![Carpet Institute of Australia Limited logo](CARPET INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIA LIMITED)

Carpet Certified
ECS LICENSEE

Carpet Institute of Australia

Introduction ECS

The Environmental Certification Scheme (ECS), sets sustainability standards for flooring manufacturing. It evaluates products based on their lifecycle environmental impact, including greenhouse gas reduction, sustainable materials, energy efficiency, and waste minimization.

ECS helps consumers make environmentally responsible choices, supporting a more sustainable flooring industry in Australia.

Steps to Becoming an ECS Licensee

CARPET INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIA LIMITED

1. Sign the ACCS Licensee Agreement

Ensure your company is registered as an ACCS Licensee. This is a prerequisite for applying to the ECS program.

2. Pay the licensee fee

When you pay the licensee fee you will be able to register products and use our labels. This fee covers ACCS and ECS. If you are a Member of the Carpet Institute you will get financial benefits.

Register in our ECS Portal

After you become a licensee all the ECS requests should submitted through the ECS portal.
You must registered in the following link:
https://carpetinstitute.com.au/membership/

ECS PROCESS

1 Complete the Code of Practice for Environmental Management Form

Download, fill out, and sign the Code of Practice for Environmental Management form from the following link:
https://www.carpetinstitute.com.au/ecs-environmental-management-archive/

2

NATA Test Report

- For each product that needs the ECS certificate, the licensee must conduct a test report from a NATA registered laboratory.

3

Complete General Register Form (Scheduled 6)

- Complete the General Register Form based on the level of certification and the product you're pursuing.

4

Fill out other forms/ schedules

- You must complete different forms (schedules) depending on the product and ECS level you want.
- The requirements list per product and level are indicated in the next chapter: ECS Product Specifications.

CARPET INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIA LIMITED

5 **Submit Application through the ECS Portal**
- Compile all documents/ schedules and submit your application through the ECS portal.

Done!
- After the final step, the panel reviews and certify the carpets anonymously.
- The panel meets monthly to assess and score each submission.
- Once the review is complete, you can download your certificate from the ACCS Portal!

| Certificate | ECS Certificate | Print Details |

ECS PRODUCT SPECIFICATIONS

Our Labels

Underlay

The ECS offers an independent framework for evaluating the environmental credentials of carpet **underlay** products.

This innovative certification offers three distinct levels: ECS 1, ECS 2, and ECS 2+.
Tailored specifically for underlay products like **Rebonded Foam, Fibre (Felt), SBR Latex, and Rubber Crumb.** ECS certification signifies a commitment to environmentally responsible practices and efficient resource management.

Level 1

Level 2

Level 2+

Requirements

Underlay
Level 1
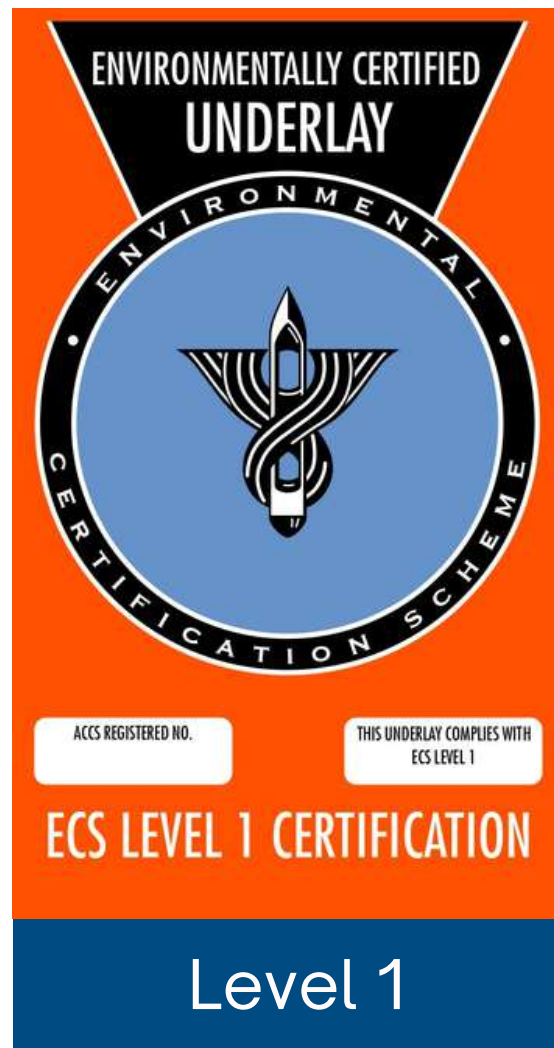
- **Fitness for Purpose:** Requires a current declaration if product conformance to the relevant underlay specification provided in the Australian Standard AS 4288, with intended use classifications.
- **Manufacturing Standards**: Licensees must provide documentation demonstrating compliance with the ECS Code of Practice for Environmental Management.
- **Product Emissions:** VOC emissions must meet ECS standards, verified by a NATA-registered laboratory report.
- **Raw Materials:** A declaration of raw materials, compliant with Schedule 9, ensuring minimal toxicity.
- **Transparency in Product Composition:** Raw material details must be published on the Licensee's website and verified by the ECS Panel.
- **Manufacturing Performance Efficiencies:** Facilities must report and improve process efficiencies using the form in Schedule 12.
- **Health Product Declaration:** A health impact assessment of chemical components must be submitted per Schedule 9b.
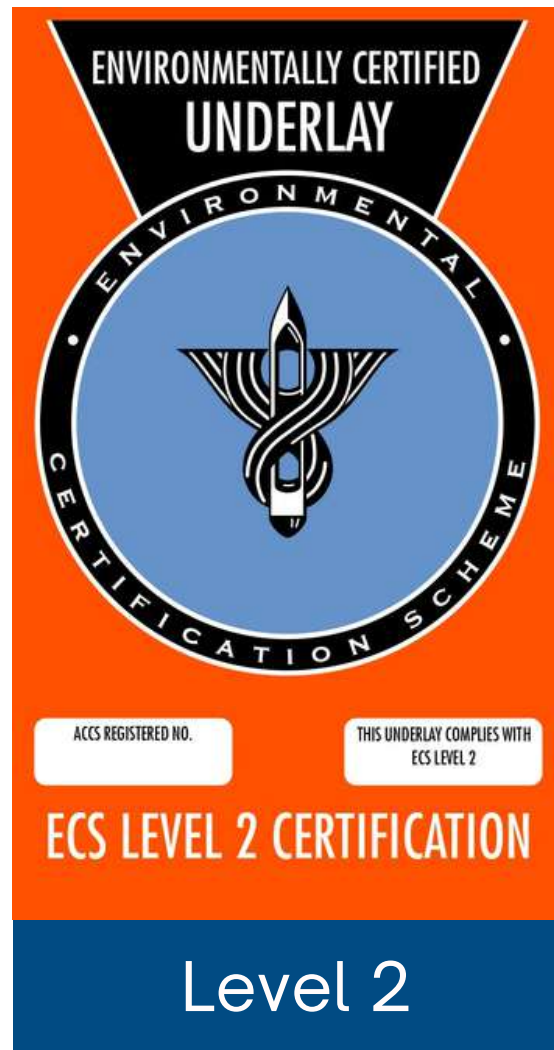
Requirements

Underlay
Level 2

In addition to meeting all Level 1 requirements, Level 2 certification includes the following criteria:

- **Product Stewardship:** Licensees must submit a declaration of compliance and a report from an independent assessor confirming the product stewardship program can achieve the outcomes claimed.
  - Optional: Design for Disassembly—Licensees can provide a report confirming that certified floor coverings can be easily separated for reuse, recycling, or reprocessing.
- **Manufacturing Efficiency Improvement:** Annual declaration of manufacturing efficiencies via the form in Schedule 12. Continuous improvement is required in four efficiency areas: energy, water, carbon, and waste, with a minimum 5% improvement over a 5-year period.
- **Modern Slavery Prevention:** Licensees must present a Modern Slavery declaration and outline their future management plans using Schedule 14f.

Requirements

Underlay
Level 2+
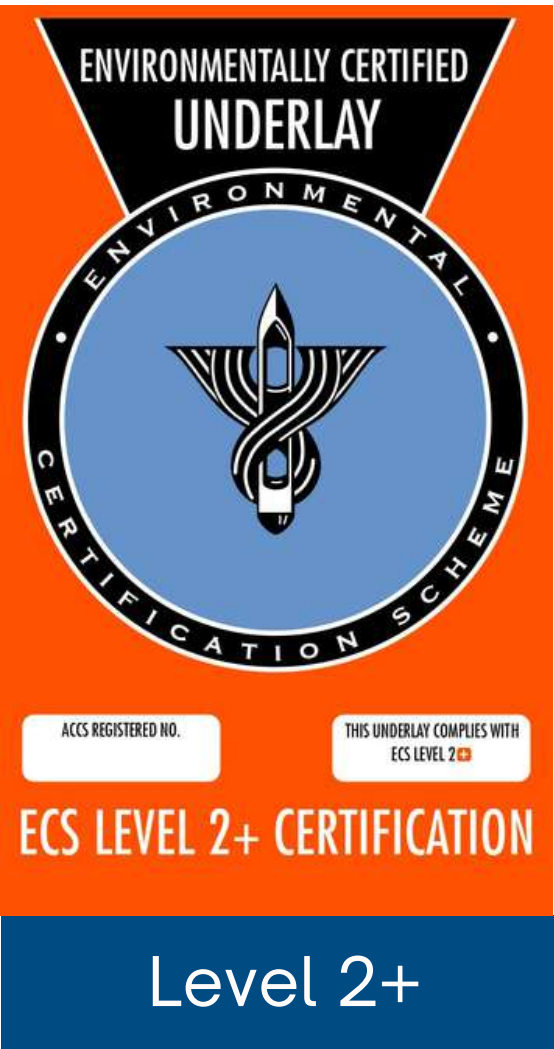
To achieve ECS Level 2+ certification, all Level 1 and Level 2 requirements must be met, along with the following mandatory criteria:

ECS L2 Criteria	Core	Declaration schedule	Points awarded
Criterion 9: Manufacturing efficiency improvement			
Energy efficiency improvement	Yes	Schedule 12	1
Water use reduction	Yes	Schedule 12	
Carbon emissions reduction	Yes	Schedule 12	1
Waste reductions	Yes	Schedule 12	1
Criterion 11: Product specific environmental product declaration	Elective 2+	Schedule 14a	3
Criterion 12: Carbon neutral product	Elective 2+	Schedule 14d	3
Criterion 13: Additional chemical hazard management	Elective 2+	Schedule 14e	2
Criterion 10: Modern Slavery declaration	Yes	Schedule 14f	1

Also, the licensee shall provide a declaration of the ECS Level 2+ points claimed in Schedule 14g.

Our Labels

Adhesives

The ECS establishes a new benchmark for environmentally friendly **adhesive** solutions.

The program offers two certification levels: ECS 1 and ECS 2, enabling ACCS Licensees to showcase their commitment to sustainable adhesive manufacturing.
ECS covers a broad range of adhesive products, including **Latex Formulations, Modified Saline, Contact Adhesives, and Pressure Sensitive Adhesives.**
ECS certification reflects a commitment to sustainability and reduced environmental impact.

ENVIRONMENTALLY CERTIFIED
ADHESIVE
ENVIRONMENTAL
CERTIFICATION SCHEME
ECS REGISTERED NO. THIS ADHESIVE COMPLIES WITH ECS LEVEL 1
ECS LEVEL 1 CERTIFICATION
Level 1

ENVIRONMENTALLY CERTIFIED
ADHESIVE
ENVIRONMENTAL
CERTIFICATION SCHEME
ECS REGISTERED NO. THIS ADHESIVE COMPLIES WITH ECS LEVEL 2
ECS LEVEL 2 CERTIFICATION
Level 2

Requirements

Adhesive
Level 1

- **Fitness for Purpose:** The adhesive must meet the relevant requirements set for that particular class of product under Australian standards:
  - Australian standard AS 1884 – Floor coverings – Resilient sheets and tiles – Installation Practices
  - Australian standard AS 2455 Part 1 – Textile Floor coverings – Installation practice – general
  - Australian standard AS 2455 Part 2 – Textile Floor coverings – Installation practice – carpet tiles
- **Manufacturing Compliance (Criterion 2):** The licensee must declare compliance with the ECS Code of Practice for Environmental Management. Documentation should be submitted in Schedule 7.
- **Product VOC Content (Criterion 3):**
  - Adhesives must have low volatile organic compounds (VOCs), with a maximum of 50 g/L.
  - VOC testing must be done using SCAQMD Method 304-91.
  - Declaration of compliance, supported by a product safety data sheet and the test results in Schedule 11b.
- **Raw Materials (Low Toxicity) (Criterion 4):** A declaration of raw materials, compliant with Schedule 9, must be submitted, ensuring minimal toxicity.
- **Low VOC Emissions (Criterion 5):** A lab report compliant with ISO 16000 must demonstrate adherence to VOC emission limits. The declaration should be submitted in Schedule 11.
- **No Chemicals of Concern (Criterion 6):** Raw materials must be examined for health and hazard risks, ensuring the reduction of chemical hazards beyond regulatory compliance. Declaration details are provided in Schedule 14e.
- **Manufacturing Performance Efficiencies (Criterion 7):** The manufacturing facility must declare process efficiencies (energy, water, carbon, and waste) annually using the Schedule 12 form. Plans for improvement must also be included.
- **Health Product Declaration (Criterion 8):** Assess the health impacts of the chemical components in the raw materials. This should be submitted in Schedule 9b.

Requirements

Adhesive
Level 2
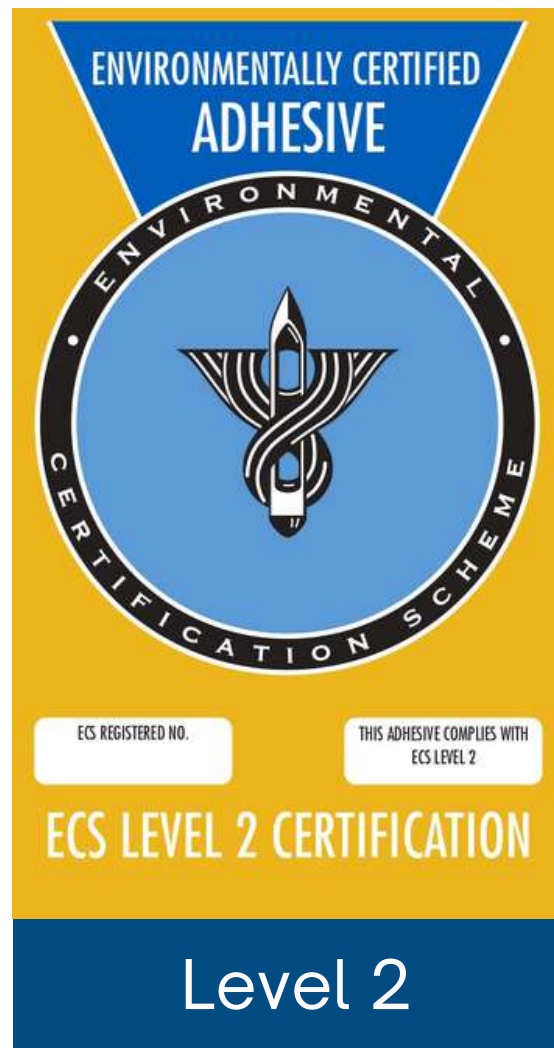
In addition to meeting all Level 1 requirements, Level 2 certification includes the following additional criteria:

- **Manufacturing Efficiency Improvement (Criterion 9)**
  - Annual Declaration: Submit Schedule 12 form to declare manufacturing efficiencies.
  - Continuous Improvement: Achieve a minimum 5% improvement over 5 years in energy, water, carbon, and waste efficiency.
- **Water Recovery and Recycling (Criterion 10)**
  - Recycling System: Recycle at least 50% of wastewater.
  - Water Efficiency: Improve water usage by 1% annually or 5% over 5 years.
  - Evidence: Provide performance data via Schedule 15 form

Requirements

Adhesive
Level 2
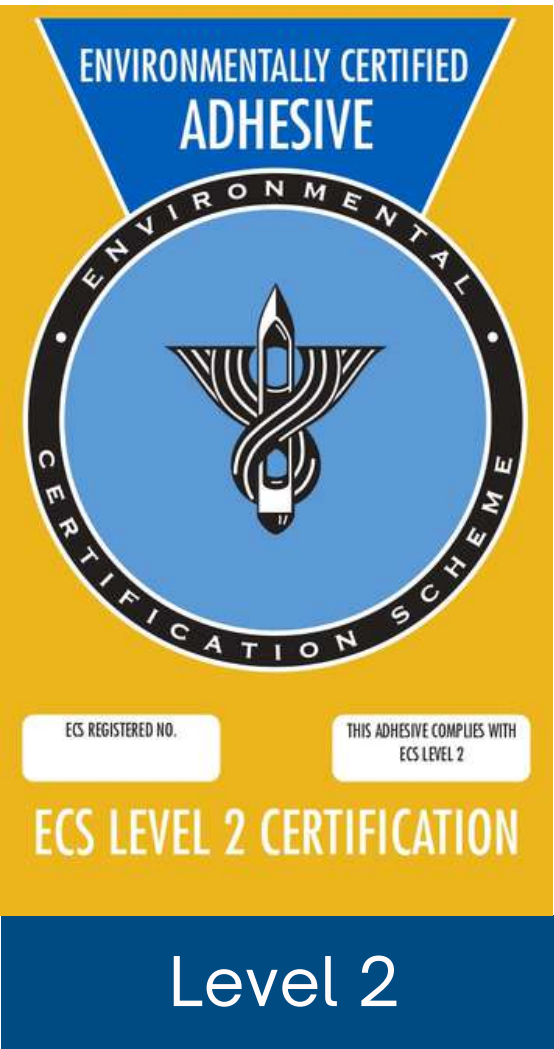
The licensee shall claim ECS Level 2 and provide the declarations provided in the following table:

ECS L2 Criteria	Declaration schedule	Points awarded
Energy efficiency improvement	Schedule 12	1
Water use reduction	Schedule 12	0
Carbon emissions reduction	Schedule 12	1
Waste reductions	Schedule 12	1
Criterion 10: Water recovery and recycling	Schedule 15	3

The licensee shall provide a declaration of the ECS Level 2 points claimed in Schedule 16.

Our Labels

Acoustic Panels

ECS defines eco-friendly standards for **acoustic panel** manufacturing.

With three levels: ECS 1, ECS 2, and ECS 2+, it allows ACCS Licensees to showcase sustainability in products like **Panels** and **Tiles.**

ECS certification highlights a commitment to reducing environmental impact through eco-friendly materials and processes..

Level 1

Level 2

Level 2+

Requirements

Acoustic Panels
Requirements Level 1

ENVIRONMENTALLY CERTIFIED
ACOUSTIC PANEL

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION SCHEME

ECS REGISTERED NO.

THIS ACOUSTIC PANEL COMPLIES WITH ECS LEVEL 1

ECS LEVEL 1 CERTIFICATION

Level 1

- **Fitness for Purpose (Criterion 1):** Acoustic panels must meet the relevant Australian standards and have guarantees of performance 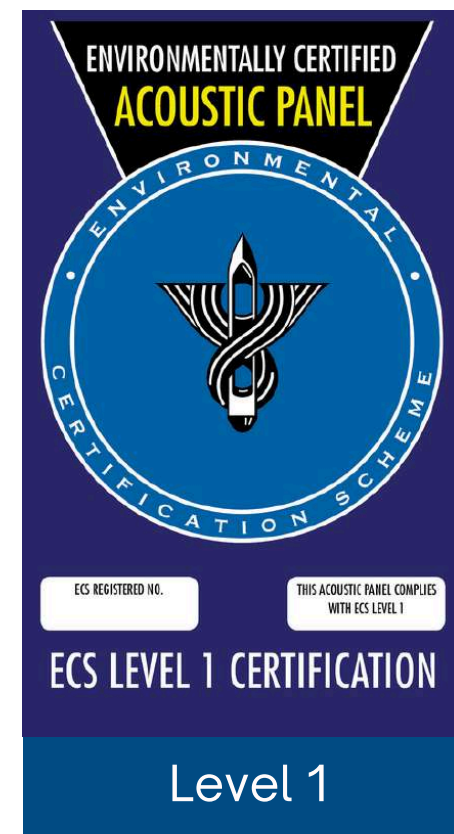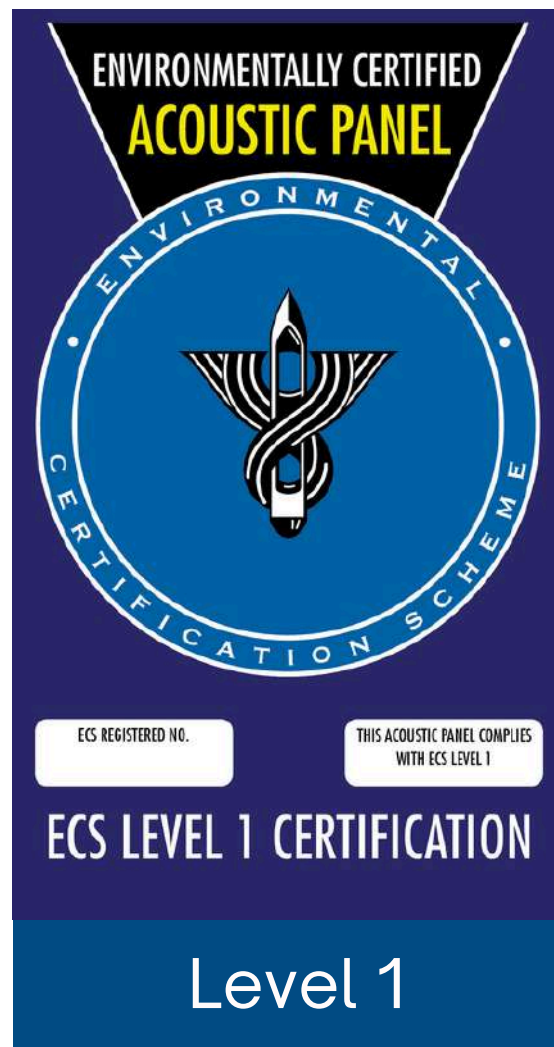for their intended application. Panels should provide a minimum NRC (Noise Reduction Coefficient) of 0.2 (20%). For a typical 12mm wall panel, an NRC of 0.45 (45%) is expected. Declarations of products must be made using Schedule 7 forms.
- **Manufacturing Compliance (Criterion 2):** The Licensee must declare compliance with the ECS Code of Practice for Environmental Management, with supporting documentation in Schedule 7.
- **Product Emissions (Criterion 3):** NATA-registered laboratory test report on Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) emissions must be provided.
- **Raw Materials (Low Toxicity) (Criterion 4):** Declaration must be provided in accordance with Schedule 9, ensuring minimal toxicity and compliance with product standards.
- **Product Composition Transparency (Criterion 5):** The raw materials declaration must be published on the Licensee's website and made available to the ECS Panel. Use Schedule 9.
- **Manufacturing Performance Efficiencies (Criterion 6):** Declare process efficiencies using the Schedule 12 form. Plans for continuous improvement must be included.
- **Health Product Declaration (Criterion 7)**: A Health Product Declaration must be provided, outlining the health impacts of the chemical components used, based on the Schedule 9b.

Requirements

Acoustic Panels
Level 2
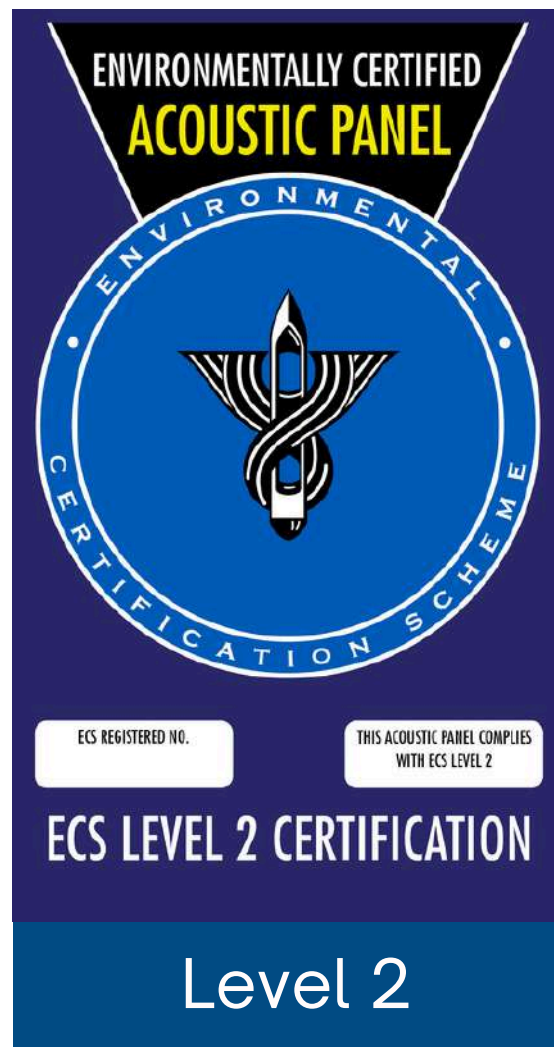
All Level 1 requirements must be met, plus:

- **Product Stewardship (Criterion 8):** A declaration of compliance and a report from an independent assessor are required to confirm the effectiveness of the product stewardship program in delivering its claimed outcomes (Schedule 13).
  - Optional Compliance: Licensees can choose to meet the Design for Disassembly criterion, providing an independent assessment that products can be separated into elemental components for reuse, recycling, or reprocessing without specialized tools.
- **Manufacturing Efficiency Improvement (Criterion 9):** Licensees must submit an annual declaration of manufacturing efficiencies using Schedule 12. Also, prove continuous improvement performance in the areas of energy, water, carbon, and waste must demonstrate ongoing improvement over a 5-year period, with a minimum efficiency gain of 5% in 5 years.

Requirements

Acoustic Panels
Level 2+
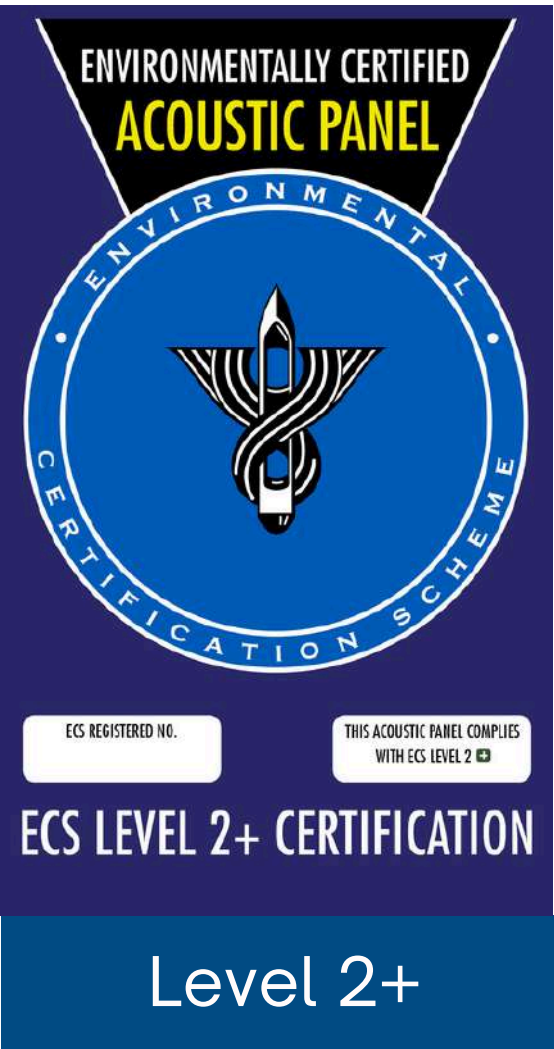
To achieve ECS Level 2+, all Level 1 and Level 2 requirements must be fulfilled.
Additionally, the following criteria are required:

ECS L2 Criteria	Core	Declaration schedule	Points awarded
Criterion 9: Manufacturing efficiency improvement			
Energy efficiency improvement	Yes	Schedule 12	1
Water use reduction	Yes	Schedule 12	
Carbon emissions reduction	Yes	Schedule 12	1
Waste reductions	Yes	Schedule 12	1
Criterion 11: Product specific environmental product declaration	Elective 2+	Schedule 14a	3
Criterion 12: Carbon neutral product	Elective 2+	Schedule 14d	3
Criterion 13: Additional chemical hazard management	Elective 2+	Schedule 14e	2
Criterion 10: Modern Slavery declaration	Elective 2+	Schedule 14f	1

The licensee shall provide a declaration of the ECS Level 2+ points claimed in Schedule 14g.

ENVIRONMENTALLY CERTIFIED
ACOUSTIC PANEL
ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION SCHEME
ECS REGISTERED NO.
THIS ACOUSTIC PANEL COMPLIES WITH ECS LEVEL 2+
ECS LEVEL 2+ CERTIFICATION
Level 2+

Our Labels

Resilient Flooring

ECS sets the standard for sustainable **resilient flooring** manufacturing.

With three levels: ECS 1, ECS 2, and ECS 2+, it enables ACCS Licensees to demonstrate eco-conscious practices across products like **LVT, Heterogeneous, Homogeneous, and Rigid Core flooring.**
ECS certification represents a commitment to reducing environmental impact through sustainable materials and production.

ENVIRONMENTALLY CERTIFIED
RESILIENT FLOORING

ENVIRONMENTAL · CERTIFICATION SCHEME

REGISTERED No.

THIS RESILIENT FLOORING COMPLIES WITH ECS LEVEL 1

ECS LEVEL 1 CERTIFICATION

Level 1

ENVIRONMENTALLY CERTIFIED
RESILIENT FLOORING

ENVIRONMENTAL · CERTIFICATION SCHEME

REGISTERED No.

THIS RESILIENT FLOORING COMPLIES WITH ECS LEVEL 2

ECS LEVEL 2 CERTIFICATION

Level 2

ENVIRONMENTALLY CERTIFIED
RESILIENT FLOORING

ENVIRONMENTAL · CERTIFICATION SCHEME

REGISTERED No.

THIS RESILIENT FLOORING COMPLIES WITH ECS LEVEL 2 +

ECS LEVEL 2+ CERTIFICATION

Level 2+

Requirements

Resilient Flooring
Level 1

ENVIRONMENTALLY CERTIFIED RESILIENT FLOORING

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION SCHEME

REGISTERED No.

THIS RESILIENT FLOORING COMPLIES WITH ECS LEVEL 1

ECS LEVEL 1 CERTIFICATION

Level 1

- **Fitness for Purpose (Criterion 1):** Products must conform to relevant resilient floor covering specifications standard given in the following table:

EN-ISO 10581	Resilient floor covering Homogeneous floor covering specification
EN-ISO 10582	Resilient floor covering Heterogeneous floor covering specification
EN 651	Resilient floor covering PVC floor covering with a foam layer specification
ASTM F1303	Vinyl sheet floor covering with backing
ASTM F3261	Resilient floor covering modular with rigid core
ASTM F1913	Resilient floor covering modular with rigid core without backing

- **Manufacturing (Criterion 2):** Provide a compliance declaration per ECS Environmental Management Code and supporting documents to confirm compliance.
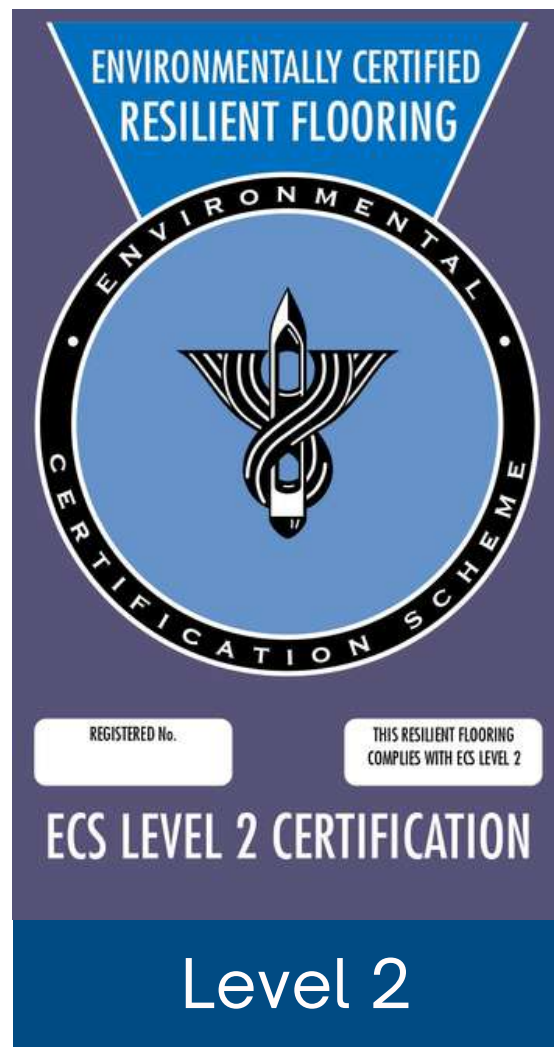
Requirements

Resilient Flooring
Level 1
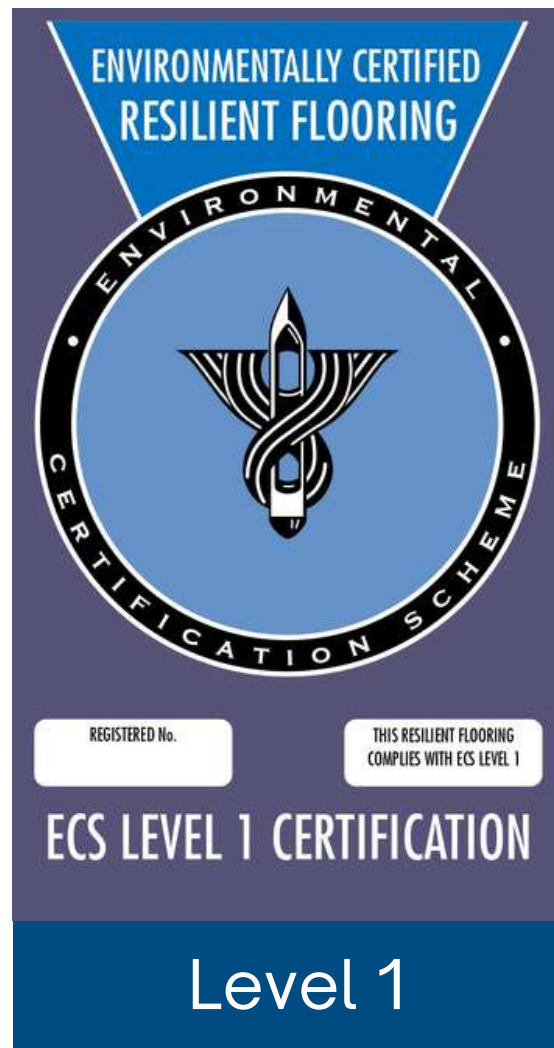
- **Product Emissions (Criterion 3):** Submit VOC test results from a NATA-registered lab (Schedule 11).
- **Raw Materials (Low Toxicity) (Criterion 4):** Declare materials per Schedule 9, with required attachments.
- **Product Composition Transparency (Criterion 5):** Publish the raw materials declaration on the licensee's website and present it to the ECS Panel.
- **Manufacturing Performance Efficiencies (Criterion 6):** Report manufacturing process efficiencies using Schedule 12, with improvement plans.
- **Health Product Declaration (Criterion 7):** Submit a Health Product Declaration detailing the health impacts of chemical components based on the raw materials declaration (Schedule 9b).
- **Industry-based Environmental Product Declaration (Criterion 8):** Provide an Environmental Product Declaration (EPD) specific to the product family or a EPD compliant with ISO 14025 (Schedule 14a).

Requirements

## Resilient Flooring
Level 2

All Level 1 requirements must be met, plus:

- **Product Stewardship (Criterion 9):** Provide a compliance declaration and independent report verifying the effectiveness of the product stewardship program (Schedule 13).
- Optionally, demonstrate compliance with Design for Disassembly by submitting an independent report confirming the product's recyclability.
- **Manufacturing Efficiency Improvement (Criterion 10):** Annually declare efficiencies (Schedule 12). Show 5% improvement in energy, water, carbon, and waste performance over 5 years.
- **Modern Slavery Prevention (Criterion 11):** Submit a Modern Slavery declaration and future management plans (Schedule 14f).

Requirements

Resilient Flooring
Level 2+
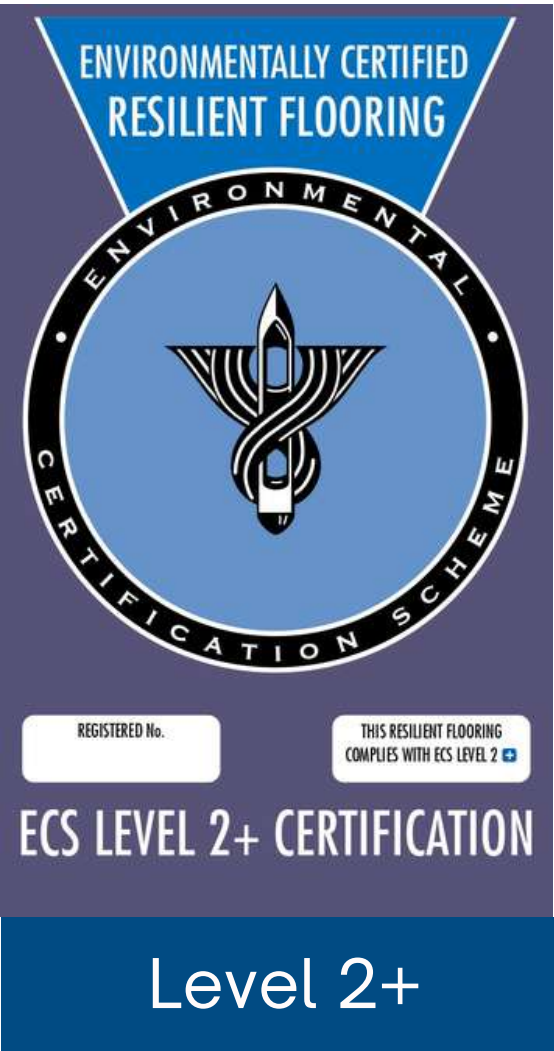
All Level 1 and 2 requirements must be met, plus:

Mandatory "core" criteria aligned with the GBCA Responsible Product Framework. Optionally, declare additional "elective" criteria to earn extra ECS points described in the following table:

ECS L2 Criteria	Core	Declaration schedule	Points awarded
Energy efficiency improvement	Yes	Schedule 12	1
Water use reduction	Yes	Schedule 12	1
Carbon emissions reduction	Yes	Schedule 12	1
Waste reductions	Yes	Schedule 12	1
Product specific environmental product declaration	Elective 2+	Schedule 14a	3
Carbon neutral product	Elective 2+	Schedule 14d	3
Additional chemical hazard management	Elective 2+	Schedule 14e	2
Modern Slavery declaration	Yes	Schedule 14f	1

The Licensee shall provide a declaration of the ECS Level 2+ points claimed in Schedule 14g.
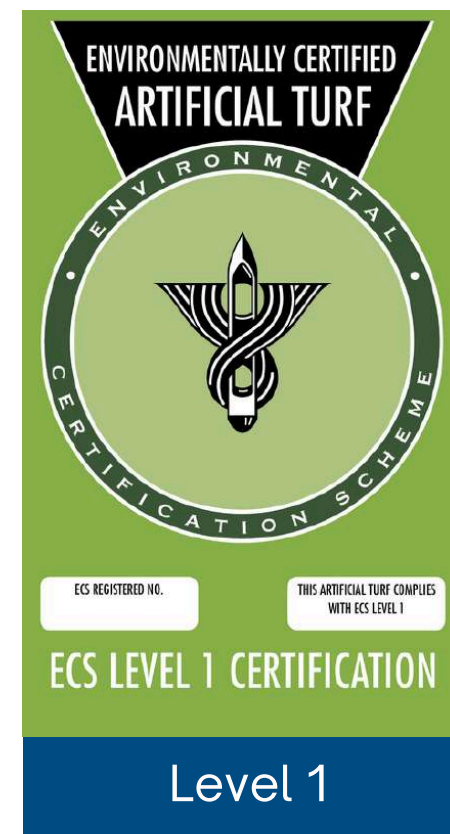
Our Labels

Artificial Turf

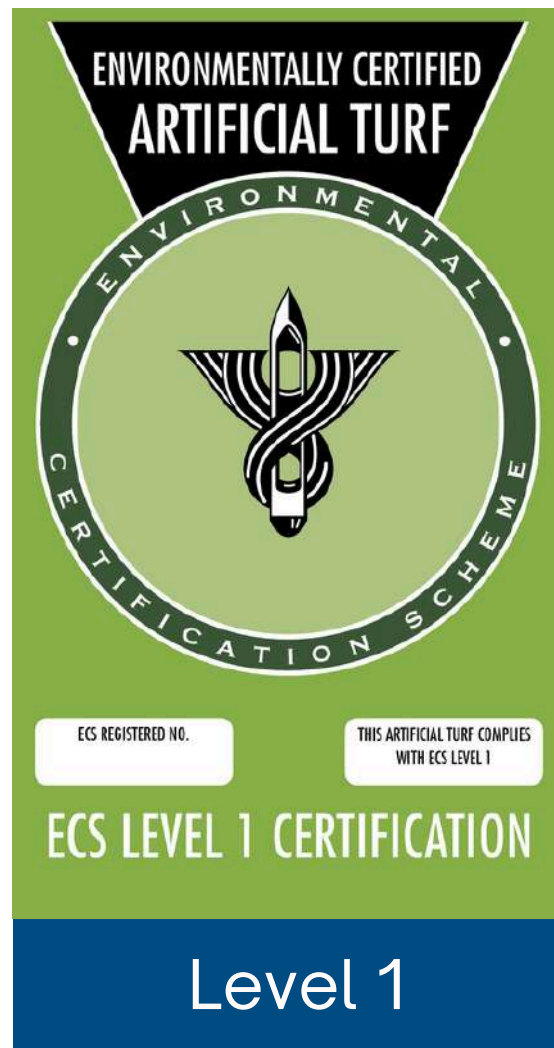Managed by the Carpet Institute, ECS sets the sustainable **artificial turf** production standard.

With three certification levels: ECS 1, ECS 2, and ECS 2+, it allows Licensees to demonstrate eco-friendly practices across applications like L**andscaping, Sports Fields, and Playgrounds.**
ECS certification reflects a commitment to reducing environmental impact and promoting sustainability throughout the turf lifecycle.

ENVIRONMENTALLY CERTIFIED
ARTIFICIAL TURF

ECS REGISTERED NO.

THIS ARTIFICIAL TURF COMPLIES WITH ECS LEVEL 1

ECS LEVEL 1 CERTIFICATION

Level 1

ENVIRONMENTALLY CERTIFIED
ARTIFICIAL TURF

ECS REGISTERED NO.

THIS ARTIFICIAL TURF COMPLIES WITH ECS LEVEL 2

ECS LEVEL 2 CERTIFICATION

Level 2

ENVIRONMENTALLY CERTIFIED
ARTIFICIAL TURF

ECS REGISTERED NO.

THIS ARTIFICIAL TURF COMPLIES WITH ECS LEVEL 2+

ECS LEVEL 2+ CERTIFICATION
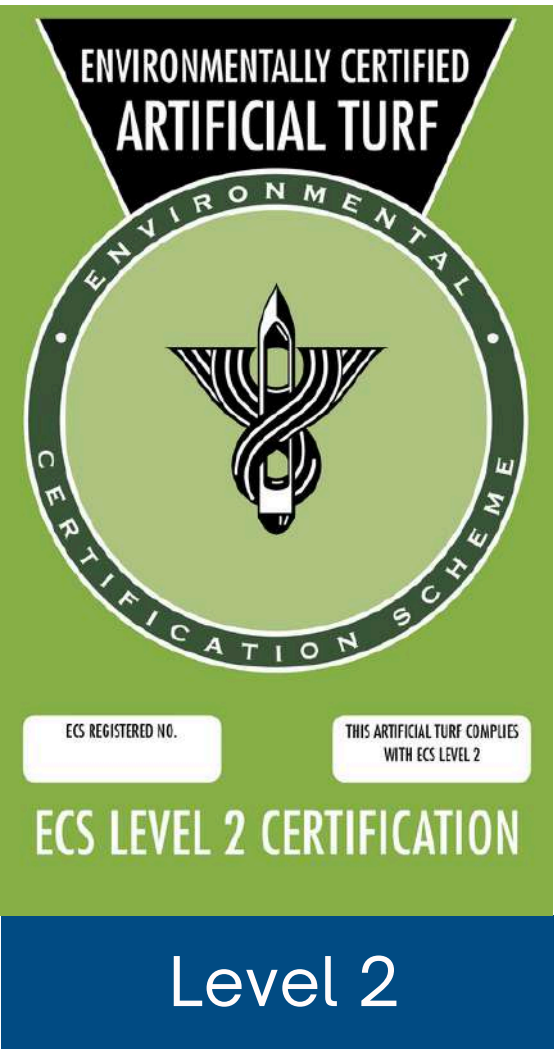
Level 2+

Requirements

Artificial Turf
Level 1

- **Fitness for Purpose (Criterion 1):** Turf must meet relevant Australian standards, include guarantees, and comply with specifications such as EN-15330-1 for sports fields or ESTO classifications. Declarations use Schedule 7.
- **Manufacturing (Criterion 2)**: Provide compliance documentation per ECS Environmental Management Code (Schedule 7).
- **Raw Materials (Criterion 3):** Submit raw materials declarations as per Schedule 9, with required attachments.
- **Product Composition Transparency (Criterion 4):** Product composition must be disclosed via Schedule 9, with a 0.1% concentration limit, and published on the manufacturer's website. Proprietary chemicals can remain confidential if safety and toxicity are independently verified to the panel's satisfaction.
- **Manufacturing Performance Efficiency (Criterion 5):** Declare manufacturing efficiencies and improvement plans using Schedule 12.
- **Health Declaration (Criterion 6):** Submit a Health Product Declaration based on chemical impacts (Schedule 9b).
- **Product Stewardship (Criterion 7):** Implement a take-back program for end-of-life reuse or recycling, supported by independent assessment (Schedule 13).
- **No Chemicals of Concern (Criterion 8):** Ensure raw materials pose minimal chemical hazard risk (Schedule 14e).

Requirements

## Artificial Turf
Level 2

All Level 1 requirements must be met, plus:

- **Manufacturing Efficiency Improvement (Criterion 9):** Licensees must annually declare efficiencies (Schedule 12) and demonstrate 5% improvement in energy, water, carbon, and waste over 5 years to meet ECS Level 2 "core" requirements. The licensee shall claim ECS Level 2 and provide the declarations described as "core" in the following table:

ECS L2 Criteria	Core Criteria	Declaration schedule	Points awarded
Criterion 9: Manufacturing efficiency improvement			
Energy efficiency improvement	Yes	Schedule 12	1
Water use reduction	Yes	Schedule 12	1
Carbon emissions reduction	Yes	Schedule 12	1
Waste reductions	Yes	Schedule 12	2
		Total	5

Requirements

Artificial Turf
Level 2+
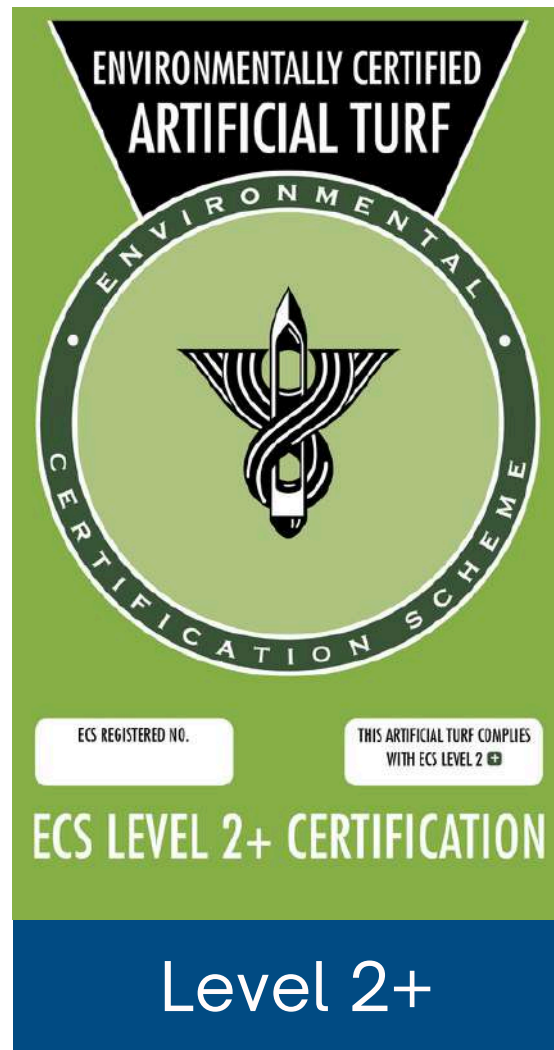
All Level 1 and 2 requirements must be met and the following criteria are elective to gain further RPV points.

- **Modern Slavery (Criterion 10):** Investigate and report on modern slavery risks, corrective actions, and annual updates. Submit a declaration (Schedule 14f).
- **Environmental Product Declaration (Criterion 11):** Provide a product-specific, publicly available EPD showing life cycle impacts, compliant with standards like EN 15804 (Schedule 14a).
- **Carbon Neutral Declaration (Criterion 12):** Submit a verified LCA or EPD with carbon emissions data and evidence of carbon offsets, or a Climate Active carbon neutral declaration (Schedule 14d).

Our Labels

Carpet

ECS sets a new benchmark for eco-conscious **carpet** manufacturing.

With five certification levels: ECS 1 through ECS 4+, it enables Licensees to demonstrate sustainability in products like **Broadloom** and **Modular Carpet Tiles**.

ECS certification reflects a commitment to stringent environmental standards, reduced ecological impact, and sustainable production practices.

Level 1

Level 2

Level 3
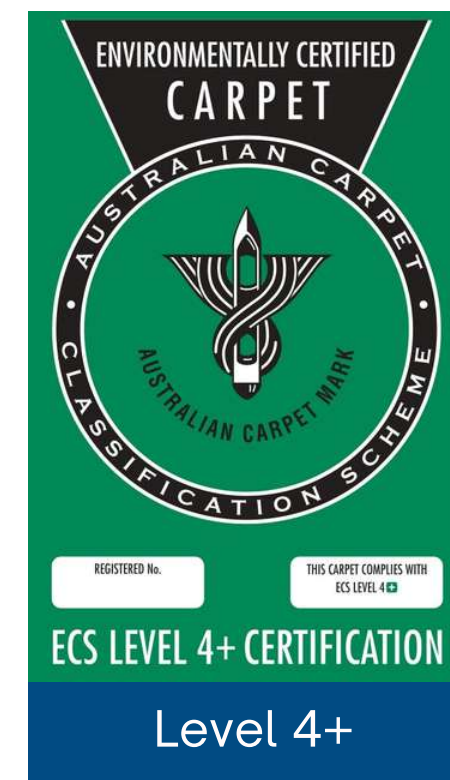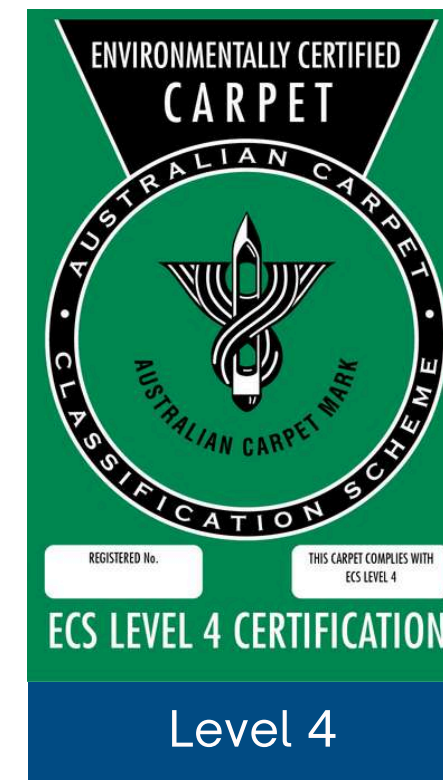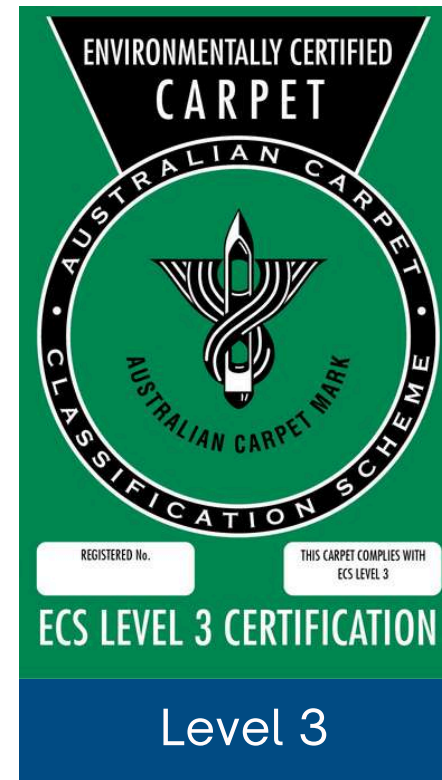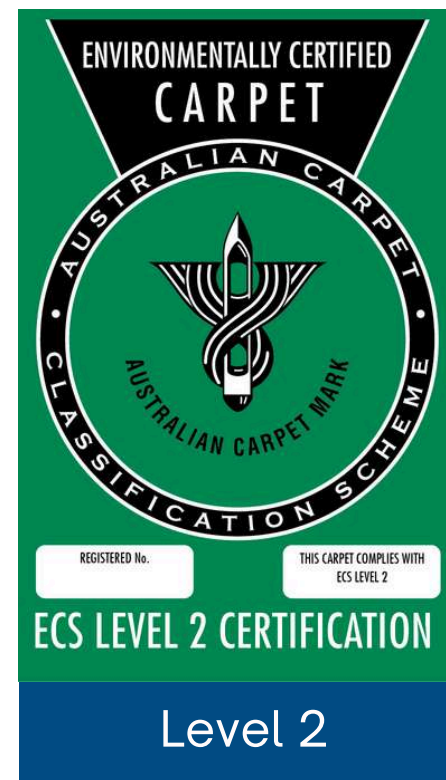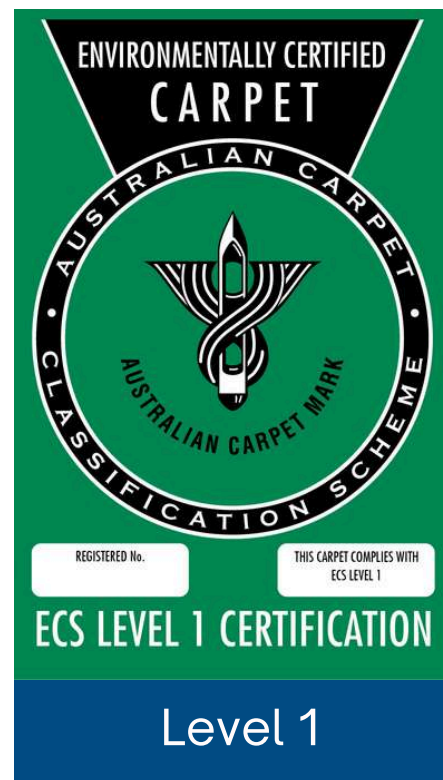
Level 4

Level 4+

Requirements

Carpet
Level 1
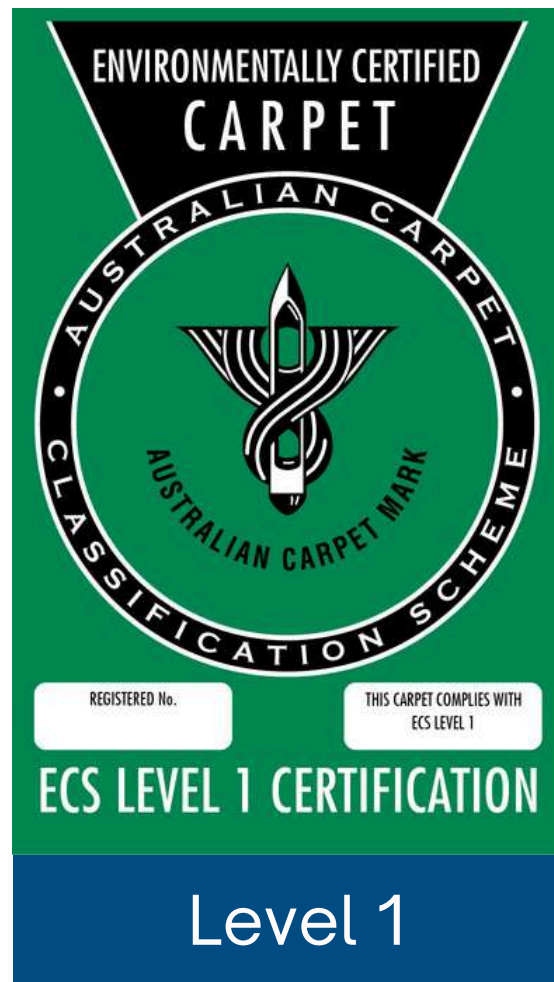
To apply for ECS certification, the following must be submitted:

- Completed Application for ECS Product Certification Form (Schedule 7).
- Current ACCS durability and appearance retention grading.
- Abbreviated ACCS QA Test Report (if the ACCS grading is over 2 years old) from a NATA-registered lab.
- Required test reports, declarations, and verifications for the desired ECS certification level (1 to 4+).
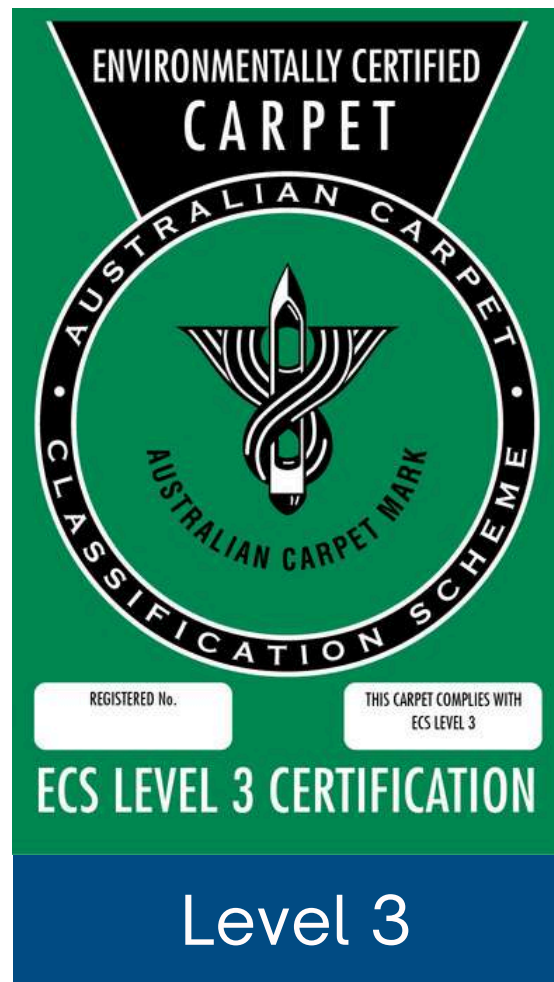
Requirements

Carpet
Level 2
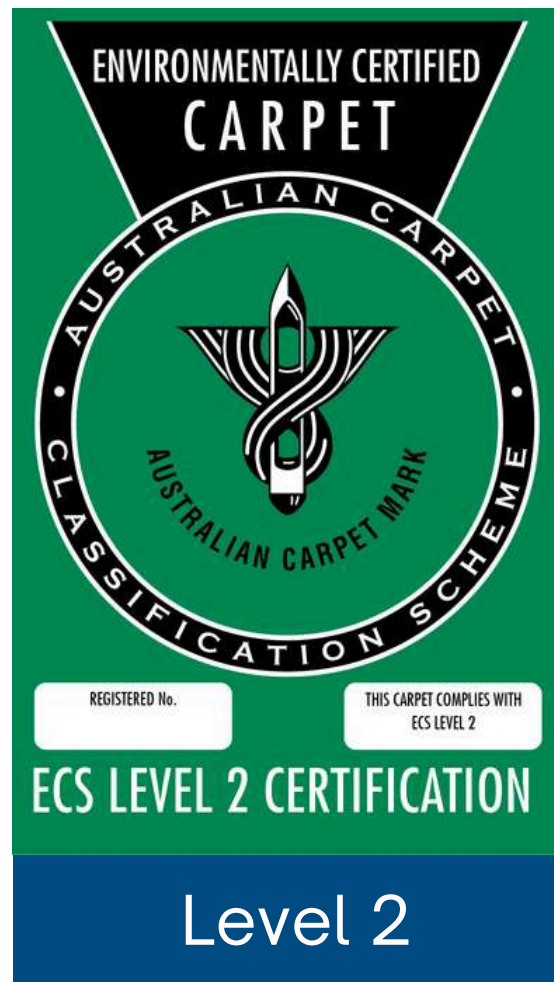
To apply for ECS certification Level 2, the following must be submitted:

- **Raw Materials (Toxicity):** Provide material formulations, compliance declaration, Safety Data Sheets, and test reports (Schedules 8 & 9). Random testing by ACCS will confirm compliance through NATA labs.
- **Fitness for Purpose:** Submit current ACCS grading or an abbreviated QA Test Report if grading is over 2 years old (Schedule 10).
- **Product Emissions:** Provide a VOC emissions test report from a NATA-registered lab (Schedule 11).
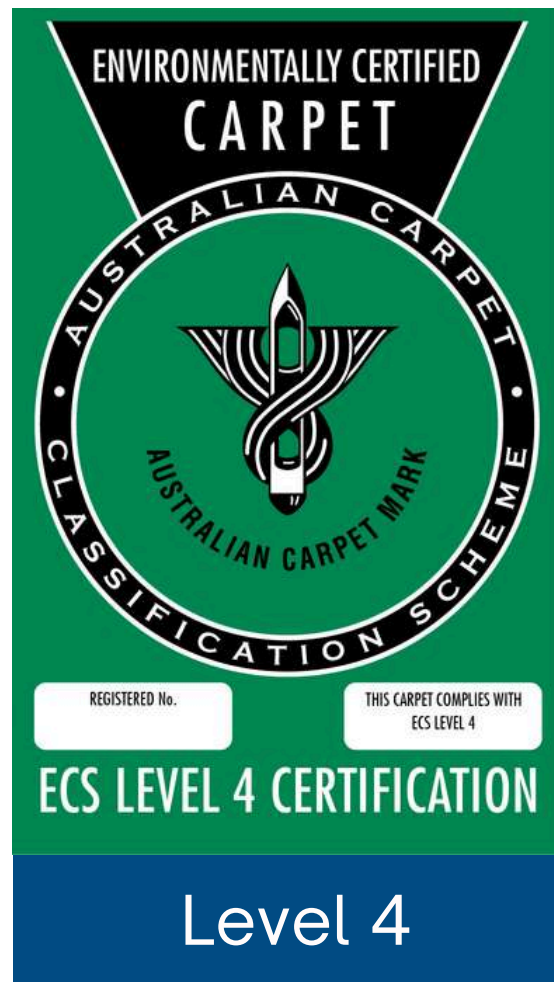
Requirements

Carpet
Level 3

All Level 2 requirements must be met, plus:

- **Manufacturing:** Submit a compliance declaration with supporting documents per Australian Carpet Classification Scheme Technical Guidelines.
- Provide a Health Product Declaration detailing chemical impacts based on the raw materials declaration (Schedule 9b).
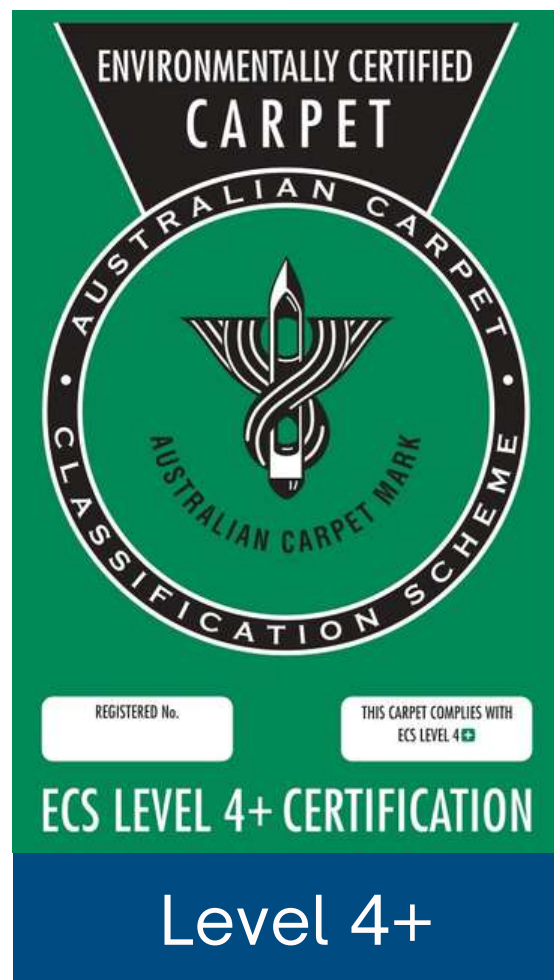
Requirements

Carpet
Level 4

All Level 3 requirements must be met, plus:

- **Product Stewardship :** Provide a compliance declaration and independent assessor's report verifying the effectiveness of the product stewardship program (Schedule 13).
- Optionally, demonstrate Design for Disassembly with an independent report confirming the product's recyclability into elemental components.

Requirements

Carpet
Level 4+

All Level 3 and Level 4 requirements must be met, plus:

- Meet mandatory core criteria aligned with the GBCA Responsible Product Framework for exceptional product recognition.
- Optionally declare additional criteria for extra ECS points.
- Submit ECS Level 4+ points declaration using Schedule 14g, as outlined in the schedules.

THANK YOU!

Join us in transforming the flooring industry with ECS for a greener future!