



Licence No.: RLA - 2008

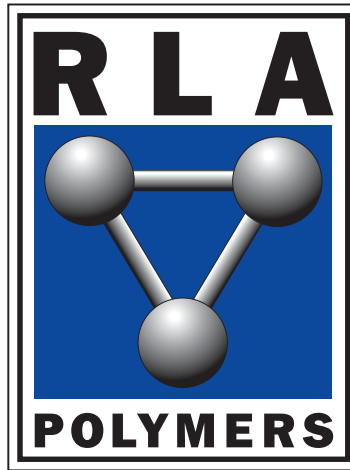
Standard: GECA 1 - 2005 – Adhesives

Initial Verification Conformance
Date: 08 April 2008

RLA Polymers Pty Ltd

Good Environmental Choice -
Australia

ENVIRONMENTAL PRODUCT DECLARATION



This review is an assessment of the compliance of the RLA Polymers nominated products against the GECA 01-2005 – Adhesives. The review considered, on the basis of an audit investigation, whether any current information has become available to Good Environmental Choice Australia which indicates that the products do not meet the requirements of the Australian Good Environmental Choice Label.

1. Description of Company and Product

Company: **RLA Polymers Pty Ltd**

Products:

GS100 – Carpet Adhesive
GS200 – Solvent free acrylic vinyl floor adhesive
GS220 – Solvent free acrylic vinyl floor/wall adhesive
GS300 – Solvent free acrylic pressure sensitive adhesive
GS400 – Solvent free acrylic primer
GS444 – Solvent free acrylic pressure sensitive adhesive

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Established in 1966 as Rubber Latex Australia, RLA Polymers Pty Ltd has built a reputation as a leader in the development and application of polymeric compounds. Originally established to supply latex compounds to the Australian carpet industry, we now supply many different industries both in Australia, New Zealand and throughout Asia and Pacific Rim regions.

Our integration into the multinational British Vita Group in 1986 gave us an enormous pool of technical and corporate expertise to draw on. This has led to a period of growth that continues today. In recent years we have acquired Polymer Engineering and The Roberts Company, giving us a market leading position in the Flooring Adhesive industry. In addition to our principle site in the Melbourne suburb of Kilsyth, we have manufacturing operations in Sydney, Brisbane, New Zealand and Malaysia.

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 RLA Polymers Pty Ltd range of products has 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 RLA Polymers Pty Ltd products have been awarded the Good Environmental Choice Declaration:

PRODUCT
GS100 – Carpet Adhesive
GS200 – Solvent free acrylic vinyl floor adhesive
GS220 – Solvent free acrylic vinyl floor/wall adhesive
GS300 – Solvent free acrylic pressure sensitive adhesive
GS400 – Solvent free acrylic primer
GS444 – Solvent free acrylic pressure sensitive adhesive

GS100 Pail



4. Key Environmental Performance Findings by GECA

The key environmental performance criterion against which the **RLA Polymers Pty Ltd** products were assessed, and the findings by GECA, is provided below.

Environmental Requirements	Core Environmental Performance Characteristics
<p>Fitness for Purpose: <i>Certified products should be good performers in their intended application. Certain standards of product performance are implicit in the label.</i></p>	<p>The RLA Polymers manufacturing facility is certified to ISO 9001:2008, by Lloyd's, Certificate Number MEL 0927192, first approved 1.06.93, expiry 30 April 2011. The company also develops internal quality management processes as documented in RLA Polymers Company Business Process Manual, Issue #2 of 15th January 2007. There are no Australian standards that apply to the product range.</p>
<p>Prohibited Compounds: <i>The following compounds</i></p>	<p>A review of MSDS for all production ingredients finds that a Phthalate is used (Diallyl Phthalate). In a recent</p>

<p><i>should not be formulated or added during the manufacturing process to adhesive products because of their especially severe effects on the human body and the environment.</i></p>	<p>review of Phthalates by GECA standard development it was found that this range of Phthalate are less harmful and environmentally preferable in this type of application and are therefore allowed to be used under this criterion. None of the other substances mentioned in this criterion is added to the product.</p>
<p>VOC Levels: <i>Compliance to these criteria can be demonstrated by the VOC levels of the base paints with or without pigments. The scope of the final certification will reflect the scope of the VOC testing as described below. Conformance with these requirements listed in Table 1 shall be demonstrated by providing test reports from laboratories accredited to carry out the relevant tests and/or calculations and appropriate documentation of production methods and quality controls.</i></p>	<p>In a volatile organic compounds assessment conducted by the CETEC 5 samples were tested (one each for GS100, GS200, GS220, GS300, GS400 & GS444), the range of volatile is between 1.0%-1.3%. These levels are in compliance to the requirements of this criterion.</p> <p>The RLA Polymers adhesives that are the subject of this report <i>meet the requirements</i> of this criterion.</p>
<p>Packaging Requirements: <i>Chlorinated or halogenated plastics must not be used in product packaging. Used packaging shall be able to be recycled by local recycling systems.</i></p>	<p>The packaging material of the nominated RLA Polymers products is made of Polypropylene, the packaging is resealable.</p>
<p>Human Health Exposure: <i>The adhesive in the state of use shall not expose consumers to Carcinogenic substances in categories 1, 2A and 2B as classed by the International Agency for Research on Cancer – http://www.iarc.fr at levels greater than 1/20th of limits set by the Australian National Occupational Health and Safety Commission.</i></p>	<p>These nominated RLA products contain no carcinogenic substances above levels set by ANHOS and as stated in Category 1, 2A and 2B as classed by the International Agency for Research on Cancer.</p>

5. Environmental and Social Regulatory Obligations:

RLA have supplied Air Emissions Test results demonstrating compliance to the requirements of their EPA licence.

The manufacturing of the nominated range of adhesives includes wash water discharge, this water is treated onsite and released to sewer, suspended solids are collected and disposed in landfill. GECS reviewed the latest site EPA licence to operate issued to RLA Polymers by EPA Victoria, Licence number EA18769 30th of January 2004.

In order to establish compliance GECS inspected the results of the monthly effluent logs from January 2006 to November 2007. The results were in conformance to the license limits. A statement by Kay Stringer states the company has not received any infringement notices from the EPA for the past 2 years.

GECS reviewed a copy of the company's standard contract of engagement and a sample pay slip. GECS has received conformation by David Preston, Managing Director, that the company has not had any incidents in relation to applicable labour laws for the past 24 months.

RLA Polymers have provided a Certificate of Currency showing Workcover Insurance for the period 30/6/2007 to 30/6/2008.

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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