



Keep your building comfortable with GECA

High quality thermal insulation plays a vital role in the energy efficiency of a building. Reducing heating and cooling requirements means reduced greenhouse gas emissions, as well as improving indoor comfort levels, keeping surfaces cool in summer but warm during winter. However, the manufacture of insulation products can have negative environmental impacts depending on the processes involved.

When a product is certified against Good Environmental Choice Australia (GECA)'s Thermal Building Insulation Materials standard, consumers can be sure that the product has been assessed to meet environmental, human health and ethical impact criteria. GECA certification removes doubt and confusion and makes identifying environmentally and socially preferable products easier.

Products covered by the standard include bulk insulation materials used in building applications, namely resistive-type boards, blankets, batts and loose-fill or spray-on thermal insulation.

Find GECA certified thermal insulation on our **website**. If your favourite product is not listed, why not ask them to get certified.

Why buy GECA certified products?

Better for the environment

- No illegal harvest of wood and fibre for raw materials
- Sand and rock must not be sourced from within a National Park or threatened ecosystem
- Product must use a set amount of recycled content
- Packaging must be easy to recycle or dispose of in a responsible manner
- CFCs, HCFCs and HFCs are banned

Better for human health

- No heavy metals (such as tin, lead, mercury, cadmium or chromium) can be used
- No substances known to cause cancer, genetic or birth defects can be used as ingredients
- Certain flame retardants prohibited

Better for ethical considerations

- No unsubstantiated claims (greenwashing)
- Workers can expect fair pay, equal opportunity, and a safe working environment

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The GECA Thermal Building Insulation Materials standard

	Key criteria	Concerns	GECA Standard
Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum resource efficiency 	Raw materials sourcing can have negative environmental impacts, which can be reduced by using recycled content.	Depending on the primary material used, it must consist of a specific amount of recycled content.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable harvest and treatments for wood and fibre 	Illegal harvesting, genetically modified organisms, and unsustainable management can threaten ecosystem health and local communities.	All virgin timber and other natural fibres must not come from uncertified sources, illegal harvesting, genetically modified organisms, or from high conservation value communities.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sand and rock sourcing 	Virgin (non-recycled) sand and rock for use as raw materials in mineral wools may cause environmental damage depending on where they were sourced from.	Sourcing sites must have registered environmental remediation program or not be located in National Parks or endangered communities.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blowing agents 	Blowing agents can contribute to global warming and harm the ozone layer.	All blowing agents must have a global warming potential of less than 140 and an ozone depletion potential of zero. CFCs, HCFCs and HFCs are banned.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Production energy, water and waste management 	Inefficient use of energy and water, as well as sending waste to landfill, is environmentally damaging.	Effective policies and procedures to minimise waste, energy and water use must be in place.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Product packaging and recyclability 	Packaging must protect the product while being easy for users to dispose of responsibly via recycling.	Packaging must be durable, recyclable in local recycling systems, and must not contain chlorinated or halogenated plastics.
Human Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hazardous materials 	Short, medium and long term risks to human health and the environment.	Specific hazardous materials must not be added during manufacture. No chemicals known to cause cancer, genetic or birth defects permitted. No heavy metals may be used.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flame retardants 	Certain classes of flame retardants have been linked to adverse health effects.	Polybrominated diphenyl ether flame retardants, brominated paraffin flame retardants and short-chain chlorinated paraffin flame retardants banned.
Ethical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Human rights 	Safe working conditions, fair and equal opportunities should be available to workers.	Requirements for workplace safety, fair pay and equal opportunity.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legal compliance 	Organisations must comply with required local and international laws and regulations.	Requirements for lawful conduct and environmental compliance.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental claims 	Unverified environmental claims can mislead consumers.	All claims must be true and substantiated.

For full list of criteria, refer to the **GECA Thermal Building Insulation Materials standard (GECA 33-2007)**. GECA runs Australia's only independent, not-for-profit, multi-sector ecolabelling program and is the only Australian member of the Global Ecolabelling Network. It develops standards against which products can be independently audited by GECA's JAS-ANZ accredited conformity assessment bodies. Its standards are developed following ISO14024 principles for global best practice in ecolabelling. More information is available at www.geca.org.au.

