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# The Eco-Choice Ecolabel Programme Product Standard

## Personal Care Products

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## **Use of This Standard**

This voluntary environmental labeling standard may be used by competent environmental assessors to establish product compliance with the Heritage Eco-Choice Ecolabel Programme. Products that are certified with the mark of conformity in terms of this standard have been independently assessed and demonstrate compliance to the environmental and social performance criteria detailed in this standard. The overall goal of environmental labels and declarations is the communication of verifiable and accurate information, which is not misleading, on environmental aspects of products and services. This encourages the demand for, and supply of, those products and services that cause less stress on the environment, thereby stimulating the potential for market-driven continuous environmental improvement.

This standard identifies environmental, quality, regulatory and social performance criteria that products sold on the South African market can meet in order to be considered as good "environment practice". Products that have been certified as complying to this standard may gain greater market recognition and a marketing advantage in government and business procurement programs, as well as broad consumer preference.

This standard can be used by South African producers to guide their designs for environment programs by using the environmental criteria as key performance benchmarks to reduce the environmental loads of their product. The standard is necessarily restricted in its identification of environmental loads from the product lifecycle. Producers should consider other environmental measures along the product cycle, which are not included in this standard, in their environment program designs for and aim for even higher levels of environmental performance where technically possible.

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### **Acknowledgement:**

This standard has been reproduced with permission from **Good Environmental Choice Australia** and seeks to set the benchmark for Personal Care Products in southern Africa. Modifications to the source document have been made to maintain relevancy to the southern African environment. The principal difference between the source document and the modified adopted GECA standard is the replacement of GECA terminology with terminology relevant to southern Africa. A list of changes to the source document along with the justification can be seen, upon request to Eco-Choice Africa.

### ***Eco-Choice Ecolabel Programme***

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## ECO-CHOICE ECOLABEL PROGRAMME STANDARD FOR PRODUCT

# Personal Care Products

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### Definitions

**AC represents Active Content.** It is the quantity, in weight, of all organic substances present in the product, excluding the water content of the components. Rubbing/abrasive agents in hand cleaning agents are not included.

**Anaerobically biodegradable** means that, when measured as directed in ISO 11734 "Water quality - Evaluation of the "ultimate" anaerobic biodegradability of organic compounds in digested sludge - Method by measurement of the biogas production", the substance achieves at least 60 % degradation.

**ASTM** means American Society for Testing and Materials.

**Bio accumulative:** A substance is classified as potentially bio accumulative if its octanol-water partition coefficient is greater than 1000 when measured with the following:

OECD 107. Octanol-Water Partition Coefficient (Flask Method).

OECD 117. Octanol-Water Partition Coefficient (HPLC Method).

OECD 107 must not be used for surfactants. Other test methods may be accepted, including OECD 305.

**Carcinogenic** means capable of causing cancer. The International Agency for Research on Cancer is the internationally accepted body for the classification of carcinogenic substances. See <http://www.iarc.fr>

**Endocrine disruptor** is an exogenous substance that mimics endocrine hormones and disrupts the endocrine systems of living organisms. Such action may lead to future health problems.

**Fragrance** or **Colouring** means organic substances that are added primarily for aesthetic reasons to give colour or smell. Fragrance can also be for the purpose of concealing smells from other ingredients.

**Genotoxin** means a substance capable of causing damage to genetic material, such as DNA.

**ISO** means the International Organisation for Standardization.

**Label** means the Eco-Choice Label.

**OECD** means Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

**pH** is formally the negative log function of the activity of the hydrogen ion in solution. In practice, it is a scale indicating how acidic or alkaline a solution is. For water, a pH of 7 is neutral, higher pH values are progressively more alkaline and lower pH values are progressively more acidic. Each pH unit represents a ten-fold concentration change of the hydrogen ion.

**Readily biodegradable** surfactants are those where the average level of biodegradation observed in an aerobic sewage treatment plant is at least 90% during a residence time of not more than 3 hours. In order to meet this requirement the surfactant must either meet the requirement for ready biodegradability when determined using any of the following test methods:

OECD Guidelines for Testing of Chemicals Test Guidelines 301A-F

ISO 7827 (1994)

Relevant South African standard

or achieve a biodegradability of at least 80% when tested by the OECD method. The pass level of 80% recognises the inherent experimental variability of the OECD test.

**Solvent** is a general term for a chemically diverse range of liquid phase substances which dissolve other materials.

**Surfactant** or "**surface-active agent**" means any substance which is intended to reduce surface tension thereby helping water to surround and remove dirt or staining from surfaces.

**Teratogenic** means any substance capable of producing congenital deformations or birth defects.

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1. Purpose**

This Standard seeks to define good environmental performance benchmarks for personal care products. The voluntary environmental labeling standard implemented by the Eco-Choice Africa Ecolabel Programme (ECA) specifies environmental performance criteria for both domestic and professional products. This standard stipulates the environmental load of such products throughout the major aspects of their life cycle.

### **1.2. Background**

Personal care products covers a range of consumer items that include everything from shaving foam to hair sprays, deodorant products and other products. Without commenting on the chemical, biological or health aspects of consumer products, this standard is intended to address the most important environmental impacts posed by such products.

This standard addresses restrictions on the use of certain toxic or environmentally damaging materials in the content of these products and determines limits on the types of propellants that can be used with specific reference to their ozone depletion potential.

## 2 STANDARD CATEGORY SCOPE

This standard is applicable to the following categories of personal care products:

- I. Hair Sprays
- II. Shaving Foams
- III. Deodorant Sprays
- IV. Deodorant Sticks
- V. Deodorant Roll-ons
- VI. A range of bathroom personal care products related to personal health, hygiene and appearance.

### 2.1 Use of the Eco-Choice Label

The Label must be used appropriately by certified organisations in line with the licensing agreement offered to successful applicants. This includes specification of the certified service and licence number alongside any display of the label. The Label must not be used to over-represent the extent and scope of certification under this Standard.

Certification under this Standard applies only to the administrative function of the retailer seeking certification. The Label must not be associated with goods or with other services excluded by this scope that are provided by the retailer, or as part of advertising material for those goods or services.

Physical goods may be certified by Eco-Choice under the relevant product category standard and may only then carry the Eco-Choice Label for goods. The Eco-Choice label for retail services does not in any way constitute endorsement of products provided by the retailer.

### 3 ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

#### 3.1 Fitness for Purpose

Certified products should be good performers in their intended application. Certain standards of quality and effectiveness are implicit in the Label. The manufacturer must ensure that the product is fit for its intended purpose and:

##### 3.1.1 **Applicable Standards**

The product meets or exceeds the requirements of the relevant South African Standard applicable to the product (e.g.: SANS 232; SANS 1044; SANS 1828), or the product meets the applicable and accepted standard in its target market if it is to be exported to any market in which a similar Eco label standard exists.

##### 3.1.2 **Demonstrated Performance**

If there is no relevant local Standard, the product can demonstrate sufficient quality by providing testing reports from an independent organisation or case studies from cleaning trials conducted by an independent organisation demonstrating suitability and quality. In all independent testing practices, the ISO 17025 standard must be met.

#### 3.2 Material Requirements

Details of all ingredients used in all certified personal care products must be provided with the application for certification.

##### 3.2.1 **Hazardous Substances**

The following substances are prohibited in all certified products.

###### 3.2.1.1 **Carcinogenic Substances**

Products shall not contain carcinogenic substances in categories 1, 2A as classed by the International Agency for Research on Cancer - <http://www.iarc.fr> at levels which expose the user at a maximum level of one twentieth of the allowable limit determined by the National Occupational Health and Safety Act (NHSA)

###### 3.2.1.2 **Pollutants**

Individual components ranked within the top 200 toxic compounds listed by the Hazardous Materials Act shall not exceed 1 % by volume.

###### 3.2.1.3 **Environmentally Hazardous Substances**

The total amount of components classified as hazardous to the environment shall not exceed 2% by volume.

##### 3.2.2 **Restricted Substances**

###### 3.2.2.1 **Ozone Depleting Substances**

###### 3.3.1 **Production Equipment Cleaning**

Solvents used to clean production equipment must have an ozone depletion potential of zero.

###### 3.3.2 **Propellants**

Pressurised spray cans must not contain ozone depleting substances as listed in Annex A, B or C of the Montreal Protocol.

##### 3.2.5 **Fragrances and Colourants**

Fragrance must be produced and used in accordance with the "Code of Practice" compiled by the International Fragrance Association (IFRA).

Fragrances containing mitromusk compounds must not be used because of possible carcinogenic risks. This shall include:

<b>Common Name</b>	<b>CAS number</b>
Moskusxylene	81-15-2
Moskusambrette	83-66-9
Moskene	116-66-5
Moskustibetin	145-39-1
Moskusetone	81-14-1

Colourants used must be included on the "List of Colouring Agents Allowed for use in Cosmetic Products" in Annex IV of the European Union Commission Directive 76/768/EEC or applicable South African standards (e.g.: SANS 10049:2012). A copy of the Directive(s) is available at:  
<http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/cosmetics/html/consolidated/dir.htm>  
<https://www.sabs.co.za/>

### **3.3 Packaging and Labeling**

#### **3.3.1 Recyclability**

All plastic containers and plastic components must be made of a plastic type that is recycled in South Africa (or the country to which the product is exported and sold). If only one plastic type is used in the product packaging, major parts must be marked with the appropriate resin identification code promulgated by the Plastics and Chemical Industry Association or in accordance with ISO 11469.

Packaging made from more than one type of material must be easily and quickly separable into component recyclable parts without the need for any tools, and each component must be marked with the appropriate resin identification code promulgated by the Plastics and Chemical Industry Association or in accordance with ISO 11469.

Packaging must not be impregnated, labeled, coated or otherwise treated in a manner, which would prevent recycling (e.g., reinforced sleeves, metallic labels).

Chlorinated or halogenated plastics must not be used in product packaging.

Cardboard packaging must contain at least 70% recycled pulp, or meet the requirements of ECSA Standard for Recycled Paper Products (ECSA-P13-2010).

Used packaging shall be able to be recycled by local recycling systems.

#### **3.4.2 Product Information**

The manufacturer must provide written information to the consumer clearly stating:

- Instructions for proper use so as to maximise product performance and minimise waste.
- The packaging and labeling of the product must meet the requirements of the South African National Consumer Protection Act.
- Environmentally responsible disposal instructions must be provided.
- If the product is to be exported, instructions for safe disposal must be provided in all appropriate languages.

#### **4 COMPLIANCE TO ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS**

The applicant is required to comply with relevant environmental legislation and government regulations at the Local, National and Regional levels, if these have been issued. An applicant's compliance with these criteria may be established by undertaking a series of random checks; and/or by gathering samples of applicant operational procedures and documents from approved assessors as evidence to support compliance during the verification. Where an applicant is bound by foreign jurisdiction, that jurisdiction's environmental regulations will apply. Where the applicant is subject to a guilty verdict by a legally constituted court in the last 24 months on the basis of a breach of any environmental legislation or permits, there must be evidence of corrective action. Failure to provide such evidence shall disqualify the applicant.

#### **5 COMPLIANCE TO LABOUR, ANTI-DISCRIMINATION AND SAFETY REGULATIONS**

The applicant shall demonstrate that all employees are protected in terms of the Basic Conditions of Employment Act (Act 75; 1997) and Amendments (2002).

The applicant shall demonstrate general compliance to the terms of the Labour Relations Act (Act 66; 1995); the Occupational, Health and Safety Act (Act 85; 1993) and any other legislation related to anti-discrimination; sexism; child labour or applicable labour standards. Where the applicant is subject to a breach order by a government agency, or a guilty verdict by a South African Court within the last 24 months, there must be evidence of corrective action.

Where the applicant is from a foreign jurisdiction, the applicant shall demonstrate compliance to that jurisdiction's anti-discrimination, occupational health and safety, and workers' compensations regulations. Where the applicant is subject to a breach order by a government agency, or a guilty verdict by a legal court in their respective country within the last 24 months on the basis of a the breach of anti-discrimination, occupational health and safety, and workers' compensation regulations, there must be evidence of corrective action.

The applicant's compliance with these criteria may be established by undertaking a series of random checks; gathering samples of applicant operational procedures and documents from approved assessors; and/or by providing a self-declaration document signed by an executive officer of the applicant organisation as evidence to support compliance during verification.

## **6 EVIDENCE OF CONFORMANCE**

### **6.1 Audit Methodology**

Conformance with this standard shall be demonstrated by undertaking an assessment under the above criteria by an approved assessor, following the certification and verification procedures detailed in the Heritage Green Business Management System, which generally follows the environmental auditing requirements of ISO 14001.

### **6.2 Assessor Competency**

The Eco-Choice Ecolabel Program classifies approved assessors as:

- a. Assessors registered by Heritage as environmental professionals that hold expertise relevant for an assessment, and who have undertaken training in the procedures of the Eco-Choice Ecolabel Program; or
- b. Environmental auditors accredited with the SANAS.

### **6.3 Suitable Sources**

Audit evidence should be of such a quality and quantity that competent environmental auditors, working independently of each other, will reach similar audit findings from evaluation of the same audit evidence against the same audit criteria.

Suitable sources of information to establish compliance may be, but are not limited to:

- a. Technical specification of a product.
- b. Obvious characteristics of the product under examination.
- c. Scientific test results and reports.
- d. Environmental management system and audit reports and results.
- e. Life-cycle assessment of each stage of the product life-cycle via a physical audit and examination.
- f. Life-cycle assessment via scientific testing.
- g. A statement of confirmation by an executive officer.
- h. An assessment of company or government records, including minutes of meetings, policy documents and receipts.
- i. Other material that can be considered objective evidence.

### **6.4 Laboratory Testing**

New testing shall be undertaken by a laboratory accredited by SANAS, or equivalent international accreditation agents who can conduct the relevant tests and/or provide documentation detailing environmental performance against the criteria of this standard. The test results should be presented in a prescribed manner or from a laboratory acceptable to Eco-Choice Ecolabel Programme.

If test results or environmental auditing results are not available, and/or there is insufficient data to establish full compliance with the criteria required by this standard, then certification cannot be awarded.