



Licence No.: SOL - 2007

Standard: GECA 23-2005 – Architectural & Protective Coatings

Initial Verification Conformance

Date: 14 November 2007

Solution Sealers for Stone and Tile

Good Environmental Choice -
Australia

ENVIRONMENTAL PRODUCT DECLARATION



The range of sealing products produced by Solutions Sealers have been assessed against the GECA 23-2005 – Architectural & Protective Coatings Standard, and awarded with the Australian Good Environmental Choice Eco-Label.

1. Description of Company and Product

Company: Solutions Sealers for Stone and Tile

Products: Pristine Bio-Safe (for tiles & pavers), Plus Bio-Safe (for porous stone & pavers), Protex Bio-Safe (for polished stone)

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Solutions Sealers for Stone and Tile is a commercial company that manufactures impregnating sealers for protection against grease and water.

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 organisation recognised 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 Ecolabel Program the Solutions Sealers for Stone and Tile range of products have been awarded the "Good Environmental Choice" label for the Australian market. The Ecolabel 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:

- 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.

3. The Products

The following Solutions products have been awarded the Good Environmental Choice Declaration:

PRODUCT	PRODUCT INFORMATION
Product 1	Pristine Bio-Safe (for tiles & pavers)
Product 2	Plus Bio-Safe (for porous stone & pavers)
Product 3	Protex Bio-Safe (for polished stone)

4. Key Environmental Performance Findings by GECA

The key environmental performance criterion against which the Solutions products were assessed, and the findings by GECA, is provided below.

Environmental Requirements	Core Environmental Performance Characteristics
<p>Fitness for Purpose:</p> <p>Certified products should be good performers in their intended application. It is implied that certain standards of product performance are implicit in the label.</p>	<p>The products are designed to penetrate tiles, stones and porous surfaces, to protect the surface from absorbing and being stained by oils, water and other contaminants. This occurs through the products water repellence, stain resistance and salt resistance on stone and tile surfaces. These products have been sold to the market for more than a year. Testing has been performed by CSIRO and the products maintained integrity for two years.</p> <p>Pristine Bio-Safe which is intended for use on terracotta, sandstone, slate, tessellated tiles, clay pavers and concrete pavers;</p> <p>Protex Bio-Safe which is intended for use on polished marble, polished granite, polished limestone, polished porcelain stoneware and natural porcelain stone; and</p> <p>Plus Bio-Safe natural sealer which is intended for use on sandstone, terracotta, porous granite, porous limestone, clay pavers and concrete pavers.</p>
<p>Levels of volatile organic compounds</p> <p>Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC's), the term used to describe</p>	<p>The nominated product range from solution sealers VOC emission levels show conformance to the relevant criterion for GECA Standard 23-2005 Architectural and</p>

<p>solvents and other chemicals in the adhesive which evaporate during use, are main contributors to adverse air toxicity pollution. The amount of solvent varies across the different types of adhesive. Adhesive products shall contain no more than 5% in weight of Volatile Organic Compounds.</p>	<p>protective coatings.</p>
<p>Titanium Dioxide, Zinc Oxide and Lithopone Content. Should not exceed 40g/m² of dry film.</p>	<p>Information received by GECS shows that the nominated products do not contain Titanium Dioxide, Zinc Oxide or Lithopone.</p>
<p>Glycol Ethers Should not contain glycol ethers listed in Table 2. Of the GECA Architectural and Protective Coatings Standard.</p>	<p>Information received by GECS shows that the nominated products do not contain glycol ethers.</p>
<p>Heavy Metals Sb, Ba, Cd, Pb, Cr, Hg, and Arsenic or any toxic heavy metals and their compounds shall not be added during production. The use of Barium Sulfate (Barite) is excluded from this limitation.</p>	<p>Information received by GECS shows that the nominated products do not contain any of the heavy metals: Sb, Ba, Cd, Pb, Cr, Hg, or Arsenic and that toxic heavy metals and /or their compounds are not added during production.</p>
<p>Packaging The adhesive package shall be re-sealable after first use. Halogenated plastics shall not be used in packaging.</p>	<p>The nominated products are packed in containers which are made of metals which are able to be recycled.</p> <p>Solutions Sealers for Stone and Tile has a take-back scheme for its drums.</p> <p>Labels used on 'tins' are made of paper with a water-based adhesive to secure them.</p>
<p>Carcinogenic Substances Approved paints should not contain substances listed as carcinogenic by the International Agency for Research of Cancer at a rate of exposure not exceeding one twentieth (1/20) of those defined by exposure standards determined by the National Occupational Health and Safety Commission (Worksafe Australia).</p>	<p>Information received by GECS shows that the nominated products do not contain any carcinogenic substances. This has been verified via review of MSDS for all substances.</p>

<p>Restricted Substances Alkyl phenol alkoxyates (APEO's) shall not be added during production.</p>	<p>Alkyl Phenol Alkoxyates (APEO's) are not added during production of the nominated products.</p>
<p>Use of Ozone depleting agents in industrial and cleaning agents. The solvents used to clean the production equipment of architectural coatings must not contain ozone depleting substances as listed in GECA 23 –2005 Architectural and Protective Coatings Standard.</p>	<p>The solvents used to clean the production equipment used in Solutions Sealers architectural coatings do not contain ozone depleting substances.</p>
<p>Solvents The paint shall not be formulated or manufactured with more than 20% by weight of hydrocarbon solvents, based on the total formulation.</p>	<p>No restricted solvents are used in the manufacturing of the nominated product range.</p>

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.

Solution Sealers for Stone and Tile holds applicable environmental licences for the operations it conducts in Queensland and has not been in breach of Environmental or social regulations in the last twenty four months. Solution Sealers for Stone and Tile has also conformed to labour anti-discrimination and safety regulations covered by the standard.

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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