



Good Environmental Choice Australia

“A commitment to credible product information  
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## STANDARD REVIEW NOTICE GECA-50 CARPET STANDARD

Issued: 27/02/09

# INTENT TO FORM A TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP FOR AN ENVIRONMENTAL LABELLING STANDARD FOR CARPETS FOR THE GOOD ENVIRONMENTAL CHOICE AUSTRALIA ECOLABEL PROGRAM

## 1. Invitation

The Standards Committee of Good Environmental Choice Australia (GECA) is seeking to appoint a technical working group of members and external stakeholders in the review process of the voluntary environmental labelling standard for carpets.

This notice is a request for interested members of the public to be appointed on the technical working group for this standard. It is expected that the working group will commence and implement the steps detailed below and in the standard development guidelines available at <http://www.geca.org.au/StandardsDevelopment.htm>.

Please confirm your interest via e-mail by the **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2009** in being part of the carpet standard review working group. Members to the working group are expected to contribute to the development of the standard by either:

- Providing technical data to the technical working group;
- Providing industry know-how and commercial expertise;
- Participating in and organising suitable consultation forums or lists;
- Promoting the draft standards;
- Providing secretariat services for the standard;

or

- Providing funding for an aspect of the standard development process.

GECA is privileged to have internal experience in the review of this standard; however, we seek industry, government and other stakeholder involvement.



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## 2. Background of the Project

The Standards Committee of GECA has agreed to issue instructions for the review of a voluntary environmental labelling standard for carpets. Carpets have and continue to be the subject of considerable community concern with respect to their impact on the environment. In particular, water and energy consumption, water and air emissions and toxic chemicals used in the production phase, VOC emission during the use phase and end-of-life fate are of concern.

## 3. Scope of Product Category

The carpet group encompasses natural fibre carpets and synthetic fibre carpets for both domestic and commercial purposes.

## 4. Preliminary Timeline

1. Step: Proposed timeline of around 14 days for the delivery of a draft standard commencing from the end of the invitation period.
2. Step: Approval of the draft by the Standards Committee (2 weeks time for comments)
3. Step: Release of the draft standard for public comment for a period of at least 30 days.
4. Step: The finalisation of the standard may take about 3 – 4 weeks (Working Group discusses the comments collected during Step 3 and decides on incorporation of these comments; Standard Committee approves the Final Draft of the Standard)



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## 5. Suggested Steps for Working Group

1. Compile a list of relevant stakeholders and advise them of the intent to develop a furniture standard. Electronic mailout requesting input or representation on the working group.
2. Confirm final working group and market expectation of the standard and commence standard review using the Standard Development Guidelines.
3. Finalise the requirements for the delivery of a draft standard to the Standards Committee of GECA
4. GECA will circulate for comment and authorisation to all Standards Committee members.
5. Once the Standards Committee authorises the standard as a draft, GECA and the working group will request stakeholders to comment on the draft standard.
6. After submissions are collected GECA and the working group will internally redraft the standard to meet the programs objectives taking note of submissions.
7. GECA will declare the standard as a final voluntary environmental labelling standard for use with the GECA Program.
8. GECA will dedicate suitable resources to marketing the standard and seeking ecolabelling application for the industry against this standard as resources of the organisation allow.

Regards,

Beverly Raphael

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