



Licence No.: DPC - 2008

Standard: GECA 23-2005 – Architectural and Protective Coatings

Initial Verification Conformance

Date: 21 March 2008

Oikos

(Australian Distributor:
Designer Paint Company Pty Ltd)

Good Environmental Choice -
Australia

ENVIRONMENTAL PRODUCT DECLARATION



The range of paint products produced by Oikos (Designer Paint Company Pty Ltd) have been assessed against the GECA 23-2005 – Architectural and Protective Coatings Standard, and awarded with the Australian Good Environmental Choice Eco-Label.

1. Description of Company and Product

Company: Oikos (Designer Paint Company Pty Ltd)

Product: Paints and Pigments

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Beginning just five years ago in Queensland, Designer Paint Company has spread across Australia, actively promoting environmentally friendly paints such as Oikos paint products.

Designer Paint Company supplies Oikos non toxic paint for interior, exterior and decorative finishes for home and commercial throughout Australia.

Whether you have Multiple Chemical Sensitivities (MCS) or other environmental illnesses - Designer Paint products are safe for your use. Designer Paint Company products are designed to make painting accessible to all - even pregnant mums can paint with no fear of harmful side effects!

Since its foundation in 1984, Oikos is characterised as a dynamic and innovative firm, known for bringing out new tendencies in the market with highly compatible products in relation to health and the eco-system, with strongly innovative products, but also optimizing more traditional materials, following commercial policies oriented at the dealers and sellers. Linking both the quality of construction and that of the environment, Oikos puts in first place attention on architecture, property and decorative traditions. Oikos has created a wide range of high quality products offering a variety of possibilities of treatment, decoration and protection for internal and external use, on walls, façades, metals, wood and other types of materials.

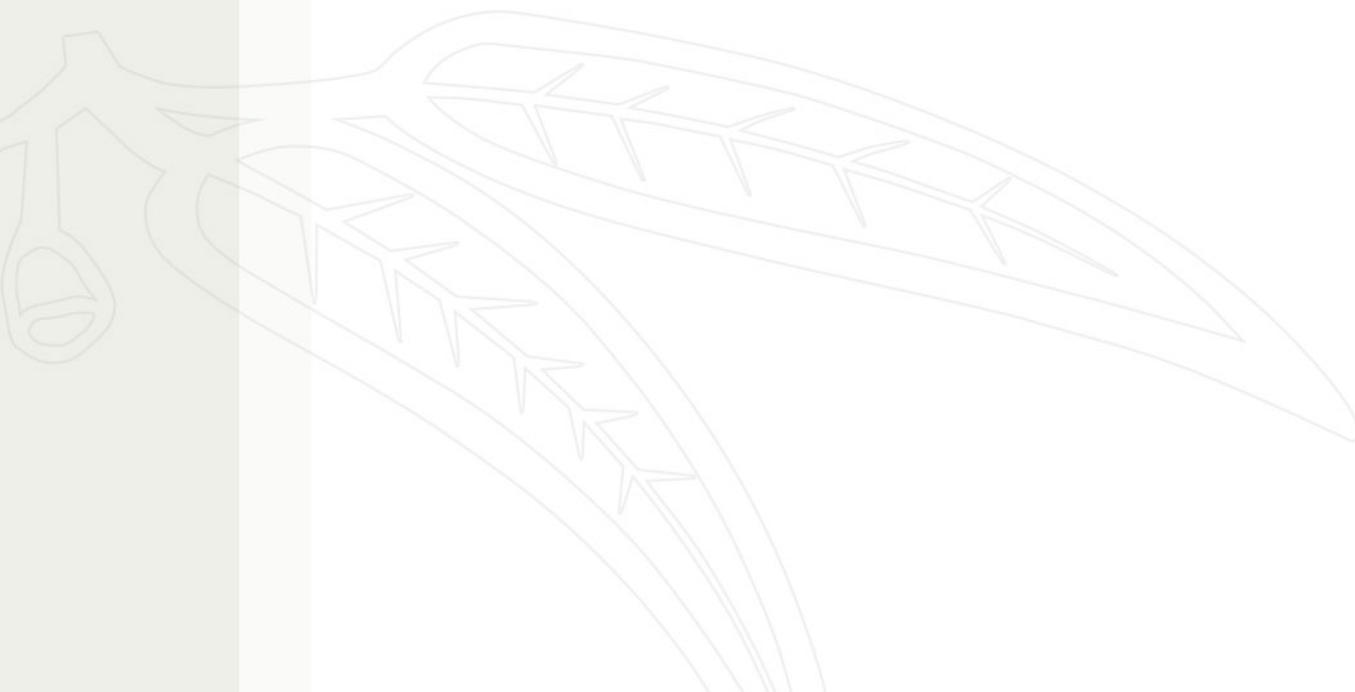
2. Description of the Verification.

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 Oikos (Designer Paint Company 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 Oikos products have been awarded the Good Environmental Choice Declaration:

Italian Product Name	Australian Name
Blankor TR	Blankor
Cera Raffaello	Cera
Coprimax	Coprimax
Extrapaint Bianco	Extra Paint
Finitura Autoluciante Bianco	Marmorino Shining
Fundgrap Bianco	Fundgrap
Igrolux Satinato	Igrolux
Ill Primer	Ill Primer
Marmorino Bianco	Marmorino Natural
Multifund Bianco	Multifund
Nevada	Nevada
Novalis Smalto Lucido TR	Universal Enamel Gloss
NV Aggrappante colorato	Special Primer
NV Ferromicaceo NF 2290 G	Iron Finish
NV Impregnante cerato NC4900 G	Wood Wax
NV Parquet Lucido	Parquet
NV Smalto Lucido Bianco	Universal Enamel Gloss
NV Smalto Opaco Bianco	Universal Enamel Matt
NV Smalto Satinato TR	Universal Enamel Satin
NV Sotto Smalto	Exterior Undercoat
NV Turapori	Pore Filler
NV Ferro Protettivo	Iron Protection
NV Fondo Riempitivo FR 509	Filling Agent
Rinfresca	Rinfresca
Supercolor S	Supercolor
Supercolor TR	Supercolor
Travertino Romano	Travertino Romano
Ultrasaten Lucido Bianco	Ultrasaten Gloss
Ultrasaten Lucido TR	Ultrasaten Gloss
Ultrasaten Opaco Bianco	Ultrasaten Matt
Ultrasaten Opaco TR	Ultrasaten Matt
Ultrasaten Opaco TR	Ultrasaten Matt
Ultrasaten Satinato Bianco	Ultrasaten Satin
Watins Lux Satinato	Watins Lux
Pasta Colorante BL	Pigment Blue
Pasta Colorante BM	Pigment Blue Marine
Pasta Colorante BN	Pigment White
Pasta Colorante NO	Pigment Oxide Black
Pasta Colorante NR	Pigment Black
Pasta Colorante AR	Pigment Orange
Pasta Colorante RO	Pigment Oxide Red
Pasta Colorante RV	Pigment Brilliant Red
Pasta Colorante RS	Pigment Red
Pasta Colorante GO	Pigment Yellow
Pasta Colorante GR	Pigment Golden Yellow
Pasta Colorante MG	Pigment Magenta
Pasta Colorante GL	Pigment Lemon Yellow
Pasta Colorante VR	Pigment Green
Pasta Colorante VL	Pigment Violet



← Multifund

Multifund is a high quality, 100% acrylic paint. It is available in a full range of colours and offers an extremely pleasant touch, with an even and velvet like effect. It is not only a paint, but also an ideal base coat for decorative finishes obtainable with the Top Decorative Line.

Multifund is the perfect product for the home and has a very high coverage rate, 30sq mtr per ltr compared to normal toxic paint of only 12 sq mtr per ltr.

RINFRESCA →

Rinfresca is a vapour permeable, washable acrylic paint, scented, with good coverage capacity, indicated for any kind of interior ceilings. Formulated with acrylic resins in water dispersion, pigments and special additives aimed to help application and film formation, makes it indicated to be used on cement plasters, either old or new, gypsum plasters, already painted ceilings.

It is a new generation product that guarantees excellent washability and a particular velvet matt finish. Rinfresca releases into the environment a pleasant refreshing scent.



← COPRIMAX

Coprimax is a highly covering thick paint used as a interior sealer undercoat. Characterized by great adhesion, resistance and high transpiration, Coprimax guarantees a quick and homogeneous application and finds use on every interior wall and ceiling as the first sealer coat for new work. Coprimax is also perfect as an undercoat for previous painted surfaces and can also be used as a top coat on ceilings.

4. Key Environmental Performance Findings by GECA

The key environmental performance criterion against which the Oikos Paints (Australian Distributor - Designer Paint Company) 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. It is implied that certain standards of product performance are implicit in the label. Certified product must ensure that the product is fit for its intended purpose.</i></p>	<p>Based on information provided by The Designer Paint Company to Good Environmental Choice Services, OIKOS in Italy complies with ISO 9001:2000 for Quality Management System and ISO 14001:2004 for Environmental Management System Standards. GECS has received both these certificates as evidence of fitness for purpose of the Designer Paints products under assessment. GECS conducted a site assessment of the Oikos manufacturing facility in order to confirm compliance with this criterion and better understand the quality of the production processes and internal fitness for purpose testing and product development. GECS found that the Oikos manufacturing site displays a high level of quality assurance productions process in place.</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>GECS have reviewed signed statements from Paolo Serepis, Laboratory Manager for Oikos Paints-suppliers of the products under assessment. The Pigments in Designer Paint Company's range of products under assessment contain <15g/L VOC's and as such meet the requirements.</p>
<p>Titanium Dioxide, Zinc Oxide & Lithopone Content <i>Should not exceed 40g/m² of dry film.</i></p>	<p>The data has been compiled by the Technical Team of the applicant on the basis of titanium dioxide in g/m² on a theoretical methods that evaluates the levels of application of each product line, its specific gravity and content w/w of the total formulation of the product. The evidence has been reviewed and confirmed by the Quality Officer of this laboratory.</p>

<p>Glycol Ethers <i>Should not contain glycol ethers as listed.</i></p>	<p>The chemical and ingredient properties for each product line have been assessed for the purpose of establishing conformance to the requirements of Criterion 4.3, 4.4, 4.6, 4.7 and 4.8. An investigation of the product formulation is a confidential undertaking under strict confidentiality undertakings. The confidential elements of this assessment are available in a separate Attachment to this document and are available only from the manufacturer.</p>
<p>Heavy Metals <i>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.</i></p>	<p>The chemical and ingredient properties for each product line have been assessed for the purpose of establishing conformance to the requirements of Criterion 4.3, 4.4, 4.6, 4.7 and 4.8. An investigation of the product formulation is a confidential undertaking under strict confidentiality undertakings. The confidential elements of this assessment are available in a separate Attachment to this document and are available only from the manufacturer.</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>Before use, packaging must not be impregnated, labelled, coated or otherwise treated in a manner that would prevent recycling. GECS have observed samples of the tin packaging used by The Designer Paint Company and confirmed compliance to this criteria.</p> <p>Paint containers must be made of materials that are able to be recycled. Having undertaken a review of current recycling activities of waste management stations of the tin packaging, GECS are satisfied that the Designer Paint Company packaging complies with this criterion. Tin is widely recycled at waste transfer stations around the country.</p> <p>Information supplied by the General Manager of The Designer Paint Company reveals that the Plastic packaging on OIKOS range of products bare a resin identification code No. '5' and as such meet this requirement.</p>
<p>Carcinogenic substances <i>Approved paints should not contain substances listed as carcinogenic by the International Agency for Research of Cancer (lists A, B1) 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).</i></p>	<p>The nominated product range meet the requirements of these criterion with the exception of the pigment VO Oxide Green and a range of product lines which have been highlighted in the results.</p>

5. Environmental and Social Regulatory Obligations:

The Paint manufacturer has an extensive environmental management system based on ISO 14 001. Environmental emission permits related to the site have been investigated and have been found in compliance. A minor issue related to appropriate bunding of storage tanks has now been completed. The manufacturer has provided an executive declaration confirming compliance to this criterion.

GECS have reviewed a copy of a standard contract of employment for The Designer Paint Company and found it to be compliant and minor amendments related to sick leave have been amended to establish compliance.

In relation to the paint manufacturers obligations, these are related to Italian law only. Suitable evidence has been provided to GECS related to levels of remuneration and non prosecution to relevant domestic legislation.

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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