

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 Stewardship¹
- 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	core	1
Current ACCS rating	core	0
Achieves IAQ, acoustical and thermal insulation benchmarks (customer health)	core	1
		2 points
ECS Level 2		
Raw materials (toxicity) declaration	core	0
Public disclosure of raw materials	core	1
Risk based chemical assessment to limit exposure	core	0
Manufacturing Health & Safety		1
Industry environmental product declaration		1
		5 points
ECS Level 3		
Manufacturing declaration	core	0
Health product declaration	core	2
		7 points
ECS Level 4		
Product stewardship	core	0
		7 points

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ECS Level 4+	Status	Cumulative RPV points
Manufacturing improvement		
Energy use reduction	core	1
Water use reduction	core	0
Waste reduction	core	2
Carbon emissions reduction	core	1
Modern slavery declaration	core	1
		12 points
Product declarations		
Product EPD	elective	5
Environmental impact reduction	elective	0
No chemicals of concern	elective	2
Other environmental impacts reduction	elective	0
Material extraction reduction	elective	0
Carbon neutral product	elective	3
	at the discretion of the licensee	22 points

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.

Further information

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 www.carpetinstitute.com.au/environment/index.htm

About the Carpet Institute

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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