

ECS Level 2

Green Building Council Australia Responsible Product Value (RPV) = 5 points



Criteria

To attain 5 RPV points ECS licensees must also satisfy ECS Level 1 criteria.

Raw materials (toxicity)

The aim of this criterion is to:

- restrict or ban the use in certified textile floor coverings of toxic substances, heavy metals and hazardous substances; and
- ensure that any substance with an adverse health effect is kept at a level below the No Observable Adverse Effect Level (NOAEL) for that substance during the useful life and at the end of life of the textile floor covering.

It is recognized that some regulated substances may be inadvertently produced in manufacture or may be present although not declared in proprietary products used in carpet manufacture. It is incumbent on manufacturers to ensure that carpets do not contain more than 0.1% by

weight of these substances unless a lower concentration is required in other sections of this document.

Manufacturers must examine material safety data sheets to identify chemicals that are either banned, limited in the final product, or of concern to evaluate compliance with the Technical Guidelines.

Additionally, selection criteria for raw material suppliers should include their ability to control environmental outcomes, reporting on environmental performance and their regulatory compliance record.

Attachment 1 provides guidance on the evaluation of raw material toxicity.

Regulated Substances that Must Not be Used in the Production of Textile Floor Coverings

Attachment 2 contains a list of banned chemicals.

For the purposes of the Technical Guidelines, banned substances include:

- all materials that are not registered for use in Australia by the Australian Industrial Chemicals Introduction Scheme (AICIS) and the Australian Inventory of Industrial Chemicals (AIIC).



- IARC classified carcinogens in groups 1 and 2A available at <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol91/index.php>
- Substances listed in the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (Annex A) available at <http://chm.pops.int/Convention/tabid/54/language/en-US/Default.aspx>
- Substances classified as carcinogenic, mutagenic, or reproductive toxins (CMR) Categories 1 and 2 listed in Annex 1 of EU Directive 67/548/EEC available at <http://www.reach-compliance.eu/english/legislation/docs/launchers/launchannex-1-67-548-EEC.html>
- Chemicals listed in Annex III of the Rotterdam Convention as toxic industrial chemicals and pesticides with impacts on human health and ecology
- Substances with a hazard rating provided in SDS under the GHS system for chemical labelling.

A list of banned dyestuffs is contained in Attachment 3.

Attachment 4 contains a list of controlled or restricted use chemicals, in the production of textile floor coverings.

A maximum level of toxic heavy metals shall be restricted to below the NOAEL as determined as the health investigation level (HIL A) for metals listed in Table 5-A of Schedule B (1) of the National Environmental Protection Measures (NEPM).

This covers the following metals: Arsenic, Barium, Beryllium, Cadmium, Chromium (III and VI), Cobalt, Copper, Lead, Manganese, Mercury, Nickel and Vanadium.

Monomer residues

The monomer residues present in the polymeric substances used to manufacture textile floor coverings shall be restricted to a maximum concentration in the finished polymer of 10 mg/kg of the polymer weight. The VOC emission requirements take precedence over this limit.

Substances of concern

Other substances that have an elevated level of concern may be found at: http://echa.europa.eu/chem_data/authorisation_process/candidate_list_table_en.asp

Products containing these substances at levels greater than 0.1% by weight must be registered if entering EU countries on or before June 1, 2011

(see:) http://echa.europa.eu/doc/candidate_list/candidate_list_obligations.pdf

The EU REACH "Substitute It Now" (SIN list) reviewed as PBT, CMR or of equivalent concern should be consulted as a source of chemicals of concern - available at

<http://www.chemsec.org/list/use-the-sin-list>.



Some worked examples of chemical evaluation are contained in Attachment 5.

The material formulations of the certified textile floor covering must be provided by the licensee together with a declaration of compliance with the above-mentioned criteria supported by Safety Data Sheets and relevant test reports.

Public disclosure of raw materials

Licensees must declare the components of the product publicly so that this data is available to consumers. The ACCS administration will take random checks of this data to confirm its accuracy.

The raw materials declaration form must be used as provided in Schedule 9
– Raw Materials (Guidance Manual).

Industry environmental product declaration

This criterion is satisfied because the Carpet Institute of Australia, the administrator of the ECS, has produced compliant EPDs for carpets manufactured in Australia and New Zealand. The publication numbers of these EPDs are EPD-CIA-20210345-CBH-EN and EPD-CIA-20210316-CBH-EN.