

Core Sustainable Development Goals

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



15 LIFE ON LAND



Panel Boards

Standard No: PBv3.0-2021

Type 1 ecolabel standard in accordance with ISO 14024

Issued 26 May 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
1.1 Scope Schedule	15
2. FITNESS FOR PURPOSE	16
2.1 Applicable Standards and Demonstrated Fitness	16
2.2 Warranty	16
HEALTH CRITERIA	17
3. EMISSIONS	17
3.1 Air Emissions – Formaldehyde	17
3.2 Air Emissions – VOC	18
3.3 Water Emissions	19
4. HAZARDOUS MATERIALS AND PROHIBITED SUBSTANCES	20
4.1 Hazardous Materials	20
4.2 Treatments	23
ENVIRONMENTAL CRITERIA	24
5. MATERIAL REQUIREMENTS	24
5.1 Timber and Other Natural Materials	24

5.2	Polyurethane and Padding Requirements	25
5.3	Fabrics.....	26
5.4	Glass	26
5.5	Adhesives	27
5.6	Paper Processing	27
5.7	Possible Radioactive Sources	28
6.	PACKAGING, END OF PRODUCT LIFE AND PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP	30
6.1	Replacement Parts	30
6.2	Separability/Design for Disassembly	30
6.3	Resin Identification Codes	31
6.4	Coatings and Treatments	31
6.5	Minimum Resource Efficient Material Content.....	31
6.6	Product Stewardship.....	32
6.7	Product Information	33
6.8	Packaging Requirements.....	33
7.	Environmental Claims.....	35
7.1	Public Claims.....	35
	SOCIAL CRITERIA.....	36
8.	SOCIAL AND LEGAL COMPLIANCE.....	36
8.1	Environmental Legislation.....	36
8.2	Minimum Entitlement including Wages	37
8.3	Workplace Health and Safety	37
8.4	Equal Opportunity	38
8.5	Lawful Conduct.....	38
8.6	Modern Slavery	38
8.7	Human Rights including Labour Rights.....	40
9.	EVIDENCE OF CONFORMANCE	41
9.1	Demonstration of Conformance (DoC)	41
APPENDIX A	APPLICATION CHECKLIST.....	42

Panel Boards

DOCUMENT HISTORY

Status: **Current**

Version: **3.0**

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Versions	Date Published	Summary of Changes
1.0	26 October 2007	Revision
1.1	01 August 2008	Clarified prohibited substance list
1.2	15 September 2008	Introduced verification requirements. Revised radioactivity. SP requirement. Removed redundant free formaldehyde requirement.
1.9	23 June 2009	Update to new GECA template and incorporation of new criteria, Amendments in line with International Standards, Clarification and addition of documentation requirements for Demonstration of Conformance items, Background section revised
2.0	April 2010	Incorporation of new criteria relating to Hazardous Materials, Prohibited substances, Product Stewardship June 2010, New Formaldehyde requirements.
2.0i	July 2017	Update: Alignment with GHS in relevant criteria; "Definitions and Acronyms"; Inclusion of notes in 'How to apply for GECA Certification' and 'Social and Legal Compliance' sections
3.0	May 2021	Revision: Change of GECA address, change of text in "HOW TO APPLY FOR GECA CERTIFICATION", change of DOCUMENT HISTORY, OSHA link update in Criterion 20, change of link to non-compliant organisations list regarding workplace gender equality, 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, criteria rearrangement, SDGs alignment., change of social criteria, PVC exclusion in scope

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, 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.

CAS: Chemical Abstract Service number. 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.

Edge glued panels: Glued processed timbers, such as small, lumbered wood or wood layers, that are formed and pressed into sheets 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.

Fibreboards: Sheet material made from lignocellulosic fibres with the primary bond derived from the felting of the fibres and their inherent adhesive properties. Bonding or impregnating agents may be added during manufacture. When heat and pressure are used to cure the adhesive, fibreboard of increased density is produced. According to the density, they are categorised into 'insulation boards' (IB), 'medium density fibre' boards (MDF) and 'hard boards' (HB).

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.

Gypsum board: see plasterboard.

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

IARC: International Agency for Research on Cancer.

Label: means the Good Environmental Choice Australia Ecolabel.

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

Plasterboard: A rigid board with a gypsum plaster core bonded to layers of paper or fibreboard.

Plywood: An assembled product made of two or more plies bonded together with the direction of grain

in alternate plies usually at right angles.

Rapidly renewable: Materials for which 'mature' harvest can occur on a ten-year cycle or less.

Recycled content includes:

- **Post-consumer:** 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:** Material diverted from the waste stream during a manufacturing process. Excluded is re-utilisation of materials such as rework, regrind or scrap generated in a process and capable of being reclaimed within the same process that generated it.

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

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

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 (GHS).

Timber/wood: Includes wood sourced from raw (virgin) forest timbers, timbers sourced from sustainable forestry, or waste wood materials including particleboards, fibreboards 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.

UNSCEAR: United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation. The global median emission from soils may be found in the UNSCEAR 2000 Report to the General Assembly, Volume 1.

Used timber/wood: Also known as salvaged or reclaimed timber/wood. Includes materials sourced from old (pre-loved) furniture, demolitions, and other relevant sources.

Veneer panels: See edge glued panels.

VOC: 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.

Waste wood: Residual products generated by thinning out timbers, cutting out branches and processing timber and to withdraw timbers after use, excluding withered or dead trees.

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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The GECA Certified logo is on the left. It features a circular emblem with a green leaf and the text 'GOOD ENVIRONMENTAL CHOICE AUSTRALIA' around it, and a red square with a white checkmark below it, with 'GECA CERTIFIED' written underneath.

One ecolabel says it all

A better environmental,
healthier and ethical choice

Four icons are arranged horizontally. Each icon is a green leaf shape with a white symbol inside: a globe for 'ENVIRONMENT', a plus sign for 'HEALTH', a hand for 'SOCIAL & ETHICAL', and a checkmark for 'FIT FOR PURPOSE'.

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 Panel Boards 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 Panel Boards standard

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



CORE SDG: 3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

GECA Standard Criterion

- Hazardous and prohibited substances: criteria 4, 5, 7-12
- Workplace health and safety: criterion 35

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: criteria 6-12

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

- Hazardous and prohibited substances: criteria 6-12
- Hazardous substances: criteria 4-12
- Product stewardship: criterion 28

SDG 12 Specific target 12.2

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

SDG 12 Specific target 12.4

By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment

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 of timber and other natural materials: 13, 27
- Environmental legislation: criterion 33

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

The GECA Panel Boards standard seeks to define good environmental and social performance benchmarks for panel boards throughout their entire life cycle.

GECA standards aim to encourage and recognise environmental benefits in avoiding hazardous chemicals, conserving resources, minimising waste for landfill, and encouraging the use of environmentally preferable materials. Where possible, data from life cycle assessments are used to inform standard criteria. Life cycle assessment is an evolving science and as information becomes available and technologies change, product category requirements will be reviewed and updated.

The benchmarks in this standard represent current industry best practice as defined by consensus between GECA technical working groups, international and national standards and through public feedback. GECA technical working groups are comprised of a diverse group of people including experts in the relevant industry, representatives of green groups, scientists, public servants in policy development and others.

Panel boards are used largely as a means of lining in construction. Panel boards are also used in a number of other applications such as interior screens and parts of furniture. Hence a variety of materials are used in the production of panel boards, such as timber, gypsum, plastics, aluminium, steel, fibre cement and engineered wood products. The panel board types considered in this standard are described in the scope schedule section of this standard.

In Australia approximately 30 % by weight of resources disposed of in landfills is construction and demolition waste. A significant proportion of this waste is comprised of panel boards. Hence this standard seeks to minimise the impact of the end use phase through rewarding products that use less material, maximise recyclability, minimise hazardous ingredients/contaminants, and use environmentally preferable material sourcing. Environmental improvements to post-use phases facilitate the conservation of resources and reduce demand for virgin resources. This in turn reduces impacts of items for use within residential, commercial and government environments and form a major manufacturing sector in Australia.

The primary purpose of this standard is to define environmental product criteria for the most harmful environmental and human hazards of panel boards and to use these criteria as indicators of general environmental performance of the product.

FIT FOR PURPOSE CRITERIA

1. STANDARD CATEGORY SCOPE

1.1 Scope Schedule

Criterion 1: This standard is applicable to a range of panel board products used for interior fit-out applications such as interior panelling and as a component of furniture. This includes:

- Particle boards
- Edge glued panels
- Fibre boards
- Plasterboards or gypsum boards
- Ceiling tiles; and
- Boards made from plastics and other polymers, textile fibres, metals, glass, mineral fibre, fibreglass, engineered timber and natural fibre products.

Exclusions and Notes

This standard excludes exterior siding or cladding, or materials with a structural function in buildings. Structural Insulated Panels (SIPs) are not included in the scope of this standard; refer to Building Insulation Materials BIMv2.0-2018.

Other environmentally innovative panel board products that do not fit the above categories may be considered for certification provided the product fulfils the requirements of any relevant sections of this standard. Other categories may be added at a later date.

Note: Vinyl containing polymers including PVC (polyvinyl chloride) are excluded from the scope of this standard.

Demonstration of Conformance

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

Criterion 2: The product meets or exceeds the requirements of the relevant Australian Standard, or the product meets the applicable and accepted standard in its target market if it is to be exported; or the product shall demonstrate fitness for purpose or market acceptance 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

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/applicant shall offer a commercial guarantee of a minimum of eight years on the quality of the product, provided the product is used for its intended purpose. The guarantee shall be valid from the date of delivery to the customer.

Demonstration of Conformance

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

HEALTH CRITERIA



3. EMISSIONS

3.1 Air Emissions – Formaldehyde

Criterion 4: Products that contain formaldehyde-based additives shall be subject to 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. Compliance to the criteria below can be demonstrated in a number of ways: either by testing the overall emissions of the final product using the air chamber, desiccator or perforator test methods 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 or an equivalent: Small Scale Environment Chamber determination of organic emissions from indoor materials/products.

Limit values for formaldehyde emissions for products shall be as follows:

- Particleboard, MDF, plywood or timber veneer shall conform to formaldehyde testing outlined in Australian Standard – AS 1859.
- Particleboard and MDF panels are to be tested using the desiccator method which follows Australian Standard – AS/NZS 4266.16 (2004) “Method 16: Formaldehyde emission-Desiccator method”. Particleboard and MDF panels shall demonstrate a level below 1.0 mg/l.
- Alternatively: Veneer and plywood shall demonstrate a level below 1.0 mg/l when tested using Australian Standard – AS/NZS 2098.11 (2005) “Method 11: Methods of test for veneer and plywood”.

Table 1: Limit Values for Formaldehyde Emissions

Test Protocol	Emission Limit
AS/NZS 2269:2004, testing procedure AS/NZS 2098.11:2005 method 10 for Plywood	≤1 mg/l
AS/NZS 1859.1:2004 - Particle Board, with use of testing procedure AS/NZS 4266.16:2004 method 16	≤1.5 mg/l
AS/NZS 1859.2:2004 - MDF, with use of testing procedure AS/NZS 4266.16:2004 method 16	≤1 mg/l
JIS A 5908:2003- Particle Board and Plywood, with use of testing procedure JIS A 1460	≤1 mg/l
JIS A 5905:2003 - MDF, with use of testing Procedure JIS A 1460	≤1 mg/l
JIS A1901 (not applicable to Plywood)	≤1 mg/l
ASTM D5116	≤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	$\leq 0.12 \text{ mg/m}^3^{**}$
ASTM E1333	$\leq 0.12 \text{ mg/m}^3^{***}$
EN 717-1 (also known as DIN EN 717-1)	$\leq 0.12 \text{ mg/m}^3$
EN 717-2 (also known as DIN EN 717-2)	$\leq 3.5 \text{ mg/m}^2\text{hr}$
EN-120	$\leq 4 \text{ mg/100g}$
<p>* $\text{mg/m}^2\text{hr}$ may also be represented as $\text{mg/m}^2/\text{h}$</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>	

Demonstration of Conformance

(Only one of the following DoCs is required)

DoC 4.1: A copy of test results of using the Desiccator method which follows Australian Standard – AS/NZS 4266.16 (2004) “Method 16: Formaldehyde Emission-Desiccator method”, completed by a certified laboratory. Other internationally accepted test methods may be accepted as outlined in Table 1; or

DoC 4.2: A copy of test results following the Australian Standard – AS/NZS 2098.11 (2005) “Method 11: Methods of test for veneer and plywood”. Other internationally accepted test methods may be accepted as outlined in Table 1; or

DoC 4.3: Evidence of existing product equivalency to the WELL Building standard.

3.2 Air Emissions – VOC

Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) released by solvents and other substances contributes to poorer air quality in buildings. Indoor air quality is vital for occupant health. Thus, limiting the VOC content is important for good indoor air quality.

Criterion 5: Products shall not produce a Total VOC (TVOC) emission greater than $0.5 \text{ mg/m}^2/\text{hr}$, or 0.5 mg/item/hr as applicable (as toluene equivalents) when tested to ASTM D5116 or ASTM 6670.

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. If the sample is not tested within three days of manufacture, the accredited laboratory shall be notified in order to ensure appropriate treatment of the sample in accordance with the sampling protocol of the relevant ASTM standard requirements.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 5.1: Test reports on VOC emissions using one of the following test methods showing either the total VOC emission.

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

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.

For products requiring both formaldehyde emissions and TVOC emissions test results, a single test report may be suitable provided that the product was tested to ASTM D5116 or ASTM D6670 and the test report shows both the formaldehyde and TVOC results.

3.3 Water Emissions

Criterion 6: The total discharges to water from the production of latex, foam or rubber shall be treated and decreased by 90 % (measured as COD or TOC) in on-site or external sewage treatment works prior to being discharged to the receiving environment.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 6.1: Copy of the Environmental Management System or similar showing testing requirements; testing frequency shall be weekly and the final calculation shall be the annual mean; or

DoC 6.2: Sampling for COD analysis shall take place after the operation of any on-site wastewater treatment.

4. HAZARDOUS MATERIALS AND PROHIBITED SUBSTANCES

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 manufacturing. 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 formaldehyde which is subject to the requirements in section 3.1. This section is only applicable to fabrics if not assessed under Criterion 16 a) or b).

4.1 Hazardous Materials

Criterion 7: 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 (upon submission of 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: All substances used in the manufacture of the product shall also meet criteria 7 and 8.

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

DoC 7.3: 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 7.4: If claiming an exception for potentially explosive chemicals, the applicant shall also provide details of the ISO 14001 EMS in place.

Criterion 8: 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 furniture 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 – R58 classified), R59 (420) substances and Occupational Safety and Health Administration ([OSHA](#)) highly hazardous chemicals, toxics and reactives.
- Irritants and sensitising agents including R36-R38 (H319, H318, H335, H315, H314) and R42-R43 (H334, H317) substances.
- Endocrine disruptors and R60-64 (H360, H361, H261, H362) substances.
- Carcinogens, teratogens and mutagens including:
 - o any R45, R46, R48 and R49 (H350, H340, H373, H372) substances,
 - o IARC group 1 or 2A substances,
 - o 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).

Exceptions for a specific substance may only be granted by GECA (upon submitting an application/request) 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;
- The substance cannot enter the environment during the manufacturing process or as a result of use.

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; and

DoC 8.2: 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 9: 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; and
- Aziridine or polyaziridines.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 9.1: 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 9.2: A signed declaration from an Executive Director of the applicant (or manufacturing) 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.

Criterion 10: Latex or foam shall not contain concentrations of 1,3-butadiene greater than 1 ppm (1 mg/kg).

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

DoC 10.1: Signed declaration that no latex or foam is used in the product; or

DoC 10.2: Signed declaration of non use of 1,3-butadiene from an Executive Officer of the company that produces the latex or foam; or

DoC 10.3: 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; or

DoC 10.4: VOC test showing a specific line item for butadiene as zero, or a total “alkenes” line item as less than 0.05 mg/m²hr, or less than 0.05 mg/m³ using any reputable standard VOC test method.

Criterion 11: Aniline based amines shall not be added to the padding material:

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 11.1: Signed declaration from supplier describing the manufacturing process and whether aniline based amines are used.

4.2 Treatments

Criterion 12: Wood, including engineered wood products and natural materials used in panelboards, shall not be treated or impregnated with fungicides and insecticides that are listed as [IARC 2B](#).

Note: IARC 1 and IARC 2A substances are addressed under the Hazardous Materials section of this standard. SDS, chemical names and/or CAS numbers for each ingredient added to the product or used during manufacture.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 12.1: Signed documentation from the applicant stating that any pesticides used are not classified by the IARC as Group 1, 2A, or 2B. 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 shall come from the supplier of the pre-treated timber.

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 Timber and Other Natural Materials

Criterion 13: Fibre may be sourced from any combination of [FSC](#) (or [AFS](#)) certified fibre, or any of the following non- certified sources: plantation wood fibre, cellulose fibre, return fibre (i.e. postconsumer and preconsumer fibre), cotton fibre, crop residue or other waste fibre. Fibre sources that are not certified under a recognised certification scheme (e.g. FSC) as being sustainably managed shall not originate from the following controversial sources:

CONTROVERSIAL SOURCES

a) Illegal harvesting

Illegally harvested wood and natural materials are harvested, traded or transported in a way that is in breach with applicable national regulations. Such regulations can, 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 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 [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 e.g. [IUCN Red List of Threatened Species](#).

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 13.1: Design specification or schedule for materials and components used to make the product; and

DoC 13.2: Chain of Custody evidence for timber and natural materials including receipts showing origin of materials. Evidence shall include Latin names and English common names, geographic origin and the supplier. GECA or its approved assessor/s may demand further documentation if deemed necessary; and

DoC 13.3: Total amount of certified wood and/or certified wood fibre used in the products annually; and

DoC 13.4: Copy of certificate(s) signed by the certification authority; and

DoC 13.5: Signed declaration and short description of the system used to ensure the wood or natural fibre is sourced from traceable sources on an ongoing basis.

5.2 Polyurethane and Padding Requirements

Criterion 14: CFC, HCFC, HFC or methylene chloride shall not be used as blowing agents in polyurethane.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 14.1: Signed declaration describing the expansion process and whether CFC, HCFC, HFC or methylene chloride was used in the expansion process.

Criterion 15: Where organic tin catalysts are used in the production of 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 between the polyurethane manufacturer and the licensed or registered hazardous waste disposal company outlining the disposal methods of the hazardous waste.

5.3 Fabrics

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

Criterion 16: Fabric shall:

- a) Be certified by the GECA ecolabel, the Good Environmental Choice New Zealand ecolabel, EU Flower ecolabel or the Nordic Swan; or
- b) Satisfy the requirements of GECA Standard for Textiles; or
- c) Satisfy the requirements of the Hazardous Materials section of this standard.

Demonstration of Conformance

(Only one of the following DoCs is required)

DoC 16.1: Signed declaration stating that no fabrics are used; or

DoC 16.2: Schedule of fabrics used and a copy of the Ecolabel licence from the supplier for each fabric 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 fabrics are not certified by an ecolabel, the applicant can demonstrate that the fabric satisfies the requirements of the GECA-19 Textiles standard by providing a report completed by a GECA approved assessor that demonstrates conformance against the standard. Otherwise, fabrics may be assessed under the Hazardous Materials section of this standard if option c) is chosen.

5.4 Glass

Criterion 17: All glass shall be recyclable in local council recycling systems or by a specialist recycling facility as nominated in the Product Stewardship criterion. If the glass cannot be recycled in local council recycling system, the applicant shall include notification to this effect in the product information in order to avoid contamination or glass that is recyclable in these systems.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 17.1: If glass is used in the product, the applicant shall provide a specification of the type of glass used and details of any tints, colourings or coatings; and

DoC 17.2: A copy of receipts or arrangements for the recycling of glass in either a local council facility or

specialist facility; and

DoC 17.3: A copy of the information provided with the product.

5.5 Adhesives

This section is intended for adhesives used in the manufacture and assembly of the product. Resins and binders used in the creation of engineered wood products are not addressed by this criterion.

Criterion 18: Adhesives shall be certified by GECA ecolabel, or Nordic Swan ecolabel; or an 'alternative and equivalent' label to these nominated labels; or satisfy the requirements of GECA-01 Adhesives.

Where an alternative and equivalent label is nominated, the label will be accepted if deemed equivalent based on criteria of the standard, the procedures of the standard setting body, and the assessor discretion.

Demonstration of Conformance (*Only two of the following DoCs is required*)

DoC 18.1: Signed declaration from an Executive Director of the applicant company stating that no adhesives are used; or Schedule of adhesives used; and one or more of the following as applicable:

DoC 18.2: A copy of the relevant Ecolabel certificate for each adhesive used; or

DoC 18.3: Where adhesives are not certified by an Ecolabel, the applicant can demonstrate that the adhesive satisfies the material requirements of the GECA Adhesives standard by providing a report completed by a GECA appointed assessor which demonstrates conformance against the standard.

5.6 Paper Processing

This section refers to all paper materials used in panel boards including laminating paper.

Criterion 19: Paper shall not be bleached with any compounds that contain or give rise to elemental chlorine during the manufacturing process. This includes the in-situ generation of chlorine from chloride compounds.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 19.1: Signed declaration from an Executive Officer of the applicant company that states the paper is not bleached using chlorine or compounds that contain or give rise to chlorine; or

DoC 19.2: Specifications of the bleaching chemicals used including all chemical names and CAS numbers.

Criterion 20: Where surfactants are used in the paper manufacturing process, these surfactants shall be readily biodegradable in accordance with the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) guidelines for the testing of chemicals.

Exceptions may be made (via submitting request to GECA) for laminating paper about the requirements of this criterion.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 20.1: Signed declaration from an Executive Officer of the applicant company that states no surfactants are used in the paper manufacturing process; or

DoC 20.2: Specifications of the surfactants used including all chemical names and CAS numbers.

DoC 20.3: Test reports based on OECD methods demonstrating of readily biodegradability of surfactant.

5.7 Possible Radioactive Sources

This criterion applies to panel boards intended for indoor use that contain greater than 75% by mass (in total) materials generally held to be rich naturally occurring radioactive sources:

- Granites, pegmatites or gypsum;
- Slag, clinker, or other waste from smelting, or
- Ash from coal or peat.

Criterion 21: Panel boards containing the above materials shall demonstrate radioactive safety by either of the following methods:

- a) Gamma Spectrometry (direct measurement)

The product shall emit less ionising radiation than the UNSCEAR global median for soils, namely:

- $CK < 400 \text{ Bq/kg}$;
- $CRa < 35 \text{ Bq/kg}$; and
- $CTh < 30 \text{ Bq/kg}$;

Alternatively,

- b) Chemical Composition (indirect measurement)

The finished product shall not contain more than:

- U - 8 mg/kg;
- Th – 15mg/kg; and
- K – 5% by mass

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 21.1: Copy of documentation from the producer clearly outlining how the use of each chemical scheduled is limited and managed; and

(One of the following as minimum)

DoC 21.2: Statement of the composition of the product showing that the composition contains less than 75 % of the stated raw materials; or

DoC 21.3: Gamma spectrometry results using crushed materials in a laboratory, accompanied by specification of a standard test method (e.g., ASTM C1402 – 04 using crushed materials) or technical details of the actual test method used. Results shall be reported in units of Bq/kg; or

DoC 21.4: Gamma spectrometry results using a portable gamma spectrometer at the quarry. Results should be reported in units of Bq/kg; or

DoC 21.5: Results of any strong acid digest ICP-AAS or ICP-MS technique showing concentrations of U, Th and K less than the limits above.

6. PACKAGING, END OF PRODUCT LIFE AND PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP

Previous sections of this standard apply to the characteristics of the product and the production process. This section is intended to address the impacts arising during the remainder of the product's life cycle.

6.1 Replacement Parts

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

Criterion 22: For those parts of a product that are subject to wear (e.g., hinges, locks, table leaves), functionally compatible replacements shall be guaranteed for a period of at least five years. The manufacturer shall make individual replacement parts available to end-users.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 22.1: Evidence that the end-user is made aware of the availability of replacement parts. This may be part of the care instructions, user manual, or other information physically provided with the product, and/or is made available on the company website; and

DoC 22.2: Signed declaration from an Executive Officer of the producer confirming a commitment to the provision of replacement parts.

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

Criterion 24: The product shall not contain inseparable bonds between material types that cannot be processed together in the same recycling stream.

Demonstration of Conformance (for both Criteria 23 and 24)

(Only two of the following DoCs are required)

DoC 24.1: Where the product is comprised of more than two material types, instructions showing how

disassembly can be achieved with commonly available tools; or

DoC 24.2: Engineer's report or disassembly demonstration. A demonstration may be performed as part of the site- visit or provided on DVD with an application; and

DoC 24.3: Mandatory: Details of materials used in the product. This will be established in DoC 13.1.

6.3 Resin Identification Codes

Criterion 25: All plastic parts weighing greater than 50g shall be marked / stamped / embossed with an appropriate resin identification code promulgated by the [Plastics and Chemical Industry Association](#) or in compliance with ISO 11 469.

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

Demonstration of Conformance

(Only two of the following DoCs are required)

DoC 25.1: Visual assessment from a product sample or during a site visit; or

DoC 25.2: Direct and clear inclusion of this requirement the engineer's report or demonstration.

6.4 Coatings and Treatments

Criterion 26: Products and components shall not be impregnated, labelled, coated or otherwise treated in a manner which would prevent post-consumer recycling.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 26.1: Detailed description of each coating or treatment applied to the product or component, or declaration of non-use; and

DoC 26.2: Explanation of how each coating affects the recyclability of the product or component; and

DoC 26.3: Description of the end-of-life options for the coated or treated components (e.g., "this coated component may be recycled at <facility name>") with written confirmation from a recycler able to accept the component.

6.5 Minimum Resource Efficient Material Content

Criterion 27: The product or each component shall consist of non-petrochemical, recycled or rapidly renewable components to one or more of the amounts as specified below.

Table 2: Resource Efficient Content Requirements

Resource Efficient Content	Percentage
Rapidly renewable materials - i.e., materials for which harvest occurs on a ten year cycle or less. Excludes virgin forest-based products	80% of product or component by volume; or
Recycled materials	50% of the product or component by weight; or
Petrochemicals and petrochemical-derived materials including plastics shall be manufactured under an EMS	100% of all petrochemical based materials; or
Materials of non-petrochemical origin	100% of product or component; or 90% non- petrochemical if the 90% of the product by weight is comprised of material sourced under a reputable certified scheme such as fibre sourced from plantation wood fibre with chain of custody evidence, or FSC or AFS certified forest.

Note: For the purposes of this criterion coatings, upholstering textiles, and adhesives used for product assembly are not considered to be components.

Manufacturers shall also collect data on material in a format that facilitates optimisation of production processes as follows:

- Material flows including material input/yield ratios for each key manufacturing process per operating hour;
- Material wastage and pre-consumer reuse rates;
- Percentage post-consumer and pre-consumer recycled content in raw material by material type; and
- Percentage recyclable content in end product.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 27.1: Product specification details as per Table 2; and

DoC 27.2: For products claiming recycled material content, chain of custody evidence and contractor receipts showing volumes purchased; and

DoC 27.3: For petrochemicals, a copy of documentation regarding the EMS or an ISO 14001 certificate; and

DoC 27.4: A copy of data collected for the optimisation of production processes. This may be included in the engineer's report.

6.6 Product Stewardship

Criterion 28: 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 who are able to recycle or refurbish the item. Contractual arrangements with the third party shall 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 programme operator(s) shall also be made publicly available from the official company website and/or in product information supplied at point of sale.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 28.1: Copy of instructions outlining the take back service including the costs, contact details of the take-back service; and

DoC 28.2: Copy of contractual agreements existing between the applicant with either of the following: third party suppliers, transport companies, charities, second-hand retailers or refurbishment companies.

6.7 Product Information

Criterion 29: The manufacturer shall provide written information to the consumer clearly stating:

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

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 29.1: Copy of documentation to be supplied with the product clearly stating the required information.

6.8 Packaging Requirements

Criterion 30: Halogenated plastics shall not be used in product packaging.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 30.1: SDS of all packaging materials SDS of packaging and site inspection of final product packaging.

Criterion 31: Packaging shall comply with at least one of the following:

- Each material constituting >20% by weight of the total primary and secondary packaging used, shall contain at least 50% recycled content by weight;
- 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
- 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).
- Paper and cardboard packaging shall be either certified under recognised forest certification scheme (e.g. FSC or PEFC) or contain at least 30% recycled content by weight.

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

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 31.1: Details of materials used as packaging, including information on the input of recycled and virgin materials reported by weight if applicable. The recycled content can be averaged over a twelve-month period to find the amount or range of recycled content; and / or

DoC 31.2: Evidence of recyclability or copy of PREP Assessment Report; and/or

DoC 31.3: Evidence of certification under relevant forest certification scheme; and/or

DoC 31.4: 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.

7.1 Public Claims

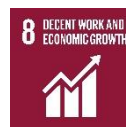
Criterion 32: The applicant's public claims regarding the product's environmental performance beyond this standard's scope (other than GECA certified content) shall be independently verified as compliant with ISO 14021: Environmental Labels and Declarations – 'Self-Declared Environmental Claims' (Type II Environmental Labelling) requirements. Also refer to the GECA Rules for the Use of the Good Environmental Choice Australia Mark.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 32.1: Report or statement from the applicant listing all public environmental claims regarding the product by the applicant, demonstrating compliance to ISO14021; and

DoC 32.2: 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 33: 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 shall be evidence of corrective action.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 33.1: Signed declaration from an Executive Officer of the organisation stating compliance with applicable environmental legislation and government orders;

DoC 33.2: Signed declaration disclosing any breaches of environmental legislation or permits and the date of the breach. Applicant shall:

DoC 33.3: 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 33.1 and DoC 33.2). 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 33.4: 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 34: All employees and contractors shall 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.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 34.1: Signed declaration from an Executive Officer of the organisation confirming compliance with all minimum entitlements including wages; and

DoC 34.2: 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 34.3: Text or template of a typical workplace agreement offered to employees of the company; and sample payslips; and

DoC 34.4: Evidence of corrective action following identification of a breach of legislation, if applicable.

8.3 Workplace Health and Safety

Criterion 35: 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 35.1: 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 35.2: Copy of the company Occupational / Workplace H&S policy and procedures;

DoC 35.3: 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 35.4: WHS incidents register; and

DoC 35.5: Evidence of corrective action following a guilty verdict, if applicable.

8.4 Equal Opportunity

Criterion 36: 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 36.1: Signed declaration from an Executive Officer of the organisation stating compliance with above legislation;

DoC 36.2: Copy of relevant company policies and procedures;

DoC 36.3: Evidence of corrective action following a breach of legislation, if applicable; and

DoC 36.4: The assessor will verify that the company does not appear on the following list:

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

8.5 Lawful Conduct

Criterion 37: 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 shall be evidence of corrective action.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 37.1: Signed declaration from an Executive Officer of the organisation stating compliance with above legislation; and

DoC 37.2: Evidence of corrective action following a guilty verdict, if applicable.

8.6 Modern Slavery

Criterion 38: 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 38.1: 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.

Note: 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 39: 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 (ILO 182), 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 shall be evidence of corrective action.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 39.1: 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 39.2: The manufacturer/applicant shall provide a map of at least one tier of its supply chain; and

DoC 39.3: 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 39.4: Evidence of assessment of suppliers in relation to human rights and recommendations for improvements in their supply chain; and

DoC 39.5: Evidence of ISO20400 implementation; or

- Evidence of valid [SA8000® Standard](#), or other equivalent certification; or
- Evidence of being a signatory to the [UN Global Compact](#); or
- [SEDEX](#) membership ; or
- [GRI 400](#) Report (Global Report Initiative); and

If any of DoC 39.5 cannot be provided, manufacturer/ applicant shall provide:

DoC 39.6: Evidence of commitment to achieve SA 8000 certification within one year; or

DoC 39.7: Evidence of becoming a signatory to the UN Global Compact within six months; and

DoC 39.8: 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.

9. EVIDENCE OF CONFORMANCE

9.1 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.

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

APPENDIX A

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

The application checklist 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. Category Scope				
Criterion 1	Standard category scope	Detailed description of the product(s) and explanation of applicability to the scope of the standard	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2. Fitness for Purpose				
Criterion 2	Product meets or exceed 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 audit 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	8-year commercial guarantee on the quality of the product	Copy of warranty documentation provided to customers	<input type="checkbox"/>	
HEALTH CRITERIA				
3. Air Emissions				
Criterion 4	Air emissions – VOC	A copy of test results of using the Desiccator method which follows Australian Standard – AS/NZS 4266.16, or	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		A copy of test results following the Australian Standard – AS/NZS 2098.11 (2005), or	<input type="checkbox"/>	

		Evidence of existing product equivalency to the WELL Building standard	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 5	Total VOC emissions shall not exceed 0.5 mg/m ² /hr or 0.5mg/item/hr as applicable when tested by ASTM D5116 or ASTM 6670	Test report for ASTM 5116 or ASTM 6670	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Evidence of existing product equivalency to the WELL Building standard	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		If sample not tested within 3 days, 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		
		A copy of the lab instructions for sample preparation for delivery to the laboratory	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 6	The total discharges to water from the production of latex, foam or rubber shall be treated and decreased by 90% (measured as COD or TOC)	Copy of the EMS or similar showing testing requirements; testing frequency shall be weekly and the final calculation shall be the annual mean; or	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Sampling for COD analysis shall take place after the operation of any on-site wastewater treatment	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4. Hazardous Material and Prohibited Substances				
Criterion 7	Listed substances shall not be added to products during manufacture	A schedule of the constituent substances in g/kg used in the manufacturing process and relevant SDS; and	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		A copy of documentation clearly outlining how each chemical is used, managed and stored; and	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Where an exception is claimed, a signed declaration from an Executive Director of the applicant company stating that the given substance is necessary and does not pose a hazard:	<input type="checkbox"/>	

		If claiming an exception for potentially explosive chemicals, documentation of the EMS in place	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 8	Products shall not contain substances harmful to human health or the environment	A schedule of the constituent substances in g/kg used (as above); and	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Where an exception is claimed, the applicant shall provide a signed declaration 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	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 9	Listed substances shall not be added to products, their components or be used at any stage of the manufacturing process	A schedule of the constituent substances in g/kg used (as above); and	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		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	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 10	Latex or foam shall not contain concentrations of 1,3-butadiene greater than 1 ppm (1 mg/kg). (Only one DoC required)	Signed declaration that no latex or foam is used in the product; or	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Signed declaration of non use of 1,3-butadiene from an Executive Officer of the company that produces the latex or foam; or	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Test report using gas chromatography analysis and a flame ionization detector	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		VOC test showing a specific line item for butadiene as zero, or a total "alkenes" line item as less than 0.05 mg/m ² hr, or less than 0.05 mg/m ³	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Criterion 11	Aniline based amines shall not be added to the padding material	Signed declaration from supplier describing the manufacturing process and whether aniline based amines are used	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 12	Wood shall not be treated or impregnated with fungicides or insecticides classified by IARC as 2B	Signed declaration from applicant confirming conformance	<input type="checkbox"/>	
ENVIRONMENTAL CRITERIA				
5. Material Requirements				
Criterion 13	Responsible sourcing of timber fibre	Design specification or schedule for materials used in the product; and	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Chain of custody evidence; and	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Total quantity of certified wood/fibre used in product annually; and		
		Evidence of certification from a responsible timber fibre source; and	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Signed declaration and description of system used to ensure timber fibre is from traceable sources on an ongoing basis	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 14	CFC, HCFC, HFC or methylene chloride shall not be used as blowing agents in polyurethane	Signed declaration describing the expansion process and whether CFC, HCFC, HFC or methylene chloride was used in the expansion process	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 15	Where organic tin catalysts are used in the production of 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	Copy of the signed contract between the polyurethane manufacturer and the licensed or registered hazardous waste disposal company outlining the disposal methods of the hazardous waste	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 16	Fabric shall a) Be certified by GECA, the	Signed statement confirming no fabrics are used	<input type="checkbox"/>	

	Environmental Choice New Zealand ecolabel, EU Flower ecolabel or the Nordic Swan ecolabel; or	Schedule of fabrics used per product unit and a copy of ecolabel licence or	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	b) Satisfy the requirements of GECA Standard 19: Textiles; or c) Satisfy the requirements of the Hazardous Materials section of this standard.	For non-certified fabric a report from an GECA approved assessor stating timber meets GECA-19 Textiles standard	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 17	All glass shall be recyclable in local council recycling systems or by a specialist recycling facility as nominated in the Product Stewardship criterion. If the glass cannot be recycled in local council recycling systems the applicant shall include notification to this effect in the product information in order to avoid contamination or glass that is recyclable in these systems.	If glass is used, the applicant shall provide a specification of the type of glass used and details of any tints, colourings or coatings; and	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		A copy of receipts or arrangements for the recycling of glass; and	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		A copy of receipts or arrangements for the recycling of glass in either a local council facility or specialist facility; and	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		A copy of the information provided with the product	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 18	Adhesives shall be certified by a recognised ecolabel (Only two DoC required at minimum)	Signed declaration confirming no adhesives are used or Schedule of adhesives used; and	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		A copy of the relevant ecolabel certification; or	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		For non certified adhesives a report confirming adhesive are compliant with GECA Adhesive Standard	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 19	Paper shall not be bleached with any compounds or giving rise to elemental chlorine during the manufacture process (Only one DoC required)	Signed declaration confirming conformance to the criterion; or	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Specifications of the bleaching chemicals used	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 20	Surfactants used in the paper manufacturing process shall be readily biodegradable (Only one DoC required)	Signed declaration stating no surfactants are used; or	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Specifications of the surfactants used; or Biodegradability test report based on OECD	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Criterion 21	Panel boards containing the above materials shall demonstrate radioactive safety (Only two DoC required at minimum)	Copy of documentation from the producer clearly outlining how the use of each chemical is limited and managed; and	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Statement of the composition of the product showing that the composition contains less than 75 % of the stated raw materials; or	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Gamma spectrometry results using crushed materials in a laboratory, accompanied by specification of a standard test method or technical details of the actual test method used. Results shall be reported in units of Bq/kg; or	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Gamma spectrometry results using a portable gamma spectrometer at the quarry. Results shall be reported in units of Bq/kg	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Results of any strong acid digest ICP- AAS or ICP-MS technique showing concentrations of U, Th and K less than the limits above	<input type="checkbox"/>	
6. Packaging, End of Life and Product Stewardship				
Criterion 22	Replacements shall be available for parts that are subject to wear, for a period of five years	Evidence that the end user is made aware of the offer; and	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Signed declaration confirming commitment to the provision of replacement parts	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 23	Products shall be easily disassembled and separable into recyclable or re- useable units. (Only two DoCs are required)	Where products are comprised of more two material types, instructions for disassembly are required; or	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Engineers report or disassembly demonstration; and	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Mandatory: Details of material used in product	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 24	Components parts in product shall not contain inseparable bonds (only two DoCs required)	Where products are comprised of more two material types, instructions for disassembly are required; or	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Engineers report or disassembly demonstration and under that legislation)	<input type="checkbox"/>	

		Mandatory: Details of material used in product	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 25	Plastic weighing greater than 50g shall be marked with appropriate resin identification codes (only one DoCs required)	Visual assessment during site visit; or	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Engineers report or demonstration	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 26	Products shall not be impregnated, labelled or coated or otherwise treated in a manner that will prevent post-consumer recycling	Detailed description of each coating and treatment applied or declaration of non-uses; and	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Explanation of how each coating affects the recyclability of the product or component; and	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Description of end-of-life options for coated products; or	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 27	The product or each component shall consist of non-petrochemical, recycled or rapidly renewable components specified in Table 2 (Only two DoCs are required)	Product specification details; and	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Chain of custody evidence and contractor receipts for recycled material content	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		For petrochemicals, a copy of documentation for the EMS or an ISO 14001 certificate; and	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		A copy of data collected	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 28	A product stewardship program or similar shall be in place for the product	Copy of instructions outlining take back service; and	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Copies of contractual agreements allowing for the proper disposal of used products	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 29	Products shall be accompanied with listed product information	Copy of product information, supplied with product	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 30	Halogenated plastics shall not be used in the packaging	SDS of packaging; and	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Site inspection of packaging	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 31	Each material >20% by weight of packaging used, shall contain at least 50% recycled content;	Details of materials used as packaging, including information on the input of recycled and virgin materials	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Each material >20% by weight of packaging used, shall be derived from plant-based materials; or	Evidence of recyclability or copy of PREP Assessment Report;	<input type="checkbox"/>	

	Each separable item constituting >20% by weight of packaging, shall be recyclable in Australia	Evidence of certification under relevant forest certification scheme	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Paper and cardboard packaging shall be either certified under recognised forest certification scheme (e.g. FSC or PEFC) or contain at least 30% recycled content by weight	Details of re-use programs for transport materials within the applicant company	<input type="checkbox"/>	
7. Environmental Claims				
Criterion 32	Environmental claims outside the scope of this standard shall comply with ISO 14021	Report or statement listing all public environmental claims, complying with ISO14021; and	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Signed declaration confirming conformance to the criterion	<input type="checkbox"/>	
SOCIAL CRITERIA				
8. Social and Legal Compliance				
Criterion 33	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 34	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 35	Workplace 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 36	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 37	Lawful conduct	Signed declaration confirming conformance to the criterion and	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Evidence of corrective action (if applicable)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 38	Modern slavery	Copy of the published Modern Slavery Statement from within the previous 12 months	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 39	Human rights including labour rights	Evidence of commitments to human rights including labour rights	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Map of at least one tier of their supply chain; and	<input type="checkbox"/>	

		Evidence of implementation of a Supplier Code of Conduct; and	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Evidence of assessment of suppliers in relation to human rights and recommendations for improvements in their supply chain	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Evidence of ISO20400 implementation; or	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Evidence of valid SA8000® Standard certification or other equivalent certification; or	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Evidence of being a signatory to the UN Global Compact	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		SEDEX Membership, or	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		GRI 400 Report; and	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Evidence of commitment to achieve SA8000® Standard certification within one year	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Evidence of becoming a signatory to the UN Global Compact within six months; and	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Evidence of corrective action (if applicable)	<input type="checkbox"/>	

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Our vision is for a sustainable
future for people and planet

