

The Australian Ecolabel Program Good Environmental Choice Australia Standard

Personal Care Products



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Use of This Standard

This voluntary environmental labelling standard may be used by competent environmental assessors to establish product compliance to the Australian Ecolabel Program. Products that are certified with the mark of conformity, the “Good Environmental Choice Label” have been independently tested and demonstrate compliance to the environmental and social performance criteria detailed in this standard. The overall goal of environmental labels and declarations is the communication of verifiable and accurate information, which is not misleading, on environmental aspects of products and services. This encourages the demand for, and supply of, those products and services that cause less stress on the environment, thereby stimulating the potential for market-driven continuous environmental improvement.

This standard identifies environmental, quality, regulatory and social performance criteria that products sold on the Australian market can meet in order to be considered as good “environment practice”. Products that have been certified as complying to this standard may gain greater market recognition and a marketing advantage in government and business procurement programs, as well as broad consumer preference.

This standard can be used by Australian producers to guide their designs for environment programs by using the environmental criteria as key performance benchmarks to reduce the environmental loads of their product. The standard is necessarily restricted in its identification of environmental loads from the product life-cycle. Producers should consider other environmental measures along the product cycle, which are not included in this standard, in their environment program designs for and aim for even higher levels of environmental performance where technically possible.

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GOOD ENVIRONMENTAL CHOICE AUSTRALIA STANDARD

Personal Care Products

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Abstract

This Standard specifies environmental performance requirements for a broad range of personal care products for the Australian Ecolabel Program. The Australian Ecolabel Program complies with ISO 14024: "Environmental labels and declarations - Guiding principles" which requires environmental labelling specifications to include criteria that are objective, reasonable and verifiable.

Definitions

“**Label**” means the Good Environmental Choice Australia Label.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose

This Standard seeks to define good environmental performance benchmarks for personal care products. The voluntary environmental labelling standard implemented by the Australian Environmental Labelling Association (GECA) specifies environmental performance criteria for personal care products including roll and spray on deodorants, shaving creams or foams and hair sprays. This Standard stipulates the environmental load of such products throughout the major aspects of their life cycle.

1.2 Background

There are a range of environmental loads from the production and use of hair sprays, shaving foams, deodorant sprays and roll-ons. The primary purpose of this Standard is to define environmental performance criteria for the most harmful environmental and human hazards of these products and to use these criteria as indicators of general environmental performance of products in this group.

This standard also specifies restrictions on the use of certain toxic or environmentally damaging materials in the content of these products and determines limits on the types of propellants that can be used with specific reference to their ozone depletion potential.

2 STANDARD CATEGORY SCOPE

This standard is applicable to the following categories of Personal Care products:

- 2.1** Hair Sprays
- 2.2** Shaving Foams
- 2.3** Deodorant Sprays
- 2.4** Deodorant Sticks
- 2.5** Deodorant Roll-ons
- 2.6** A range of bathroom personal care products related to personal health, hygiene and appearance.

3 ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

3.1 Fitness for Purpose

Certified products should be good performers in their intended application. The manufacturer of the product must ensure that the product is fit for its intended purpose and:

3.1.1 Australian Standards

The product meets or exceeds the requirements of the relevant Australian Standard or;

3.1.2 Non-Australian Standards

The product meets the applicable and accepted standard in its target market if it is to be exported;

3.2 Material Requirements

3.2.1 Hazardous Substances

3.2.1.1 Carcinogenic Substances

Products shall not contain carcinogenic substances in categories 1, 2A as classed by the International Agency for Research on Cancer – <http://www.iarc.fr> at levels which expose the user at a maximum level of one twentieth of the allowable limit determined by the National Occupational Health and Safety Commission (NOHSC) and/or the National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme (NICNAS).

3.2.1.2 Pollutants

Individual components ranked within the top 200 toxic compounds listed in the Australian National Pollutant Inventory shall not exceed 1% by volume.

3.2.1.3 Environmentally Hazardous Substances

The total amount of components classified as hazardous to the environment shall not exceed 2% by volume.

3.3 Ozone Depleting Substances

3.3.1 Production Equipment Cleaning

Solvents used to clean production equipment must have an ozone depletion potential of zero.

3.3.2 Propellants

Pressurised spray cans must not contain ozone depleting substances as listed in Annex A, B or C of the Montreal Protocol.

3.4 Packaging Requirements

Used packaging shall be able to be recycled by local recycling systems.

3.4.1 Plastic Packaging

Chlorinated or halogenated plastics must not be used in product packaging.

The appropriate resin code for the type of plastic used in packaging must be stamped on each unit sold to facilitate recycling.

3.4.2 Product Information

Certified products will ensure that appropriate and acceptable information is provided describing waste disposal and recycling methods for the container. If metal is used in the packaging, the type of metal must also be labelled to facilitate recycling where possible.

4 COMPLIANCE TO ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS

The applicant is required to comply with relevant environmental legislation and government orders at the Local, State, and Commonwealth levels, if these have been issued. An applicant's compliance with these criteria may be established by undertaking a series of random checks; and/or by gathering samples of applicant operational procedures and documents from approved assessors as evidence to support compliance during the verification. Where an applicant is from an overseas jurisdiction, that jurisdiction's environmental regulations apply. Where the applicant is subject to a guilty verdict by a legally constituted court in the last 24 months on the basis of a breach of any environmental legislation or permits, there must be evidence of corrective action.

5 COMPLIANCE TO LABOUR, ANTI-DISCRIMINATION AND SAFETY REGULATIONS

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 or a workplace agreement in compliance with Workplace Relations Act 1996 Part 7 – The Australian Fair Pay and Conditions Standard.

An applicant shall demonstrate general compliance to the terms of State or Territory Legislation concerning Occupational, Health and Safety and/or the *Commonwealth Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988*, where applicable. Where the applicant is subject to a breach order by a government agency, or a guilty verdict by an Australian Court within the last 24 months, on the basis of a breach of State, Territory or Commonwealth Occupational, Health and Safety Legislation, there must be evidence of corrective action.

The applicant shall demonstrate general compliance to the requirements of the Racial Discrimination Act 1975, Sex Discrimination Act 1984, Disability Discrimination Act 1992, Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Act 1999, and complementary State Legislation. Applicants cannot be in the list of 'named' or non-compliant employers under the Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Act 1999. Where the applicant is subject to a breach order by a government agency, or a guilty verdict by an Australian Court in the last 24 months on the basis of a breach of these Acts, there must be evidence of corrective action.

Where an applicant is from an overseas jurisdiction, the applicant shall demonstrate general compliance to that jurisdiction's anti-discrimination, occupational health and safety, and workers' compensations regulations. Where the applicant is subject to a breach order by a government agency, or a guilty verdict by a legal court in their respective country within the last 24 months on the basis of a the breach of anti-discrimination, occupational health and safety, and workers' compensation regulations, there must be evidence of corrective action.

An applicant's compliance with these criteria may be established by undertaking a series of random checks; gathering samples of applicant operational procedures and documents from approved assessors; and/or by providing a self-declaration document signed by an executive officer of the applicant organisation as evidence to support compliance during verification.

6 COMPLIANCE TESTING

6.1 Audit Methodology

Conformance with this standard shall be demonstrated by undertaking an assessment under the above criteria by an approved assessor, following the certification and verification procedures detailed in the Good Environmental Choice Australia Ltd Documented Quality Management System, which generally follows the environmental auditing requirements of ISO 19 011.

6.2 Assessor Competency

The Australian Ecolabel Program classifies approved assessors as:

- a. Assessors registered by Good Environmental Choice Australia Ltd as environmental professionals that hold expertise relevant for an assessment, and who have undertaken training in the procedures of the Australian Ecolabel Program; or
- b. Environmental auditors accredited with the RABQSA.

6.3 Suitable Sources

Audit evidence should be of such a quality and quantity that competent environmental auditors, working independently of each other, will reach similar audit findings from evaluation of the same audit evidence against the same audit criteria.

Suitable sources of information to establish compliance may be, but are not limited to:

- a. Technical specification of the product.
- b. Obvious characteristics of the product under examination.
- c. Scientific test results and reports.
- d. Environmental management system and audit reports and results.
- e. Life-cycle assessment of each stage of the product life-cycle via a physical audit and examination.
- f. Life-cycle assessment via scientific testing.
- g. A statement of confirmation by an executive officer.
- h. An assessment of company or government records.
- i. Other material that can be considered objective evidence.

6.4 Laboratory Testing

New testing shall be undertaken by a laboratory accredited by the National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA), or similar overseas accreditation agents who can conduct the relevant tests and/or provide documentation detailing environmental performance against the key indicators for this standard. The test results should be presented on NATA-endorsed reports or from a laboratory acceptable to Good Environmental Choice Australia Ltd.

If test results or environmental auditing results are not available, and/or there is insufficient data to establish full compliance with the criteria required by this standard, then certification cannot be awarded.