

# ECS Level 4+

Green Building Council Australia Responsible Product Value (RPV) = 22 RPV points



## Criteria

**ECS 4+ = 12 RPV core criteria**

**With an option for an additional:**

**ECS 4+ = 10 RPV elective criteria**

**To attain 22 RPV points ECS licensees must satisfy ECS 1, 2, 3 and 4 criteria.**

**The following criteria are core performance requirements that must be met to gain ECS Level 4+.**

## Manufacturing improvement

### Energy use reduction

The aim of this criterion is to require manufacturers to achieve year on year improvements in energy consumed per square meter of certified textile floor covering produced.

The licensee is required to report on all forms of energy usage in the production of certified textile floor coverings, in the most recent and previous year.

To satisfy this credit a 5% reduction in energy use over 5 years or a 1% reduction per year over the same period, must be achieved.

### Water use reduction

The aim of this criterion is to require manufacturers to achieve year on year improvements in water usage per square meter of certified textile floor covering produced.

The licensee is required to report on water usage in the production of certified textile floor coverings, in the most recent and previous year.

To satisfy this credit a 5% reduction in water use over 5 years or a 1% reduction per year over the same period, must be achieved.

### Waste reduction criterion

The aim of this criterion is to require manufacturers to achieve year on year improvements in waste reduction per square meter of certified textile floor covering produced.



The licensee is required to report on waste streams in the production of certified textile floor coverings, in the most recent and previous year.

To satisfy this credit a 5% reduction in waste over 5 years or a 1% reduction per year over the same period, must be achieved.

### Carbon emission reduction

The aim of this criterion is to require manufacturers to achieve year on year reductions in carbon emissions per square meter of certified textile floor covering produced.

The licensee is required to report on carbon emissions in the production of certified textile floor coverings, in the most recent and previous year.

Carbon emissions must be calculated according to Government protocols e.g. the National Greenhouse energy reporting framework.

To satisfy this credit a 5% reduction in carbon emissions over 5 years or a 1% reduction per year over the same period, must be achieved.

Licensees must report on manufacturing efficiency measures annually using the Manufacturing declaration form (Schedule 12) available in the Guidance Manual.

### Modern slavery declaration criterion

The aim of this criterion is to require manufacturers to investigate, act on and report on:

- the risks of modern slavery in their operations and supply chains,
- findings of supply chain investigations and corrective actions undertaken to address these risks
- annual updates of plans to address all modern slavery risks .

The declaration must be published in a format as set out in the federal Government document entitled – Commonwealth Modern Slavery Act 2018 - Guidance for Reporting Entities - <https://antislavery.org.au/commonwealth-modern-slavery-act-2018-guidance-for-reporting-entities/>

The declaration and annual updates must be publicly accessible on the licensee's website and /or the Commonwealth Modern Slavery Statements Register. The licensee should use the declaration form provided in Schedule 14f of the Guidance Manual.

The following criteria for ECS Level 4+ are elective and can gain the licensee additional ECS points.

### Elective (non core) Level 4+ criteria

#### Product specific declarations

#### Environmental product declaration

The aim of this criterion is to encourage manufacturers to have a publicly available declaration showing the life cycle environmental impacts of specific classes of textile floor coverings, in accordance with a recognised standard e.g. EN 15804.



The EPD must be written in accordance with the Product Category Rules: Floor Coverings (2018) with a functional unit of 1m<sup>2</sup> of textile floor covering over one year of use and be officially registered.

The ACCS Panel must determine that the registered EPD is representative of the class of textile floor covering products submitted for certification

### Product environmental impact reduction

The aim of this criterion is to require manufacturers to achieve year on year reductions in other environmental impact categories from the product Life Cycle Assessment report.

To satisfy this credit a 5% reduction over 5 years or a 1% reduction per year over the same period, per m<sup>2</sup> of textile floor covering, must be achieved in one or more of the following environmental impact categories: land use, ozone depletion, eutrophication, acidification, photochemical ozone formation, aquatic ecotoxicity, chronic and acute toxicity, physical resource depletion (minerals) and resource depletion (energy use).

The licensee must submit to the ACCS Panel an electronic copy of the LCA report on which the claimed impact category reduction(s) is based. The LCA must follow the methodology as set out in ISO 14040 or equivalent and be verified by a qualified assessor.

### Product material extraction reduction

The aim of this criterion is to require manufacturers to achieve year on year reductions in the material extraction environmental impact.

To satisfy this credit a 5% reduction over 5 years or a 1% reduction per year over the same period, per m<sup>2</sup> of textile floor covering, must be achieved in material extraction where the environmental impact is measured as a function of one square meter of textile floor covering installed for one year.

The licensee must:

- submit to the ACCS Panel an electronic copy of the LCA report on which the claimed reduction in the material extraction impact, is based
- provide a copy of a verified LCA report or published EPD that provides the impact data required.

### No chemicals of concern

The aim of this criterion is to encourage manufacturers introduce risk management practices to eliminate chemicals of concern with human and environmental exposure to a level that is beyond regulatory compliance at each stage in the life cycle of the textile floor coverings manufactured (production, installation, and maintenance).

The inventory and risk assessment showing residual risks after management actions have been taken must be reviewed by a suitably qualified and experienced assessor prior to lodgement.



The declaration of Additional Chemical Hazard Management is provided in Schedule 14e of the Guidance Manual.

### **Carbon neutral product**

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The aim of this criterion is to require manufacturers to achieve a carbon neutral position for the product and publish a carbon neutral declaration endorsed by the federal government.

Manufacturers must provide a verified product LCA or EPD that includes carbon emissions taken to mean climate change impacts in CO<sub>2</sub>eq per square meter of textile floor covering over the product life cycle. This must be accompanied by a certificate of carbon offset purchased by the licensee and its share allocated to the textile floor covering submitted for ECS certification. OR The licensee can submit a verified Carbon Neutral declaration for their product. These declarations should use the form provided in Schedule 14d of the Guidance Manual.

### **Note:**

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Licensee declarations will be subject to scrutiny by the ACCS Panel and potentially independent verification provided to the panel.

ECS Level 4+ submissions should include the points score card provided in Schedule 14g of the Guidance Manual.