

Environmental Certification Scheme for Carpets

Administered by the Carpet Institute of Australia, the Environmental Certification scheme (ECS) is a labelling scheme that provides a guide to the environmental performance of certified carpet.

Code of Practice for Environmental Management

As a precondition of obtaining environmental certification, carpet manufacturers must comply with the Code of Practice, which provides performance standards for raw materials, carpet manufacturing, carpet installation, in-service use and final disposal; recycling or reuse.

ECS Levels

The Scheme consists of 4 levels of certification with incrementally more demanding performance criteria.

ECS Level 1 (entry level certification criteria):

- Fitness for purpose – certified carpets must have a current ACCS¹ 'durability and appearance retention' grading and meet specified benchmarks for acoustics and thermal insulation
- Product emissions – the scheme specifies maximum allowable emission factors for chemicals and also has a limit on total volatile organic compound (TVOC) emissions from the carpet.

ECS certification and associated performance criteria for Levels 2, 3 & 4 are:

ECS Level 2
 Fitness for Purpose
 Product Emissions
 +
 Raw Materials (Toxicity)

ECS Level 3
 Fitness for Purpose
 Product Emissions
 Raw Materials (Toxicity)
 +
 Manufacturing

ECS Level 4 (with 2 options)

ECS Level 4 (A)
 Fitness for Purpose
 Product Emissions
 Raw Materials (Toxicity)
 Manufacturing
 +
 Product Stewardship

ECS Level 4 (B)
 Fitness for Purpose
 Product Emissions
 Raw Materials (Toxicity)
 Manufacturing
 +
 Greenhouse Gas Impact Management
 Water Use Management
 Social Accountability Reporting

For peace of mind buy ACCS graded carpet



ECS Levels 2, 3 & 4 (with 2 options) have been developed to comply with the requirements of Green Building Council of Australia's (GBCA) Assessment Framework for Product Certification Schemes.

Carpets certified under ECS Levels 2, 3 and 4 may achieve points under the Materials category in the Green Star environmental rating tools for buildings. See table below and for further information. Visit the website of the Green Building Council of Australia: www.gbca.org.au

ECS	GBCA Recognition Level
Level 1	None (see Note)
Level 2	Level C
Level 3	Level B
Level 4 (with 2 options)	Level A

Note: ECS Level 1 is the pre-qualifier for higher ECS certification levels



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.

¹ Established in 1985, the Australian Carpet Classification Scheme (ACCS) grades carpets according to suitability for use in residential and contract installations and in different trafficking conditions described as light, medium, heavy and extra heavy.

For peace of mind buy ACCS graded carpet



Carpet Institute of Australia Limited ABN 11 006 829 303

PO Box 7172, St Kilda Road, Melbourne 8004 Tel: (03) 9804 5559 • Fax: (03) 9804 5560

Email: info@carpetoz.com.au • Web: www.carpetinstitute.com.au



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.