaldehyde and arylamine) are not considered to be impurities or contaminants.

**INS Number:** International Numbering System for Food Additives Number, as assigned by the Codex Alimentarius of the World Health Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Numbers of this system are analogous to those of the E Number system of the European Union.

**ISO:** International Organization for Standardization. See <http://www.iso.org>

**MEA:** Monoethanolamine, also known as ethanolamine.

**Microorganism:** An organism of microscopic size.

**Mutagenic:** Any substance that causes mutations or genetic abnormalities. Criteria for classification of a substance as mutagenic are defined by the National Industry Chemical Notification and Assessment Scheme (NICNAS).

**NASAA:** National Association for Sustainable Agriculture Australia.

**NTA:** Nitrilotriacetic acid or any of its salts.

**OECD:** Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

**Organic (chemistry):** Carbon compounds other than simple salts such as carbonates, carbon oxides, cyanides and carbides. Unless specified, this definition of organic is applicable to all parts of this standard.

**Organic (farming method):** Substances or ingredients that have been produced without the use of artificial fertiliser or synthetic chemicals.

**Packaging:** Materials used for the transport, containment or display of products.

**pH:** Formally, pH is defined as the negative log function of the activity of the hydrogen ion in solution. In practice, it is a scale indicating how acidic or alkaline a solution is. A pH of 7 is neutral, higher pH values are progressively more alkaline and lower pH values are progressively more acidic. Each pH unit represents a ten-fold concentration change of the hydrogen ion.

**Post-Consumer Material:** Post-consumer material is generated by end-users (including households, businesses, industries and institutions) from products that can no longer be used for their intended purpose. Post-consumer material also includes the return of material from distribution chains.

**Pre-Consumer Material:** Pre-consumer (sometimes also referred to as post-industrial) material is recovered from the manufacturing process before it is sold to end consumers.

**Producer / Manufacturer:** For the purpose of this standard these terms comprise both manufacturers of a product as well as service suppliers. These may not necessary be the companies that apply for GECA



certification, since certification can also be awarded to retailers of a product. However, for some criteria it is required that the original manufacturer of the product conforms to particular requirements.

**Readily Biodegradable:** Substances which are readily biodegradable according to AS 4351 or relevant OECD method.

**Recycled Content:** Denotes the proportion of a product that is generated from post-consumer and pre-consumer material.

**RSPO:** Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil.

**SDS:** Safety Data Sheet formally Material Safety Data Sheet – MSDS). Contains information relating to the composition, classification and risk assessment of the product. To qualify as suitable, the SDS and information therein must not be more than 5-years old.

**Surfactant or “Surface-Active Agent”:** Any substance which is intended to reduce surface tension thereby helping water to surround and remove dirt or staining from surfaces.

**Teratogen:** An agent which disrupts the development of an embryo or foetus.

**Teratogenic:** Any substance capable of causing heritable genetic damage, producing congenital deformations or causing birth defects. The criteria for classification of a substance as teratogenic are defined by the National Industry Chemical Notification and Assessment Scheme (NICNAS).

**TGA:** Therapeutic Goods Administration.

**VOC:** Volatile Organic Compounds; any organic compound (compound which contains carbon) with a vapour pressure greater than 0.01 kPa at 1 atm and 20°C. VOC content of products will be calculated according to the content of ingredients that fit this definition.

**WFCC:** World Federation of Culture Collections.

**WHO:** World Health Organization.

Note: All percentages described in this document are to be measured as per cent by mass.

## ABOUT GECA

At GECA, we help organisations and individuals to *make, buy and do* better for people and planet. We are a purpose-driven not-for-profit that stands for **integrity, independence** and **impact**.

We offer a suite of services designed for anyone committed to continuous improvement in their sustainability, including Australia's only not-for-profit multi-sector ecolabelling program.

GECA has proudly been a [Certified B Corp](#) since November 2015. We are part of a global movement of organisations in over 50 countries across 130 industries trying to make the world a better place.

## AN OVERVIEW OF GECA'S STANDARDS

Following ISO 14024: *Environmental labels and declarations - Type I environmental labelling - Principles and procedures* and [ISEAL frameworks](#) for global best practice in ecolabelling, we've developed our rigorous standards, which are independently assessed by GECA Approved Assurance Providers.

ISO 14024 is internationally recognised and has been adopted as a benchmark for life cycle-based ecolabels by GEN, the international federation of ecolabelling bodies. Our standards are relevant to critical Australian industries, and GECA is the only Australian [GEN member](#).

ISO 14024 requires environmental labelling specifications to include criteria that are objective, reasonable and verifiable. The purpose of voluntary environmental labels and declarations is to communicate **verifiable and accurate** information for the numerous environmental and social aspects of goods and services. As required by the [Trade Practices Act](#), the information cannot be misleading. Such transparent information encourages the demand for, and supply of, those products or services that cause less harm to people and planet, thereby stimulating the potential for market-driven continuous environmental and social improvement.

While following ISO 14024 for environmental, health and fit for purpose criteria, **GECA's standards go above and beyond**, including social impact criteria. At GECA, we know that nothing can be truly sustainable if it only looks at environmental impacts and ignores the treatment of people. GECA standards identify the **environmental, human health, fit for purpose and social impact** criteria that the top environmentally and socially performing products or services sold in the Australian marketplace can meet to be recognised by GECA as "environmentally and socially preferable".

All GECA standards are based on life cycle thinking, allowing organisations to understand their sustainability impacts and where they occur within their operation's life cycle, **from raw materials to end-of-life**. We have used these principles to set criteria to address relevant sustainability loads typical in a product category. As such, this standard may also offer guidance for organisations to reduce the harmful impacts of their products or services. Organisations may use the criteria in this standard as an optimisation tool to design and refine the processing, manufacturing, packaging and delivery of their products or services. Also, organisations may uncover other sustainability issues and potential measures within the product's or service's life cycle.

At GECA, we encourage both manufacturers and retailers to include and adapt improvements in their processes and product designs that will enable them to achieve even better sustainability results where technically possible. GECA welcomes feedback where this has occurred.

While all GECA ecolabelling standards are voluntary, nevertheless they contain criteria that address compliance with specific laws. Also, a GECA standard may recognise specific Australian standards. A prerequisite for certification under the GECA ecolabel is to satisfy the relevant Australian and international standards, where required by law. However, Australia's compulsory standards typically focus on fit for purpose criteria instead of assuring environmental and social preferability. **GECA's ecolabelling standards go beyond mandatory Australian standards** and define an environmental and social benchmark for specific product categories.

Where a product or service is certified under our standard, it may display the GECA ecolabel (the "Good Environmental Choice Australia Mark") to show that it has been independently assessed and demonstrates conformance with the environmental and social criteria detailed in this standard.

Products or services certified as conforming to our standards may gain a marketing advantage in government and business procurement programs, as well as greater market recognition in general because of their independently verified sustainability attributes. GECA certification demonstrates leadership and may help to future-proof supply chains and improve economic performance. By generating genuine benefits for people and planet, it is possible to gain increased customer loyalty.

**For further information please contact GECA**

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**One ecolabel says it all**  
A better environmental,  
healthier and ethical choice






ENVIRONMENT

HEALTH

SOCIAL  
& ETHICAL

FIT FOR  
PURPOSE

## STRUCTURE OF THE STANDARD

Within each section of this standard, you will find criteria and Demonstrations of Conformance (DoCs). The criteria outline the requirements for the product and applicant company regarding its sustainability performance. The DoCs list the information required to verify compliance with the criteria. Selected sections also contain introductory text which outlines the purpose behind the criteria or the reason for its inclusion in the standard.

## REQUESTING ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE

DoCs are listed for each criterion within this standard; however, a GECA Approved Assessor may request additional information to ensure conformance on a case-by-case basis. Therefore, the DoCs listed below should be considered a guide to the applicant organisation's minimum DoCs.

## RELEVANCE WITH SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Each of GECA's standards is linked to specific [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs) set by the United Nations. The 17 SDGs are an internationally agreed framework for urgent action to achieve the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) adopted by all UN member states in 2015, including Australia. The goals address global challenges, including global inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, peace and justice. Each standard criterion answers specific SDG targets.

Each criterion within this standard answers to a specific SDG target. These specific SDGs are shown below and are highlighted throughout each section of the standard, including the core SDGs related to this standard as further illustrated.

**12** RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

All SDGs relevant to GECA's Cleaning Products standard

If the global population reaches **9.6 billion** by 2050, the equivalent of almost **three planets** will be required to sustain current lifestyles

**3** GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING




**5** GENDER EQUALITY



**6** CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



**8** DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



**10** REDUCED INEQUALITIES



**12** RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



**14** LIFE BELOW WATER



**15** LIFE ON LAND



## Core SDGs relevant to GECA's Cleaning Products standard

### 3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



#### CORE SDG: 3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

##### GECA Standard Criterion

- Hazardous substances and volatile organic compounds: criteria 3-11
- Workplace health and safety: criterion 32

##### SDG 3 Specific target 3.9

By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination.

### 6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



#### CORE SDG: 6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

##### GECA Standard Criterion

- Water quality: criteria 12, 15-18

##### SDG 6 Specific target 6.3

By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally.

### 8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



#### CORE SDG: 8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

##### GECA Standard Criterion

- Minimum entitlement including wages: criterion 31
- Equal opportunity: criterion 33
- Prevention of modern slavery: criterion 35
- Human rights including labour rights: criterion 36

##### SDG 8 Specific target 8.5

By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value.

##### SDG 8 Specific target 8.7

Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms.

##### SDG 8 Specific target 8.8

### 12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



#### CORE SDG: 12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

##### GECA Standard Criterion

- Hazardous substances: criteria 3-11
- Waste minimisation: criterion 28

##### SDG 12 Specific target 12.4

Achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks by 2020.

##### SDG 12 Specific target 12.5

By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse.

## BACKGROUND

Cleaning products are essential for healthy and appealing living and working conditions. However, they can also have a negative impact on human health and the environment. To determine whether a cleaning product is truly sustainable or not, you need to look at its entire lifecycle. That means from sourcing raw materials and the manufacturing process to use and finally, its ultimate disposal.

The discharge of phosphorus compounds, for example, can damage freshwater and coastal ecosystems by introducing too many minerals and nutrients, leading to algal blooms. Some cleaning products may also contain long-lasting toxic substances, harming aquatic life in surface waters and streams.

Palm oil and palm kernel oil are common ingredients in conventional cleaning products. However, irresponsible palm oil farming can lead to deforestation, habitat loss for threatened species, poor air quality, and threats to the rights of local communities. Therefore, palm oil and palm kernel oil must be shown to be sustainably sourced.

Cleaning products must be safe for the end-user as well as for the workers who helped manufacture them. Conventional cleaning products can harbour ingredients that cause a range of adverse effects on health, ranging from mild (such as minor skin irritation) to very serious (such as being a potential carcinogen).

Exposure to volatile organic compounds (VOCs) is one of the main culprits behind Sick Building Syndrome, where occupants of a building complain of headaches, fatigue and other symptoms that disappear after leaving the building. The health issues caused by VOCs in indoor environments depend on the amount of VOCs present in the air, the length of time they are present, and how frequently people are exposed to them. People with allergies and asthma are particularly at risk.

Products certified under this standard can also contribute toward achieving credit points for projects being certified under the Green Building Council of Australia's Green Star Performance tool. In addition, our standard also contributes to meeting WELL features under the WELL Building Certification.

The standard sets requirements that aim to provide a benefit by:

- preventing the use of harmful ingredients such as carcinogens, mutagens or reproductive toxins
- limiting emissions of volatile organic compounds
- placing restrictions on fragrances and irritants
- limiting substances harmful to aquatic environments
- supporting sustainably sourced palm oil and palm kernel oil
- encouraging recovery, reuse, recycling and responsible disposal of materials and packaging
- ensuring workers and suppliers through the supply chain can expect fair pay, equal opportunity, and a safe working environment



# FIT FOR PURPOSE CRITERIA

## 1. STANDARD CATEGORY SCOPE

### 1.1 Scope schedule

**Criterion 1:** The product must fall within the category scope of this standard.

This standard is applicable to the following categories of cleaning products:

- **General Purpose Cleaners:** includes cleaners for use on tables, benches, tiles, windows, walls, floors and other fixed surfaces. This includes cleaners for kitchen use;
- **Sanitary Cleaners:** includes cleaners for use on toilets, bathrooms and other wet areas;
- **Laundry Cleaning Agents:** includes household laundry detergents including liquids and powders for washing machine or hand clothes washing use; and
- **Hand Dishwashing Detergents:** includes cleaners for manually washing dishes.

Whilst this standard is primarily aimed at domestic and commercial products, industrial or institutional products (such as those for use in food preparation areas and in hospitals) which meet the requirements of the standard are eligible for certification.

Other environmentally innovative cleaning products that do not directly fit into the above types may be considered for certification provided the product fulfils the requirements of relevant sections of this standard. Other types of products may be added to the scope at a later date.

The following categories of cleaners are covered under other GECA Standards:

- Machine Dishwashing Detergents; and
- Personal Care Products.

### Exclusions and Notes

The standard excludes cleaning products that are applied to a person, including skin and hair. Personal cleaners, including hand washes, soaps and shampoos are assessed under other GECA standards.

Aerosols, including products packaged in pressurised cans or cans requiring the use of propellants, are not accepted for certification. Pump or trigger sprays that are not pressurised and do not require the use of propellant are accepted under this standard.

This standard excludes disposable or single-use items, including wipes and plastic bags.

### Demonstration of Conformance

**DoC 1.1:** Brief description of the product(s) or product range and their purpose as relevant to the standard.

## 2. FITNESS FOR PURPOSE

*To be certified, the product(s) must be fit to perform its intended purpose or application. A minimum level of quality and durability is implicit before the GECA ecolabel can be displayed on the product. The producer / manufacturer must ensure that the product is fit for its intended purpose.*

### 2.1 Demonstrated Performance

**Criterion 2:** The product must demonstrate fitness for purpose or market acceptance or suitability or quality.

If reformulation takes place, the applicant must demonstrate that the new formulation also complies with this requirement.

#### Demonstration of Conformance

**DoC 2.1:** Independent audit or test reports; or

**DoC 2.2:** Report from an independent organisation that demonstrates fitness for purpose, market acceptance, suitability or quality; or

**DoC 2.3:** Report from consumer-based product comparison testing program. This may be conducted internally or externally. The panel must consist of at least five panellists external to the organisation with a neutral position. The efficacy of the product must be compared to and found to be equal or superior that of a comparable market leading product. If this DoC is used there must also be documentation of all customer feedback.

# HEALTH CRITERIA



## 3. HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Many products contain substances that are hazardous to humans or the environment. The modern market expects environmental products to be non-toxic to human health through regular correct use. The criteria in this section are aimed at eliminating hazardous chemicals, thereby minimising risks to human health and the environment.

### 3.1 Product Classification

#### Criterion 3: Product classification

- The product as used must not be classifiable as hazardous according to the GHS  
Exception: For toilet bowl cleaning products and for industrial and institutional specialty cleaning products: The product as used may be classifiable as hazardous if the classification is Xi-Irritant, including R36 (H319), R37 (H335), R38 (H315), R41 (H318).
- The product as supplied and as used must not be classifiable as dangerous according to the Australian Dangerous Goods (ADG) code, including classification as an Environmentally Hazardous Substance. For products intended for domestic use this includes substances with a potentially corrosive pH (below 2 and above 11.5).  
Exception: For industrial and institutional cleaning products: The criterion applies to the product as used (and not as supplied) if
  - the classification as dangerous good is based on the undiluted product being classified as corrosive (Class 8); and
  - the product is supplied in an effective closed-loop dispensing system that prevents contact of concentrated chemicals with the users or the environment at every stage of the handling process.

#### Demonstration of Conformance

**DoC 3.1:** An accurate and current SDS for each product; and

**DoC 3.2:** If available, any documentation supporting the product's classification as hazardous / non-hazardous or dangerous / not dangerous according to GHS or ADG criteria

**DoC 3.3:** If applicable, description of the product and the product's dispensing system, supported by photos.

### 3.2 Banned Substances

**Criterion 4:** Certified products must not contain any ingredients that are or may decompose into substances that are classified as a known or suspected endocrine disruptor, carcinogen, mutagen or teratogen.

The product must not contain any substances carrying any of the following classifications:

- R40 (H351), R45 (H350), R46 (H340), R48 (H372, H373), R49 (H350);

- R60 (H360), R61 (H360), R62 (H361), R63 (H361) and R64 (H362);
- EU C/M/R;
- IARC Group 1\* and 2A; and
- R68 (H341).

\*Ethanol is classed by IARC as a Group 1 carcinogen in the context of alcoholic beverages. This ruling is not considered relevant to the product categories covered by this standard. Therefore, ethanol will not be considered carcinogenic based on this information. If ethanol is, or becomes, further classified as carcinogenic according to any of the criteria above, it must not be used in certified products.

### Demonstration of Conformance

**DoC 4.1:** Full ingredients list, stating chemical names and CAS numbers; and

**DoC 4.2:** SDS for each ingredient.

**Criterion 5:** The product, and its ingredients, must not contain the following substances:

- Alkylphenol ethoxylates (APEO) and other alkylphenol derivatives;
- Quaternary Ammonium compounds that are not readily biodegradable;
- Aziridine or polyaziridines;
- Benzotriazole and its derivatives;
- Ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA), diethylenetriaminepentaacetic acid (DTPA) and nitrilotriacetic acid (NTA), or any of their salts;
- Halogens and halogenated compounds\*, including reactive chlorine compounds, organic chlorine carriers, and benzalkonium chloride;
- Heavy metals\*\*, including antimony (Sb), arsenic (As), cadmium (Cd), chromium (Cr), cobalt (Co), lead (Pb) mercury (Hg), and tin (Sn);
- Linear alkylbenzene sulfonates (LAS);
- Monoethanolamine (MEA) and triethanolamine (TEA);
- Musk fragrances, including Moskusxylene (CAS 81-15-2), Moskusambrette (CAS 83-66-9), Moskene (CAS 116-66-5), Moskustibetin (CAS 145-39-1), and Moskusketone (CAS 81-14-1);
- Phosphonates;
- Selenium and selenium compounds;
- Substances listed in Annex III of the Rotterdam Convention; or
- Persistent Organic Pollutants (listed in the Stockholm Convention).

\*Sodium chloride is exempt from this requirement.

\*\*Trace amounts (<100 ppm) of heavy metals present as contaminants or impurities in raw materials or component substances are exempt from this criterion. Contaminants/impurities are defined in the 'Definitions and Acronyms' section.

### Demonstration of Conformance

**DoC 5.1:** Signed declaration from an Executive Officer of the applicant company which confirms that the listed chemicals are not used as ingredients and are not contained in the ingredients used; and

**DoC 5.2:** Full ingredients list, stating chemical names and CAS numbers; and

**DoC 5.3:** SDS for each ingredient, and test reports based on AS 4351 or relevant OECD test methods where applicable.

#### **Criterion 6:** Bioaccumulative Substances

The product must not contain any substances which are deemed to be potentially bioaccumulative. A substance is classified as potentially bioaccumulative if the log KOW (log water/octanol partition coefficient) is equal to or greater than 3.

#### **Demonstration of Conformance**

**DoC 6.1:** Test reports using relevant methods, such as OECD 107 or OECD 117.

### **3.3 Limited Substances**

**Criterion 7:** The product must not contain more than 1% by weight of any substance that carries one or more of the following risk phrases or hazard statements:

- R21 (H312), R23 (H331, H372, H370), R24 (H311), R25 (H301), R26 (H330), R27 (H310) or R28 (H300); and
- R50 (H400), R50/53 (H400/H410), R51/53 (H401, H411), R52/53 (H402/H412), R53 (H413), R54, R55, R56, R57, R58 or R59 (H420) and
- R65 (H304).

Exception: Surfactants in concentration <25% are exempt if the 1% limit was based only on R50 (H400).

#### **Demonstration of Conformance**

**DoC 7.1:** Full ingredients list, stating chemical names and CAS numbers; and

**DoC 7.2:** SDS for each ingredient.

### **3.4 Microorganisms**

**Criterion 8:** Products containing microorganisms or compounds produced by microorganisms (e.g. enzymes) must meet the following criteria:

- Microorganisms used shall be considered non-pathogenic and classified as World Health Organization (WHO) Risk Group 1 or equivalent;
- Microorganisms used must be demonstrated to be susceptible to a Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) recognised disinfectant in accordance with the TGA Disinfectant Test (TGO 54 Standard 1), Option C or higher, or equivalent;
- Microorganisms used must be demonstrated to be susceptible to the major five classes of antibiotics (aminoglycoside, macrolide, beta-lactam, tetracycline and fluoroquinolones) in accordance with Beckman Dickinson BBL Antimicrobial Susceptibility Disc Method; and
- Microorganism strains used must be pure and identified by a culture collection listed with the World Federation of Culture Collections (WFCC).

Products containing whole microorganisms must additionally meet the following criteria:

- Products must have a standard plate count of equal to or greater than 1x10<sup>7</sup> colony forming units (CFU) per mL for liquid formulations, or equal to or greater than 1x10<sup>8</sup> CFU per gram for solid formulations, at the dilution as recommended on the label (where applicable); and

- Products must declare microbial content and state that immunocompromised individuals should avoid contact with products containing microorganisms.

Products containing compounds produced by microorganisms (e.g. enzymes) must additionally meet the following criteria:

- Bacteria used for the production of active compounds must not be present in the final preparation of the product; and
- Products must not make claims which imply bacterial action; for example, 'contains microorganisms' or 'bacterial'.

### **Demonstration of Conformance**

**DoC 8.1:** The applicant must provide documentation detailing:

- World Health Organization classification of microorganism
- Identification of the microbial strain by a culture collection listed with WFCC;
- Susceptibility of the microbe to antimicrobial controls in accordance with the TGA Disinfectant Test, Option C or higher (or equivalent), and the Beckmann Dickinson BBL Antimicrobial Susceptibility Disc Method;
- Standard plate count; and
- Copy of the product label.

## **3.5 Volatile Organic Compounds**

**Criterion 9:** The total amount of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) contained in the product must not exceed 3.0% by weight once diluted as per instructions.

### **Demonstration of Conformance**

**DoC 9.1:** Calculation of VOC content based on ingredients list. The applicant must provide evidence to the GECA appointed auditor to enable this calculation, including full formulation details showing the weight of each ingredient in g/L and the physical properties and chemical formula of each ingredient (or SDS for each ingredient).

## **3.6 Fragrances**

**Criterion 10:** Fragrance must be produced and used in accordance with the "Code of Practice" compiled by the International Fragrance Association (IFRA).

### **Demonstration of Conformance**

**DoC 10.1:** The applicant must provide a declaration signed by the manufacturer(s) of all fragrances used which states that the fragrance was produced in accordance with the IFRA Code of Practice. This may be supported by evidence of the manufacturer's membership to IFRA.

### 3.7 Colorants

**Criterion 11:** Colorants used must be included on the “List of Colouring Agents Allowed for use in Cosmetic Products” in Annex IV of the European Union Commission Directive 76/768/EEC. A copy of the Directive is available at [https://ec.europa.eu/growth/tools-databases/cosing/pdf/COSING\\_Annex%20IV\\_v2.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/growth/tools-databases/cosing/pdf/COSING_Annex%20IV_v2.pdf)

or

Colours must be approved for use in foods under Australian Food Standard 1.3.1, schedule 1, 3 or 4. This can be found at <https://www.foodstandards.gov.au/code/Pages/default.aspx>.

#### **Demonstration of Conformance**

**DoC 11.1:** Full list of all colorants used, identified by chemical name, CAS number, and where applicable CI (colour index) number or INS (International Numbering System for food additives) number.

# ENVIRONMENTAL CRITERIA



## 4. EMISSIONS

*Emissions to the water and air due to manufacturing processes can lead to high levels of environmental pollution.*

### 4.1 Water Emissions

**Criterion 12:** The manufacturer must have a documented system for monitoring volume and COD of liquid waste discharged, and keep records of the results obtained. System and results must be at minimum as required by authority that regulates liquid discharge, if there is one.

#### Demonstration of Conformance

**DoC 12.1:** Copy of documented system. If the applicant has an EMS in place, details of that system including monitoring and reporting.

**DoC 12.2:** Volume and COD results as per testing schedule outlined in documented system.

**DoC 12.3:** Copy of requirements of relevant authority.

## 5. MATERIAL REQUIREMENTS

*The criteria in this section are intended to address impacts that may occur over the life cycle of a product and that can be avoided or mitigated during the design phase of product development.*

*Unless otherwise stated, the requirements in this section apply to each type of material contained in the finished product regardless of weight.*

### 5.1 Palm Oil

**Criterion 13:** A minimum of 20% of palm oil and palm oil derivatives used in the product must be Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) certified (identity preserved, segregated or mass balance) or equivalent, with the remainder required to be offset by 'Book and Claim' system such as GreenPalm, or equivalent. Additionally, applicants must commit to increasing the total percentage of RSPO certified palm oil and palm oil derivatives used in products by 10% each year.

Exception: If only chemical derivatives of palm oil are used in the product, it is acceptable to demonstrate sustainability for these through book and claim systems such as GreenPalm in case RSPO certified palm oil derivatives are not available on the market.

#### Demonstration of Conformance

**DoC 13.1:** Chain of custody or supply chain evidence and RSPO certification sufficient to cover at least 20% of palm oil and palm oil derivatives used in the product; and

**DoC 13.2:** GreenPalm certificates sufficient to cover the remaining volume of palm oil and palm oil derivatives used in each product; and



**DoC 13.3:** Signed declaration from an Executive Officer of the organisation committing to increasing the percentage of RSPO certified palm oil and palm oil derivatives by 10% per annum.

## 5.2 Palm Kernel Oil

**Criterion 14:** The applicant/licensee must make a positive contribution to the production of sustainable and responsibly grown palm kernel oil by either:

- Purchasing, for use in the product, any amount of certified sustainable palm kernel oil (CSPKO) and/or palm kernel oil derivatives that contain or are manufactured using CSPKO; or
- Purchasing all palm kernel oil and palm kernel oil derivatives used in the product, from suppliers that are RSPO members; or
- Ensuring palm kernel oil used in the product is offset by the supplier or the applicant/licensee using a 'Book and Claim' system such as GreenPalm, or equivalent.

### Demonstration of Conformance

**DoC 14.1:** Evidence of any RSPO certified Palm Kernel Oil used; or

**DoC 14.2:** Membership certificates or signed declarations from suppliers showing all suppliers are RSPO members; or

**DoC 14.3:** GreenPalm certificates sufficient to cover the volume of non-certified palm kernel oil and palm kernel oil derivatives used in the product.

## 5.3 Aerobic Biodegradability

**Criterion 15:** All surfactants and organic ingredients must be readily biodegradable in accordance with AS 4351, relevant OECD tests, or shown on the most recent DID list (Part A), found at <https://ec.europa.eu/environment/ecolabel/documents/DID%20List%20PART%20A%202016%20FINAL.pdf> [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/ecolabel/documents/did\\_list/didlist\\_part\\_a\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/ecolabel/documents/did_list/didlist_part_a_en.pdf), as readily biodegradable (R).

In the case that numerous ingredients are not reported on the DID list, the product may be tested as a whole to AS 4351 or a relevant OECD test.

### Demonstration of Conformance

**DoC 15.1:** Test report based on AS 4351 or relevant OECD test for each surfactant or organic ingredient not included in the DID list, or

**DoC 15.2:** Test report based on AS 4351 or relevant OECD test for the product as a whole.

## 5.4 Anaerobic Biodegradability

**Criterion 16:** All surfactants used in the product must be anaerobically biodegradable in accordance with ISO 11734, relevant OECD tests, or shown on the most recent DID List, found at [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/ecolabel/documents/did\\_list/didlist\\_part\\_a\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/ecolabel/documents/did_list/didlist_part_a_en.pdf), as anaerobically biodegradable (marked with Y).

### Demonstration of Conformance

**DoC 16.1:** Test report based on ISO 11734 or relevant OECD test for each surfactant not included in the DID list.

## 5.5 Sodium

**Criterion 17:** The maximum sodium per wash for laundry detergents is 10g. Alternatively laundry detergents may contain sodium equivalent to 0.14g/litre water used instead of the 10g per wash, if usage directions allow this calculation to be made.

### Demonstration of Conformance

**DoC 17.1:** The applicant is to provide instructions for use as well as the full ingredients list for each laundry detergent, including chemical formula of any substance containing sodium and the concentration of those substances.

## 5.6 Phosphorus

**Criterion 18:** The product must not be manufactured using any phosphorus compounds. Trace amounts of phosphorus must not exceed 0.05% w/w excluding water.

### Demonstration of Conformance

**DoC 18.1:** Full ingredients list for each product; and

**DoC 18.2:** Declaration of the trace amount of phosphates contained in the product and supporting documentation such as a Total Phosphorus Test, dilution and calculations to determine the amount of phosphorus w/w.

## 6. ENVIRONMENTAL CLAIMS

*Environmental claims are one of the tools utilised by consumers when attempting to make environmentally preferable choices and therefore it is essential that such claims are true and substantiated.*

*All claims must be relevant to the product and verifiable to GECA or a GECA appointed auditor.*

### 6.1 Food Safe

**Criterion 19:** Products that declare “food safe” claims, or similar, must be able to provide evidence of formal recognition of this claim by Food Standards Australia and New Zealand.

#### Demonstration of Conformance

**DoC 19.1:** Documentation showing approval by Food Standards Australia and New Zealand.

### 6.2 Organic

Refer to the ‘definitions and acronyms’ section of this standard for further understanding on the different meanings of organic in the context of this criterion.

**Criterion 20:** Products that declare “Organic”, or similar, must contain at least 95% ingredients certified as organic by Australian Certified Organic (ACO), Organic Growers of Australia, National Association for Sustainable Agriculture Australia (NASAA) Certified Organic or Demeter Certified Biodynamic.

Products that claim to contain “Organic Ingredients”, or similar, shall only claim ingredients as organic if certified by one of the above bodies. Ingredients certified as organic by one of the above bodies shall be identified as so on the label of the product.

#### Demonstration of Conformance

**DoC 20.1:** For products which claim to be organic, or similar, the applicant must provide evidence of organic certification for ingredients making up at least 95% of the product; or

**DoC 20.2:** For products which claim to contain organic ingredients, or similar, the applicant must provide documentation detailing the certification of these ingredients; and

**DoC 20.3:** Product label, showing identification of ingredients which are certified organic.

### 6.3 Other Claims

**Criterion 21:** Other environmental claims shall be verifiable by GECA citing, as a minimum, appropriate test results from an independent laboratory in accordance with an internationally recognised and relevant test method.

#### Demonstration of Conformance

**DoC 21.1:** Test report showing results and test method used.

## 7. DESIGN FOR ENVIRONMENT

*The criteria in this section are intended to address some of the major factors of a product that can be anticipated in sustainable design and are more easily incorporated during the design phase of product development.*

### 7.1 Product Information

*Product information allows customers to use the products in a responsible and sustainable manner.*

**Criterion 22:** Suitable information must be supplied with the product or made available to the public. Information that must be included on the label includes:

- Instructions for correct use including doses or dilution rates for varying levels of soiling if applicable;
- All hazards associated with the product, its use, storage or disposal;
- Complete ingredients listing, according to Annex VII of the European Union Commission Directive 89/542/EEC on the Labelling of Detergents and Cleaning Products, available at <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2004:104:0001:0035:EN:PDF>; and
- An instruction for users to read the SDS.

Information that must be available to the public includes:

- Safety data sheet (SDS);
- Technical data sheets or product information sheets; and
- Environmentally responsible use and disposal instructions including details of product stewardship arrangements.

#### Demonstration of Conformance

**DoC 22.1:** Copy of labels, care instructions and other information provided with the product; and

**DoC 22.2:** A current safety data sheet for each product, and

**DoC 22.3:** Technical data sheets, web pages and any other information freely available to customers and / or the public.

### 7.2 Packaging

**Criterion 23:** Each material used as packaging must comply with at least one of the following. Packaging materials must:

- a) Contain at least 50% recycled content by weight;
- b) Be derived from plant-based materials (e.g. PLA plastics);
- c) Be compostable to a relevant GECA, ASTM or ISO standard;
- d) Be biodegradable to a relevant ASTM or ISO standard such as ASTM D5511; or

e) Be recyclable in local municipal recycling system. Recyclable packaging must not be treated or labelled in a manner that would prevent recyclability. Materials that are technically recyclable but cannot be handled by a local municipal system are not acceptable. This includes expanded polystyrene (EPS) and flexible plastic films.

Paper and cardboard packaging must contain at least 70% post-consumer recycled content by weight.

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

#### **Demonstration of Conformance**

**DoC 23.1:** Test reports under the relevant standard or test method; and / or

**DoC 23.2:** Details of materials used in the product and their manufacture, including information on the input of recycled and virgin materials reported by weight if applicable. The recycled content can be averaged over a 12-month period to find the amount or range of recycled content; and / or

**DoC 23.3:** Details of re-use programs for transport materials within the applicant company.

**Criterion 24:** Packaging must not be halogenated.

#### **Demonstration of Conformance**

**DoC 24.1:** Information regarding composition of packaging materials including chemical names, CAS numbers and / or SDS where applicable.

**Criterion 25:** All plastic bottles and other major or primary packaging must be marked with a plastic identification code. It is not mandatory for small components including caps and pump-spray nozzles to be marked.

#### **Demonstration of Conformance**

**DoC 25.1:** Visual inspection of each plastic component of the packaging.

**Criterion 26:** Packaging must not be pressurised or require the use of propellants.

#### **Demonstration of Conformance**

**DoC 26.1:** Signed declaration from an Executive Officer of the manufacturing company, stating that the packaging is not pressurised and does not require the use of propellants.

**Criterion 27:** Packaging must be minimised and enable efficient transport. The ratio of effective product volume to shipping volume must exceed 2:3.

#### **Demonstration of Conformance**

**DoC 27.1:** For each product, the effective volume of product transported (for concentrates, the diluted in-use form is the effective volume) and the cubic volume occupied by the packaged product as relevant to transport.

### 7.3 Waste Minimisation

Reducing total waste reduces the generation of hazardous waste, encourages reduced consumption of resources through dematerialisation and increases production efficiency.

**Criterion 28:** The applicant must demonstrate that at least 97% of material inputs (ingredients) result in product and that effective waste management / material efficiency policies and procedures are developed and implemented, including:

- Waste minimisation policies and procedures to reduce the amount of waste generated;
- Waste recovery procedures to capture and reuse as much waste as is practical;
- Efficient use of resources through dematerialisation; and
- Energy conservation policies to reduce energy consumption.

#### Demonstration of Conformance

**DoC 28.1:** Documentation of all material inputs and outputs on an annual (12-month) basis. At a minimum the calculation will be based on the weight of input ingredients versus the weight of resultant product; however, the most appropriate method will be determined by a GECA appointed auditor. The calculation may include process information and waste recapture methods as necessary; and

**DoC 28.2:** Demonstrate progress on developing, implementing and adhering to effective resource minimisation policies and procedures as detailed above. This may include documentation of programs which aim to reduce or reuse waste; dematerialise or use fewer raw materials (e.g. reduced paper usage); or conserve or use alternate sources of energy or purchase green power.

### 7.4 Chemical Storage

*Improper storage of chemicals can lead to environmental harm via leaks, spills and emissions to water and air.*

**Criterion 29:** The manufacturer must properly store chemicals including ingredients and the finished product, in a manner which minimises the risk of harm to the environment through leaks, spills and emissions to water or air.

#### Demonstration of Conformance

**DoC 29.1:** Chemical storage will be inspected at a site visit conducted by a GECA approved auditor; and

**DoC 29.2:** Copies of storage handling requirements and procedures for control and remediation of chemical spills. This may be included in an EMS, whether it is ISO 14001 certified or not.

## SOCIAL CRITERIA



### 8. SOCIAL AND LEGAL COMPLIANCE

*This section addresses compliance with the legal and social attributes of the producer and the applicant company; it also engages with the supply chain to ensure human and labour rights are upheld. These criteria are common to all GECA standards. The social aspect partially addresses the third dimension of sustainability - society. This concept 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, and compliance with human and labour rights. 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. Where the GECA requirements go further than the applicable legislation, the producer and/or applicant company shall comply with applicable law while trying as far as possible to act in accordance with the spirit of the GECA requirements.

#### 8.1 Environmental Legislation

**Criterion 30:** The producer of the product 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 two years, there must be evidence of corrective action.

##### Demonstration of Conformance

**DoC 30.1:** Signed declaration from an Executive Officer of the organisation stating compliance with applicable environmental legislation and government orders;

**DoC 30.2:** Signed declaration disclosing any breaches of environmental legislation or permits and the date of the breach. Applicant shall:

**DoC 30.3:** Provide a Legal Register listing applicable environmental legislation (including applicable Regulations under that legislation) in, or as an attachment to the above two declarations (31.1 and 31.2). The Legal Register shall:

- For each applicable Act and Regulation listed, state whether the manufacturer and applicant company comply; or have a certified ISO 14001, Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) or equivalent environmental management system in place; and;
- List relevant permits granted by the EPA or an equivalent national, state or local body;

**DoC 30.4:** Evidence of corrective action following identification of a breach of environmental legislation, if applicable.



**Note:**

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 Minimum entitlement including wages

**Criterion 31:** All employees and contractors must receive at least the applicable minimum wage including penalty rates, allowances and superannuation and be provided with all other minimum entitlements including in relation to hours, leave and termination. All employees shall be covered by a Federal or State award, a certified industrial agreement or registered agreement as determined by the Australian Government Workplace Authority or a State or Territory Workplace Relations Agency, or an agreement that complies with Fair Work Act 2009 section 61 – National Employment Standards. 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.

Where a producer/applicant company or a third party has identified a breach of applicable legislation, including underpayment of wages within the last two years, there shall be evidence of corrective action.

**Demonstration of Conformance**

**DoC 31.1:** Signed declaration from an Executive Officer of the organisation confirming compliance with all minimum entitlements including wages; and

**DoC 31.2:** List of applicable awards, certified industrial agreements or registered agreements and the number of workers to which they apply, and number of workers not covered by such; and

**DoC 31.3:** Text or template of a typical workplace agreement offered to employees of the company; and sample payslips; and

**DoC 31.4:** Evidence of corrective action following identification of a breach of legislation, if applicable.

## 8.3 Workplace Health and Safety

**Criterion 32:** A manufacturer/ applicant company shall 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 applicable 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 32.1:** Signed declaration from an Executive Officer of the organisation 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 32.2:** Copy of the company Occupational / Workplace H&S policy and procedures;

**DoC 32.3:** 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 32.4:** Evidence of corrective action following a breach of legislation, if applicable; and

**DoC 32.5:** WHS incidents register

## **8.4 Equal Opportunity**

**Criterion 33:** 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 33.1:** Signed declaration from an Executive Officer of the organisation stating compliance with above legislation;

**DoC 33.2:** Copy of relevant company policies and procedures;

**DoC 33.3:** Evidence of corrective action following a breach of legislation, if applicable; and

**DoC 33.4:** The assessor will verify that the company does not appear on the following list: [Non-compliant list | WGEA](#)

## **8.5 Lawful Conduct**

**Criterion 34:** 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 de-listing 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 two years, there must be evidence of corrective action.

### **Demonstration of Conformance**

**DoC 34.1:** Signed declaration from an Executive Officer of the organisation stating compliance with above legislation; and

**DoC 34.2:** Evidence of corrective action following a guilty verdict, if applicable.

## 8.6 Modern Slavery

**Criterion 35:** 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 corrective action.

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

### Demonstration of Conformance

**DoC 35.1:** A 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 and any entities it owns or controls
- d) Describe the actions taken by the reporting entity and any entities it owns or controls to assess and address these risks, including due diligence and remediation processes
- e) Describe how the reporting entity assesses the effectiveness of these actions
- f) Describe the process of consultation with any entities the reporting entity owns or controls
- g) 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 a copy of the Modern Slavery Statement is unable to be presented, a rationale will be required. Also in cases where supportive documentation is unavailable at the time of certification, a grace period of three years 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
- l) 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 three years

of certification on a voluntary basis. A grace period of up to one cycle of certification may be granted depending on the company's reporting period.

For more information about modern slavery and the *Modern Slavery Act 2018*., please see [News and Resources \(modernslaveryregister.gov.au\)](https://modernslaveryregister.gov.au).

## 8.7 Human Rights including Labour Rights

**Criterion 36:** The manufacturer/applicant company shall respect internationally recognised human rights, including labour rights, including the rights set out in:

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work

In particular, this includes the following aspects and ILO conventions: 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.

The applicant company shall also take steps to ensure human rights are respected in its supply chain. Where an applicant has been found to breach this criterion in the past two years, there must be evidence of corrective action.

### Demonstration of Conformance

**DoC 36.1:** The manufacturer/applicant company shall provide evidence of its commitments to human rights including labour rights (e.g. policies, published reports containing disclosure in relation to human rights (e.g. sustainability report) commitments to international initiatives such as the UN Global Compact); and

**DoC 36.2:** The manufacturer/applicant shall provide a map of at least one tier of its supply chain; and

**DoC 36.3:** Evidence of implementation of a Supplier 'Code of Conduct'; Code of conduct to include Human and Labour Rights, Health and Safety of workers; and

**DoC 36.4:** Evidence of assessment of suppliers in relation to human rights and recommendations for improvements in their supply chain; and

**DoC 36.5:** Evidence of [ISO20400](https://www.iso.org/standard/68554.html) implementation; or

- Evidence of valid [SA8000® Standard](https://www.sa8000.com/), or other equivalent certification; or
- Evidence of being a signatory to the [UN Global Compact](https://www.unglobalcompact.org/); or
- [SEDEX](https://www.seDEX.com/) membership ; or
- [GRI 400](https://www.gri.org/) Report (Global Report Initiative); and

If any of DoCs 37.5 cannot be provided, manufacturer/ applicant shall provide:

**DoC 36.6:** Evidence of commitment to achieve SA 8000 certification within one year; or

**DoC 36.7:** Evidence of becoming a signatory to the UN Global Compact within six months;

and

**DoC 36.8:** 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 to guide the applicant through the standard's requirements and facilitate the preparation of an application. The DoC requirements are 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 throughout 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](#) accredited laboratory. For tests carried out overseas, all analysis shall be carried out by a reputable lab accredited by an [ILAC](#).

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 designated assessor.

## APPENDIX A

### APPLICATION CHECKLIST

The application checklist guides the applicant through the application and verification process. An applicant may collect all information 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 No.	Criterion Content	Demonstration of Conformance See standard body for details	Evidence Attached	Complies Y/N or NA
FIT FOR PURPOSE CRITERIA				
1. Standard Category Scope				
Criterion 1	General surface and sanitary cleaners, laundry and hand dishwashing detergents	Brief description of the product (range).	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2. Fitness for Purpose				
Criterion 2	Demonstrated performance	Independent audit or test results; or report which demonstrates fitness; or report on consumer-based product comparison testing.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
HEALTH CRITERIA				
3. Product Classification				
Criterion 3	Hazardous classifications	SDS for each product.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Documentation supporting classification.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4. Banned Substances				
Criterion 4	Endocrine disruptors, carcinogens, mutagens, teratogens	Full ingredients list.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		SDS for each ingredient.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 5	Harmful substances	Statement of conformance signed by Executive Officer.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Full ingredients list.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		SDS for each ingredient and relevant test reports where applicable.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 6	Bioaccumulative substances	Relevant test reports.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
5. Limited Substances				
Criterion 7	Limited substances	Full ingredients list.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		SDS for each ingredient.	<input type="checkbox"/>	

6. Microorganisms				
Criterion 8	Requirements for microorganisms	WHO classification of microorganism. Identification of strain using WFCC.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Susceptible to TGA disinfectant test, or equivalent.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Susceptible to Beckmann Dickinson BBL Antimicrobial Susceptibility Disc Method.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Standard plate count.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Copy of product label.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
7. Volatile Organic Compounds				
Criterion 9	VOC content	Calculation of VOCs based on ingredients.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8. Fragrances				
Criterion 10	Compliance with IFRA	Declaration signed by manufacturer stating compliance.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
9. Colorants				
Criterion 11	Compliance with EU Directive 76/768/EEC or FSANZ Standards	Full list of colorants used.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
ENVIRONMENTAL CRITERIA				
10. Water Emissions				
Criterion 12	Damage to receiving environment	Copy of documented system. Authority requirements and test results.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
11. Palm Oil				
Criterion 13	RSPO certified	RSPO certification for at least 20% of palm oil and derivatives used.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		GreenPalm or equivalent certificates to cover remaining volume.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Declaration to increase percentage of RSPO certified palm oil and derivatives by 10% per annum.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
12. Palm Kernel Oil				
Criterion 14	Contribution to sustainable and responsible production	RSPO certification; or Membership certificates or signed declarations from suppliers showing all suppliers are RSPO members; or	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		GreenPalm or equivalent certificates to cover volume of non-certified palm kernel oil used.	<input type="checkbox"/>	

<b>13. Aerobic Biodegradability</b>				
Criterion 15	Aerobic ready biodegradability	Test reports using AS 4351 or OECD requirements where applicable.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>14. Anerobic Biodegradability</b>				
Criterion 16	Surfactant anaerobic biodegradability	Test reports using ISO 11734 where applicable.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>15. Sodium</b>				
Criterion 17	Sodium limits	Full ingredients list for laundry detergent	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>16. Phosphorus</b>				
Criterion 18	Compounds banned	Full ingredients list for each product.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Declaration of trace amounts of phosphates.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>17. Food Safe</b>				
Criterion 19	Food safe claims	Approval by FSANZ.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>18. Organic</b>				
Criterion 20	Organic claims	Evidence of organic certification.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>19. Other Claims</b>				
Criterion 21	Other environmental claims	Test reports and method used.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>20. Product Information</b>				
Criterion 22	Information available to public	Copy of labels and instructions.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		SDS for each product.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Information available to public.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>21. Packaging</b>				
Criterion 23	Packaging requirements	Test reports under relevant method.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Details of materials used in product.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Details of re-use programs for transport materials or specialist recycling programs.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 24	Halogenation	Information regarding packaging materials.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 25	Plastic ID codes	Visual inspection of packaging.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 26	Pressurised packaging	Statement of conformance signed by Executive Officer.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 27	Packaging minimisation	Effective volume of product transported and cubic volume occupied by product.	<input type="checkbox"/>	



22. Waste Minimisation and Material Sourcing				
Criterion 28	Waste minimisation policies	Documentation of material flows.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Reports on waste minimisation strategies.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
23. Chemical Storage				
Criterion 29	Safe chemical storage.	Site visit.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Documentation of chemical handling procedures.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
SOCIAL CRITERIA				
24. Social and Legal Compliance				
Criterion 30	Environmental legislation	Signed declaration confirming conformance to the criterion; and	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Signed declaration disclosing any breaches of environmental legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Legal register listing applicable environmental legislation (including applicable Regulations under that legislation)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Evidence of corrective action (if applicable)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 31	Minimum entitlement including wages	Signed declaration confirming conformance to the criterion; and	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		List of applicable awards, industrial and registered agreements and number of workers who are covered and not covered	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Text or template of the typical workplace agreement offered to employees, and sample payslips	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Evidence of corrective action	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 32	Work health and safety	Signed declaration stating compliance to workplace legislation and government orders, as well as declaration of any breaches of legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		OHS/WHS policies and procedures; and	<input type="checkbox"/>	

		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	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Evidence of corrective action (if applicable)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		WHS Incidents register	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 33	Equal opportunity	Signed declaration confirming conformance to the criterion and	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Copy of relevant policies and procedures and	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Evidence of corrective action (if applicable)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		The assessor will verify that the company does not appear on the WGEA non-compliant list	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 34	Lawful conduct	Signed declaration confirming conformance to the criterion and	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Evidence of corrective action (if applicable)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 35	Modern slavery	Copy of the published Modern Slavery Statement from within the previous 12 months	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 36	Human and labour rights	Evidence of commitments to human rights including labour rights	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Map of at least one tier of their supply chain; and	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Evidence of implementation of a Supplier Code of Conduct, and	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Evidence of assessment of suppliers in relation to human rights and recommendations for improvements in their supply chain	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Evidence of ISO20400 implementation; or	<input type="checkbox"/>	

		Evidence of valid SA8000® Standard certification or other equivalent certification; or	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Evidence of being a signatory to the UN Global Compact	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		SEDEX Membership, or	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		GRI 400 Report; and	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Evidence of commitment to achieve SA8000® Standard certification within one year	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Evidence of becoming a signatory to the UN Global Compact within six months; and	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Evidence of corrective action (if applicable).	<input type="checkbox"/>	

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Our vision is for a sustainable  
future for people and planet

