



**ENVIRONMENTAL  
ASSURANCE**

## **ENVIRONMENTAL PRODUCT DECLARATION**

LN: AHB-2009

Australian Hardboards Ltd

Standard:  
GECA 04-2007 – Panel Boards

Conformance Declaration Date:  
29<sup>th</sup> May 2009



**Environmental  
Assurance**

*“ensuring accurate environmental  
testing and verification of  
conformance”*

PO Box 215  
Deakin West ACT 2600  
+61 2 6281 5282 ph  
+61 2 6281 5581 fax  
[www.eassurance.com.au](http://www.eassurance.com.au)

**Good Environmental  
Choice Australia Ltd**

*“setting Australia’s product environmental  
standards”*

PO Box 4140  
Weston, ACT  
Australia 2611  
+61.2.6287.3100 ph  
+61.2.6287.3800 fax  
[www.geca.org.au](http://www.geca.org.au)

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Certified Products



# environmental solutions for sustainable markets in Australia

The Environmental Choice Australia Mark ecolabelling program is the national product life cycle environmental declaration based on internationally recognized standard setting and assessment methodology.

The national program is managed by two distinct organisations:

Good Environmental Choice Australia Ltd. is the standard setting and sustainable consumption market promotions body which develops and declares the ecolabelling standards defining product environmental preference in conformance to ISO 14 024 – International Standard for Third Party Environmental Labelling and Declaration ([www.eassurance.com.au](http://www.eassurance.com.au)). GECA is an independent non-profit environmental research and ecolabeling standard setting organisation recognised as the Australian member of an international network of ecolabelling schemes under the Global Ecolabelling Network.

Environmental Assurance (also trading as Good Environmental Choice Services Pty Ltd) is the auditing and certification body with responsibility for product assessment, certification and licensing of products against the declared standards ([www.eassurance.com.au](http://www.eassurance.com.au)). GECS is the assessment body for this Program with expertise specific to quality product environmental performance auditing following the principles of ISO 14 010 and ISO 14 024 in it's audit and certification services.

Following an independent audit against the recognition requirements of the Australian Program this declaration outlines key environmental performance attributes of products that have been awarded the "Environmental Choice Australia" label for the Australian market. The Ecolabel is awarded to those products that meet or exceed voluntary standards of environmental performance.

The objectives of the program are to:

- a) Provide incentives for suppliers to reduce the environmental impacts of products sold in Australia;
- b) Provide a clear, credible and independent guide to consumers wishing to take account of environmental factors in their purchasing decisions;
- c) Encourage consumers to purchase products which have lower environmental impacts;
- d) Recognize genuine moves by companies to reduce the adverse environmental impacts of their products;
- e) Aim ultimately to improve the quality of the environment and to encourage the sustainable management of resources.

#### DISCLAIMER:

This report has been prepared by Good Environmental Choice Services Pty Ltd (Environmental Assurance) in respect of a Client's assessment results for product conformity to the requirements of the respective Good Environmental Choice Australia Ltd (GECA) standard. The purpose of this public report is to present summary evidence and overview of the Client's product conformity with the standards or other criteria specified. The content of this report applies only to matters which were evident to Environmental Assurance at the time of the audit within the audit scope. Environmental Assurance does not warrant or otherwise comment upon the suitability of the contents of the report or the certificate for any particular purpose or use. Environmental Assurance accepts no liability whatsoever for consequences to, or actions taken by, third parties as a result of or in reliance upon information contained in this report.



## CERTIFICATION FINDINGS

This range of Australian Hardboards Ltd products has been assessed against the GECA 04-2007 standard – Panel Boards. These products have successfully gained official registration as certified 'Good Environmental Choice' products under the Australian Ecolabel program.

### 1. MANUFACTURER DESCRIPTION

#### **Australian Hardboards Ltd**

Contact: Raoul Ross

Postal: PO Box 139 Ipswich, Qld 4305

Address: 51 Ashburn Road Bundamba QLD 4305

Phone: 1300 366 681

Fax: 1800 666 081

Web: [www.australianhardboards.com.au](http://www.australianhardboards.com.au)

E-mail: [www.australianhardboards.com.au/html/FAQ.htm](http://www.australianhardboards.com.au/html/FAQ.htm)



Established in 1958 Australian Hardboards Limited is the sole Australian manufacturer of masonite hardboards. Their operations employ over 200 staff, located in Bundamba Queensland, on an area of 300 hectares with a press that produces approximately 13,000,000m<sup>2</sup> per year of hardboard.

Companies leading  
Australia's environmental  
response at work.



## 2: REGISTERED PRODUCTS

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The following Australian Hardboards Ltd products have been awarded the Environmental Choice Australia Declaration:

PRODUCT NAME	PRODUCT DESCRIPTION
Masonite Underlay	Masonite flooring underlay
Dual Bond E0	Hardboard dual layer underlay
Masonite Dura-Cote	Prefinished panel

### Masonite Underlay

This product uses only naturally occurring wood glues (lignins) to bond fibres, eliminating the need for synthetic glues and resins. In Masonite™ Underlay, the wood fibres are rearranged and distributed at random producing a resilient hardboard panel.



### Dual Bond E0

Dual Bond I 'floating underlay' system specially manufactured for the domestic and commercial flooring industries. Designed to level and protect sub-floors in differing environments, Dual Bond does not require any fasteners or additional adhesives.



### Masonite Dura-Cote

Masonite™ Dura-Cote is a prefinished panel for kitchen, wardrobe and vanity backs and drawer bottoms.



Products with a distinctive  
 environmental edge.



### 3. KEY ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE FINDINGS

The key environmental performance criteria against which the Australian Hardboards Ltd products were assessed, and the findings by Environmental Assurance, are provided below.

Criterion	Core Environmental Performance Characteristics
Fitness for Purpose	Australian Hardboards is certified according to ISO 9001 certified Quality Management System for the design, manufacturing and supply of these products. These products are manufactured to comply with the requirements for Standard Hardboard type GP a stated in AS 2458-1982.
Timber and Other Natural Materials	Australian Hardboards sources their wood, for these nominated products, from Forestry NSW who are certified to Australian Forestry Standard - AS 4708:2007 (AFS). Some of the Dura-Cote product is imported from a company that manages their own plantation forestry operations and operates according to the fundamentals of the FSC requirements. Their forestry management plan is available for review in the public domain.
Treatment	The hardwood sourced from Forestry NSW is exempt from treatment as this is sourced from within Australia. The imported component of the Dura-Cote product has been subjected to high pressure and temperature before importation and therefore does not require treatment as stated in AQIS Condition C10219.
Glues in Plywood and Other Engineered Wood Products	The Dura-Cote product uses a resin with a free formaldehyde content of less than 5%. The other two products contain no synthetic glues but use the naturally occurring lignin in wood to bond the fibers.
Emission Requirements	These nominated products have been tested for their formaldehyde emissions in accordance with ASTM D5116 and achieved an E0 rating.
Adhesives	Australian Hardboards uses a pressure sensitive adhesive with the Dual Bond product. GECS has reviewed the contents of this glue determining it is compliant with the requirements of this criterion.
Coatings and Treatments	The Dura-Cote product is painted on one side; it is used to extend the useful life of the product. No other coatings or treatments are applied to these nominated products.
Hazardous Materials	None of the listed hazardous or prohibited substances are present or used during the manufacturing of these nominated Australian Hardboards products.
Waste Minimisation	The waste produced from the manufacturing of these products is processed in several different ways in order to minimise the environmental impact of Australian Hardboards. This waste is either sent for recycling, used by landscapers or used to generate electricity.
Product Custodianship	Australian Hardboards have a product custodianship policy in place which states products can be returned at end of life according to the guidelines set out in this policy.
Packaging Requirements	Australian Hardboards package their products with or without cardboard and transport them on wooden pallets. The wooden pallets are reused and the cardboard is recyclable. Off-cuts and defect masonite board is also used as packing. Product information is freely available for these products including installation, maintenance and recycling instructions.
Environmental Regulations	Australian Hardboards adheres to the relevant environmental regulations and has not been prosecuted for violations to environmental regulations in the past 24 months.
Labour, Anti-Discrimination and Safety Regulations	Australian Hardboards is in compliance with the relevant social requirements and workplace regulations. The company has not been prosecuted for violations to labour, anti-discrimination or safety regulations in the past 24 months.

Quantifying key criteria for  
assurance to the market.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

A detailed verification report is supplied to verified manufacturers regarding the findings of environmental characteristics of their products and evidence of compliance. The verification report can be made available at the sole discretion of the manufacturer.

This EPD has been made available for green purchasing officers, specifiers, and every day Australians seeking to purchase products and services on the basis of functional and overall environmental and human health performance.



Contact Us:

Good Environmental Choice Services Pty Ltd

T/A Environmental Assurance

PO Box 215 Deakin West ACT 2600

[management@eassurance.com.au](mailto:management@eassurance.com.au)

[www.eassurance.com.au](http://www.eassurance.com.au)

## FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE WEB

The Australian Ecolabel Program is the national environmental product life cycle labelling program for Australia. Further details of the Australian Ecolabel Program are available from [www.eassurance.com.au](http://www.eassurance.com.au) and [www.geca.org.au](http://www.geca.org.au).