

# **Environmental Certification Scheme for Carpets**

## Introduction

The ACCS ECS Carpet technical Specifications provides a guide to the environmental performance of certified textile floor covering products through their full lifecycle. In this case, lifecycle is defined as the processes involved in the production of raw materials, manufacturing of carpet, installation and use of carpet through to its final disposal, recycling, or reuse.

#### **Certification categories**

The ECS consists of 5 levels of certification and requires licensees of the scheme to satisfy incrementally more demanding performance criteria.

ECS Level 1 Entry Level Certification

ECS Level 2 Raw Materials

ECS Level 3 Manufacturing

ECS Level 4 Product Stewardship<sup>1</sup>

ECS Level 4+ Extra Performance Criteria











ECS Levels 1, 2, 3, 4 and 4+ have been developed to align with the requirements of Green Building Council of Australia's (GBCA) Responsible Products Framework values (RPV).

### Overview of performance requirements

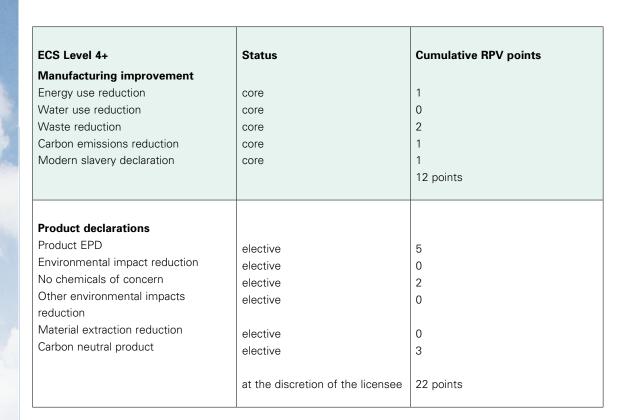
These requirements, shown in the first column of the following Table, are accumulative. Hence the criteria for Levels 1, 2 and 3 carry through to ECS Levels 4 and / or 4+.

	ECS Level 1	Status	Cumulative RPV points
	Environmental management Current ACCS rating Achieves IAQ, acoustical and thermal insulation benchmarks (customer health)	core core core	1 0 1 2 points
	ECS Level 2 Raw materials (toxicity) declaration Public disclosure of raw materials Risk based chemical assessment to limit exposure Manufacturing Health & Safety Industry environmental product declaration	core core core	0 1 0 1 1 1 5 points
	ECS Level 3  Manufacturing declaration  Health product declaration	core core	0 2 7 points
	ECS Level 4 Product stewardship	core	0 7 points

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To obtain ECS Level 1 (entry level) certification, licensees are required to complete the core (meaning mandatory) units shown in the Table above to achieve 2 RPV points.

ECS Levels 2 and 3 have additional performance requirements, all of which must be satisfied to achieve these certifications.

ECS Level 4 (Product stewardship) is the key performance criterion.

The top certification, ECS Level 4 +, requires licensees to:

satisfy the requirements of ECS Levels 1, 2, 3 and 4;

meet the core performance criteria under Manufacturing improvement;

at the licensee's discretion additional elective criteria may be satisfied to gain extra ECS points to a maximum of 22.

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**Further information** 

www.carpetinstitute.com.au/environment/index.htm About the Carpet Institute

The ACCS ECS Technical Guidelines, Code of Practice for Environmental Management and a list of ECS certified carpets may be downloaded from the Carpet Institute website

The Carpet Institute of Australia Limited (CIAL) is the lead industry association of Australia's \$1.6 billion carpet industry. CIAL represents carpet manufacturer's accounting for 95% of Australian carpet production, as well as retailers and suppliers of goods and services to the industry.

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The "Carpet It Just Feels Better" campaign is an initiative of the Carpet Institute of Australia, a non-profit association sponsored by carpet manufacturers, their suppliers and other companies that provide goods and services to the broader carpet industry.

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