



Licence No.: BRV - 2007

Standard: GECA 28-2005 – Furniture and Fittings

Initial Verification Conformance Date: 10 May 2007

Briggs Veneers

Good Environmental Choice - Australia

ENVIRONMENTAL PRODUCT DECLARATION

BRIGGS VENEERS

PTY. LIMITED.

The Briggs Veneers Italian Poplar, Australian Plantation Pine Timber Veneers, FSC certified timber veneers and PEFC certified timber veneers have been assessed against the GECA 28- 2005– Furniture and Fittings Standard, and awarded the Australian Good Environmental Choice Eco-Label.

1. Description of Company and Production

Company: **Briggs Veneers**
Products: Italian Poplar plantation veneers
Forest Stewardship Council Certified Timber Veneers – COC Requirement
Australian Forestry Standard Certified Timber Veneers – COC Requirement
PEFC certified timber veneers- COC Requierments
Address: 409 Victoria Street, Weatherill Park, NSW 1851
Phone: 02 973 27888
Fax: 02 97327800
Web: <http://www.briggs.com.au>

Briggs Veneers is one of Australia's major suppliers of decorative veneer (in leaf and joined lay on form), reconstituted veneers, premium rotary veneers, glue thread and paper tape for veneers.

Briggs Veneers is committed to the responsible use of the world's timber resources. The Briggs' group of companies commenced timber production in 1908, and the production of veneer in 1934.

2. Description of the Verification

The Good Environmental Choice Label is the national product life cycle independent environmental declaration in Australia (www.geca.org.au). The organisation is an independent non-profit environmental research and certification organization recognized as the Australian member of an international network of ecolabelling schemes under the Global Ecolabelling Network.

Good Environmental Choice Australia (GECA) Ltd. manages the Good Environmental Choice – Mark of Conformity in conformance to ISO 14 024 – International Standard for Third Party Environmental Labelling and Declaration.

Following an independent audit against the recognition requirements of the Australian Ecolabelling Program the Briggs Veneers products covered by this report have been awarded the "Good Environmental Choice" label for the Australian market. This is awarded to those products that meet or exceed voluntary standards of environmental performance.

The verification procedure is managed via a Documented Quality Management System and Certification Program Manual which have made significant use of the ISO 14 000 series.

The objectives of the program are to:

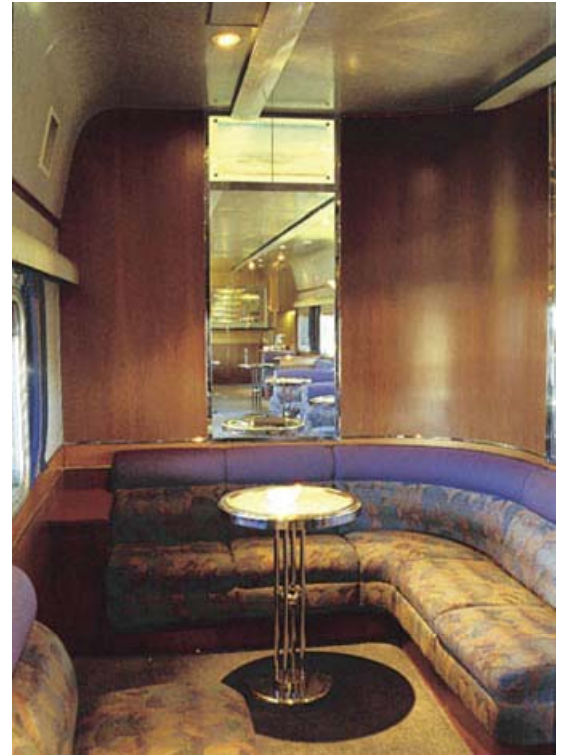
- I. Provide incentives for suppliers to reduce the environmental impacts of products sold in Australia;
- II. Provide a clear, credible and independent guide to consumers wishing to take account of environmental factors in their purchasing decisions;
- III. Encourage consumers to purchase products which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

3. The Products

Briggs Veneers regularly supplies veneer to panel layers/distributors throughout Australia and New Zealand

All of the natural timber veneers are hand selected at their source and again before leaving the warehouse.

Today, Briggs Veneers' local and export customers are serviced from the Sydney Head Office, where Briggs Veneers hold large stocks of locally produced and imported veneers in many highly sought after varieties.



4. Key Environmental Performance Findings by GECA

The key environmental performance criterion against which the Briggs Veneer products were assessed and the findings by GECA are outlined below.

Environmental Requirements	Core Environmental Performance Characteristics
<p>Fitness for Purpose <i>Certified products should be good performers in their intended application.</i> <i>It is implied that certain standards of product performance are implicit in the label.</i></p>	<p>The market acceptance of the product and the length of market presence of the Briggs Veneer certified product line have formed the primary evidence in relation to fitness for purpose. Visual inspection of the product line, new stock, storage procedures and final inspection and patching observed during a site assessment demonstrated an established production regime delivering consistent quality.</p>
<p>Timber and Other Natural Materials <i>Fiber source:</i> <i>Wood and other natural materials from sources that are not certified under a recognised certification scheme (e.g. FSC or AFS) as being sustainably managed.</i></p>	<p>The capacity of the product line to meet the requirements of this criteria was the predominant determination that the product complied to the requirements of the Good Environmental Choice Label. This was achieved through certification to various forestry standards and evidence of plantation origin for the Italian Poplar veneers.</p>
<p>Timber treatment <i>Wood and natural materials used in furniture and fittings products may not be treated with fungicides and insecticides that are classified due to their hazardous nature by the World Health Organisation as type 1a and Type 1b for storage and/or transportation</i></p>	<p>The timber supplied to Briggs Veneers is not treated with any insecticide or fungicide.</p>
<p>Air emissions <i>Products made from plywood that contain formaldehyde based additives, shall be subject to a 1 mg/l emission limit.</i></p>	<p>The manufacturing process for leaf veneers does not include any formaldehyde resin treatment. Two samples were assessed for overall formaldehyde emissions to Australian Standards and results have demonstrated compliance below the required levels.</p>
<p>Overall Loads <i>The following substances shall not be added to eco-labeled furniture during the reproduction process:</i> <i>Arsenic, Cadmium, Chromium, Copper, Lead, Mercury, Fluorine, Chlorine, Pentachlorophenol (PCP), Tar oils and (benzo(a)pyrene).</i></p>	<p>The manufacturing process was assessed during the site inspection revealing no additives that contain these ingredients.</p>

<p>Chemical Additives <i>Furniture or fittings shall not contain carcinogenic substances in categories 1, 2A as classed by the International Agency for Research on Cancer.</i></p>	<p>An inspection of MSDS for production ingredients found no carcinogenic substances, (except formaldehyde resins which are exempt from this criteria) are used as additives in the production of the product line under verification.</p>
<p>Prohibited Substances <i>Halogenated organic binding agents, poly brominated diphenyl ether (PBDE) flame retardants, analine based amines, phalates, aziridine or polyaziridines as well as pigments and additives that contain lead, tin, cadmium VI, or mercury.</i></p>	<p>The manufacturing process was assessed during the site inspection; revealing that no additives contain these ingredients.</p>
<p>Separability <i>The eco-labeled product shall be easily disassembled making possible the recovery and recycling of materials used.</i></p>	<p>The Briggs Veneers Pty Ltd product range is not considered a separable material from the substrate board therefore this criterion is not applicable.</p>
<p>Product Custodianship <i>The applicant shall accept their product without additional cost (not including transportation costs) for further recycling.</i></p>	<p>The Briggs Veneers Pty Ltd product range is not considered a separable material from the substrate board therefore this criterion is not applicable.</p>

5. Environmental and Social Regulatory Obligations:

The applicant is required to comply with relevant environmental legislation and government orders at the Local, State and Commonwealth level, if these have been issued. Additionally, an applicant shall demonstrate that all employees are covered by a Federal or State award or a certified industrial agreement or a registered workplace agreement as determined by the Industrial Relations Commission, the Employment Advocate or a State or Territory Workplace Relations Agency.

The emission profile and licensing requirements were considered during the site during inspection. No requirements for environmental permits were presented. The site did not emit significant levels of air emissions, hazardous physical waste or waste water. The site was located in commercially zoned premises.

With regards to compliance to social regulations all operators are in compliance with social regulations and have not been prosecuted in a court of law in relation to Labour, Anti-Discrimination and Safety Regulations.

6. Additional Information

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

Good Environmental Choice Australia recommends these products to 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.

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