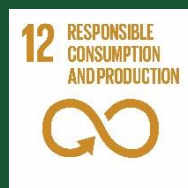


Core Sustainable Development Goals



Paints and Coatings

Standard No: PCv2.3i-2012

Type 1 ecolabel standard in accordance with ISO 14024

Issued 10 July 2021 by GECA

(Good Environmental Choice Australia Ltd)



CONTENTS

DOCUMENT HISTORY	4
HOW TO APPLY FOR GECA CERTIFICATION	5
DEFINITIONS & ACRONYMS	6
ABOUT GECA.....	8
AN OVERVIEW OF GECA'S STANDARDS.....	9
STRUCTURE OF THE STANDARD.....	11
REQUESTING ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE	11
RELEVANCE WITH SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS.....	12
BACKGROUND.....	14
FIT FOR PURPOSE CRITERIA.....	15
1. STANDARD CATEGORY SCOPE	15
2. FITNESS FOR PURPOSE	16
2.1 Applicable Standards and Demonstrated Performance	16
HEALTH CRITERIA.....	17
3. HAZARDOUS MATERIALS	17
3.1 Dangerous Goods	17
3.2 Hazardous Materials.....	17
3.3 Prohibited Substances.....	18
3.4 Heavy Metals.....	19
3.5 Biocides.....	19
3.6 Production Safety	20
4. EMISSIONS	20
4.1 Volatile Organic Compounds	20
4.2 Tints and Colorants.....	21
4.3 Semi-Volatile Organic Compounds.....	21
ENVIRONMENTAL CRITERIA.....	22

5. MATERIAL REQUIREMENTS.....	22
5.1 Titanium Dioxide, Zinc Oxide and Lithopone Content.....	22
5.2 Glycol Ethers	23
5.3 Ozone Depleting Substances	24
5.4 Reflective Coatings.....	24
5.5 Water Emissions.....	25
6. DESIGN FOR ENVIRONMENT	26
6.1 Product Information	26
6.2 Packaging.....	27
6.3 Waste Minimisation.....	27
6.4 Chemical Storage	28
7. ENVIRONMENTAL CLAIMS	29
SOCIAL CRITERIA.....	30
8. SOCIAL AND LEGAL COMPLIANCE.....	30
8.1 Environmental Legislation.....	30
8.2 Minimum entitlement including wages	31
8.3 Workplace Health and Safety	31
8.4 Equal Opportunity	32
8.5 Lawful Conduct.....	32
8.6 Modern Slavery	33
8.7 Human Rights including Labour Rights.....	34
EVIDENCE OF CONFORMANCE	36
Demonstration of Conformance (DoC)	36
APPENDIX A APPLICATION CHECKLIST.....	37

Paints and Coatings

DOCUMENT HISTORY

Status: **Current**

Version: **v2.3i-2012**

Date Published: **10 July 2021**

Versions	Date Published	Summary of Changes
1.1	January 2005	
2.0	May 2012	Revision: Change of name from Architectural and Protective Coatings, to Paints and Coatings. Addition of DoCs; use of new pro-forma; new criteria added for dangerous goods, ozone depleting ingredients, waste management, hazardous materials, water emissions, solar reflectance, biocides and semi-volatile organic compounds.
2.1	June 2012	Amendment: Limit on biocides.
2.2	March 2013	Amendment: Wording of Criterion 17.
2.2i	December 2013	Update: Link in Criterion 19 and reference number change.
2.2ii	July 2014	Update: Wording and link(s) in Criterion 19; 'Acronyms and Definitions' section updated.
2.2iii	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.
2.3	March 2018	Amendment: Revision of paint categories and associated units of measure to low build architectural paints and coatings (unit of measure 'g/m ² dry film at 98% opacity'), high build protective paints and coatings (unit of measure 'g/m ² dry film as applied' and other coatings (unit of measure 'g/m ² dry film at 98% opacity'), Updated DoC's accordingly.
2.3i	July 2021	Update: Change of social criteria, addition of SDGs, 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, change of exemption, audit, auditor and auditing body to exception, assessment, assessor and assurance provider, respectively according to new scheme rules, adding the definitions for above terms, updating links for banned biocides, gender equality.

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 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

ADG: Australian Dangerous Goods.

APEO: Alkylphenol ethoxylate.

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.

Benzene ring: A 6-carbon ring with alternating double and single bonds, or a ring of 6 carbons in a 1.5 electron- sharing arrangement.

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

COD: Chemical Oxidation Demand. The equivalent mass of oxygen required to oxidise dissolved and suspended organic matter under defined conditions, typically using dichromate or permanganate as the oxidising agent.

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 approved assurance provider 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.

EMS: Environmental Management System.

EPA: Environment Protection Agency.

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.

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 assurance provider.

GEN: Global Ecolabelling Network.

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

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

Halogenated organic substances / compounds: A substance containing one or more halogens and one or more carbons.

IARC: International Agency for Research on Cancer.

Ingredient: Any constituent of a product that is intentionally added (in form of a substance, preparation or mixture) or known to be a contaminant above 0.01%.

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

Label: the Environmental Choice Australia Mark.

OECD: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

Organic compound: Carbon compounds other than simple salts such as carbonates, oxides and carbides.

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.

SDS: Safety Data Sheet (formally Material Safety Data Sheet – MSDS). To qualify as suitable, the SDS and information therein must not be more than five years old.

SDGs: (Sustainable Development Goals): Adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, (SDGs) are a new, universal set of goals, targets and indicators that UN member states will be expected to use to frame their agendas and political policies over the next 15 years.

Solvent: A general term for a chemically diverse range of, usually, liquid phase substances which dissolve other materials. For the purposes of this standard, water is not considered a solvent.

SVOC: Semi-Volatile Organic Compound. A compound with a boiling point between 250°C to 400°C, measured at 101.3 kPa.

VAH: Volatile Aromatic Hydrocarbon. Any hydrocarbon compound containing at least one benzene ring in its molecular structure with a boiling point equal to or less than 250°C measured at 101.3 kPa.

VOC: Volatile Organic Compound. Any organic compound (compound which contains carbon) with either a boiling point below 250°C measured at 101.3kPa or a vapour pressure of more than 0.1mm Hg measured at 21°C.

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

+61 (2) 9699 2850 standards@geca.org.au www.geca.org.au
Level 32, 101 Miller Street North Sydney NSW Australia 2060

© Good Environmental Choice Australia Ltd 2021

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in any material form or transmitted to any other person without the prior written permission of Good Environmental Choice Australia except as permitted under the Copyright Act 1968 (as amended) or unless expressly permitted in writing by Good Environmental Choice Australia.

The logo consists of a circular emblem with a green leaf and the text 'GOOD ENVIRONMENTAL CHOICE AUSTRALIA' around it, with a red checkmark and 'GECA CERTIFIED' below.

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

Four green leaf-shaped icons arranged horizontally. The first contains a globe, the second a plus sign, the third a hand, and the fourth a checkmark.

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 Paints and Coatings standard

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


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

Core SDGs relevant to GECA's Paints and Coatings 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 3-15
- Workplace health and safety: criterion 31

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 emissions: criterion 21

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.

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



CORE SDG: 10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

GECA Standard Criterion

- Social and legal compliance: criteria 29-35

SDG 10 Specific target 10.2

Empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status.

SDG 10 Specific target 10.3

Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including through eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and actions in this regard.

SDG 10 Specific target 10.4

Adopt policies especially fiscal, wage, and social protection policies and progressively achieve greater equality.

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



CORE SDG: 12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

GECA Standard Criterion

- Hazardous substances: criteria 3-12
- Waste minimisation: criterion 26

SDG 12 Specific target 12.2

By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources.

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

Paints and coatings are an essential part of Australia's built environment; however, they can significantly impact the environment and human health, depending on what ingredients and components they contain.

For example, if a paint uses organic solvents rather than a water base, it will release volatile organic compounds (VOCs) into the surrounding air. As a result, solvent-based paints can also contain about 50 per cent more embodied energy. VOCs are detrimental to indoor air quality. Exposure can trigger headaches; irritation to the eyes, nose and throat; damage to the liver, kidneys and central nervous systems; and loss of coordination.

An ingredient such as titanium dioxide, widely used in the paint industry as a pigment, has its major environmental impact occur during its manufacture. This is because it has high embodied energy, is a limited resource, and its production can result in unsustainable air and water emissions.

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

- reducing waste generation and resource consumption
- banning ozone-depleting substances
- requiring that water and air emissions are responsibly managed
- minimising VOC (volatile organic compounds) content
- preventing the use of harmful ingredients such as carcinogens, mutagens or reproductive toxins
- requiring that suitable information on the preparation, application, care, storage and disposal of the product is supplied to the public
- 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

Criterion 1: The scope of this standard is applicable to the following types of paints in the product categories:

- Interior architectural paints;
- Exterior architectural paints;
- Other water based coatings; and
- Student and artist paints.

Other environmentally innovative paints or coatings 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.

Exclusions and Notes

Solvent-based coatings are not eligible for application under this standard.

This standard excludes face paint, finger paint, nail polish, body paint and any other product intended to be applied to a person or animal.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 1.1: A brief description of the product(s) or product range as they apply to the scope of this standard.

2. FITNESS FOR PURPOSE

To be certified, the product(s) shall 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 shall ensure that the product is fit for its intended purpose.

2.1 Applicable Standards and Demonstrated Performance

Criterion 2: The product must meet the performance requirements of the relevant Australian Standards for its intended application, or be tested to relevant ASTM performance standards.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 2.1: Test reports for all relevant quality and performance tests.

HEALTH CRITERIA



3. HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

The criteria in this section are intended to address some of the main hazardous substances found across this product category which may be added to the final product or to product ingredients during manufacturing. The intention is to reduce the use of hazardous materials and to prevent pollutants entering the environment and to protect human health.

3.1 Dangerous Goods

Products classifiable as Dangerous Goods present a risk to anyone handling or using the product.

Criterion 3: The product as used must not be classifiable as hazardous according to the GHS criteria. The product as supplied and as used must not be classifiable as dangerous according to the 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.

This includes substances with a potentially corrosive pH (below 2 and above 11.5) and substances carrying R34 (H314) or R35 (H314).

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 3.1: Product SDS showing all hazard identification including dangerous goods classifications and relevant supporting documentation; and

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

3.2 Hazardous Materials

The use of harmful chemicals can affect the health of manufacturing staff and users of the finished product as well as negatively impact the environment.

Criterion 4: The products as a whole must not carry any of the following classifications:

- Harmful, toxic or very toxic – R20 (H332), R21 (H312, H371, H373), R22 (H302), R23 (H330, H331, H370, H372), R24 (H311), R25 (H301), R26 (H330, H370), R27 (H310), R28 (H300) or R29 (AUH029); or
- Sensitiser – R42 (H334) or R43 (H317).

Criterion 5: Ingredients used in the product must not carry any of the following risk phrases or classifications:

- Dangerous – R33 (H373), R39 (H370) or R48 (H372); or
- Carcinogens/Mutagens – R40 (H351), R45 (H350), R46 (H340), R49 (H350) or substances classified by the International Agency for Research on Cancer in Groups 1* or 2A.

*Ethanol is classed by IARC as a Group 1 carcinogen only in the context of alcoholic beverages. This ruling is not considered relevant to the product category covered by this standard. Therefore, ethanol as used in paints and coatings will not be considered carcinogenic based on the IARC classification. This exception will not be extended to other chemicals.

Criterion 6: The product must not contain more than 1% by weight of any substances carrying the following risk phrases:

- Reproductive toxins/endocrine disruptors – R60 (H360), 61 (H360), 62 (H361) or 63 (H361).

Criterion 7: The product must not contain more than 5% by weight of any substances carrying the following risk phrases:

- Environmental hazards – R50 (H400), R51 (H401), R52 (H402), R53 (H410, H411, H402, H413), R54, R55, R56, R57, R58 or R59

Demonstration of Conformance (for criteria 4 to 7)

DoC 7.1: Full ingredients list and SDS of each ingredient.

3.3 Prohibited Substances

Prohibited substances can have detrimental effects to the health of manufacturing staff and users of the finished product as well as the health of the environment.

Criterion 8: The product must not contain or be manufactured using:

- Formaldehyde, formaldehyde donors and aldehydes;
- Phthalates;
- Isoaliphates;
- 1,3 butadiene;
- Bisphenol A;
- Toluene and toluene compounds;
- Crystalline quartz silica (CAS 14808-60-7) **; or
- Alkylphenolic compounds including alkylphenol ethoxylates and alkylphenol alkoxylates.

** Crystalline quartz silica is a prohibited compound and shall not be intentionally added to the product as an ingredient. This restriction does not extend to contamination of raw materials such as calcium carbonate.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 8.1: Full ingredients list for each product and SDS for each ingredient.

Criterion 9: Halogens, halogenated compounds and volatile aromatic hydrocarbons must not be used except as preservatives or biocides.

Halogens, halogenated compounds and volatile aromatic compounds may only be used as preservatives or biocides if the substance(s) complies with **Criterion 11: Biocides**.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 9.1: Full ingredients list for each product and SDS for each ingredient.

3.4 Heavy Metals

Certain heavy metals are toxic to humans and the environment.

Criterion 10: The product must not contain or be manufactured using 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) and cobalt (Co).

Barium must not be used, except in the form of barium sulphate. Barium sulphate is only permissible at concentrations below 20% by weight.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 10.1: Full ingredients list for each product and SDS for each ingredient.

3.5 Biocides

Although valuable, certain biocides are harmful to human and environmental health.

Criterion 11: The product must only contain substances which are:

- authorised under Directive 98/8/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council and Regulation (EC) No 528/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council for the applicable product type (see <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32012R0528&from=EN>); or
- substances for which a dossier has been submitted for evaluation for the applicable product type pending a decision on authorisation or non-inclusion (see http://echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/17287015/active_substance_suppliers_en.pdf). These substances may be used in the interim period up until the adoption of the Decision.

The concentration of isothiazolones must not exceed 500 ppm for interior paints and 750 ppm for exterior paints.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 11.1: Full ingredients list for each product and SDS for each ingredient.

Note: the product will be assessed against the version of lists / documents mentioned above that are considered current at the time of assessment.

3.6 Production Safety

Criterion 12: The manufacturer must demonstrate that they have suitable procedures in place to protect staff from exposure to hazardous substances. This may include the elimination or substitution of hazardous substances, the use of engineering controls, or the supply and use of protective equipment.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 12.1: Inspection at site assessment; and

DoC 12.2: Copies of documentation detailing chemical use, engineering controls, safety manuals, protective equipment maintenance reports and / or evidence of employee training as applicable.

4. EMISSIONS

4.1 Volatile Organic Compounds

Volatile organic compounds (VOC) may contribute to air pollution and poor indoor air quality. Paints with low VOC content will help lower VOC emissions, thereby reducing environmental pollution.

Criterion 13: The total content of volatile organic compounds in the product must not exceed those stated in the following table. These amounts include water, but not tints or colorants.

Table 1. Maximum VOC content for base or untinted products.

Coating Type	VOC limits g/l	
	Interior Coatings	Exterior Coatings
Ceiling	5	N/A
Wall – flat and low sheen	5	10
Wall – gloss, semi-gloss and satin	5	15
Trim	75	75
Fillers and primers	30	30
Sealers and undercoats	30	30
Stains and varnishes	75	75
Durable external topcoats* – flat and low sheen	-	45
Durable external topcoats* – gloss, semi-gloss and satin	-	60
Powder coatings	10	10

*Durable coatings are those with a warranty of at least 10 years.

Any coating that does not fit into the categories outlined in the table above must not have a VOC content greater than 5 g/l.

Where a coating may fit into more than one category (e.g. sealer-primer) it must comply with the category with the lower VOC limit (e.g. sealer). Exemption: durable coatings may comply with only the durable topcoat limits provided they meet warranty criteria as stated above.

Where a coating may be used for interior or exterior use, it must comply with the interior VOC limit.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 13.1: Full formulation details showing the weight of each ingredient in g/l and the physical properties and chemical formula of each ingredient. All ingredients qualifying as VOCs according to the definition in

this standard will contribute to this calculation.

4.2 Tints and Colorants

Although not considered in the VOC calculation above, the VOC content of tints and colorants can contribute to overall VOC burden of a product.

Criterion 14: Any tints or colorants to be used with the product must have a VOC limit below 5 g/L.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 14.1: A signed declaration from an Executive Officer of the manufacturing company declaring the maximum VOC content of the tints or colorants, supported by technical documentation.

4.3 Semi-Volatile Organic Compounds

Semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs) may off-gas for a longer period than VOCs.

Criterion 15: The manufacturer must monitor and report on the use of semi-volatile organic compounds used in the product at the time of certification and every 12 months thereafter. Reporting must identify the SVOCs used and the weight of each used per weight of product.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 15.1: Report on the content of SVOCs contained in the product as a portion of the base paint or final product.

ENVIRONMENTAL CRITERIA



5. MATERIAL REQUIREMENTS

The criteria in this section are intended to address impacts that may occur over the life cycle of a product 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 Titanium Dioxide, Zinc Oxide and Lithopone Content

The production of these chemicals can involve large amounts of energy or produce large quantities of waste. Limiting the use of energy-intensive products reduces the overall environmental load of the product.

Criterion 16: The level of titanium dioxide (including CAS 13463-67-7, 1317-70-0, 12065-65-5), zinc oxide (CAS 1314-13-2) or lithopone (CAS 1345 05-7) must not exceed the following limits.

- Low build architectural paints and coatings (interior and exterior):
 - Ceiling paints - 25g/m² dry film at 98% opacity
 - Wall and trim paints (matt, low sheen, gloss, semi-gloss, satin) - 30g/m² dry film at 98% opacity
 - Primers, sealers and undercoats - 30g/m² dry film at 98% opacity
 - Long life exterior coating* - 40g/m² dry film at 98% opacity
 - Heat reflective long life coating - 50g/m² dry film at 98% opacity
- High build protective paints and coatings (interior and exterior):
 - Elastomeric coatings - 125g/m² dry film as applied
 - Texture and render coatings - 80g/m² dry film as applied
 - Other coatings (e.g. stains, varnishes) - 30g/m² dry film as applied

*Long life (durable) exterior coatings are those that are covered by a warranty of at least 10 years.

This criterion applies to architectural coatings including those applied to walls and ceilings. This criterion does not apply to student and artist paints.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 16.1: Documentation showing the weight of titanium dioxide, zinc oxide and lithopone per litre of paint. Reporting a range is acceptable; and

For low build architectural paints and coatings (interior and exterior):

DoC 16.2: DoC 16.2: The coverage (m²) per litre of paint at 98% opacity. Reporting a range is acceptable; or

For high build protective paints and coatings (interior and exterior), and other coatings:

DoC 16.3: The coverage (m²) per litre of paint and application instructions indicating the number of coats. Reporting a range is acceptable.

5.2 Glycol Ethers

While some glycol ethers are relatively inert, many have been identified as harmful for human health.

Criterion 17: The product must not contain or be manufactured with any harmful or potentially harmful glycol ethers, including but not restricted to those listed below.

CAS	Chemical name
107-21-1	Ethylene glycol
109-59-1	2-isopropoxyethanol
109-86-4	Ethylene glycol methyl ether
110-49-6	2-Methoxyethyl acetate
110-71-4	Ethylene glycol dimethyl ether
110-80-5	Ethylene glycol ethyl ether
111-15-9	Ethylene acetate glycol ethyl ether
111-76-2	Ethylene glycol butyl ether
111-77-3	2-(2-Methoxyethoxy) ethanol
111-96-6	Diethylene glycol dimethyl ether
112-07-2	2-butoxyethyl acetate
112-25-4	2-hexyloxyethanol
112-36-7	Diethylene glycol diethyl ether
112-49-2	Triethylene glycol dimethyl ether
122-99-6	2-phenoxyethanol

Glycol ethers not listed here may still be restricted by the Hazardous Materials section of this standard.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 17.1: A full ingredients list for each product; and

DoC 17.2: A signed declaration confirming that the ingredients list is complete and none of the listed glycol ethers or other harmful glycol ethers are used.

5.3 Ozone Depleting Substances

Ozone depletion is a significant environmental concern. Although ozone depleting substances have largely been phased out in most countries, some substances have not yet been banned.

Criterion 18: The product must not contain any substances listed in the Montreal Protocol Annexes A, B, C or E including CFCs, HCFCs, hydrobromofluorocarbons, halons, methyl bromide, carbon tetrachloride, 1,1,1-trichloroethane (methyl chloroform) and bromochloromethane.

Criterion 19: Substances used to clean production equipment must have an ozone depletion potential of zero, and must not be listed in the Montreal Protocol Annexes A, B, C or E.

Demonstration of Conformance (for Criteria 18 and 19)

DoC 19.1: List of all ingredients;

DoC 19.2: Signed statement of all substances used in the cleaning of production equipment; and

DoC 19.3: SDS, chemical names and/or CAS numbers for each ingredient and cleaning substance.

Substances used will be checked against Annexures A, B, C and E of the Montreal Protocol:
<http://www.unep.org/ozone/issues.shtml>

5.4 Reflective Coatings

Reflective coatings help to reduce the external surface temperature of the building, and hence reduce radiant heat transfer. This helps lower the energy consumption associated with cooling and when used en masse may help mitigate the intensity of urban heat islands.

Criterion 20: If the applicant or manufacturer makes claims that the product possesses solar reflectance, solar absorbance or thermal emittance properties, these claims must be supported by an independent test report. Accepted test methods include:

- ASTM C1549 Standard Test Method for Determination of Solar Reflectance Near Ambient Temperature Using a Portable Solar Reflectometer;
- ASTM E1918 Standard Test Method for Measuring Solar Reflectance of Horizontal and Low-Sloped Surfaces in the Field; or
- ASTM C1371 Standard Test Method for Determination of Emittance of Materials Near Room Temperature Using Portable Emissometers.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 20.1: Declaration that no solar reflectance, solar absorbance or thermal emittance claims are made, signed by an Executive Officer of the applicant company. This declaration is to be supported by copies of relevant labelling and marketing material;

Or

DoC 20.2: Copies of relevant test results in accordance with accepted test methods.

5.5 Water Emissions

Improperly managed water emissions can have harmful effects to the receiving environment.

Criterion 21: Water emissions from the manufacturing site must not be damaging to the receiving environment.

Manufacturers must report the amount and destination of all water emissions resulting from the manufacturing process.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 21.1: Declaration of the destination of effluent (e.g. sewer), the volume discharged and the frequency of discharge.

6. DESIGN FOR ENVIRONMENT

6.1 Product Information

Product information allows customers to use 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 shown on the label includes:

- Instructions for preparation, application and care of the product;
- An instruction for users to read the SDS; and
- Storage and disposal instructions.

Information that must be available to the public includes:

- Material safety data sheet;
- Technical data sheets or product data sheets;
- Coverage area per litre of paint when applied as directed (e.g. in 2 coats) so that the required volume may be calculated;
- Environmentally responsible use and disposal instructions; and
- Information regarding solar reflectance, solar absorbance and thermal emittance if required by criterion 6.

Information will be considered publicly available if it is supplied with all products or available on the company website and the information provided to customers or the product label directs users to that website.

Criterion 23: The manufacturer must not specify or recommend the use of any chemical or cleaning product that would be restricted by any part of this standard. This includes:

- Products used to clean paint from brushes, rollers and other application equipment;
- Products for preparing surfaces; and
- Products for cleaning painted surfaces.

Demonstration of Conformance (for Criteria 22 and 23)

DoC 23.1: Copy of labels, care instructions and other information provided with the product.

DoC 23.2: A current material safety data sheet for each product, and

DoC 23.3: Technical data sheets, web pages and any other information freely available to customers or the public.

6.2 Packaging

Criterion 24: Packaging must not be halogenated.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 24.1: Information regarding composition of packaging materials including chemical names, CAS numbers, technical data sheets or SDS where applicable.

Criterion 25: Plastic packaging over 10g in weight must be marked with a plastics identification code.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 25.1: Visual inspection of each plastic component of the packaging. If claiming an exception for small components, the applicant must provide samples to be weighed or a declaration listing the weights of each individual component.

6.3 Waste Minimisation

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

Criterion 26: The manufacturer must have effective policies and procedures in place, 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 through minimised energy consumption.

The applicant must demonstrate that at least 97% of material inputs (i.e. ingredients) result in saleable product. This will be calculated by weight of the paint or coating product, excluding packaging. The waste production rate (<3%) does not include any waste material that is reused by the manufacturer to create saleable product. The waste production rate may be calculated as an annual average.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 26.1: Documentation of all material flows including inputs, processes and outputs: including weight of ingredients and weight of resultant product, details of manufacturing processes, and waste recapture methods; and

DoC 26.2: Reporting on energy use and sourcing, including electricity bills or consumption reporting and the type or origin of energy used.

6.4 Chemical Storage

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

Criterion 27: The manufacturer must properly store chemicals including ingredients and the finished product, in a manner which minimises risk of harm to the environment through leaks, spills and emissions to water or air.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 27.1: Chemical storage will be inspected at a site visit conducted by a GECA approved assurance provider); and

DoC 27.2: Copies of storage handling requirements and procedures for control and remediation of chemical spills. This may be included in an EMS whether ISO 14001 certified or not.

7. 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.

Criterion 28: Any environmental claims beyond the scope of this Standard that have been applied to a product must comply with ISO 14021, and the applicant must be able to verify these claims to GECA.

Any product making greenhouse gas related claims must comply with ISO 14064-3 “Specification with guidance for the validation and verification of greenhouse gas assertions” and be able to verify these claims to GECA.

For claims outside the scope of ISO 14021 or ISO 14064, clear statement of the test method and the conditions under which the product was tested is required, along with a clear explanation of the relevance of the test method to the environmental claim.

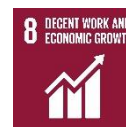
The applicant or manufacturer must not claim that the product is ‘odour free’, ‘low odour’, ‘no odour’ or similar if odour-masking agents are used.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 28.1: A copy of any relevant advertising material currently in use; and

DoC 28.2: Relevant documentation confirming the grounds of the claim and its compliance with this criterion.

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 29: 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 29.1: Signed declaration from an Executive Officer of the organisation stating compliance with applicable environmental legislation and government orders;

DoC 29.2: Signed declaration disclosing any breaches of environmental legislation or permits and the date of the breach. Applicant shall:

DoC 29.3: 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 29.4: 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 30: 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 30.1: Signed declaration from an Executive Officer of the organisation confirming compliance with all minimum entitlements including wages; and

DoC 30.2: 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 30.3: Text or template of a typical workplace agreement offered to employees of the company; and sample payslips; and

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

8.3 Workplace Health and Safety

Criterion 31: 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 31.1: 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 31.2: Copy of the company Occupational / Workplace H&S policy and procedures;

DoC 31.3: 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 31.4: Evidence of corrective action following a breach of legislation, if applicable; and

DoC 31.5: WHS incidents register.

8.4 Equal Opportunity

Criterion 32: 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 32.1: Signed declaration from an Executive Officer of the organisation stating compliance with above legislation;

DoC 32.2: Copy of relevant company policies and procedures;

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

DoC 32.4: The assessor will verify that the company does not appear on the following list: [Non-compliant list | WGEA](#)

8.5 Lawful Conduct

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

DoC 33.2: Evidence of corrective action following a guilty verdict, if applicable.

8.6 Modern Slavery

Criterion 34: 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 34.1: 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:

- a) Employment records
- b) List of contractors
- c) Leave entitlements policy
- d) Any relevant Human Resources policy
- e) Payslips/ wage scales/ remuneration policy
- f) Minimum age of employment policy
- g) 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 35: 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 35.1: 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 35.2: The manufacturer/applicant shall provide a map of at least one tier of its supply chain; and

DoC 35.3: 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 35.4: Evidence of assessment of suppliers in relation to human rights and recommendations for improvements in their supply chain; and

DoC 35.5: Evidence of [ISO20400](https://www.iso.org/standard/68001.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.un.org/globalcompact/); 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 35.6: Evidence of commitment to achieve SA 8000 certification within one year; or

DoC 35.7: Evidence of becoming a signatory to the UN Global Compact within six months;
and

DoC 35.8: 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/manufacture 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	Category Scope	A brief description of the product(s) or product range as they apply to the scope of this standard.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2. Fitness For Purpose				
Criterion 2	Applicable standards and demonstrated performance	Test reports for all relevant quality and performance tests.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
HEALTH CRITERIA				
3. Hazardous Materials				
Criterion 3	Dangerous goods	SDS and supporting documentation.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 4	R phrases restricted for product	Full ingredients list and SDS for each ingredient.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 5	R phrases restricted for ingredients	Full ingredients list and SDS for each ingredient.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 6	Endocrine disruptors	Full ingredients list and SDS for each ingredient.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 7	Environmental hazards	Full ingredients list and SDS for each ingredient.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 8	Banned substances	Full ingredients list and SDS for each ingredient.	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Criterion 9	Halogens, halogenated compounds and volatile aromatic hydrocarbons	Full ingredients list and SDS for each ingredient.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 10	Heavy metal restrictions	Full ingredients list and SDS for each ingredient.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 11	Biocidal substances	Full ingredients list and SDS for each ingredient.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 12	Production Safety	Site inspection and Copies of documentation detailing chemical use, engineering controls, safety manuals, protective equipment maintenance reports and / or evidence of employee training as applicable.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4. Emissions				
Criterion 13	VOC limits	Formulation details showing ingredients in g/L, with physical properties and chemical formula.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 14	VOC limits	Statement of conformance signed by CEO.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Documentation showing VOC content.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 15	Monitoring of SVOCs	Report on content of SVOCs.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
ENVIRONMENTAL CRITERIA				
5. Material Requirements				
Criterion 16	Limits on titanium dioxide, zinc oxide and lithopone content	Documentation showing weight/L paint.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Coverage (m2) per L of paint at 98% opacity.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Coverage (m2) per L of paint and application instructions.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 17	Banned glycol ethers	Statement of conformance signed by CEO.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Full ingredients list.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 18	Banned substances	List of all ingredients.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		SDS, chemical names and/or CAS numbers for each ingredient and cleaning substance.	<input type="checkbox"/>	

		Statement of conformance of all cleaning substances signed by CEO.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 19	Cleaning substances	List of all ingredients.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		SDS, chemical names and/or CAS numbers for each ingredient and cleaning substance.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Statement of conformance of all cleaning substances signed by CEO.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 20	Solar reflectance claims and testing	Declaration of no solar reflectance claims, signed by CEO, or	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Copies of relevant test results in accordance with accepted test methods.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 21	Damaging water emissions	Declaration of effluent destination, volume discharged and frequency.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
6. Design for Environment				
Criterion 22	Information available to public	Copy of labels and care instructions.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Information available to public.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		SDS for each product.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 23	Cleaning product recommendations	Copy of labels and care instructions.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Information available to public.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		SDS for each product.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 24	Halogenation	Information on packaging, including chemical names, CAS numbers or SDS.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 25	Plastic packaging	Visual inspection of packaging.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 26	Waste minimisation policies and procedures	Documentation of material flows.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Reports on energy use and sourcing.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 27	Chemical storage	Site inspection.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Copies of handling requirements and procedures for control of spills.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
7. Environmental Claims				
Criterion 28	Environmental Claims	Copy of relevant advertising material.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Documentation confirming claims.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
SOCIAL CRITERIA				

8. Social and Legal Compliance				
Criterion 29	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 30	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 31	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 32	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 33	Lawful conduct	Signed declaration confirming conformance to the criterion and	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Evidence of corrective action (if applicable)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 34	Modern slavery	Copy of the published Modern Slavery Statement from within the previous 12 months	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 35	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"/>	

© Copyright 2021 Good Environmental Choice Ltd ABN 27 118 766 153

Our vision is for a sustainable
future for people and planet

