

Standard Guide



Choose GECA for better infant mattresses

We all want the best options for our children. Infant mattress safety is a sensitive topic, and research shows that a wide range of physical, chemical and quality requirements play a critical role in creating a good product for people and the planet.

The manufacture, use, and disposal of infant mattress products can negatively impact our environment and health, depending on the choice of raw materials used, padding materials, coatings, textiles, and adhesives. Some manufacturers may also use hazardous treatments or manage their energy and water use poorly during production.

The firmness of an infant mattress is an essential factor [when it comes to safety](#). If the mattress is soft, an infant's head can compress into the surface and potentially block the baby's airway; however, this is unlikely to happen if the mattress is firm. Recent research suggests that soft crib mattresses have been linked to high risks of sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS). Although there are no mandatory safety requirements for infant mattresses in Australia, this standard recognises voluntary firmness requirements to mitigate potential risks.

When a product is certified against GECA's Infant Mattresses standard, you know it has been assessed to meet **environmental, human health and social impact criteria** while proving that it **performs as promised**.

Benefits for manufacturers and procurement

Once your product has been GECA certified, your company can use the GECA ecolabel to **show consumers and procurement teams that you are a sustainability leader in your sector**. Sustainability is becoming an increasingly important driver, particularly for the public sector, and **GECA's ecolabel makes it easier to identify your leadership**. You will be ahead of the game to win over more business!

When creating requests for tenders and developing contracts, specifying GECA certified products **prompts the market toward best practice**. It also reduces risk with the **assurance you are purchasing a third-party verified product**.

What products does the standard cover?

The standard's scope applies to infant mattress products, including **cot and crib mattresses, household cot mattresses, mattresses for bassinets and other flat sleeping surfaces**.





Environment

Design for Environmental Performance

In this section, the standard's criteria focus on the critical lifecycle factors of a product that can be addressed during the design phase of product development. Unless otherwise stated, this section's requirements apply to each type of material contained in the finished product regardless of weight. Criteria related to resource efficiency are also included in this section.

Packaging, End of Life and Product Stewardship

This section addresses the impacts arising during the remainder of the product's lifecycle. This includes criteria for replacement parts, design for disassembly and separability, recyclability of plastics, coatings and treatments, packaging requirements, and product stewardship.

Environmental Claims

Manufacturers must not make false or misleading claims about their environmental performance. This section addresses the need to ensure that any environmental claims made beyond this standard's scope by the manufacturer are verifiable.



Health

Emissions

This section covers two types of emissions: formaldehyde and volatile organic compounds (VOCs). This criterion requires testing to be carried out to ensure emissions limits are met.

Hazardous & Prohibited Substances

This section's criteria address some of the main hazardous substances found within this product category, added to the product, or ingredients used during manufacturing. The intention is to reduce the use of hazardous materials and prevent pollutants from entering the environment.



Social

Social & Legal Compliance

Nothing is truly sustainable if it overlooks the treatment of workers. This section addresses compliance with the producer and applicant company's legal and social attributes. It also engages with the supply chain to uphold human and labour rights. Criteria focus on environmental legislation, minimum entitlement including wages, workplace health and safety, equal opportunity, lawful conduct, [modern slavery](#) and human and labour rights legislation.



Fit for Purpose

Quality

As well as meeting environmental, health and social benchmarks, the product must meet or exceed the relevant Australian Standards or equivalent international standards.

SDGs relevant to this standard



Let's Talk!

You can contact us via info@geca.org.au or +61 2 9699 2850 for further information on how we can help. You can also find us at www.geca.eco



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