

Core Sustainable Development Goals



Floor Coverings

Standard No: FCv3.0-2021

Type 1 ecolabel standard in accordance with ISO 14024

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(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
2.2 Warranty	16
HEALTH CRITERIA	17
3. EMISSIONS	17
3.1 Air Emissions - Formaldehyde	17
3.2 Air Emissions - Volatile Organic Compounds	18
4. HAZARDOUS MATERIALS	19
4.1 Hazardous Materials	19
ENVIRONMENTAL CRITERIA	22
5. design for environment	22
5.1 Timber and Other Natural Materials	22
5.2 Treatment	24
5.3 Outdoor Wood Toxicity	24
5.4 Polymers, Plastics and Foams	24

5.5	Textile Fibres	25
5.6	Rubber	26
6.	MATERIAL EFFICENCY AND RECYCLED CONTENT REQUIREMENTS	28
6.1	Waste Minimisation	28
6.2	Separability/ Design for Disassembly	29
6.3	Coatings and Treatments	29
6.4	Product Stewardship	29
6.5	Packaging Requirements	30
7.	ENVIRONMENTAL CLAIMS	32
	SOCIAL CRITERIA	33
8.	SOCIAL AND LEGAL COMPLIANCE	33
8.1	Environmental Legislation	33
8.2	Minimum entitlement including wages	34
8.3	Workplace Health and Safety	34
8.4	Equal Opportunity	35
8.5	Lawful Conduct	35
8.6	Modern Slavery	36
8.7	Human Rights including Labour Rights	37
	EVIDENCE OF CONFORMANCE	39
	Demonstration of Conformance (DoC)	39
APPENDIX A	APPLICATION CHECKLIST	40

Floor Coverings

DOCUMENT HISTORY

Status: **Current**

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Versions	Date Published	Summary of Changes
1.2	May 2005	New Standard SP/AU.
2.0	May/ June 2010	Update to New GECA template. Amendments in line with International Standards. Clarification and addition of documentation requirements for Demonstration of Conformance items. Background section revised. Scope expanded and clarified to exclude hard surfacing.
2.0i	February 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.
3.0	July 2021	Revision 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, addition of ISO45001:2018 in DoC 30.2, change of exemption, audit, auditor and auditing body to exception, assessment, assessor and assurance provider, respectively according to new scheme rules, adding definitions of above terminologies and adding ASTM definition. rearrangement of criteria, SDGs aligned, change of social criteria (Modern slavery), limitation on N-nitrosamine

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

Alloy: A combination of two or more elements, at least one of which is a metal. This includes binary, tertiary and quaternary alloys (two, three and four elements, respectively). The result is a metallic substance with properties different from those of its components.

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.

CAS: CAS registry numbers are unique numerical identifiers for chemical elements, compounds, polymers, biological sequences, mixtures and alloys. They are also referred to as CAS numbers or CAS RNs. CAS standards for Chemical Abstract Service, which is a division of the American Chemical Society.

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.

Edge glued panels: Glued processed timbers, such as small lumbered wood or wood layers, that are formed and pressed into sheet form in the direction of fibre, parallel to each other and bonded with resin. These panels are often known as veneer panels.

EPBC: Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.

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 label: means the Good Environmental Choice Australia ecolabel.

GECA approved assessor: An assessor that has been accredited to assess against GECA's Scheme Rules.

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

IARC: International Agency for Research on Cancer.

Halogens: Chlorine (Cl), fluorine (F), bromine (Br), iodine (I) and astatine (At).

Label: means the Good Environmental Choice Australia Ecolabel.

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 shall not be more than 5-years old.

OSHA: Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Particle boards: Boards made from wood fragments (chips or shavings) which are formed and pressed into sheet form and bonded together with resin.

Recycled content: For the purpose of this standard, recycled content includes:

- **Post-Consumer Recycled Content:** Material generated by households, or by commercial, industrial and institutional facilities in their role as end-users of the product, which can no longer be used for its intended purpose. This includes returns of material from the distribution chain.
- **Pre-Consumer Recycled Content:** Material diverted from the waste stream during a manufacturing process. Excluded is reutilisation of materials such as rework, regrind or scrap generated in a process and capable of being reclaimed within the same process that generated it.

STEL (exposure standard - short term exposure limit): A 15-minute TWA exposure which should not be exceeded at any time during a working day even if the eight-hour TWA average is within the TWA exposure standard. Exposures at the STEL should not be longer than 15 minutes and should not be repeated more than four times per day. There should be at least 60 minutes between successive exposures at the STEL.

Timber/Wood: Includes wood sourced from raw (virgin) forest timbers, timbers sourced from sustainable forestry, or waste wood materials including particle boards, fibre boards and edge-glued panels. Also includes used timber/wood.

TOC: Total Organic Content, defined as the total amount of organic substances dissolved in a water sample.

TWA (exposure standard - time-weighted average): The average airborne concentration of a particular substance when calculated over a normal eight-hour working day, for a five-day working week.

Veneer panels: See edge-glued panels.

VOC: Volatile organic compound. Any organic compound having a vapour pressure of 0.01 kPa or more, at 20°C, or having a corresponding volatility under the particular conditions of use.

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



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

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

All SDGs relevant to GECA's Floor Coverings 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 	

Core SDGs relevant to GECA's Floor Coverings standard

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



CORE SDG: 3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

GECA Standard Criterion

- Hazardous and prohibited substances: Criterion 4-8
- 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

- Hazardous and prohibited substances: Criterion 6-8

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.

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



CORE SDG: 12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

GECA Standard Criterion

- Natural resources management: criteria 9, 19
- Hazardous substances: criteria 4-8
- Waste minimisation: criterion 20

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.

15 LIFE ON LAND



CORE SDG: 15 LIFE ON LAND

GECA Standard Criterion

- Sourcing and treatment of timber and other natural materials: 9, 10, 11
- Environmental legislation: criterion 29

SDG 15 Specific target 15.1

By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements.

SDG 15 Specific target 15.2

By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally.

SDG 15 Specific target 15.5

Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species.

BACKGROUND

Floor coverings are an essential addition to any building. They have the potential to provide both aesthetic and functional benefits. However, like any other product, floor coverings can have a range of environmental and health impacts.

These impacts occur across the product's entire lifecycle. The environmental impact of floor covering products primarily comes from the different types of raw materials used, products used for surface treatment and glue, and the energy used during manufacturing. In addition, impacts can occur during use and maintenance and when the floor covering reaches the end of its useful life.

For example, unsustainable practices in the extraction of raw materials can result in a wide range of environmental issues, such as threatening biodiversity in adjacent areas, erosion in coastal areas and riverbanks, or pollution of waterways.

It is also essential that materials and ingredients hazardous to both people and the planet are not added to the final product or used in its creation. For instance, some floor coverings can be treated with fungicides or insecticides that contain carcinogenic substances. Toxic heavy metals and their compounds such as mercury, arsenic, selenium, cobalt, tin and antimony are also detrimental to the health of manufacturing staff and users of the finished product.

Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) can also be a significant issue for the adhesives and finishes used in flooring. VOCs can trigger a range of health problems such as respiratory irritation, allergies, headaches and asthma. Formaldehyde, a known human carcinogen, is a particularly common VOC found in adhesives and resins, despite its toxicity to humans.

GECA certification removes doubt and confusion and makes identifying environmentally and socially preferable products easier. 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 and is also recognised by the ISCA IS rating scheme.

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

- reducing the impacts from raw material sourcing, including avoiding the illegal harvest of wood and fibre
- limiting emissions of volatile organic compounds
- reducing the use and subsequent release of environmentally harmful substances to the environment at all stages of the product's lifecycle
- encouraging recovery, reuse, recycling and responsible disposal of product and packaging, including ensuring the product is not treated in a manner that would prevent post-consumer recycling
- preventing the use of specific hazardous materials and heavy metals such as known carcinogens and mutagens
- 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: This standard is applicable to a range of floor coverings and carpet underlays that are laid on top of a foundation of concrete or wooden beams and are not part of the building structure. This includes floor covering such as:

- Parquet
- Wooden planks
- Engineered wood products, e.g. laminate
- Linoleum
- Bamboo
- Cork
- Rubber
- PET (terephthalate) Plastics
- Bio-based Plastics

Exclusions and Notes

Other environmentally innovative floor coverings that do not fit the above categories may be considered for certification provided the product fulfils the requirements of all relevant sections of this Standard. Hard surfacing product applications that are suitable for vertical application and outdoor use such as ceramic tiles, quarried stone and polished concrete are not considered within the scope of this standard. Other categories may be added at a later date.

Note: Vinyl congaing polymer including PVC (poly vinyl chloride) are excluded from the scope of this standard.

Flooring adhesive products may be certified under GECA Adhesives, Fillers and Sealants AFSv4.0i-2014.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 1.1: Detailed description of the product(s) or product range; and

DoC 1.2: Explanation of applicability of the product(s) 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: Where required by law, the product shall meet the requirements of the relevant Australian Standard or an equivalent national or international standard; or,

The product shall independently demonstrate fitness for purpose, or market acceptance, or suitability, or quality.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 2.1: A description of the product as it relates to relevant Australian (or other) Standards. If there is no applicable Australian Standard (or international equivalent), or if it is not legally required, this should be clearly stated; and

One of the following forms of evidence:

DoC 2.2: Independent assessment or test reports confirming conformance with the relevant Australian or international safety and/or quality standard, if applicable, or

DoC 2.3: Report from an independent organisation (or independent engineer's report) or case studies from existing installations that demonstrate fitness for purpose, market acceptance, suitability or quality.

2.2 Warranty

Criterion 3: The manufacturer shall offer a commercial guarantee of five years on the quality of the product, provided the product is used for its intended purpose.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 3.1: Evidence of the warranty offer provided to customers. This may be a guarantee certificate or authorised statement on the corporate website.

HEALTH CRITERIA



3. EMISSIONS

3.1 Air Emissions - Formaldehyde

Criterion 4: Products made from wood and other natural products that contain formaldehyde-based additives, shall comply with the following air emission limits for formaldehyde as measured using the Air Chamber, Desiccator or Perforator test methods. Raw timber and natural materials are excepted from this criterion.

Table 1. Limit values for formaldehyde emissions from wood components.

Test Protocol	Emission limit
AS/NZS 2269:2004, testing procedure AS/NZS 2098.11:2005 method 10 for Plywood	≤1mg/l
AS/NZS 1859.1:2004 - Particle Board, with use of testing procedure AS/NZS 4266.16:2004 method 16	≤1.5mg/l
AS/NZS 1859.2:2004 - MDF, with use of testing procedure AS/NZS 4266.16:2004 method 16	≤1mg/l
JIS A 5908:2003- Particle Board and Plywood, with use of testing procedure JIS A 1460	≤1mg/l
JIS A 5905:2003 - MDF, with use of testing Procedure JIS A 1460	≤1mg/l
JIS A1901 (not applicable to Plywood)	≤1mg/l
ASTM D5116	≤0.1 (+/- 0.0005) mg/m ² /hr
ASTM D6670	≤0.1 (+/- 0.0005) mg/m ² /hr
ISO 16000 part 9, 10 and 11 (also known as EN 13419)	≤0.1 (+/- 0.0005) mg/m ² /hr at 3 days
ASTM D6007	≤0.12mg/m ³ ***
ASTM E1333	≤0.12mg/m ³ ***
EN 717-1 (also known as DIN EN 717-1)	≤0.12mg/m ³
EN 717-2 (also known as DIN EN 717-2)	≤3.5mg/m ² /hr
EN-120	≤ 4 mg/100g
<p>* mg/m²/hr may also be represented as mg/m²/h</p> <p>** The test report shall confirm that the conditions of Table 1 comply for the particular wood product type, the final results shall be presented in EN 717-1 equivalent (as presented in the table) using the correlation ratio of 0.98.</p> <p>*** The final results shall be presented in EN 717-1 equivalent (as presented in the table) using the correlation ratio of 0.98.</p> <p>Source: modified from Green Building Council of Australia 2010</p>	

Compliance may be demonstrated in one of two ways: either by testing the overall emissions of the final product using the applicable Air Chamber, Desiccator or Perforator test method as outlined above; or by testing the emissions of each component material and calculating the total emissions of the final product based on the quantity of individual components in the respective product. If the latter option is selected, testing should be conducted based on methods outlined in ASTM-D5116: Small Scale Environment Chamber determination of organic emissions from indoor materials/products.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 4.1: A copy of the test results showing the applicable protocol and test method used as outlined in Table 1. GECA or its approved GECA assessor may request further documentation if necessary; or

DoC 4.2: Evidence of existing product equivalency to the WELL Building standard.

3.2 Air Emissions - Volatile Organic Compounds

Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) Emissions

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

Products made from wood and other natural materials that contain formaldehyde-based additives, shall also comply with the requirements of criterion 4 Formaldehyde Emissions.

Criterion 5: Products shall not produce a total VOC emission greater than 0.5 mg/m²/hr when tested to ASTM D5116 /ASTM D6670 or ISO 16000 part 9, 10 and 11.

Samples shall be tested within three days (72 hours) of manufacture and immediately after unpacking unless specified otherwise by the sampling protocols in the standards listed below. Samples shall be packed for delivery to the lab to minimise off-gassing in accordance with laboratory instructions.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 5.1: Test reports on VOC emissions using one of the following test methods:

- ASTM D5116-06 Standard Guide for Small-Scale Environmental Chamber Determinations of Organic Emissions from Indoor Materials/Products; or
- ASTM D6670-01(2007) Standard Practice for Full-Scale Chamber Determination of Volatile Organic Emissions from Indoor Materials/Products; or

DoC 5.2: Evidence of existing product equivalency to the WELL Building standard.

DoC 5.3: If the sample is not tested within three days of receipt, confirmation from the accredited laboratory of the appropriate treatment of the sample in accordance with the sampling protocol of the relevant ASTM standard requirements.

DoC 5.4: A copy of the lab instructions for sample preparation for delivery to the laboratory.

Note: Products requiring formaldehyde emissions, total VOC, 1,3-butadiene and N-nitrosamines test results can submit a single test report, provided that the product was tested to ASTM D5116/ ASTM D6670 or ISO16000 and the report shows both the formaldehyde, TVOC, 1,3-butadiene and N-nitrosamines results.

4. HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

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

The requirements in this section apply to all materials in the finished product regardless of weight except for 1,3-butadiene, N-nitrosamine and formaldehyde which are subject to the requirements in Criterion 13, Criterion 18 and Criterion 4 respectively. This section is applicable to virgin textile fibre fabrics if not assessed under Criterion 16 a) or b). Recycled textile fibres and rubber are subject to the conditions set out in Criterion 16, Criterion 17 and Criterion 18 respectively.

4.1 Hazardous Materials

Criterion 6: In order to promote the reduction of pollutant hazards in the manufacture, use, or disposal of products, the following substances (and where appropriate, their compounds) shall not be added to products during manufacture:

- Heavy metals: antimony, arsenic, cadmium, chromium, copper, lead, mercury, selenium and tin;
- Halogenated organic substances including halogenated organic solvents (e.g. binding agents);
- Elemental chlorine;
- Phthalates;
- Phenols; and
- Potentially explosive chemicals.

Exceptions for a specific substance may be permitted only by GECA (via submitting an application/request) where the applicant can demonstrate that the substance:

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

The use of any heavy metal coatings or finishes is only permissible in exceptional circumstances where necessary on the grounds of heavy physical wear or in the case of parts that require particularly tight connections.

Note: Manufacturers that use potentially explosive chemicals shall also demonstrate that there is an ISO 14001 Environmental Management System (EMS) in place that requires, at minimum, licensed handlers, and procedures for storage and handling.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 6.1: A schedule of the constituent chemical substances in g/kg used in the manufacture of the product that are classified as harmful, and relevant SDS; and

DoC 6.2: Copy of documentation clearly outlining how each chemical is used, managed and stored; and

DoC 6.3: Where an exception is claimed, a signed declaration from an Executive Director of the

applicant company stating that the substance is chemically bound in the finished product, and the purpose for which the given substance is necessary; and

DoC 6.4: If claiming an exception for potentially explosive chemicals, the applicant shall also provide details of the ISO 14001 EMS in place.

Criterion 7: In order to address human and environmental health risks, substances which are classifiable as hazardous according to any of the following categories shall not be added to floor covering products or their components, or used in the manufacturing process.

- Acutely toxic substances including any R26-28 (H310, H330, H370) substances, R50-R53 (H400, H401, H402, H410, H411, H412, H413) and R54 – R59 classified) substances and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) highly hazardous chemicals, toxics and reactives (http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=STANDARDS&p_id=10647)
- Irritants and sensitising agents including R36-38 (H319, H318, H335, H315, H314) and R42-43 (H334, H317) substances
- Endocrine disruptors and R60-64 (H360, H361, H261, H362) substances
- Carcinogens, teratogens and mutagens including:
 - any R45-49 (H350, H340, H373, H372) substances,
 - IARC group 1 or 2A substances,
 - EU consolidated list of C/M/R category 1 or 2 substances
- Rotterdam Convention Annex III substances
- WHO pesticides 1a and 1b
- Persistent Organic Pollutants (listed in the Stockholm Convention)

Note: 1,3-butadiene and N-nitrosamines are exempt from above criterion.

Exceptions for a specific substance may only be granted (by submitting a request to GECA) for safety or performance considerations provided that

- the substance does not pose a health risk to the end user or manufacturing staff; and
- the applicant can demonstrate that exposure to the substance is below No Observable Adverse Effect Level or zero if NOAEL is unknown; and
- the substance cannot enter the environment during the manufacturing process or as a result of use.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 7.1: A schedule of the constituent chemical substances in g/kg used in the manufacture of the product that are classified as harmful, and relevant SDS; and

DoC 7.2: Where an exception is claimed, the applicant shall provide a signed declaration from an Executive Director of the applicant company stating the purpose for which the given substance is necessary; documentation clearly outlining how each chemical is used, managed and stored; and evidence that human exposure or environmental contamination is prevented.

Criterion 8: The following compounds, their functional derivatives or in-situ precursors shall not be added to finished products, their component parts or be used at any stage of the manufacturing process, including as preparatory agents, cleaners or degreasers in the production facility:

- Polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDE), or short-chain (<13 C) chlorinated organic flame retardants;
- Pentachlorophenol (PCP);
- Bisphenol A;
- Tar oils (benzo (a) pyrene);
- Fluoropolymer additives;
- Aniline based amines;
- Phthalates
- Aziridine or polyaziridines.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 8.1: A schedule of the constituent chemical substances in g/kg used in the manufacture of the product that are classified as harmful, and relevant SDS; or

DoC 8.2: A signed declaration from an Executive Director of the applicant company stating that the above compounds, their functional derivatives or in-situ precursors are not added to finished products, their component parts or be used at any stage of the manufacturing process, including as preparatory agents, cleaners or degreasers in the production facility.

ENVIRONMENTAL CRITERIA



5. DESIGN FOR ENVIRONMENT

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

Material Requirements

The requirements in this section apply to each type of material contained in the finished product.

5.1 Timber and Other Natural Materials

Timber and forest industries continue to present problems for environmental groups aiming for consensus based standards. The requirements in this section recognise the efforts of existing specialist forestry standards and aim to reduce the risk of illegal harvesting and biodiversity loss, while also insisting on chain of custody evidence for all material sourced.

Criterion 9: The geographical origin of pre-consumer recycled and virgin fibre material shall be documented, allowing confirmation of origin throughout the supply chain. Fibre may be sourced from any combination of FSC or AFS (according to AS 4708-2007, or equivalent PEFC) certified fibre, plantation wood fibre, cellulose fibre, return fibre, cotton fibre, crop residue or other waste fibre.

Any sources that are not certified under a recognised certification scheme (e.g. FSC) shall not originate from:

Controversial Sources

a. Illegal harvesting

Illegally harvested wood and natural materials are those that are harvested, traded or transported in a way that is in breach with applicable national regulations (such regulations may for example address CITES species, money laundering, corruption and bribery, and other relevant national regulations).

b. Genetically modified organisms

Wood and natural materials from genetically modified organisms are those which have been induced by various means to include genetic structural changes (for a definition of genetically modified, please refer to the European Union Directive 2001/18/EC on the deliberate release of genetically modified organisms in the environment).

Traditional breeding programs do not constitute genetic modification.

c. Recently established plantations impacting primary ecosystems

The plantation or agricultural land use shall have been established prior to 2000 and not have impacted primary ecosystems at the time of establishment. Establishment includes the logging or destruction of primary forest followed by the establishment of the plantation.

d. **Uncertified high conservation value communities**

High Conservation Value communities are those that possess one or more of the following attributes:

- Communities containing globally, regionally or nationally significant concentrations of biodiversity values (e.g. endemism, endangered species, refugia); and/or large landscape level communities, contained within, or containing the management unit, where viable populations of most if not all naturally occurring species exist in natural patterns of distribution and abundance.
- Communities that are in [i.e. constitute] or contain rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems.
- Communities fundamental to meeting basic needs of locally indigenous human populations (e.g. subsistence, health) and/or critical to these people's traditional cultural identity (areas of cultural, ecological,
- Economic or religious significance identified in cooperation with such local communities).

For materials sourced from within Australia, please refer to the following:

The EPBC Act List of Threatened Fauna at <http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publicthreatenedlist.pl?wanted=fauna>

The EPBC Act List of Threatened Flora at <http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publicthreatenedlist.pl?wanted=flora>

The EPBC Act List of Threatened Ecological Communities <http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publiclookupcommunities.pl>

The Australian Heritage Database (for listings of areas of cultural significance) at <http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/ahdb/search.pl>

For materials sourced from outside Australia, please refer to credible lists detailing threatened species, threatened communities and areas of cultural significance in the respective countries.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 9.1: Design specification or schedule of materials for the product, and an estimated total amount of certified wood and/or certified wood fibre used to produce the product annually; and

DoC 9.2: For timber certified under a recognised scheme, a copy of certificate(s) signed by the certification authority FSC, AFS or equivalent certification (e.g. PEFC); and/or

DoC 9.3: For timber not certified under a recognised scheme, Chain of Custody evidence for all product materials including receipts showing geographic and company based origin of materials (this will be checked against any relevant national lists), whether certified or not. Evidence shall include latin names and english common names, geographic origin and the supplier. GECA or its approved assessors may request further documentation if necessary.

5.2 Treatment

Criterion 10: Wood and natural materials used in flooring products shall not be treated or impregnated with fungicides and insecticides that are classified due to their hazardous nature by the IARC as Group 1 or 2A. IARC 2B classified fungicides and insecticides may not be used where Group 3 or 4 alternatives are available. Refer to: <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Classification/index>.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 10.1: Signed documentation from the applicant stating that any pesticides used are not classified by the IARC as Type 1 or 2A. The documentation shall show the type of wood, origin, certification if applicable and supplier; and include a schedule of all agents used (including CAS numbers and common names) to treat wood and other natural materials. If the applicant does not perform the treatment as part of the manufacturing process, this statement should come from the supplier of the pre-treated timber; or

DoC 10.2: Signed documentation from the supplier stating that an IARC 2B classified fungicide or insecticide is used and that no alternatives are available on the market that do not include IARC 1, 2A or 2B constituents.

5.3 Outdoor Wood Toxicity

Criterion 11: Outdoor wood shall not contain more than 0.1 % by weight of any substance carrying the following risk phrases (this criterion shall not replace section 4.1 Hazardous Materials):

- R50 (H400): Very toxic to aquatic organisms;
- R51 (H401): Toxic to aquatic organisms;
- R52(H402): Harmful to aquatic organisms;
- R53 (H410, H411, H412, H413): May cause long-term adverse effects in the aquatic environment;
- R56: Toxic to soil organisms; and
- R58: May cause long-term adverse effects in the environment.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 11.1: Signed declaration of non-use from an Executive Officer of the company, or a statement that the product is for indoor use only.

DoC 11.2: SDS of all materials used, and a calculation of the total content of any relevant (R50-R53) (H400, H401, H402, H410, H411, H412, H413) and R54 – R58 classified) substance in the finished product, if applicable.

5.4 Polymers, Plastics and Foams

Criterion 12: CFC, HCFC, HFC, or methylene chloride shall not be used in the production of any plastic or foam, including use as a blowing agent in polyurethane.

It is accepted that recycled content may have been treated or produced with the above substances

during their previous life cycle.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 12.1: A list of all substances used in the production of the plastics and foams; or

DoC 12.2: Signed declaration of non-use from an Executive Officer of the company that produces the foam.

Criterion 13: Latex or foam shall not contain concentrations of 1,3-butadiene greater than 1 ppm (mg/kg).

Demonstration of Conformance

(Only one of the following DoC is required)

DoC 13.1: Signed declaration of non-use from an Executive Officer of the company that produces the latex or foam, or

DoC 13.2: Report on a test carried out in accordance with the following procedure: A sample of the cured product shall be ground and weighed before being analysed. Sampling by use of a headspace sampler. Analysis by means of gas chromatography, detection by use of a flame ionization detector.

Criterion 14: Aniline based amines, and pigments and catalysis based on mercury, lead, cadmium, and chromium shall not be used. This criterion does not replace 5.1 Hazardous Materials.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 14.1: Signed declaration from supplier describing the expansion process and whether these substances are used.

Criterion 15: Where organic tin catalysts are used in the production of flexible polyurethane, the manufacturer shall have in place a contract with a licensed or registered hazardous waste disposal company responsible for the correct disposal of the hazardous waste.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 15.1: Copy of the signed contract from the supplier showing agreement between supplier and the licensed or registered hazardous waste disposal company outlining how the hazardous waste will be disposed of.

5.5 Textile Fibres

This requirement is included in order to recognise the complex environmental issues involved in textile manufacture, and reward textile manufacturers that have already taken positive steps towards reducing their environmental loads.

Criterion 16: All virgin fibre in products comprised of textile fibres (e.g. carpet underlay) shall:

- a) Be certified by the Good Environmental Choice Australia ecolabel, the Environmental Choice New Zealand ecolabel, EU Flower ecolabel or the Nordic Swan ecolabel; or

- b) Satisfy the requirements of GECA Textiles and Leather TLv3.0i-2014; or
- c) Satisfy the requirements of the Hazardous Materials section of this standard.

Recycled content from post-consumer and pre-consumer sources in the finished product shall not pose a health risk to the user.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 16.1: Evidence of fibre sources, and

DoC 16.2: If applicable, a copy of the Ecolabel licence from the supplier for each textile product used (note: Where an 'alternative and equivalent' ecolabel is nominated, the licence will be accepted if deemed equivalent based on the criteria of the standard and the procedures of the standards setting body and at the assessor's discretion); or

DoC 16.3: Where textile fibres are not certified by an ecolabel, the applicant can demonstrate that the fibres satisfy the requirements of the GECA 19 Textiles standard or the Hazardous Materials section of this standard, by providing a report completed by a GECA Approved Assessor that demonstrates conformance against the standard; or

DoC 16.4: A schedule of all materials and substances used and where applicable the SDS, chemical names or CAS numbers and/or signed declaration of non-use to establish compliance with the Hazardous Materials section of this standard.

5.6 Rubber

Criterion 17: Halogenated organic substances (chemicals that contain one or more halogen combined with other elements) and phthalates shall not be added to rubber during manufacture. This criterion does not replace section 4.1 Hazardous Materials.

Post-consumer recycled content that may contain halogenated organic substances or phthalates is permitted provided that these substances are encapsulated in the process of recycling.

Note: All natural rubber derived from virgin or pre-consumer recycled material shall comply with section 5.1 Timber and Other Natural Materials.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 17.1: Evidence of material sourcing for any rubber used; and

DoC 17.2: Signed declaration of non-use from an Executive Officer of the Officer of the company that produces the rubber, or

DoC 17.3: Evidence of how the contaminants in recycled material are bound in the final product

Criterion 18: The emission (concentration) of N-nitrosamines shall not exceed 0.001 mg/m³ (1µ g/m³) if rubber used in final product when tested based on chamber test method; and

Shall not be detectable if tested based on an extraction method e.g. based on TRGS 552:2018 (German Guideline on Technical Rules for Hazardous Substances).

A test report completed based on chamber test method ISO 16000-9 or other methods (e.g. methods

mentioned in TRGS 552:2018) shall be presented.

For chamber test method, sampling shall be carried out within a week of the foam being produced. The latex sample shall be wrapped individually in aluminium foil and vacuum packed in polythene. The wrapped sample shall be kept at room temperature for at least 24 hours before being unwrapped and immediately placed in an environmental chamber

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 18.1: DoC 18.1: Test report based on chamber method (ISO 16000-9 or based on TRGS 552:2018 or other equivalent methods) and according to above procedures demonstrating compliance with the threshold mentioned in above criterion.

6. MATERIAL EFFICENCY AND RECYCLED CONTENT REQUIREMENTS

Certified products containing the following materials shall meet the following minimum requirements:

Criterion 19: Material efficiency data shall be collected for each key step in the manufacturing process in a format that allows for optimisation of production as outlined below.

- a) Data shall be collected on an hourly or daily operating basis and include as a minimum:
 - i. Yield (% input weight/output weight); and
 - ii. Quantity of post-industrial waste diverted from landfill if applicable.
- b) In addition to this, the manufacturer shall provide evidence of research for, or actual improvements in, increasing the proportion of raw material sourced from environmentally preferable materials, including any of the following:
 - i. reducing non-renewable material content;
 - ii. increasing rapidly renewable material content; or
 - iii. dematerialisation.
- c) In addition, resource efficient material content shall also be maximised as per the following:
 - i. The manufacturer shall recover at least 95% of all post-industrial waste for reuse in alternative processing streams or applications (evidence of contractual agreements shall be supplied); or
 - ii. Minimum of 50% post-consumer recycled content, non-petrochemical or rapidly renewable material (animal based fibres or materials excluded).

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 19.1: Direct and clear inclusion of these requirements in the engineers report (data collection); and product specification details (content). If post-industrial waste is incorporated into alternative processing streams or applications, contractual agreements between the manufacturer and the recycler shall be provided.

DoC 19.2: For products claiming recycled material content, chain of custody evidence and contractor receipts showing volumes purchased.

6.1 Waste Minimisation

Criterion 20: The manufacturer shall have effective policies and procedures to minimise waste, including measures to recycle waste materials from the production process.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 20.1: A copy of relevant policies and procedures in use by the company, with relevant sections highlighted; and

DoC 20.2: Site visit confirming the operation of the procedures

6.2 Separability/ Design for Disassembly

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

Criterion 21: The product shall be separable into recyclable or re-useable units. Products shall be easily disassembled using commonly available tools. Component parts shall be easily identifiable for separation. At the discretion of the assessor, instructions for the disassembly method may be required to be provided to with the flooring at point of sale where the method for disassembly is not immediately evident.

Criterion 22: The product shall not contain inseparable bonds between material types that may not be processed together in the same recycling stream.

Demonstration of Conformance (for both Criterion 21 and Criterion 22)

DoC 22.1: Where the product is comprised of more than two material types, instructions showing how disassembly may be achieved with commonly available tools; or

DoC 22.2: Engineer's report or disassembly demonstration. A demonstration may be performed as part of the site- visit or provided on DVD with an application;

DoC 22.3: Details of materials used in the product. This will be established under previous sections of the standard.

6.3 Coatings and Treatments

Criterion 23: No product or component may be impregnated, labelled, coated or otherwise treated in a manner which would prevent post-consumer recycling. Exceptions may be made (upon submitting a request to GECA) for products with a long product life where a coating or treatment would further extend the useful life of the product.

Demonstration of Conformance (Only one of the following DoC is required)

DoC 23.1: Statement of the type of treatments used and recycling options for each material that is treated; or

DoC 23.2: If an exception is requested, statement of the expected life span of the product both with and without treatment.

6.4 Product Stewardship

Criterion 24: The applicant shall:

- accept their product without additional cost (excluding transportation costs) for further recycling in a specialist recycling facility; or
- have arrangements with a local recycler to accept the product; or

- have an established product stewardship program. Products collected under the scheme shall not be disposed of in landfill or by incineration; or
- have contractual arrangements with a third party that is able to recycle or refurbish the item. Contractual arrangements with the third party should nominate the estimated volume of product to be processed annually.

Products that cannot be recycled may be reused as raw material input for energy production, provided that the product is comprised of at least 50% renewable material by weight and that all emissions and hazardous waste (including ash) are effectively managed to prevent environmental pollution.

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

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 24.1: Copy of instructions outlining the take-back service including the costs, contact details of the take-back service; and

DoC 24.2: Copy of contractual agreements existing between the applicant and any of the following: third party suppliers, transport companies, charities, second hand retailers or refurbishment companies.

Product Information

Criterion 25: The manufacturer shall provide written information to the user clearly stating:

- The correct use of the product;
- Instructions for correct storage, installation (including recommended adhesive if applicable), and maintenance so as to maximise the product lifetime;
- Maintenance instructions may specify renovation or treatment methods that prolong the duration of the floor. Maintenance instructions shall not specify nor require the use of any chemical or coating limited by any part of this standard; and
- Recycling instructions for the product end-of-life.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 25.1: A copy of any relevant packaging or user manuals.

6.5 Packaging Requirements

Criterion 26: Halogenated plastics shall not be used in product packaging; and

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 26.1: SDS of all packaging materials and site inspection of final product packaging.

Criterion 27: All packaging shall either be comprised of 100% recycled material or be readily recyclable, compostable, or contain no coatings, impregnated chemicals or otherwise that would prevent recycling or composting. Packaging shall comply with at least one of the following:

- a) Each material constituting >20% by weight of the total primary and secondary packaging used, shall contain at least 50% recycled content by weight;
- b) Each material constituting >20% by weight of the total primary and secondary packaging used, shall be derived from plant-based materials (e.g. PLA plastics); or
- c) Each separable item constituting >20% by weight of the total primary and secondary packaging, shall be recyclable in Australia. This may be demonstrated using the Australian Packaging Covenant's Packaging Recyclability Evaluation Portal (PREP), <https://prep.org.au/main/content/home>.
- d) Paper and cardboard packaging shall be either certified under recognised forest certification scheme (e.g. FSC or PEFC) or contain at least 70% recycled content by weight.

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

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 27.1: Details of materials used as packaging, including information on the input of recycled and virgin materials reported by weight if applicable. The recycled content can be averaged over a 12-month period to find the amount or range of recycled content; and/or

DoC 27.2: Evidence of recyclability or copy of PREP Assessment Report; and/or

DoC 27.3: Evidence of certification under relevant forest certification scheme; and/or

DoC 27.4: Details of re-use programs for transport materials within the applicant company.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL CLAIMS

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

Public Claims

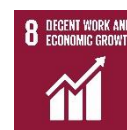
Criterion 28: Public claims made by the applicant regarding the products environmental performance that are beyond the scope of this standard (other than GECA certified content) shall be independently verified as compliant with ISO 14021: Environmental Labels and Declarations – 'Self Declared Environmental Claims' (Type II Environmental Labelling) requirements. Also refer to the GECA Rules for the Use of the Good Environmental Choice Australia Mark.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 28.1: Report or statement from the applicant listing all public environmental claims regarding the product by the applicant, demonstrating compliance to ISO14021 or assessed by GECA-approved assessor; and

DoC 28.2: A signed declaration from an Executive Director of the applicant company stating that any environmental claims made by the company regarding the product in the future will be verified using ISO 14021 and/or the GECA certification.

SOCIAL CRITERIA



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 (DoC 29.1 and DoC 29.2). 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/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.seindex.com/) membership ; or
- [GRI 400](https://www.gri.org/) Report (Global Report Initiative); and

If any of DoC 35.5 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	Standard Category Scope	Detailed description of the product(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Explanation of applicability to the scope of the standard	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2. Fitness For Purpose				
Criterion 2	Product meets or exceeds applicable standards and demonstrated fitness levels (only two DoCs required)	Mandatory: Detailed description of the product(s) as it relates to Australian (or other) standards and	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Independent assessment or test reports confirming conformance to relevant Australian (or other) standard or	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Report or case study demonstrating fitness for purpose	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 3	5-year commercial guarantee on the quality of the product	Copy of warranty documentation provided to customers	<input type="checkbox"/>	
HEALTH CRITERIA				
3. Emissions				
Criterion 4	Products made from wood and other natural products that contain formaldehyde- based additives, shall comply with the air emission limits for formaldehyde	A copy of the test results showing the applicable protocol and test method used as outlined in Table 1. GECA or its approved GECA assessor may request further documentation if necessary; or	<input type="checkbox"/>	

		Evidence of existing product equivalency to the WELL Building standard	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 5	Products shall not produce a total VOC emission greater than 5.0 mg/m ² /hr when tested to ASTM D5116 or ISO 16000	Test reports on VOC emissions using one of the specified test methods	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Evidence of existing product equivalency to the WELL Building standard.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		If the sample is not tested within three days of receipt, confirmation from the accredited laboratory of the appropriate treatment of the sample in accordance with the sampling protocol of the relevant ASTM standard requirements.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		A copy of the lab instructions for sample preparation for delivery to the laboratory	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4. Hazardous Materials				
Criterion 6	In order to promote the reduction of pollutant hazards in the manufacture, use, or disposal of products, the specified substances (and where appropriate, their compounds) shall not be added to products during manufacture	A schedule of the constituent chemical substances used in g/kg	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Copy of documentation clearly outlining how each chemical is used, managed and stored	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Where an exception is claimed, a signed declaration from an Executive Director	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		If claiming an exception for potentially explosive chemicals, the applicant shall also provide details of the ISO 14001 EMS in place.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 7	In order to address human and environmental health risks, substances which are classifiable as hazardous according to any of the specified categories shall not be added to floor covering products or their components, or used in the manufacturing process	A schedule of the constituent chemical substances in g/kg used in the manufacture of the product that are classified as harmful, and relevant SDS	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Where an exception is claimed, the applicant shall provide a signed declaration from an Executive Director of the applicant company	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Criterion 8	The specified compounds, their functional derivatives or in-situ precursors shall not be added to finished products, their component parts or be used at any stage of the manufacturing process	A schedule of the constituent chemical substances in g/kg used in the manufacture of the product	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		A signed declaration from an Executive Director of the applicant company	<input type="checkbox"/>	
ENVIRONMENTAL CRITERIA				
5. Design For Environment				
Criterion 9	Geographical origin of pre-consumer recycled and virgin timber fibre shall be documented Fibre shall be sourced from a responsible source	Design specification or schedule of materials for the product, and an estimated total amount of certified wood and/or certified wood fibre used to produce the product annually	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Evidence of certification from a responsible timber fibre source or	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Chain of custody evidence	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 10	Wood and natural materials used in flooring products shall not be treated or impregnated with fungicides and insecticides that are classified due to their hazardous nature by the IARC as Group 1 or 2A.	Signed documentation from the applicant stating that any pesticides used are not classified by the IARC as Type 1 or 2A, or	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Signed documentation from the supplier stating that an IARC 2B classified fungicide or insecticide is used and that no alternatives are available on the market that do not include IARC 1, 2A or 2B constituents	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 11	Outdoor wood shall not contain more than 0.1 % by weight of any substance carrying the following risk phrases	Signed declaration of non-use from an Executive Officer of the company, or a statement that the product is for indoor use only.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		SDS of all materials used, and a calculation of the total content of any relevant (R50 – R58 classified) substance in the finished product, if applicable.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 12	CFC, HCFC, HFC, or methylene chloride shall not be used in the production of any plastic or foam, including use as a blowing agent in polyurethane	A list of all substances used in the production of the plastics and foams	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Signed declaration of non-use	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 13	Concentrations of 1,3-butadiene greater than 1 ppm (mg/kg).	Signed declaration of non-use	<input type="checkbox"/>	

		Test report for method specified	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 14	Aniline based amines, and pigments and catalysis based on mercury, lead, cadmium, and chromium shall not be used.	Signed declaration from supplier describing the expansion process and whether these substances are used.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 15	Correct disposal of the hazardous waste	Copy of the signed contract from the supplier showing agreement between supplier and the licensed or registered hazardous waste disposal company outlining how the hazardous waste will be disposed of.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 16	Textile Fibre	Evidence of fibre sources	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		If applicable, a copy of the Ecolabel licence from the supplier for each textile product	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		If not certified, a report showing that the fibre satisfies the requirements of GECA 19.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		A schedule of all materials and substances used	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 17	Halogenated organic substances and phthalates shall not be added to rubber during manufacture.	Evidence of material sourcing for any rubber used	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Signed declaration of non-use from an Executive Officer of the Officer of the company that produces the rubber	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Evidence of how the contaminants in recycled material are bound in the final product	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 18	Emission of N-nitrosamine	Test report based on chamber test and ISO 16000-9 or TRGS 552:2018 or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/>	
6. Material Efficiency and Recycled Content Requirements				
Criterion 19	Material efficiency data shall be collected for each key step in the manufacturing process in a format that allows for optimisation of production	Direct and clear inclusion of these requirements in the engineers report	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		For products claiming recycled material content, chain of custody evidence and contractor receipts showing volumes purchased	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 20	The manufacturer shall have effective policies and procedures to minimise waste, including	A copy of relevant policies and procedures in use by the company, with relevant sections highlighted	<input type="checkbox"/>	

	measures to recycle waste materials from the production process	Site visit confirming the operation of the procedures.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 21	The product shall be separable into recyclable or re-useable units	Where the product is comprised of more than two material types, instructions showing how disassembly may be achieved with commonly available tools; or	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Engineer's report or disassembly demonstration. A demonstration may be performed as part of the site-visit or provided on DVD with an application;	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Details of materials used in the product. This will be established under previous sections of the standard	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 22	The product shall not contain inseparable bonds between material types that may not be processed together in the same recycling stream	Where the product is comprised of more than two material types, instructions showing how disassembly may be achieved with commonly available tools; or	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Engineer's report or disassembly demonstration. A demonstration may be performed as part of the site-visit or provided on DVD with an application;	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Details of materials used in the product. This will be established under previous sections of the standard	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 23	No product or component may be impregnated, labelled, coated or otherwise treated in a manner which would prevent post consumer recycling	Statement of the type of treatments used and recycling options for each material that is treated	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		If an exception is requested, statement of the expected life span of the product both with and without	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 24	The applicant shall have a suitable product stewardship arrangement in place	Copy of instructions outlining the take back service including the costs, contact details of the take-back service	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Copy of contractual agreements existing between the applicant and any of the following: third party suppliers, transport companies, charities, second hand retailers or refurbishment companies	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Criterion 25	The manufacturer shall provide written information to the user	A copy of any relevant packaging or user manuals	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 26	Halogenated plastics shall not be used in product packaging	SDS of all packaging materials; and/ Site inspection	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 27	Packaging shall either be comprised of 100% recycled material or be readily recyclable, compostable, or contain no coatings, impregnated chemicals	Details of materials used as packaging, including information on the input of recycled and virgin materials; and/ or	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Evidence of recyclability or copy of PREP Assessment Report; or	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Evidence of certification under relevant forest certification scheme	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Details of re-use programs for transport materials within the applicant company.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
7. Environmental Claims				
Criterion 28	Public claims made by the applicant regarding the products environmental performance that are beyond the scope of this standard shall comply with ISO 14021	Report or statement from the applicant listing all public environmental claims regarding the product by the applicant, demonstrating compliance to ISO14021	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Signed declaration from an Executive Director of the applicant company stating that any environmental claims made by the company regarding the product in the future will be verified using ISO 14021 and/or the GECA certification	<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"/>	

Our vision is for a sustainable
future for people and planet

