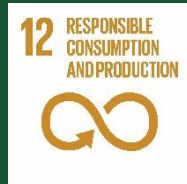


Core Sustainable
Development Goals



Adhesives, Fillers and Sealants

Standard No: AFSv4.0ii-2014

Type 1 ecolabel standard in accordance with ISO 14024

Issued 26 May 2021 by GECA

(Good Environmental Choice Australia Ltd)



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Adhesives, Fillers and Sealants

DOCUMENT HISTORY

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3.2	January 2007	
4.0	September 2014	Revision: Change of name from Adhesives to Adhesives, Fillers and Sealants (scope widened). Addition of DoCs. Several criteria updated or added; new criteria added for titanium dioxide, ozone-depleting ingredients, raw materials sourcing, product classification, crystalline silica/mica, formaldehyde, ecotoxic substances, heavy metals, biocides, manufacturing processes (waste emissions, air emissions, energy management, EMS, chemical storage); criteria updated for banned substances, plasticisers, VOC limit, packaging, product information.
4.0i	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.
4.0ii	May 2021	Update: Change of social criteria, addition of SDGs, addition of new terminologies, change of GECA address, change of text in “USE OF GECA STANDARDS”, change of text in “HOW to APPLY FOR GECA CERTIFICATION”, change of DOCUMENT HISTORY, change of exemption, audit, auditor and auditing body to exception, assessment, assessor and assurance provider, respectively.

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

% w/w: Percent weight/weight, equivalent to percent by mass.

ADG: Australian Dangerous Goods.

APEO: Alkylphenol ethoxylate and other alkylphenol derivatives.

AS: Australian Standard.

Assessment: Process performed by the assessor to determine if the product conforms with the applicable GECA Standard.

Assessment report: The full document composed by the Assurance Provider that states how the nominated product conforms or fails to conform to GECA's standard. This report shall include appropriate and substantial evidence to justify the conformance decision.

Assessor: The individual performing the assessment as an employee or contractor of the Assurance Provider.

Assurance provider: Person or organisation accredited by the Independent Appointment Panel performing the conformance assessment.

ASTM: American Society for Testing and Materials.

Aromatic substance: In the context of this standard, aromatic substances are chemicals which contain a planar unsaturated ring of atoms that is stabilised by an interaction of the bonds forming the ring. Such compounds are typified by benzene and its derivatives.

Bioaccumulative: A substance is classified as potentially bioaccumulative if the log KOW (log octanol/water partition coefficient) is equal to or greater than 3.

Biodegradable: Organic substances that decompose in the natural environment due to the action of living organisms.

Carcinogenic: Capable of causing cancer. The [International Agency for Research on Cancer](#) is the internationally accepted body for the classification of carcinogenic substances.

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

Dangerous goods: Any product classifiable as dangerous according to [Globally Harmonised System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals \(GHS\)](#) criteria or Code of Practice for Managing Risks of Hazardous Chemicals in the Workplace or [Australian Dangerous Goods Code Edition 7.5](#), including classification as an Environmentally Hazardous Substance.

Dematerialisation: The reduction of material inputs to increase efficiency of resource use.

Demonstration of Conformance (DoC): Defines sources of evidence acceptable to GECA to demonstrate compliance with each criterion of the standard. An applicant manufacturer must provide documentation to the appointed assurance provider in order to demonstrate conformance of its products under assessment. For further information on Demonstration of Conformance requirements see *Appendix A – Evidence of Conformance* at the end of this standard.

EMS: Environmental Management System.

Exception: An exception is granted when an applicant is given permission by the GECA CEO or Board to become certified despite not meeting a particular criterion in the standard as identified during the assessment process, usually with a mandatory transition period.

GECA: Good Environmental Choice Australia Ltd.

GECA Mark: The Good Environmental Choice Australia Mark, the mark awarded to applicants complying with GECA ecolabelling standards after assessment by a GECA appointed assurance provider.

GHS: Globally Harmonised System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals

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

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

Heavy metal: Elements including antimony (Sb), arsenic (As), cadmium (Cd), chromium (Cr), cobalt (Co), lead (Pb), mercury (Hg), and tin (Sn).

IARC: International Agency for Research on Cancer.

ISO: International Organization for Standardization.

NATA: [National Association of Testing Authorities, Australia](#).

Mutagenic: Any substance that causes mutations or genetic abnormalities. The criteria for classification of a substance as mutagenic are defined by the Australian Industrial Chemicals Introduction Scheme ([AICIS](#)).

Packaging: Materials used for the transport, containment or display of products.

- Primary Packaging constitutes the packaging designed to come into direct contact with the product.
- Secondary Packaging (or group packaging) groups a given number of primary packaging units together into a convenient unit at the point of sale. Secondary packaging typically has one of two roles: it can be a convenient means to replenish the shelves; or it can group primary packaging units into a package for purchase. It can be removed without affecting the product's properties, and generally defines the unit handled by the retailer.
- Tertiary Packaging (or transport packaging) is designed to ensure damage-free handling and transport of a number of sales or grouped packages. The term "transport packaging" does not include road, rail, ship or air containers. Transport packaging is normally a shipping unit such as an outer case, a pallet, or a crate.

Post-consumer material: Post-consumer material is generated by end-users (including households, businesses, industries and institutions) from products that can no longer be used for their intended purpose. Post-consumer material also includes the return of material from distribution chains.

Pre-consumer material: Pre-consumer (sometimes also referred to as post-industrial) material is recovered from the manufacturing process before it is sold to end consumers.

PREP: [Packaging Recyclability Evaluation Portal](#).

Producer/manufacturer: For the purpose of this standard these terms comprise both manufacturers of a product as well as service suppliers. These may not necessary be the companies that apply for GECA certification, since certification can also be awarded to retailers of a product. However, for some criteria it is required that the original manufacturer of the product conforms to particular requirements.

REACH: Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals. <http://echa.europa.eu/web/guest/regulations/reach>.

Recycled content: Denotes the proportion of a product that is generated from post-consumer and pre-consumer material.

SDGs: [The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#), adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. At its heart are [the 17 SDGs](#), which are a set of goals, targets and indicators.

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

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

VOC: Volatile Organic Compounds; any organic compound (compound which contains carbon) with a boiling point below 250°C measured at 101.3kPa. VOC content of products will be calculated according to the content of ingredients that fit this definition.

Note: All percentages described in this document are to be measured as percent by mass.



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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A central graphic with a green border. On the left is the GECA Certified logo, which includes the circular emblem, a red checkmark, and the text 'GECA CERTIFIED'. To the right, the text 'One ecolabel says it all' is written in green, followed by 'A better environmental, healthier and ethical choice' in red. Below this text are four green leaf-shaped icons: a globe for 'ENVIRONMENT', a plus sign for 'HEALTH', a hand for 'SOCIAL & ETHICAL', and a checkmark for '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.

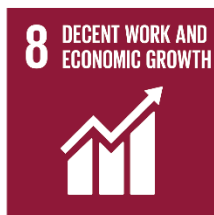
Each criterion within this standard answers to a specific SDG target. These specific SDGs are shown below and are highlighted throughout each section of the standard, including the core SDGs related to this standard as further illustrated.



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 Adhesives, Fillers & Sealants standard



Core SDGs relevant to GECA's Adhesives, Fillers & Sealants standard

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



CORE SDG: 3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

GECA Standard Criterion

- Hazardous substances and volatile organic compounds: criteria 3-14
- Workplace health and safety: criterion 33

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.

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



CORE SDG: 10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

GECA Standard Criterion

- Social and legal compliance: criteria 31-37

SDG 10 Specific target 10.2

By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status.

SDG 10 Specific target 10.3

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

SDG 10 Specific target 10.4

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

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



CORE SDG: 12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

GECA Standard Criterion

- Hazardous substances: criteria 3-13
- Waste minimisation: criterion 22

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

- Mining remediation: criterion 18
- Environmental legislation: criterion 31

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

Construction and interior design projects typically use large quantities of adhesives, fillers, and sealants. And yet, they can also be one of the most commonly overlooked materials in terms of their sustainability. These crucial products contain various chemicals that hold things together, cover up surface imperfections, and keep moisture out. The chemical components can include binders, solvents/thinners, plasticisers, fillers/bulking agents, thickeners, anti-foaming agents, preservatives, and many other chemical additives whose respective functions add to the product's intended purpose. Unfortunately, some chemicals can threaten human health and indoor air quality as they emit damaging fumes and odours.

For example, as with many other furnishings, fittings and building materials with an indoor application, volatile organic compounds (VOCs) are a big issue for adhesives. VOCs can trigger a range of health problems such as respiratory irritation, allergies, headaches and asthma. Formaldehyde, a known human carcinogen, is a particularly common VOC found in adhesives and resins, despite its toxicity to humans.

Crystalline silica is a component of soil, sand, granite and other minerals, and can be found in many household adhesive products. If adhesive products are chipped, cut, drilled into or ground up after they set, any crystalline silica present may be broken down into particles small enough to be breathed in. Without proper safety precautions, this can set up workers for silica exposure and silicosis, a lung disease that has no cure.

The potential health impacts don't end there. Some residual monomers in polymers are allergenic or carcinogenic and should be avoided. Certain phthalates used as plasticisers in adhesives are also known to be endocrine disruptors. It's also essential that toxic heavy metals, such as lead, cadmium, mercury, chromium, arsenic are not added to the final product or used in its creation. These substances can be detrimental to the health of manufacturing staff and users of the finished product.

Adhesives can negatively impact on the environment as well. Titanium dioxide, zinc oxide and lithopone are a few examples of compounds often found in adhesives and related building materials. Production of these compounds uses large amounts of energy and generates high volumes of waste, as well as resulting in air and water emissions that impact the environment. Without adequate policies and procedures, discharge of wastewater and damaging substances can threaten aquatic ecosystems. Improper storage of chemicals can also lead to environmental harm via leaks, spills, and water and air emissions. When a product is certified against GECA's Adhesives, Fillers and Sealants standard, consumers can be sure that the product has been assessed to meet environmental, human health and social impact criteria, while also proving that it performs as promised. GECA certification removes doubt and confusion and makes identifying environmentally and socially preferable products easier. Products certified under this standard also contribute toward achieving credit points for projects being certified under the Green Building Council of Australia's Green Star Performance tool.

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

- reducing the use and subsequent release of environmentally harmful substances to the environment at all stages of the product's life cycle;
- reducing the presence and release of substances harmful to human health;
- reducing impacts from raw material sourcing;
- encouraging more efficient and effective use of energy and materials during production process;
- encouraging recovery, reuse, recycling and responsible disposal of unwanted product and packaging.

FIT FOR PURPOSE CRITERIA

1 STANDARD CATEGORY SCOPE

1.1 Scope schedule

Criterion 1: The scope of this standard is applicable to adhesives, fillers and joint sealants including:
General purpose adhesives, fillers and joint sealants for building work including but not limited to:

- Carpet adhesives
- Construction joint sealants
- Cornice cement
- Flooring adhesives
- Interior lining finishing products
- Multipurpose construction adhesives
- Stud adhesives
- Tile adhesives
- Wall covering adhesives
- Wallpaper pastes

General purpose adhesives for commercial manufacturing including, e.g.:

- Furniture manufacturing
- Panel board manufacturing

Exclusions and Notes

This standard excludes coatings, aerosol adhesives, office/consumer all-purpose glues and adhesives, adhesive tapes, adhesives for electronics and adhesives for food packaging.

Water-based coatings are covered by the Paints and Coatings standard.

Solvent-based adhesives, fillers and sealants are not excluded as long as they meet this standard's requirements.

Demonstration of Conformance

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

2 FITNESS FOR PURPOSE

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

2.1 Applicable Standards and Demonstrated Fitness

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

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 2.1: Test reports for all relevant quality and performance tests showing that the product has been assessed by external or internal laboratory testing.

HEALTH CRITERIA



3 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

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

3.1 Classification of the Product

Products classified as hazardous or dangerous can affect the health of manufacturing staff and users of the finished product as well as negatively impact the environment and may restrict the recyclability of the packaging.

Criterion 3: Product classification.

- The product as used must not be classifiable as hazardous according to the GHS; and
- The product as supplied and as used must not be classifiable as dangerous according to the Australian Dangerous Goods (ADG) code, including classification as an Environmentally Hazardous Substance.

Demonstration of Conformance

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

3.2 Banned Substances

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

Criterion 4: The final product formulation, including all intentionally added ingredients, must not, unless expressly derogated, contain substances or mixtures classified as toxic, respiratory or skin sensitisers, or carcinogenic, mutagenic or toxic for reproduction in accordance with Risk-phrases and Hazard Statements listed in Table 1.

Table 1. Hazard statements and R-phrases for banned substances.

Acute toxicity and specific organ toxicity					
H300	Fatal if swallowed	R28	H301	Toxic if swallowed	R25
H310	Fatal in contact with skin	R27	H311	Toxic in contact with skin	R24
H330	Fatal if inhaled	R23/26	H331	Toxic if inhaled	R23
H304	May be fatal if swallowed and enters airways	R65	H370	May cause damage to organs	R39/23, R39/24, R39/25, R39/26, R39/27,R39/28 R48/25,R48/24, R48/23
H373	May cause damage to organs	R48/20, R48/21, R48/22	H372	Causes damages to organs	
Respiratory and skin sensitisation					
H317	May cause allergic skin reaction	R43	H334	May cause allergy or asthma symptoms or breathing difficulties if inhaled	R42
Carcinogenic, mutagenic or toxic for reproduction					
H340	May cause genetic defects	R46	H341	Suspected of causing genetic defects	R68
H350	May cause cancer	R45, R49	H351	Suspected of causing cancer	R40
H360	May damage fertility or the unborn child	R60, R61	H361	Suspected of damaging fertility or the unborn child	R62, R63
H362	May cause harm to breast-fed children	R64			

or

- EU C/M/R; or
- IARC Group 1* and 2A.

Exceptions

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

Substances (carrying the above classifications) present as contaminants shall not exceed 0.01% by weight of the product. Formaldehyde is excepted from this criterion. Specific requirements for formaldehyde are given in Criterion 8.

Biocides/Preservatives are excepted from this criterion when they are used to preserve the product and they are not subject to any of the risk phrases H373, H334, H370, H341(R33, R42, R39, R68) or combinations of these. Specific requirements for biocides are given in Criterion 11.

Crystalline Silica (Quartz) and MICA are excepted from this criterion. Specific requirements for Crystalline Silica (Quartz) and MICA are given in Criterion 10.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 4.1: SDS, chemical names and/or CAS numbers for each ingredient.

Criterion 5: The following substances must not be intentionally added or used during the manufacturing process:

- Isocyanates;
- Bisphenol A;
- Toluene and toluene compounds;
- APEO - Alkylphenoethoxilates and other alkylphenol derivatives;
- Persistent, bioaccumulating and toxic organic compounds (PBTs); or
- Substances of Very High Concern (REACH Candidate List, <http://echa.europa.eu/web/guest/candidate-list-table>)

Substances present as contaminants shall not exceed 0.01% by weight of the product.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 5.1: Signed declaration that the products do not contain any of the substances listed.

DoC 5.2: SDS, chemical names and/or CAS numbers for each ingredient.

3.3 Limited Substances

Certain substances may be environmentally harmful to flora and fauna.

Criterion 6: The product must not contain more than 1% by weight of any substances carrying the risk phrases or hazard statements H400 (R50), H410 (R50/53), H411 (R51/53), H412 (R52/53), H413 (R53):

Biocides are excepted from this criterion. Specific requirements for biocides are given in Criterion 11.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 6.1: Full ingredients list and SDS of each ingredient.

Criterion 7: Halogens, halogenated compounds and volatile aromatic hydrocarbons (VAHs) must not be added except as preservatives or biocides.

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

Demonstration of Conformance

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

3.4 Formaldehyde

Formaldehyde is a toxic and allergenic substance that can have carcinogenic effects.

Criterion 8: Formaldehyde (CAS-number 50-00-0) or formaldehyde-shedding substances must not be intentionally added to products. Formaldehyde is permitted in newly produced polymer in a concentration of no more than 250 ppm (0.025 weight %, 250 mg/kg) provided that the content of free formaldehyde in the toughened product does not exceed 10 ppm (0.001 weight %, 10 mg/kg).

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 8.1: Signed declaration from an Executive Officer of the manufacturer stating that no formaldehyde has been intentionally added to the product.

DoC 8.2: Test results or worst case calculations that show clearly that the formaldehyde requirement is fulfilled.

3.5 Heavy Metals

Certain heavy metals are toxic to humans and the environment.

Criterion 9: Toxic heavy metals and their compounds, or ingredients containing heavy metals and their compounds, including lead (Pb), cadmium (Cd), mercury (Hg), chromium (Cr), arsenic (As), selenium (Se), cobalt (Co), tin (Sn) and antimony (Sb), must not be deliberately added or used.

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

Exception

Heavy metals may be present as contaminants. Contaminants are defined as residues from raw material production present in the finished product, but not substances that are added to a raw material or product for a purpose, irrespective of quantity. Heavy metals present as contaminants shall not exceed 0.01% by weight of the product.

Demonstration of Conformance

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

3.6 Crystalline Silica (Quartz) and MICA

Inhalation of crystalline silica dust particles can result in Silicosis, a form of occupational lung disease, and is classified as a lung carcinogen.

Criterion 10: Products which may lead to the release of respirable powders/dust (e.g. products such as fillers which may be sanded) must not contain any added Crystalline Silica (Quartz) or Mica.

If crystalline silica is used in the production, effective measures must be in place to control exposure of workers to crystalline silica.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 10.1: A short description of the product showing whether it may release respirable powders/dust during application or use, and SDS of the product;

DoC 10.2: If applicable, documentation of measures in place to control exposure during manufacturing.

3.7 Biocides

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

Criterion 11:

- The product must only contain substances which are:
 - authorised under Regulation (EC) No 528/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council for the applicable product type (<https://echa.europa.eu/fr/information-on-chemicals/biocidal-active-substances>); or
 - in Article 95 List which are the combinations of active substances (AS), and substances for which a dossier (“the complete substance dossier”) has been submitted and accepted/validated by a Member State under the BPR or Directive 98/8/EC (see [03_Art95 List excel published 11022021.xlsx \(europa.eu\)](#)).
- The total content of isothiazolinone compounds in adhesives, fillers or sealants must be below 300 ppm (0.03 weight %, 300 mg/kg).
- The content of a mixture of 5-chloro-2-methyl-2H-isothiazol-3-one (CAS-No. 26172-55-4) and dimethyl-2H- isothiazol-3-one (CAS-No. 2682-20-4) (CMIT/MIT) must be below 15 ppm (0.0015 weight %, 15 mg/kg).
- The sum total concentration of preservatives classified with any of the R-phrases listed in Criterion 4 and Criterion 6 shall not exceed 0.2%.
- No biocide or preservative added to the product may be bioaccumulative.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 11.1: SDS for each preservative used in the final product, and calculation by the applicant/licensee of the concentration of the preservative in the final product.

3.8 Residual Monomers

Residual monomers in polymers can cause negative health effects, for example due to the allergic and carcinogenic properties of the monomers.

Criterion 12: The final product may as a total maximum contain up to 300 ppm (0.03%) residual/unreacted monomers classified as Very toxic, Toxic or Harmful.

DoC 12.1: Declaration from the suppliers of any relevant ingredient (polymer) stating the monomer content.

3.9 Plasticisers

Many phthalates have negative effects on health and the environment and have already been identified as endocrine disruptors.

Criterion 13: The following phthalates shall not be intentionally added as plasticisers:

- DEHP (Bis-(2-ethylhexyl)-phthalate)
- BBP (Butylbenzylphthalate)

- DBP (Dibutylphthalate)
- DMEP (Bis2-methoxyethyl) phthalate
- DIBP (Diisobutylphthalate)
- DIHP (Di-C6-8-branched alkyphthalates)
- DHNUP (Di-C7-11-branched alkylphthalates)
- DHP (Di-n-hexylphthalate)

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 13.1: List of all phthalates used in the final product or declaration that no phthalates are used.

4 EMISSIONS

4.1 Volatile Organic Compounds

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

Criterion 14: The total content of volatile organic compounds in the product must not exceed those stated in Table 2. These limits reflect the final product ready to use inclusive of water and tints. TVOC content results must be reported in grams of VOC per litre (g/L) of ready to use product.

Table 2. VOC limits.

Adhesive, Filler and Sealant Type	VOC limits g/L
General adhesives, sealants and fillers	65
Acoustic sealants, architectural sealant, waterproofing membranes and sealant, fire retardant sealants and	250
Structural glazing adhesive, wood flooring and laminate	100

Any adhesive, filler or sealant that does not fit into the categories outlined in Table 2 must not have a VOC content greater than 65 g/L.

Where an adhesive, filler or sealant may fit into more than one category it must comply with the category with the lower VOC limit.

Demonstration of Conformance

A VOC data sheet is required to establish compliance of adhesives, fillers and sealants.

Compliance must be demonstrated using one of the following options:

DoC 14.1: Laboratory testing: ASTM D3960, which is comprised of four individual testing procedures that measures TVOC (D2369) as well as density (D1475) and water content (D4017). Excepted compounds (D4457) must not be subtracted in the calculation of VOC content. Emission levels must be established by a [National Association of Testing Authorities, Australia](#) or another ISO/IEC17025 accredited laboratory.

DoC 14.2: Product Safety Data Sheets (SDS): SDS stating the TVOC numerical result in g/litre of ready product; the test method used to obtain the results; and for tinted products, also confirming the TVOC value is inclusive of tints.

DoC 14.3: Measurement by content: Theoretical TVOC statement prepared by the manufacturer in an appropriately signed letter containing the following: Numerical TVOC results expressed in g/litre of product; and Statement that the results have been obtained based on the subtotal of the known TVOC values of the product's raw ingredients.

ENVIRONMENTAL CRITERIA



5 MATERIAL REQUIREMENTS

This section's criteria address impacts that may occur over the life cycle of a product that can be avoided or mitigated during the design phase of product development.

Unless otherwise stated, the requirements in this section apply to each type of material contained in the finished product regardless of weight.

5.1 Titanium Dioxide, Zinc Oxide and Lithopone Content

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

Criterion 15: The level of titanium dioxide (including CAS 13463-67-7, 1317-70-0, 12065-65-5), zinc oxide (CAS 1314-13-2) or lithopone (CAS 1345 05-7) must not exceed 5% w/w in total.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 15.1: Documentation showing the weight of titanium dioxide, zinc oxide and lithopone per litre of adhesive, filler and sealant. Reporting a range is acceptable.

5.2 Ozone Depleting Substances

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

Criterion 16: The product must not contain any substances listed in the Montreal Protocol Annexes A, B, C or E including CFCs, HCFCs, hydrobromofluorocarbons, halons, methyl bromide, carbon tetrachloride, 1,1,1-trichloroethane (methyl chloroform) and bromochloromethane.

See: [Handbook for the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer](#)

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 16.1: Signed declaration that the products do not contain any of the substances listed in the Montreal Protocol Annexes A, B, C or E; and

DoC 16.2: SDS, chemical names and/or CAS numbers for each ingredient. Substances used will be checked against Annexes A, B, C and E of the Montreal Protocol)

Criterion 17: Substances used to clean production equipment must have an ozone depletion potential of zero, and must not be listed in the Montreal Protocol Annexes A, B, C or E.

See: [Handbook for the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer](#)

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 17.1: Signed declaration that the products used to clean production equipment do not contain any ozone depleting substances; and

DoC 17.2: SDS, chemical names and/or CAS numbers for each ingredient and cleaning substance. Substances used will be checked against Annexes A, B, C and E of the Montreal Protocol)

5.3 Quarried Materials

Quarrying raw materials can have significant impacts on the environment including, the destruction of habitat, wastewater and surface water discharges, and generation of dust noise and vibration.

Criterion 18: Virgin quarried raw materials (gypsum, limestone etc.) present in >50% in the final product must come from operations:

- With a documented remediation program
- Which have and implement a management system to minimise adverse effects from noise, vibration, dust, and discharges to water and land.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 18.1: Information about the virgin quarried material including type of material, supplier and geographical location of mine;

DoC 18.2: Evidence of a documented mine remediation program

DoC 18.3: Evidence of the relevant management plans.

5.4 Cement

Cement production is both resource and energy-intensive. Significant amounts of carbon dioxide are released from the limestone during the calcinations process and from the combustion of fuels in the kiln.

This criterion applies to products with a cementitious component of >50%.

Criterion 19: The binder used in the cement component in the product shall consist of at least 20% 'supplementary cementitious materials' (SCM) (processed by-products such as fly ash or slag or silica fume).

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 19.1: Information about the type and amount of SCM in the cement component that is used.

6 MANUFACTURING PROCESS

6.1 Water Emissions

Improperly managed water and air emissions can have harmful effects on the receiving environment.

Criterion 20: Water emissions from the manufacturing site must not be damaging to the receiving environment. Manufacturers must report the amount and destination of all water emissions resulting from the manufacturing process.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 20.1: Declaration of the destination of effluent (e.g. sewer), the volume discharged and the frequency of discharge.

6.2 Air Emissions

Criterion 21: The manufacturer must have effective policies and procedures in place to control emissions to air from the manufacturing process, including relevant substances (e.g. dust and SO₂).

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 21.1: Signed declaration that describes the emission control policies, procedures and programs.

6.3 Waste Minimisation

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

Criterion 22: The manufacturer must have effective policies and procedures in place, including:

- Waste minimisation policies and procedures to reduce the amount of waste generated;
- Waste recovery procedures to capture and reuse as much waste as is practical; and
- Efficient use of resources through dematerialisation.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 22.1: Documentation of policies and procedures in place, and of relevant material flows, details of manufacturing processes, and waste recapture methods.

6.4 Energy Management

The energy usage depends on the raw materials used. The manufacturing process will be significantly different, e.g. gypsum-based products compared to polymer-based compounds. Effective energy management procedures can help reduce energy usage.

Criterion 23: The applicant/m manufacturer must have effective energy management policies and procedures and/or an energy management program (including energy conservation through minimised energy use).

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 23.1: Signed declaration of compliance, supported by

- documentation that describes the energy management policies, procedures and program; and
- reports on energy use and management, and origin of energy used.

6.5 Environmental Management System

An Environmental Management System (EMS) integrates procedures and processes for personnel training, monitoring and reporting of environmental performance information to stakeholders of an organisation.

Criterion 24: The applicant/m manufacturer must have an Environmental Management System in place.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 24.1: Documentation showing an Environmental Management System is in place.

6.6 Chemical Storage

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

Criterion 25: The manufacturer must properly store chemicals including ingredients and the finished product, in a manner which minimises risk of harm to the environment through leaks, spills and emissions to water or air.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 25.1: Chemical storage will be inspected at a site visit conducted by a GECA Approved Assurance Provider; and

DoC 25.2: Copies of storage handling requirements and procedures for control and remediation of chemical spills or

DoC 25.3: Evidence of ISO 14001 certification (or equivalent EMS certification).

7 DESIGN FOR ENVIRONMENT

7.1 Product Information

Product information allows customers to use products in a responsible and sustainable manner.

Criterion 26: Suitable information must be supplied with the product or made available to the public.

Information that must be shown on the label includes or accompanies the product:

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

Information that must be available to the public includes:

- Safety data sheet;
- Technical data sheets or product data sheets;
- Coverage guide for material when applied as directed.

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

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 26.1: Copy of labels, care instructions and other information provided with the product;

DoC 26.2: A current safety data sheet for each product; and

DoC 26.3: Technical data sheets, web pages and any other information freely available to customers or the public.

7.2 Packaging

Packaging may present a significant contribution to the environmental load of a product at several points throughout the product life cycle, including material inputs and disposal.

Criterion 27: Packaging must not be halogenated.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 27.1: Information regarding composition of packaging materials including chemical names, CAS numbers, technical data sheets or SDS where applicable.

Criterion 28: All plastic bottles and other major or primary packaging must be marked with a plastics identification code. It is not mandatory for small components including e.g. caps.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 28.1: Visual inspection of each plastic component of the packaging. If claiming an exception for small components, the applicant must provide samples to be weighed or a declaration listing the weights of each individual component.

Criterion 29: Packaging must comply with at least one of the following:

- Each material constituting >20% by weight of the total primary and secondary packaging used, must contain at least 50% recycled content by weight;
- Each material constituting >20% by weight of the total primary and secondary packaging used, must 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, must be recyclable in Australia. This may be demonstrated using the [Australian Packaging Covenant's Packaging Recyclability Evaluation Portal \(PREP\)](#).

Paper and cardboard packaging must 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 exempted from the above requirements if they are re-used by the applicant or are recyclable in specialist recycling facilities.

Packaging aimed to minimise packaging material usage (for example 'sausage packs' where the product is applied using reusable applicators) is exempted from this criterion.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 29.1: Details of materials used in the product and their manufacture, including information on the input of recycled and virgin materials reported by weight if applicable. The recycled content can be averaged over a 12-month period to find the amount or range of recycled content; and / or

DoC 29.2: Evidence of recyclability or copy of PREP Assessment Report; and/or

DoC 29.3: Evidence of certification under relevant forest certification scheme; and/or

DoC 29.4: Details of re-use programs for transport materials within the applicant company.

8 ENVIRONMENTAL CLAIMS

Environmental claims are one of the tools utilised by consumers when attempting to make environmentally preferable choices and therefore it is essential that such claims are true and substantiated.

Criterion 30: 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.

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

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

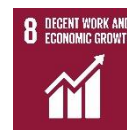
The applicant or manufacturer must not claim that the product is ‘odour free’, ‘low odour’, ‘no odour’ or similar if odour-masking agents are used.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 30.1: A copy of any relevant advertising material currently in use; and

DoC 30.2: Relevant documentation confirming the grounds of the claim and its compliance with this criterion.

SOCIAL CRITERIA



9 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.

9.1 Environmental Legislation

Criterion 31: The producer of the product and applicant company shall as per law comply with relevant environmental legislation and government orders at the Local, State, and Commonwealth levels (if these have been issued). Where a producer is from an overseas jurisdiction, it is that jurisdiction's environmental regulations that apply. Where the producer has been found guilty of a breach of any environmental legislation or permit(s) within the last two years, there must be evidence of corrective action.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 31.1: Signed declaration from an Executive Officer of the organisation stating compliance with applicable environmental legislation and government orders;

DoC 31.2: Signed declaration disclosing any breaches of environmental legislation or permits and the date of the breach. Applicant shall:

DoC 31.3: Provide a Legal Register listing applicable environmental legislation (including applicable Regulations under that legislation) in, or as an attachment to the above two declarations (31.1 and 31.2). The Legal Register shall:

- For each applicable Act and Regulation listed, state whether the manufacturer and applicant company comply; or have a certified ISO 14001, Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) or equivalent environmental management system in place; and;
- List relevant permits granted by the EPA or an equivalent national, state or local body;

DoC 31.4: Evidence of corrective action following identification of a breach of environmental legislation, if applicable.

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.

9.2 Minimum entitlement including wages

Criterion 32: All employees and contractors must receive at least the applicable minimum wage including penalty rates, allowances and superannuation and be provided with all other minimum entitlements including in relation to hours, leave and termination. All employees shall be covered by a Federal or State award, a certified industrial agreement or registered agreement as determined by the Australian Government Workplace Authority or a State or Territory Workplace Relations Agency, or an agreement that complies with Fair Work Act 2009 section 61 – National Employment Standards. A manufacturer/applicant company shall demonstrate compliance to the following requirements as taken from the [ILO](#) Convention: Convention 100 – Equal Remuneration Convention.

Where a producer is from an overseas jurisdiction, it is that jurisdiction's equivalent regulations that apply.

Where a producer/applicant company or a third party has identified a breach of applicable legislation, including underpayment of wages within the last two years, there shall be evidence of corrective action.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 32.1: Signed declaration from an Executive Officer of the organisation confirming compliance with all minimum entitlements including wages; and

DoC 32.2: 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 32.3: Text or template of a typical workplace agreement offered to employees of the company; and sample payslips; and

DoC 32.4: Evidence of corrective action following identification of a breach of legislation, if applicable.

9.3 Workplace Health and Safety

Criterion 33: 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 33.1: 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 33.2: Copy of the company Occupational / Workplace H&S policy and procedures;

DoC 33.3: 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 33.4: Evidence of corrective action following a breach of legislation, if applicable; and

DoC 33.5: WHS incidents register

9.4 Equal Opportunity

Criterion 34: 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 34.1: Signed declaration from an Executive Officer of the organisation stating compliance with above legislation;

DoC 34.2: Copy of relevant company policies and procedures;

DoC 34.3: Evidence of corrective action following a breach of legislation, if applicable; and

DoC 34.4: The assessor will verify that the company does not appear on the following list: [Non-compliant list | WGEA](#)

9.5 Lawful Conduct

Criterion 35: The manufacturer/applicant company shall not have been convicted of any breach of criminal law, any breach of the Competition and Consumer Act 2010 or the Corporations Act 2001, including prosecution or de-listing by the Australian Stock Exchange (ASX or international equivalent). Where a manufacturer is from an overseas jurisdiction, it is that jurisdiction's equivalent regulations that apply. Where a producer has been found guilty of a breach of relevant legislation within the last two years, there must be evidence of corrective action.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 35.1: Signed declaration from an Executive Officer of the organisation stating compliance with above legislation; and

DoC 35.2: Evidence of corrective action following a guilty verdict, if applicable.

9.6 Modern Slavery

Criterion 36: 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 36.1: 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:

- h) Employment records
- i) List of contractors
- j) Leave entitlements policy
- k) Any relevant Human Resources policy
- l) Payslips/ wage scales/ remuneration policy
- m) Minimum age of employment policy
- n) Any other relevant information

Where an organisation has not previously reported on the Australian Commonwealth Modern Slavery Act 2018 or NSW Modern Slavery Act 2018 and does not meet the reporting threshold of the NSW or

Commonwealth legislation, the organisation shall publish a Modern Slavery Statement within three years of certification on a voluntary basis. A grace period of up to one cycle of certification may be granted depending on the company's reporting period.

For more information about modern slavery and the *Modern Slavery Act 2018*, please see [News and Resources \(modernslaveryregister.gov.au\)](https://www.modernslaveryregister.gov.au).

9.7 Human Rights including Labour Rights

Criterion 37: The manufacturer/applicant company shall respect internationally recognised human rights, including labour rights, including the rights set out in:

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work

In particular, this includes the following aspects and ILO conventions: No child/forced/bonded labour (ILO 29 and 105), Minimum age convention (ILO 138), Worst forms of child labour (ILO182), Health and safety procedures and training (155, 161 and 171), Right of freedom of association (ILO 87 and 98), Non-discrimination (ILO 100 and 111), Discipline/harassment and grievance procedures, Fair working hours and compensation, Anti-corruption and bribery.

The applicant company shall also take steps to ensure human rights are respected in its supply chain.

Where an applicant has been found to breach this criterion in the past two years, there must be evidence of corrective action.

Demonstration of Conformance

DoC 37.1: 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 37.2: The manufacturer/applicant shall provide a map of at least one tier of its supply chain; and

DoC 37.3: 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 37.4: Evidence of assessment of suppliers in relation to human rights and recommendations for improvements in their supply chain; and

DoC 37.5: Evidence of [ISO20400](https://www.iso.org/standard/62650.html) implementation; or

DoC 37.6: Evidence of valid [SA8000® Standard](https://www.sa8000.com/) , or other equivalent certification; or

DoC 37.7: Evidence of being a signatory to the [UN Global Compact](https://www.unglobalcompact.com/); or

DoC 37.8: [SEDEX](https://www.seDEX.com/) membership; or

DoC 37.9: [GRI 400](https://www.gri400.com/) Report (Global Report Initiative); and

If any of DoCs 37.5 cannot be provided, manufacturer/ applicant shall provide:

DoC 37.10: Evidence of commitment to achieve SA 8000 certification within one year; or

DoC 37.11: Evidence of becoming a signatory to the UN Global Compact within six months; and

DoC 37.12: Evidence of corrective action, if applicable.

GECA acknowledges that this is an emerging area of compliance and conformance. Therefore, alternative certifications, standards, ethical membership organisations or compliance reporting may be recognised as demonstration of conformance where an exception is granted by the GECA Board.

EVIDENCE OF CONFORMANCE

Demonstration of Conformance (DoC)

This section lists the sources of evidence to be considered during an assessment to establish conformance against GECA's standards. This list is provided to guide the applicant through the standard's requirements and facilitate the preparation of an application. The DoC requirements are specified along with each criterion in the standard define specific sources of evidence acceptable to GECA. In cases where criteria offer several DoC requirements, it is the sole decision of the appointed assurance provider to choose the appropriate option throughout the preliminary stage of the assessment. If none of the recommended DoC requirements stipulated for a particular criterion in the standard is applicable for a product under assessment, then the appointed assurance provider may choose an alternative but equivalent source of evidence. In cases where alternative sources of evidence have been accepted for the verification of the product, the assurance provider will inform GECA by providing a report on the details as far as appropriate. GECA will use this information to continuously improve the DoC requirements stipulated by that standard.

All laboratory testing and analysis shall be carried out by a [NATA](#) accredited laboratory. For tests carried out overseas, all analysis shall be carried out by a reputable lab accredited by an [ILAC](#).

The applicant/manufacture shall have processes in place to ensure on-going compliance with the criteria in this standard; for example in relation to hazardous substances, having a process in place for completing a checklist (signed and dated by the authorised person) that lists all the substances and requirements in that section prior to using in/with the GECA product/s. The process may be carried out by relevant supplier/s of relevant material/s if there is no in-house capacity within the organisation being assessed to carry out this process. Documented information about any communication in regards to this process (i.e. between applicant and suppliers) shall be maintained.

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

APPENDIX A

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

The application checklist guides the applicant through the application and verification process. An applicant may collect all information required for the verification of the product and attach the relevant documents to their application. The table below summarises the DoC requirements for each criterion in the standard.

Criterion No.	Criterion Content	Demonstration of Conformance See standard body for details	Evidence Attached	Complies Y/N or NA
FIT FOR PURPOSE CRITERIA				
1. Standard Category Scope				
Criterion 1	General purpose adhesives, fillers and joint sealants for building work; General purpose adhesives for commercial manufacturing	Brief description of the product (range).	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2. Fitness for Purpose				
Criterion 2	Product shall meet or exceed applicable standards and demonstrated fitness levels	Test reports for all relevant quality and performance tests	<input type="checkbox"/>	
HEALTH CRITERIA				
3. Hazardous Materials				
Criterion 3	No classification as hazardous or dangerous good	Product SDS showing all hazard identification	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 4	Banned substances	SDS, chemical names and/or CAS numbers for each ingredient	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 5	List of prohibited substances	Signed declaration that the products do not contain any of the substances listed.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		SDS, chemical names and/or CAS numbers for each ingredient	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 6	Limit on ecotoxic substances	Full ingredients list and/or SDS of each ingredient.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 7	No addition of halogens, halogenated compounds and volatile aromatic hydrocarbons	Full ingredients list and/or SDS of each ingredient.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 8	No intentional addition. Limits on free form aldehyde in product	Signed declaration from an Executive Officer that no formaldehyde added	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Test results or worst case calculations	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 9	No deliberate addition of heavy metals	Full ingredients list for each product and SDS for each ingredient	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Criterion 10	Use of Crystalline Silica (Quartz) or Mica	A short description of the product showing whether it may release respirable powders/dust during application or use, and SDS of the product	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		If applicable, documentation of measures in place to control exposure during manufacturing	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 11	Biocide use	SDS for each preservative used in the final product, and calculation by the applicant/licensee of the concentration of the preservative in the final product.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 12	Limits on very toxic, toxic or harmful monomers	Declaration from the suppliers of any relevant ingredient (polymer) stating the monomer content	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 13	List of phthalates not to be added	List of all phthalates used in the final product	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4. Emissions				
Criterion 14	Limits on volatile organic compounds content	Laboratory testing: ASTM D3960; or SDS stating the TVOC numerical result in g/litre of ready product (including test method used); or theoretical TVOC statement prepared by the manufacturer	<input type="checkbox"/>	
ENVIRONMENTAL CRITERIA				
5. Material requirements				
Criterion 15	Limits on titanium dioxide, zinc oxide and lithopone content.	Documentation showing weight/l paint	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 16	Ozone depleting substances	Signed declaration of conformance by manufacturer	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		SDS, chemical names and/or CAS numbers for each ingredient	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 17	Ozone depleting substances in substances used to clean production equipment	Signed declaration of conformance by manufacturer	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		SDS, chemical names and/or CAS numbers for each ingredient and cleaning substance	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 18	Mine remediation and management plans for virgin quarried raw materials (gypsum, limestone etc.) present in >50% in the final product.	Information about the virgin quarried material including type of material, supplier and geographical location of mine.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Evidence of a documented mine remediation program.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Evidence of relevant management plans.	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Criterion 19	Cement content	Information about the type and amount of SCM in the cement that is used in the product	<input type="checkbox"/>	
6. Manufacturing Process				
Criterion 20	Water emission reporting	Declaration of the destination of effluent (e.g. sewer), the volume discharged and the frequency of discharge.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 21	Air emissions	Signed declaration that describes the emission control policies, procedures and programs	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 22	Policies and procedures around waste minimisation	Documentation of policies and procedures in place, and of relevant material flows, details of manufacturing processes, and waste recapture methods.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 23	Policies and procedures around energy use and management	Signed declaration of compliance, supported by documentation that describes the energy management policies, procedures and program; and reports on energy use and management, and origin of energy used.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 24	Environmental management system	Documentation showing an Environmental Management System is in place	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 25	Proper storage for chemicals	Copies of storage handling requirements and procedures for control and remediation of chemical spills; and inspection at site visit	<input type="checkbox"/>	
7. Design for Environment				
Criterion 26	Information supplied with the product or made available to the public	Copy of labels, care instructions and other information provided with the product	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		A current safety data sheet for each product	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Technical data sheets, web pages and any other information freely available to customers or the public.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 27	No halogenated packaging materials	Information regarding composition of packaging materials including chemical names, CAS numbers, technical data sheets or SDS where applicable.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 28	Marking with plastic identification code	Visual inspection of each plastic component of the packaging	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 29	Requirements for different packaging materials in primary and secondary packaging including usage of PREP tool as an option	Details of materials used in the product and their manufacture, including information on the input of recycled and virgin materials reported by weight if applicable.; and / or	<input type="checkbox"/>	

		Copy of PREP Assessment Report; and/or	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Evidence of certification under relevant forest certification scheme; and/or	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Details of re-use programs for transport materials within the applicant company.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8. Environmental Claims				
Criterion 30	Public claims made by applicant	Copy of relevant advertising material.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Documentation confirming claims.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
SOCIAL CRITERIA				
9. Social and Legal Compliance				
Criterion 31	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 32	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 33	Work health and safety	Signed declaration stating compliance to workplace legislation and government orders, as well as declaration of any breaches of legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>	

		OHS/WHS policies and procedures and	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Copy of employee induction records, training records, meeting records and risk assessments; or current ISO 45001:2018 (or former OHSAS 18001), AS/NZS 4801 or equivalent certification; or third-party certification stating compliance to Work Health and Safety Act 2011 and the Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011 or equivalent jurisdiction specific legislation; and	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Evidence of corrective action (if applicable)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		WHS Incidents register	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 34	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 35	Lawful conduct	Signed declaration confirming conformance to the criterion and	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Evidence of corrective action (if applicable)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 36	Modern slavery	Copy of the published Modern Slavery Statement from within the previous 12 months	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 37	Human and labour rights	Evidence of commitments to human rights including labour rights	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Map of at least one tier of their supply chain; and	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Evidence of implementation of a Supplier 'Code of Conduct', and	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Evidence of assessment of suppliers in relation to human rights and recommendations for improvements in their supply chain	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Evidence of ISO20400 implementation; or	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Evidence of valid SA8000® Standard certification, , or other equivalent certification; or	<input type="checkbox"/>	

		Evidence of being a signatory to the UN Global Compact	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		SEDEX Membership, or	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		GRI 400 Report ; and	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Evidence of commitment to achieve SA8000® Standard certification within one year	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Evidence of becoming a signatory to the UN Global Compact within six months; and	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Evidence of corrective action (if applicable).	<input type="checkbox"/>	

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Our vision is for a sustainable
future for people and planet

