

# Good Environmental Choice Australia

## Environmental Performance Standard

### Cleaning Products



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## USE OF GECA STANDARDS

This standard identifies environmental, quality, regulatory and social criteria that the top products sold in the Australian marketplace can meet in order to be recognised by GECA as “environmentally preferable”.

This standard seeks to set the benchmark for environmentally preferable products. The Australian Ecolabel Program is based on the international standard ISO 14024: "Environmental Labels and Declarations - Guiding Principles" which requires environmental labelling specifications to include criteria that are objective, reasonable and verifiable.

This standard may be used by GECA appointed auditors to verify whether a product fully conforms to the criteria set by this standard. Where a product is certified for the Australian Ecolabel Program, it may display the GECA ecolabel (the “Environmental Choice Australia Mark”) to show that the product has been independently audited and demonstrates conformance with the environmental and social criteria detailed in this standard.

The purpose of voluntary environmental labels and declarations is the communication of verifiable and accurate information for the numerous environmental aspects of goods and services. As required by the Competition and Consumers Act, this information cannot be misleading. Such information encourages the demand for, and supply of, those products that cause less harm to the environment, thereby stimulating the potential for market-driven continuous environmental improvement. Where a company has a product certified as conforming to this standard, it may gain a marketing advantage in government and business procurement programs, as well as greater market recognition in general because of its independently verified environmental attributes.

The principles of life cycle management have been used to set these criteria to address relevant environmental loads typical in a product category. As such, this standard may also offer guidance for Australian producers to reduce the environmentally harmful impacts of their product(s). Producers may use the environmental criteria in this standard to design and refine the processing, manufacturing and delivery of their product(s). In addition producers may find other environmental issues and more measures along the product’s life cycle, which are beyond the content of this standard. Producers are encouraged to include and adapt improvements in their environment programs and designs to aim for even better environmental results where technically possible. GECA welcomes feedback where this has been achieved.

While all GECA ecolabelling standards are voluntary, nevertheless they contain criteria that address compliance with specific laws. In addition, a GECA standard may recognise specific Australian Standards. A prerequisite for certification under the GECA ecolabel is to satisfy the relevant Australian or International Standard, where it is required by law. However, Australian Standards typically define “fit-for-purpose” criteria and usually do not provide assurance of environmental preferability. GECA ecolabelling standards go beyond Australian Standards and define an environmental benchmark for the product category.

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# Cleaning Products

## Document History

<b>Current Status:</b>	Final Standard
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Previous Versions	Date Published	Summary of Changes
1.0	November 2007	
2.0	September 2012	Scope amended to include Hand Dishwashing Detergents. Modified criteria: biodegradability, VOCs, colours, sodium / grey water, phosphorus, enzymes, hazardous materials, product information and packaging. New criteria: palm oil, microorganisms, water emissions and waste minimisation.
2.1	18 June 2013	Amendments to VOC definition, VOC levels, Sodium, Banned Substances, Limited Substances, Packaging, Water Emissions

## How to Apply for GECA Certification

Manufacturers or service suppliers interested in GECA certification using the Environmental Choice Australia Ecolabel are encouraged to read carefully through the entire standard and to evaluate whether their products are likely to conform to the standard and to pass the assessment process.

To launch an application, please contact GECA by phone, email or via the GECA website ([www.geca.org.au](http://www.geca.org.au)). The completed application form can be sent to GECA either by mail, fax or email.

After receiving the completed application form and the application fee, GECA refers the verification process to a GECA appointed auditor. The GECA appointed auditor contacts the applicant and gives a clear overview of the steps needed to achieve certification for their particular product type.

## Structure of the Standard

Each section within this standard contains criteria and Demonstration of Conformance (DoC). The criteria state the requirements for the product and applicant company with respect to its environmental performance. The DoCs list the information required to verify compliance to 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

Demonstration of Conformance items are listed for each criterion. The GECA appointed auditor/s will request additional information to ensure conformance on a case by case basis. Hence, the conformance items listed below are considered a guide to the minimum Demonstration of Conformance items that will be required from the applicant company.



## DEFINITIONS & ACRONYMS

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

**ACO:** Australian Certified Organic.

**ADG Code:** Australian Dangerous Goods Code.

**Aerobically biodegradable:** A substance that is biodegradable according to AS 4351.

**Aerosol:** In the context of this standard, refers to products packaged in pressurised cans or cans requiring the use of propellants. Pump or trigger sprays that are not pressurised and do not require the use of propellant are not considered aerosols in this standard.

**Anaerobically biodegradable:** A substance that, when measured as directed in ISO 11734 "Water quality - Evaluation of the "ultimate" anaerobic biodegradability of organic compounds in digested sludge - Method by measurement of the biogas production", achieves at least 60% degradation.

**APEO:** Alkylphenol ethoxylate. APEO and other alkylphenol derivatives.

**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.

**AS:** Australian Standard.

**ASTM:** American Society for Testing and Materials.

**Bioaccumulative:** A substance is classified as potentially bioaccumulative if the log  $K_{ow}$  (log water / octanol 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.

**CAB:** Conformity Assessment Body as described by GECA's Scheme Rules. CABs are often referred to as 'auditors', however only GECA appointed auditors may be used to obtain GECA certification.

**Carcinogenic:** Capable of causing cancer. The International Agency for Research on Cancer is the internationally accepted body for the classification of carcinogenic substances. See <http://www.iarc.fr>

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

**CI Number:** Colour Index Number, as assigned by the Society of Dyers and Colourists and the American Association of Textile Chemists and Colourists.

**COD:** Chemical Oxygen Demand.

**Dangerous Goods:** Any product classifiable as dangerous according to NOHSC criteria or Code of Practice for Managing Risks of Hazardous Chemicals in the Workplace or Australian Dangerous Goods (ADG) Code, 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 GECA appointed auditor 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.

**DID List:** Detergent Ingredient Database List, as published by the European Union Ecolabel. Available at [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/ecolabel/documents/did\\_list/didlist\\_part\\_a\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/ecolabel/documents/did_list/didlist_part_a_en.pdf)



**EDTA:** Ethylene diamine-tetra-acetic acid or ethylene dinitrilo-tetra-acetic acid, or any of its salts or primary derivatives.

**EMS:** Environmental Management System.

**Endocrine Disruptor:** Substances which interfere with the endocrine system of the body, resulting in development, reproductive, neurological and immune health effects.

**Enzyme:** A substance, produced by an organism, which acts as a catalyst to specific biochemical reactions.

**EPA:** Environmental Protection Agency, or Environmental Protection Authority.

**FSANZ:** Food Standards Australia and New Zealand.

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

**GECA:** Good Environmental Choice Australia Ltd.

**GEN:** Global Ecolabelling Network.

**General purpose cleaners:** Any cleaner designed to perform on a variety of hard surfaces for household, institutional and / or recreational purposes.

**GreenPalm:** A certificate trading programme which allows manufacturers to support the sustainable palm oil production.

**Greywater:** Wastewater generated from washing machines, showers, baths and basins which, when used correctly, can replace drinking water for watering lawns and gardens. Water from kitchens can also be considered as greywater if the correct treatment processes are followed. Wastes from toilets are not included.

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

**Heavy Metal:** Elements including lead (Pb), cadmium (Cd), mercury (Hg), chromium (Cr), arsenic (As) and cobalt (Co).

**IARC:** International Agency for Research on Cancer.

**IFRA:** International Fragrance Association.

**INS Number:** International Numbering System for Food Additives Number, as assigned by the Codex Alimentarius of the World Health Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Numbers of this system are analogous to those of the E Number system of the European Union.

**ISO:** International Organization for Standardization. See <http://www.iso.org>

**MEA:** Monoethanolamine, also known as ethanolamine.

**Microorganism:** An organism of microscopic size.

**Mutagenic:** Any substance that causes mutations or genetic abnormalities. The criteria for classification of a substance as mutagenic are defined by the National Industry Chemical Notification and Assessment Scheme (NICNAS).

**NASAA:** National Association for Sustainable Agriculture Australia.

**NOHSC:** National Occupational Health and Safety Commission.

**NTA:** Nitrilotriacetic acid or any of its salts.

**OECD:** Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

**Organic (chemistry):** Carbon compounds other than simple salts such as carbonates, carbon oxides, cyanides and carbides. Unless specified, this definition of organic is applicable to all parts of this standard.



**Organic (farming method):** Substances or ingredients that have been produced without the use of artificial fertiliser or synthetic chemicals.

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

**pH:** Formally, pH is defined as the negative log function of the activity of the hydrogen ion in solution. In practice, it is a scale indicating how acidic or alkaline a solution is. A pH of 7 is neutral, higher pH values are progressively more alkaline and lower pH values are progressively more acidic. Each pH unit represents a ten-fold concentration change of the hydrogen ion.

**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.

**Producer / Manufacturer:** For the purpose of this standard these terms comprise both manufacturers of a product as well as service suppliers. These may not necessarily 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.

**Readily Biodegradable:** Substances which are readily biodegradable according to AS 4351 or relevant OECD method.

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

**RSPO:** Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil

**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.

**Surfactant or “Surface-Active Agent”:** Any substance which is intended to reduce surface tension thereby helping water to surround and remove dirt or staining from surfaces.

**Teratogen:** An agent which disrupts the development of an embryo or foetus.

**Teratogenic:** Any substance capable of causing heritable genetic damage, producing congenital deformations or causing birth defects. The criteria for classification of a substance as teratogenic are defined by the National Industry Chemical Notification and Assessment Scheme (NICNAS).

**TGA:** Therapeutic Goods Administration.

**VOC:** Volatile Organic Compounds; any organic compound (compound which contains carbon) with a vapour pressure greater than 0.01 kPa at 1 atm and 20°C. VOC content of products will be calculated according to the content of ingredients that fit this definition.

**WFCC:** World Federation of Culture Collections.

**WHO:** World Health Organization.

Note: all percentages described in this document are to be measured as per cent by mass.





## BACKGROUND

A GECA product standard sets limits for the most material environmental loads attributable to goods and / or services throughout their life cycle. This particular standard seeks to set an environmental benchmark for cleaning products. The scope is intended to cover domestic and commercial cleaning products that are applied to surfaces, used for hand dishwashing or used for laundry sold in the Australian market. The criteria are used for environmental labelling, implemented by Good Environmental Choice Australia (GECA) as part of the Australian Ecolabelling program. This Standard is voluntary and after verification, enables certified products to display an environmental label (ecolabel) as implemented by GECA to show it is environmentally preferable.



## STANDARD CATEGORY SCOPE

This standard is applicable to the following categories of cleaning products:

- **General Purpose Cleaners:** includes cleaners for use on tables, benches, tiles, windows, walls, floors and other fixed surfaces. This includes cleaners for kitchen use;
- **Sanitary Cleaners:** includes cleaners for use on toilets, bathrooms and other wet areas;
- **Laundry Cleaning Agents:** includes household laundry detergents including liquids and powders for washing machine or hand clothes washing use; and
- **Hand Dishwashing Detergents:** includes cleaners for manually washing dishes.

Whilst this standard is primarily aimed at domestic and commercial products, industrial or institutional products (such as those for use in food preparation areas and in hospitals) which meet the requirements of the standard are eligible for certification.

Other environmentally innovative cleaning products that do not directly fit into the above types may be considered for certification provided the product fulfils the requirements of relevant sections of this standard. Other types of products may be added to the scope at a later date.

The following categories of cleaners are covered under other GECA Standards:

- Machine Dishwashing Detergents (GECA 16); and
- Personal Care Products (GECA 06).

### Exclusions and Notes

The standard excludes cleaning products that are applied to person, including skin and hair. Personal cleaners, including hand washes, soaps and shampoos are assessed under other GECA standards.

Aerosols, including products packaged in pressurised cans or cans requiring the use of propellants, are not accepted for certification. Pump or trigger sprays that are not pressurised and do not require the use of propellant are accepted under this standard.

This standard excludes disposable or single-use items, including wipes and plastic bags.

### Demonstration of Conformance

- Brief description of the product(s) or product range and their purpose as relevant to the standard.



## 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 producer / manufacturer must ensure that the product is fit for its intended purpose.*

### **Demonstrated Performance**

The product must demonstrate fitness for purpose or market acceptance or suitability or quality.

If reformulation takes place, the applicant must demonstrate that the new formulation also complies with this requirement.

### **Demonstration of Conformance**

**DoC 1.1:** Independent audit or test reports; or

**DoC 1.2:** Report from an independent organisation that demonstrates fitness for purpose, market acceptance, suitability or quality; or

**DoC 1.3:** Report from consumer-based product comparison testing program. This may be conducted internally or externally. The panel must consist of at least five panellists external to the organisation with a neutral position. The efficacy of the product must be compared to and found to be equal or superior that of a comparable market leading product. If this DoC is used there must also be documentation of all customer feedback.



## MATERIAL REQUIREMENTS

*The criteria in this section are intended to address impacts that may occur over the life cycle of a product and 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.*

### Palm Oil

**Criterion 2:** A minimum of 20% of palm oil and palm oil derivatives used in the product must be sourced from Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) certified plantations, with the remainder required to be offset by a reputable 'Book and Claim' system such as GreenPalm. Additionally, applicants must commit to increasing the total percentage of RSPO certified palm oil and palm oil derivatives used in products by 10% each year.

#### Demonstration of Conformance

**DoC 2.1:** Chain of custody or supply chain evidence and RSPO certification sufficient to cover at least 20% of palm oil and palm oil derivatives used in products to be certified; and

**DoC 2.2:** GreenPalm certificates sufficient to cover the remaining volume of palm oil and palm oil derivatives used in each product; and

**DoC 2.3:** Signed declaration from an Executive Officer of the organisation committing to increasing the percentage of RSPO certified palm oil and palm oil derivatives by 10% *per annum*.

### Aerobic Biodegradability

**Criterion 3:** All surfactants and organic ingredients must be readily biodegradable according to AS 4351, relevant OECD tests, or shown on the most recent DID list (Part A), found at [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/ecolabel/documents/did\\_list/didlist\\_part\\_a\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/ecolabel/documents/did_list/didlist_part_a_en.pdf), as readily biodegradable (R).

In the case that numerous ingredients are not reported on the DID list, the product may be tested as a whole to AS 4351 or a relevant OECD test.

#### Demonstration of Conformance

**DoC 3.1:** Test report based on AS 4351 or relevant OECD test for each surfactant or organic ingredient not included in the DID list, or

**DoC 3.2:** Test report based on AS 4351 or relevant OECD test for the product as a whole.

### Anaerobic Biodegradability

**Criterion 4:** All surfactants used in the product must be anaerobically biodegradable according to ISO 11734, relevant OECD tests, or shown on the most recent DID List, found at [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/ecolabel/documents/did\\_list/didlist\\_part\\_a\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/ecolabel/documents/did_list/didlist_part_a_en.pdf), as anaerobically biodegradable (marked with Y).

#### Demonstration of Conformance

**DoC 4.1:** Test report based on ISO 11734 or relevant OECD test for each surfactant not included in the DID list.



## Volatile Organic Compounds

**Criterion 5:** The total amount of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) contained in the product must not exceed 3.0% by weight once diluted as per instructions.

### Demonstration of Conformance

**DoC 5.1:** Calculation of VOC content based on ingredients list. The applicant must provide evidence to the GECA appointed auditor to enable this calculation, including full formulation details showing the weight of each ingredient in g/L and the physical properties and chemical formula of each ingredient (or SDS for each ingredient).

## Fragrances

**Criterion 6:** Fragrance must be produced and used in accordance with the “Code of Practice” compiled by the International Fragrance Association (IFRA).

### Demonstration of Conformance

**DoC 6.1:** The applicant must provide a declaration signed by the manufacturer(s) of all fragrances used which states that the fragrance was produced in accordance with the IFRA Code of Practice. This may be supported by evidence of the manufacturer’s membership to IFRA.

## Colorants

**Criterion 7:** Colorants used must be included on the “List of Colouring Agents Allowed for use in Cosmetic Products” in Annex IV of the European Union Commission Directive 76/768/EEC. A copy of the Directive is available at [http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/cosmetics/html/consolidated\\_dir.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/cosmetics/html/consolidated_dir.htm)

OR

Colours must be approved for use in foods under Australian Food Standard 1.3.1, schedule 1, 3 or 4. This can be found at <http://www.comlaw.gov.au/Series/F2008B00614>.

### Demonstration of Conformance

**DoC 7.1:** Full list of all colorants used, identified by chemical name, CAS number, and where applicable CI (colour index) number or INS (International Numbering System for food additives) number.

## Sodium

**Criterion 8:** The maximum sodium per wash for laundry detergents is 10g. Alternatively laundry detergents may contain sodium equivalent to 0.14g/litre water used instead of the 10g per wash, if usage directions allow this calculation to be made.

### Demonstration of Conformance

**DoC 8.1:** The applicant is to provide instructions for use as well as the full ingredients list for each laundry detergent, including chemical formula of any substance containing sodium and the concentration of those substances.

## Phosphorus

**Criterion 9:** The product must not be manufactured using any phosphorus compounds.

Trace amounts of phosphorus must not exceed 0.05% w/w excluding water.

### Demonstration of Conformance

**DoC 9.1:** Full ingredients list for each product; and

**DoC 9.2:** Declaration of the trace amount of phosphates contained in the product and supporting documentation such as a Total Phosphorus Test, dilution and calculations to determine the amount of phosphorus w/w.



## Microorganisms

**Criterion 10:** Products containing microorganisms or compounds produced by microorganisms (e.g. enzymes) must meet the following criteria:

- Microorganisms used shall be considered non-pathogenic and classified as World Health Organization (WHO) Risk Group 1 or equivalent;
- Microorganisms used must be demonstrated to be susceptible to a Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) recognised disinfectant in accordance with the TGA Disinfectant Test (TGO 54 Standard 1), Option C or higher, or equivalent;
- Microorganisms used must be demonstrated to be susceptible to the major five classes of antibiotics (aminoglycoside, macrolide, beta-lactam, tetracycline and fluoroquinolones) in accordance with Beckman Dickinson BBL Antimicrobial Susceptibility Disc Method; and
- Microorganism strains used must be pure and identified by a culture collection listed with the World Federation of Culture Collections (WFCC).

Products containing whole microorganisms must additionally meet the following criteria:

- Products must have a standard plate count of equal to or greater than  $1 \times 10^7$  colony forming units (CFU) per mL for liquid formulations, or equal to or greater than  $1 \times 10^8$  CFU per gram for solid formulations, at the dilution as recommended on the label (where applicable); and
- Products must declare microbial content and state that immunocompromised individuals should avoid contact with products containing microorganisms.

Products containing compounds produced by microorganisms (e.g. enzymes) must additionally meet the following criteria:

- Bacteria used for the production of active compounds must not be present in the final preparation of the product; and
- Products must not make claims which imply bacterial action; for example, 'contains microorganisms' or 'bacterial'.

### Demonstration of Conformance

**DoC 10.1:** The applicant must provide documentation detailing:

- World Health Organization classification of microorganism
- Identification of the microbial strain by a culture collection listed with WFCC;
- Susceptibility of the microbe to antimicrobial controls in accordance with the TGA Disinfectant Test, Option C or higher (or equivalent), and the Beckmann Dickinson BBL Antimicrobial Susceptibility Disc Method;
- Standard plate count; and
- Copy of the product label.



## 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.*

*All claims must be relevant to the product and verifiable to GECA or a GECA appointed auditor.*

### Food Safe

**Criterion 11:** Products that declare “food safe” claims, or similar, must be able to provide evidence of formal recognition of this claim by Food Standards Australia and New Zealand.

#### Demonstration of Conformance

**DoC 11.1:** Documentation showing approval by Food Standards Australia and New Zealand.

### Organic

Refer to the ‘definitions and acronyms’ section of this standard for further understanding on the different meanings of organic in the context of this criterion.

**Criterion 12:** Products that declare “Organic”, or similar, must contain at least 95% ingredients certified as organic by Australian Certified Organic (ACO), Organic Growers of Australia, National Association for Sustainable Agriculture Australia (NASAA) Certified Organic or Demeter Certified Biodynamic.

Products that claim to contain “Organic Ingredients”, or similar, shall only claim ingredients as organic if certified by one of the above bodies. Ingredients certified as organic by one of the above bodies shall be identified as so on the label of the product.

#### Demonstration of Conformance

**DoC 12.1:** For products which claim to be organic, or similar, the applicant must provide evidence of organic certification for ingredients making up at least 95% of the product; or

**DoC 12.2:** For products which claim to contain organic ingredients, or similar, the applicant must provide documentation detailing the certification of these ingredients; and

**DoC 12.3:** Product label, showing identification of ingredients which are certified organic.

### Other Claims

**Criterion 13:** Other environmental claims shall be verifiable by GECA citing, as a minimum, appropriate test results from an independent laboratory in accordance with an internationally recognised and relevant test method.

#### Demonstration of Conformance

**DoC 13.1:** Test report showing results and test method used.



## EMISSIONS

*Emissions to the water and air due to manufacturing processes can lead to high levels of environmental pollution.*

### Water Emissions

**Criterion 14:** The manufacturer must have a documented system for monitoring volume and COD of liquid waste discharged, and keep records of the results obtained. System and results must be at minimum as required by authority that regulates liquid discharge, if there is one.

#### Demonstration of Conformance

**DoC 14.1:** Copy of documented system. If the applicant has an EMS in place, details of that system including monitoring and reporting.

**DoC 14.2:** Volume and COD results as per testing schedule outlined in documented system.

**DoC 14.3:** Copy of requirements of relevant authority.





## HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

*Many products contain substances that are hazardous to humans or the environment. The modern market expects environmental products to be non-toxic to human health through regular correct use. The criteria in this section are aimed at eliminating hazardous chemicals, thereby minimising risks to human health and the environment.*

### Dangerous Goods

**Criterion 15:** The product as used must not be classifiable as hazardous according to National Occupational Health and Safety (NOHSC) or Safe Work Australia (SWA) / Workplace Health and Safety (WHS) criteria. Ultra-concentrates may be classified as irritants.

The product as supplied and as used must not be classifiable as dangerous according to NOHSC criteria, Code of Practice (CoP) for Managing Risks of Hazardous Chemicals in the Workplace or Australian Dangerous Goods (ADG) Code, including classification as an Environmentally Hazardous Substance. This includes substances with a potentially corrosive pH (below 2 and above 11.5) and substances carrying R34 or R35.

#### Demonstration of Conformance

**DoC 15.1:** An accurate and current SDS for each product; and

**DoC 15.2:** If available, any documentation supporting the product's classification as hazardous / non-hazardous or dangerous / not dangerous according to NOHSC, SWA / WHS or ADG criteria.

### Banned Substances

**Criterion 16:** Certified products must not contain any ingredient that is classified as a known or suspected endocrine disruptor, carcinogen, mutagen or teratogen.

The product must not contain any substances carrying any of the following classifications:

- R40, 45, 46, 48, 49;
- R60, 61, 62, 63 and 64;
- EU C/M/R;
- IARC Group 1\* and 2A; and
- R68.

\*Ethanol is classed by IARC as a Group 1 carcinogen in the context of alcoholic beverages. This ruling is not considered relevant to the product categories covered by this standard. Therefore, ethanol will not be considered carcinogenic based on this information. If ethanol is, or becomes, further classified as carcinogenic according to any of the criteria above, it must not be used in certified products.

#### Demonstration of Conformance

**DoC 16.1:** Full ingredients list, stating chemical names and CAS numbers; and

**DoC 16.2:** SDS for each ingredient.



## Limited Substances

**Criterion 17:** The product must not contain more than 1% by weight of any substance that carries one or more of the following risk phrases:

- R21, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27 or 28; and
- R50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58 or 59
- R65.

### Demonstration of Conformance

**DoC 17.1:** Full ingredients list, stating chemical names and CAS numbers; and

**DoC 17.2:** SDS for each ingredient.

## Bioaccumulative Substances

**Criterion 18:** The product must not contain any substances which are deemed to be potentially bioaccumulative. A substance is classified as potentially bioaccumulative if the log  $K_{OW}$  (log water/octanol partition coefficient) is equal to or greater than 3.

### Demonstration of Conformance

**DoC 18.1:** Test reports using relevant methods, such as OECD 107 or OECD 117.

## Hazardous Substances

**Criterion 19:** The product, and its ingredients, must not contain the following substances:

- Alkylphenol ethoxylates (APEO) and other alkylphenol derivatives;
- Quaternary Ammonium compounds;
- Aziridine or polyaziridines;
- Benzotriazole and its derivatives;
- Ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA), diethylenetriaminepentaacetic acid (DTPA) and nitrilotriacetic acid (NTA), or any of their salts;
- Halogens and halogenated compounds\*, including reactive chlorine compounds, organic chlorine carriers, and benzalkonium chloride;
- Heavy metals, including lead (Pb), cadmium (Cd), mercury (Hg), chromium (Cr) arsenic (As) and cobalt (Co);
- Linear alkylbenzene sulfonates (LAS);
- Monoethanolamine (MEA) and triethanolamine (TEA);
- Musk fragrances, including Moskusxylene (CAS 81-15-2), Moskusambrette (CAS 83-66-9), Moskene (CAS 116-66-5), Moskustibetin (CAS 145-39-1), and Moskusketone (CAS 81-14-1);
- Phosphonates; or
- Selenium and selenium compounds.

\*Sodium chloride is exempt from this requirement.

### Demonstration of Conformance

**DoC 19.1:** Signed declaration from an Executive Officer of the applicant company which confirms that the listed chemicals are not used as ingredients and are not contained in the ingredients used; and

**DoC 19.2:** Full ingredients list, stating chemical names and CAS numbers; and

**DoC 19.3:** SDS for each ingredient.



## DESIGN FOR ENVIRONMENT

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

### Product Information

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

**Criterion 20:** Suitable information must be supplied with the product or made available to the public.

Information that must be included on the label includes:

- Instructions for correct use including doses or dilution rates for varying levels of soiling if applicable;
- All hazards associated with the product, its use, storage or disposal;
- Complete ingredients listing, according to Annex VII of the European Union Commission Directive 89/542/EEC on the Labelling of Detergents and Cleaning Products, available at <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2004:104:0001:0035:EN:PDF>; and
- An instruction for users to read the SDS.

Information that must be available to the public includes:

- Safety data sheet (SDS);
- Technical data sheets or product information sheets; and
- Environmentally responsible use and disposal instructions including details of product stewardship arrangements.

### Demonstration of Conformance

**DoC 20.1:** Copy of labels, care instructions and other information provided with the product; and

**DoC 20.2:** A current safety data sheet for each product, and

**DoC 20.3:** Technical data sheets, web pages and any other information freely available to customers and / or the public.



## Packaging

**Criterion 21:** Each material used as packaging must comply with at least one of the following.

Packaging materials must:

- a) Contain at least 50% recycled content by weight;
- b) Be derived from plant-based materials (e.g. PLA plastics);
- c) Be compostable to a relevant GECA, ASTM or ISO standard;
- d) Be biodegradable to a relevant ASTM or ISO standard such as ASTM D5511; or
- e) Be recyclable in local municipal recycling system. Recyclable packaging must not be treated or labelled in a manner that would prevent recyclability. Materials that are technically recyclable but cannot be handled by a local municipal system are not acceptable. This includes expanded polystyrene (EPS) and flexible plastic films.

Paper and cardboard packaging must contain at least 70% post-consumer recycled content by weight.

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

### Demonstration of Conformance

**DoC 21.1:** Test reports under the relevant standard or test method; and / or

**DoC 21.2:** 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 21.3:** Details of re-use programs for transport materials within the applicant company.

**Criterion 22:** Packaging must not be halogenated.

### Demonstration of Conformance

**DoC 22.1:** Information regarding composition of packaging materials including chemical names, CAS numbers and / or SDS where applicable.

**Criterion 23:** All plastic bottles and other major or primary packaging must be marked with a plastic identification code. It is not mandatory for small components including caps and pump-spray nozzles to be marked.

### Demonstration of Conformance

**DoC 23.1:** Visual inspection of each plastic component of the packaging.

**Criterion 24:** Packaging must not be pressurised or require the use of propellants.

### Demonstration of Conformance

**DoC 24.1:** Signed declaration from an Executive Officer of the manufacturing company, stating that the packaging is not pressurised and does not require the use of propellants.

**Criterion 25:** Packaging must be minimised and enable efficient transport. The ratio of effective product volume to shipping volume must exceed 2:3.

### Demonstration of Conformance

**DoC 25.1:** For each product, the effective volume of product transported (for concentrates, the diluted in-use form is the effective volume) and the cubic volume occupied by the packaged product as relevant to transport.



## Waste Minimisation

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

**Criterion 26:** The applicant must demonstrate that at least 97% of material inputs (ingredients) result in product and that effective waste management / material efficiency policies and procedures are developed and implemented, 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;
- Efficient use of resources through dematerialisation; and
- Energy conservation policies to reduce energy consumption.

### Demonstration of Conformance

**DoC 26.1:** Documentation of all material inputs and outputs on an annual (12-month) basis. At a minimum the calculation will be based on the weight of input ingredients *versus* the weight of resultant product; however, the most appropriate method will be determined by a GECA appointed auditor. The calculation may include process information and waste recapture methods as necessary; and

**DoC 26.2:** Demonstrate progress on developing, implementing and adhering to effective resource minimisation policies and procedures as detailed above. This may include documentation of programs which aim to reduce or reuse waste; dematerialise or use fewer raw materials (e.g. reduced paper usage); or conserve or use alternate sources of energy or purchase green power.

## Chemical Storage

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

**Criterion 27:** The manufacturer must properly store chemicals including ingredients and the finished product, in a manner which minimises the risk of harm to the environment through leaks, spills and emissions to water or air.

### Demonstration of Conformance

**DoC 27.1:** Chemical storage will be inspected at a site visit conducted by a GECA approved auditor; and

**DoC 27.2:** Copies of storage handling requirements and procedures for control and remediation of chemical spills. This may be included in an EMS, whether it is ISO 14001 certified or not.



## SOCIAL AND LEGAL COMPLIANCE

*This section addresses compliance with the law and societal attributes of the manufacturer and the applicant company. Criteria for social aspects of the product are required under the international standard on ecolabelling (ISO 14024), and this section is common to all GECA standards. Equivalent sections are included in standards of all other GEN member ecolabelling bodies around the world. The social aspect partially addresses the third dimension of sustainability - Society. This was first understood by manufacturers under the name Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). In this standard social criteria include laws for equal opportunity, safety and protection of workers. GECA certification cannot be given to any company that illegally exploits workers or their families.*

### Environmental Legislation

**Criterion 28:** The manufacturer of the product and applicant company are required by law to 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 2-years there must be evidence of corrective action.

#### Demonstration of Conformance

**DoC 28.1:** Signed declaration from an Executive Officer of the organisation stating compliance to environmental legislation and government orders; as well as declaration of any breaches of environmental legislation or permits and the date of the breach. Applicants must list all applicable legislation in, or as an attachment to, this declaration;

**DoC 28.2:** Any relevant permits granted by the EPA or an equivalent national body; and

**DoC 28.3:** Evidence of corrective action following a guilty verdict, if applicable.

### Fair Pay

**Criterion 29:** All employees must be covered by a Federal or State award; a certified industrial agreement or a registered agreement as determined by the Australian Government Workplace Authority, or a State or Territory Workplace Relations Agency; or a workplace agreement in compliance with Workplace Relations Act 1996 Part 7 - The Australian Fair Pay and Conditions Standard. Where a producer is from an overseas jurisdiction, it is that jurisdiction's equivalent regulations that apply.

#### Demonstration of Conformance

**DoC 29.1:** Signed declaration from an Executive Officer of the organisation;

**DoC 29.2:** Text or template of a typical workplace agreement offered to employees of the company; and

**DoC 29.3:** Sample payslips.

### Workplace Safety

**Criterion 30:** A manufacturer / applicant company must demonstrate general compliance with State or Territory Legislation concerning Occupational and Workplace Health and Safety 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 manufacturer / applicant company has been found guilty of a breach of relevant legislation within the last 2-years, there must be evidence of corrective action.

#### Demonstration of Conformance

**DoC 30.1:** 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 must list all applicable legislation in, or as an attachment to, this declaration;

**DoC 30.2:** Copy of the company Occupational / Workplace H&S policy and procedures; and

**DoC 30.3:** Evidence of corrective action following a guilty verdict, if applicable.



## Equal Opportunity

**Criterion 31:** The manufacturer / applicant company must 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 Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Act 1999. 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 2-years, there must be evidence of corrective action.

### Demonstration of Conformance

**DoC 31.1:** Signed declaration from an Executive Officer of the organisation;

**DoC 31.2:** Copy of relevant company policies and procedures;

**DoC 31.3:** Evidence of corrective action following a guilty verdict, if applicable; and

**DoC 31.4:** The assessor will verify that the company does not appear on the following list:

[http://www.ewa.gov.au/Reporting\\_And\\_Compliance/What\\_Happens\\_if\\_my\\_Report\\_does\\_not\\_Comply/List\\_of\\_Non\\_Compliant\\_Organisations.asp](http://www.ewa.gov.au/Reporting_And_Compliance/What_Happens_if_my_Report_does_not_Comply/List_of_Non_Compliant_Organisations.asp)

## Lawful Conduct

**Criterion 32:** The manufacturer / applicant company must not have been convicted of any breach of criminal law, any breach of the Trade Practices Act 1974 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 manufacturer has been found guilty of a breach of relevant legislation within the last 2-years, there must be evidence of corrective action.

### Demonstration of Conformance

**DoC 32.1:** Signed declaration from an Executive Officer of the organisation; and

**DoC 32.2:** Evidence of corrective action following a guilty verdict, if applicable.



## EVIDENCE OF CONFORMANCE

### Demonstration of Conformance (DoC)

This section lists the sources of evidence which may be considered during an audit to establish conformance against GECA's standards. This list is provided in order to guide the applicant manufacturer through the requirements of the standard and to facilitate the preparation of an application.

The DoC requirements as 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 GECA appointed CAB to choose the appropriate option in the preliminary stage of the assessment. Where specific standards or test methods are required, it is intended that the most recent version of the applicable standard or method are used. If none of the recommended DoC requirements stipulated for a particular criterion in the standard is applicable for a product under assessment, then the GECA appointed CAB may choose an alternative but equivalent source of evidence. In cases where alternative sources of evidence are accepted for the verification of the product, the GECA appointed CAB 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 each standard.

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





## APPENDIX A APPLICATION CHECKLIST

The Application Checklist is intended to guide the applicant company through the application and verification process. The company may collect all the information that is 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 Number	Criterion Content	Demonstration of Conformance See standard body for details	Evidence Attached	Complies Y/ N or NA
<b>Standard Category Scope</b>				
	General surface and sanitary cleaners, laundry and hand dishwashing detergents	Detailed description of the product (range).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Fitness For Purpose</b>				
Criterion 1	Demonstrated performance	Independent audit or test results or report which demonstrates fitness, or report on consumer-based product comparison testing.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Palm Oil</b>				
Criterion 2	RSPO certified	RSPO certification for at least 20% of palm oil and derivatives used.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		GreenPalm or equivalent certificates to cover remaining volume.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Declaration to increase percentage of RSPO certified palm oil and derivatives by 10% per annum.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Aerobic Biodegradability</b>				
Criterion 3	Aerobic ready biodegradability	Test reports using AS 4351 or OECD requirements where applicable.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Anaerobic Biodegradability</b>				
Criterion 4	Surfactant anaerobic biodegradability	Test reports using ISO 11734 where applicable.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Volatile Organic Compounds</b>				
Criterion 5	VOC content	Calculation of VOCs based on ingredients.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Fragrances</b>				
Criterion 6	Compliance with IFRA	Declaration signed by manufacturer stating compliance.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Colorants</b>				
Criterion 7	Compliance with EU Directive 76/768/EEC or FSANZ Standards	Full list of colorants used.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Criterion Number	Criterion Content	Demonstration of Conformance See standard body for details	Evidence Attached	Complies Y/ N or NA
<b>Sodium</b>				
Criterion 8	Sodium limits	Full ingredients list for laundry detergent	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Phosphorus</b>				
Criterion 9	Compounds banned	Full ingredients list for each product.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Declaration of trace amounts of phosphates.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Microorganisms</b>				
Criterion 10	Requirements for microorganisms	WHO classification of microorganism.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Identification of strain using WFCC.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Susceptible to TGA disinfectant test, or equivalent.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Susceptible to Beckmann Dickinson BBL Antimicrobial Susceptibility Disc Method.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Standard plate count.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Copy of product label.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Food Safe</b>				
Criterion 11	Food safe claims	Approval by FSANZ.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Organic</b>				
Criterion 12	Organic claims	Evidence of organic certification.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Other Claims</b>				
Criterion 13	Other environmental claims	Test reports and method used.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Water Emissions</b>				
Criterion 14	Damage to receiving environment	Copy of documented system.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Authority requirements and test results.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Hazardous Materials</b>				
Criterion 15	Hazardous classifications	SDS for each product.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Documentation supporting classification.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Banned Substances</b>				
Criterion 16	Endocrine disruptors, carcinogens, mutagens, teratogens	Full ingredients list.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		SDS for each ingredient.	<input type="checkbox"/>	



Criterion Number	Criterion Content	Demonstration of Conformance See standard body for details	Evidence Attached	Complies Y/ N or NA
<b>Limited Substances</b>				
Criterion 17	Harmful substances	Full ingredients list.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		SDS for each ingredient.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Bioaccumulative Substances</b>				
Criterion 18	Bioaccumulative substances	Relevant test reports.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Hazardous Substances</b>				
Criterion 19	Banned substances	Statement of conformance signed by Executive Officer.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Full ingredients list.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		SDS for each ingredient.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Product Information</b>				
Criterion 20	Information available to public	Copy of labels and instructions.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		SDS for each product.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Information available to public.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Packaging</b>				
Criterion 21	Packaging requirements	Test reports under relevant method.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Details of materials used in product.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Details of re-use programs for transport materials or specialist recycling programs.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 22	Halogenation	Information regarding packaging materials.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 23	Plastic ID codes	Visual inspection of packaging.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 24	Pressurised packaging	Statement of conformance signed by Executive Officer.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criterion 25	Packaging minimisation	Effective volume of product transported and cubic volume occupied by product.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Waste Minimisation</b>				
Criterion 26	Waste minimisation policies	Documentation of material flows.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Reports on waste minimisation strategies.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Chemical Storage</b>				
Criterion 27	Safe chemical storage.	Site visit.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Documentation of chemical handling procedures.	<input type="checkbox"/>	



Criterion Number	Criterion Content	Demonstration of Conformance See standard body for details	Evidence Attached	Complies Y/ N or NA
<b>Environmental Legislation</b>				
Criterion 28	Applicable environmental legislation and government orders	Statement of conformance signed by Executive Officer.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Applicable permits granted by EPA.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Evidence of corrective action (if applicable).	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Fair Pay</b>				
Criterion 29	Coverage of employees under certified agreements	Statement of conformance signed by Executive Officer.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Sample workplace agreement.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Sample payslips.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Workplace Safety</b>				
Criterion 30	Compliance with state or territory legislation	Statement of conformance signed by Executive Officer.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Copy of Occupational or Workplace H&S policies and procedures.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Evidence of corrective action (if applicable).	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Equal Opportunity</b>				
Criterion 31	Racial Discrimination Act, Sex Discrimination Act, Disability Discrimination Act, Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Act and complementary State Legislation and Regulations.	Statement of conformance signed by Executive Officer.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Copy of relevant policies and procedures.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Evidence of corrective action (if applicable).	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Does not appear on list of non-compliant organisations.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Lawful Conduct</b>				
Criterion 32	No breaches of Trade Practices Act or Corporations Act.	Statement of conformance signed by Executive Officer.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Evidence of corrective action, if applicable,	<input type="checkbox"/>	