Recognised Ecolabel **Standard**

January 2026_v1

accord
hygiene, cosmetic, personal care and specialty products

recognised ecolabel

The Recognised Ecolabel is a voluntary certification program for commercial and industrial & institutional (I&I) cleaning, hygiene and related products.

The *Recognised Ecolabel Standard* sets out the criteria that commercial and I&I cleaning, hygiene and related products must meet to be eligible for certification under the Recognised Ecolabel program. These criteria differentiate high-performing, environmentally preferable commercial and I&I cleaning, hygiene and related products by addressing the most relevant environmental impacts and aspects across the product life cycle for these product categories.

Publication date: 16 December 2025

In-force date: 19 January 2026

The Recognised Ecolabel program is an initiative of Accord Australasia Limited.

www.accord.asn.au

hygiene, cosmetic, personal care and specialty products

Revision history

This January 2026 version of the *Recognised Ecolabel Standard* incorporates substantial technical and editorial changes compared to the previous version (May 2022), reflecting the comprehensive expansion of the criteria. Accordingly, the following revision history table contains only significant technical changes since the original *Recognised Ecolabel Standard* was published in 2011.

Version	**Notes**
March 2012	Original. Incorporates feedback from the Expert Panel
December 2012	Incorporates feedback from the second expert review (Prof. Barry Hart)
May 2016	Technical change: Addition of new section 6.4 Microorganisms
July 2018	Technical change: Addition of new section 6.2.10 Microbeads
July 2021	Technical change: Section 6.2.9 Packaging to align with the 2025 National Packaging Targets Scope change: Inclusion of 'related, complementary products without a cleaning function, such as hand moisturisers/barrier creams'
May 2022 (previous version)	(Editorial changes: Clarification that liquid body wash products are exempt from the concentration requirements, given their similar delivery mode and function to liquid hand wash.)
January 2026	Comprehensive revision of the entire Standard, incorporating feedback from consultation participants. (Editorial changes are not comprehensively listed.) *Technical changes:* Addition of description of required evidence/supporting information for all criteria Product claims – addition that evidence for performance, environmental or human health claims is now required Product concentration – addition of minimum dilution requirements; addition of enzymatic/microbial cleaners to exempt categories Colourants – maximum permissible levels of lead, cadmium, arsenic and mercury added; evidence for ≥ 0.1% colourant needed VOCs – decrease in maximum permissible levels Phosphorus – addition of maximum limit for intentionally added phosphorus Palm oil and palm kernel oil – addition of new section defining requirements for potential oil palm derivatives Primary packaging – change to permissible level of post-consumer recycled material, inclusion of a reduction in material usage option Corrosives – addition of a new section requiring disclosure upon request Sensitisers – addition of maximum limits for respiratory and skin sensitisers Microorganisms (Section 6.4.1) – updates to acceptable methods for taxonomic identification, allowance of QPS organisms Whole-of-business criteria – new section, with five new areas for compliance: ingredient/material sourcing, energy efficiency and greenhouse gas emissions, material efficiency and waste management, water management, and social *Editorial changes:* Addition of several annexes to support Applicants and the Application process Addition of evidence requirements for each criterion

CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION 1
2. SCOPE 1
   2.1 Product scope 1
   2.2 Geographical scope 2
   2.3 Criteria scope 2
      2.3.1 Whole-of-business criteria scope 3
      2.3.2 Product criteria scope 3
3. CERTIFICATION PROCESS 3
   3.1 Overview of the product certification process 3
      3.1.1 Third-party Assessment 5
      3.1.2 Independent Review 5
      3.1.3 Product Licensing 5
   3.2 Overview of ongoing eligibility for certification 5
4. GOVERNANCE 6
5. ABBREVIATIONS and DEFINITIONS 7
6. PRODUCT CRITERIA 10
   6.1 General principles 10
      6.1.1 Product performance 10
      6.1.2 Product ingredient and hazard disclosure 10
   6.2 Environmental criteria 11
      6.2.1 Product concentration 11
      6.2.2 Aquatic toxicity, persistence and bioaccumulation 13
      6.2.3 Colourants 16
      6.2.4 Volatile organic compounds 17
      6.2.5 Phosphorus 18
      6.2.6 Sodium 18
      6.2.7 Palm oil and palm kernel oil 19
      6.2.8 Ozone-depleting compounds 20
      6.2.9 Primary packaging 21
      6.2.10 Microbeads 22
      6.2.11 Product environmental claims 22
   6.3 Human health criteria 22
      6.3.1 Prohibited substances 23
      6.3.2 Restricted Substances 23
      6.3.3 Fragrances 25
      6.3.4 Corrosives 25
      6.3.5 Sensitisers 26
      6.3.6 Product human health claims 27

6.4 Microorganisms 27
6.4.1 Taxonomic identification 27
6.4.2 Quality assurance 28
6.4.3 Impacts on organisms 28
6.4.4 Susceptibility to antimicrobial agents 28
6.4.5 Exposure during use (YOPI, food handling/processing) 29
6.4.6 Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) 29
6.4.7 Efficacy 30
6.4.8 Accompanying information 30
7. WHOLE-OF-BUSINESS CRITERIA 31
7.1 Ingredient/material sourcing 31
7.2 Energy efficiency and greenhouse gas emissions 32
7.3 Material efficiency and waste management 33
7.4 Water management 34
7.5 Social 35
7.5.1 Compliance with human rights/rights at work requirements 35
7.5.2 Meaningful and positive social impacts 35
8. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION 36
Annex A – Product function characteristics and key performance elements 37
Annex B – Third-party Assessor details 38
Annex C – Example product claims 39
Annex D – Performance data examples and test methods 40
Annex E – Applicant Product Declaration 42
Annex F – Tests for primary experimental aquatic toxicity, persistence and bioaccumulation 43
Annex G – Example data sources for assessing human health and environmental (aquatic toxicity, persistence and bioaccumulation) hazards 44
Annex H – Supplier Declaration – Colourants 45
Annex I – Potential oil palm derivatives 46
Annex J – Example calculation for potential oil palm–derived ingredients 47
Annex K – Supplier Declaration – Packaging recycled content 48
Annex L – Applicant Whole-of-business Declaration 49
Annex M – Applicant Social Declaration 50

1. INTRODUCTION

The Recognised Ecolabel is a voluntary certification program for commercial, industrial & institutional (I&I) cleaning, hygiene and related products. It has been developed and operates in accordance with the requirements of ISO 14020 (Environmental statements and programmes for products — Principles and general requirements) and ISO 14024 (Type I environmental labelling — Principles and procedures).

Commercial and I&I cleaning, hygiene and related products are formulated chemical products used for commercial, public, industrial and institutional applications; they play a vital role in keeping these areas clean, hygienic and comfortable. Cleanliness and good hygiene are essential for maintaining wellbeing and protecting public health, helping to prevent the transmission of diseases, reducing the burden on the healthcare system and increasing productivity. Related products complement the action of, and are often supplied in conjunction with, commercial and I&I cleaning and hygiene products, but do not have a cleaning or hygiene function; the suitability of such products for certification under the Recognised Ecolabel is determined on a case-by-case basis. For more information on the scope of Recognised, see Section 2.

Although efficacy is the number one consideration for commercial and I&I cleaning, hygiene and related products, the Recognised Ecolabel addresses the ever-increasing demand for products with preferable environmental characteristics by defining the characteristics of such products throughout the product lifecycle and by requiring Applicants to demonstrate whole-of-business efforts on material environmental issues and social responsibility.

2. SCOPE

2.1 Product scope

The Recognised Ecolabel program applies to commercial and I&I cleaning, hygiene and related products. That is, formulated products for maintaining hygienic conditions in workplaces, institutions, warehouses, industrial facilities and public spaces. See Annex A for product function characteristics and key performance elements of the product categories covered by Recognised.

Commercial and I&I cleaning, hygiene and related products have specific requirements and are often subject to higher performance expectations than domestic-use products. Commercial and I&I cleaning and hygiene products may contain higher-strength formulations with greater chemical activity than domestic-use products due to the more stringent hygiene requirements of their applications. Accordingly, the Recognised Ecolabel was developed specifically for commercial and I&I products and excludes products primarily designed for household use, as it may be inappropriate to apply uniform criteria across both sectors.

The Recognised Ecolabel also enables the certification of microorganism-containing commercial and I&I cleaning and hygiene products, subject to the requirements described in Section 6.4.

Recognised includes, but is not limited to, the following products for use in commercial and I&I applications:

- hard surface cleaning products, including general purpose cleaners, bathroom cleaners, toilet bowl cleaners, glass cleaners, floor cleaners and oven cleaners
- carpet and upholstery cleaners
- laundry detergents
- dishwashing products
- automotive cleaners
- sanitisers/biocides
- hand hygiene products

- related, complementary products without a cleaning function, such as hand moisturisers/barrier creams.

The Recognised Ecolabel was developed in recognition that the post-use destination for most commercial and I&I cleaning and hygiene products is typically down the drain to a sewage treatment system. Recognised does not, nor can it, consider all potential disposal scenarios, including accidental spills and intentional misuse.

2.2 Geographical scope

Application for certification under the Recognised Ecolabel is open to Applicants from all countries for in-scope products available on any market. However, all documentation and communications must be in English.

2.3 Criteria scope

Commercial and I&I cleaning, hygiene, and related products are primarily formulated with chemical ingredients and may have environmental impacts throughout their lifecycle. Some products may also be formulated with microorganisms, which require additional, specific assessment.

The *Recognised Ecolabel Standard* sets out the criteria that commercial, industrial & institutional (I&I) cleaning, hygiene and related products need to meet to be eligible for certification under the Recognised Ecolabel program. These criteria differentiate high-performing, environmentally preferable commercial and I&I cleaning, hygiene and related products by addressing the most relevant environmental impacts and aspects across the product life cycle for these product categories.

All jurisdictions have regulatory bodies/authorities that are relevant to commercial and I&I cleaning, hygiene & related products. These set various requirements, e.g., to protect human health, protect the environment and provide specific quality/performance guarantees. The *Recognised Ecolabel Standard* does not duplicate these mandatory requirements; instead, the voluntary *Recognised Ecolabel Standard* sets additional requirements to identify products with preferable environmental, human health and social impacts across their lifecycle.

Only environmental impacts/aspects that are pertinent to commercial and I&I cleaning, hygiene and related products are covered by the *Recognised Ecolabel Standard*. Similarly, only product types where the environmental impacts can be meaningfully differentiated are in scope for the Recognised Ecolabel program. The *Recognised Ecolabel Standard* includes human health aspects due to the close connection of these products to people, whether during use by cleaning workers or by building occupants.

A robust scientific methodology underpins the *Recognised Ecolabel Standard*. For example, instead of relying on unexplained lists of banned substances, it excludes problematic ingredients based on their chemical properties or hazard classifications. Each criterion is supported by a clear rationale, including any exceptions or reasons why certain environmental impacts/aspects are not considered relevant to assessing the environmental preferability of commercial and I&I cleaning, hygiene and related products.

The *Recognised Ecolabel Standard* also requires businesses to demonstrate efforts to address key environmental issues across their entire operations. For ongoing certification, additional efforts to improve environmental performance at the whole-of-business level must be demonstrated, which supports ongoing improvement.

The transparent, evidence-based and continuous-improvement approach of the *Recognised Ecolabel Standard* promotes ongoing innovation in product formulation and across business operations to decrease negative environmental impacts and increase positive contributions.

The *Recognised Ecolabel Standard* comprises two core sections, summarised in *Sections 2.3.1* and *2.3.2*.

2.3.1 Whole-of-business criteria scope

The Whole-of-business criteria stipulate requirements for an Applicant's whole-of-business efforts relating to the following environmental aspects:

- ingredient and material sourcing
- energy efficiency and greenhouse gas emissions
- water management
- material efficiency and waste management

Requirements relating to social impacts are also stipulated.

See Section 7 of the *Recognised Ecolabel Standard*.

2.3.2 Product criteria scope

The Product criteria stipulate requirements for individual products submitted by the Applicant, once the Applicant has been assessed as meeting the whole-of-business criteria.

The Product criteria are designed to promote environmental product excellence and encourage continuous innovation by producers, by minimising the environmental and human health impacts of products through:

- requiring products to be concentrated
- setting stringent aquatic toxicity, persistence and bioaccumulation requirements
- restricting the use of heavy metal–containing colourants
- setting limits for volatile organic compounds (VOCs)
- restricting the phosphorus content
- promoting sustainable palm oil and palm kernel oil derivatives
- setting requirements for primary packaging and fragrances
- prohibiting solid plastic microbeads
- prohibiting substances that are acutely toxic to humans (GHS categories 1–3)
- restricting carcinogens, mutagens, reproductive toxins and sensitisers
- requiring evidence for any performance, environmental and human health claims
- setting requirements for microorganism-containing products

See Section 6 of the *Recognised Ecolabel Standard*.

3. CERTIFICATION PROCESS

3.1 Overview of the product certification process

For a product to be certified under the Recognised Ecolabel program, the Applicant must demonstrate their fulfilment of the Whole-of-business Criteria (Section 7) and the Product Criteria (Section 6) via Third-party Assessment. They must then enter a Licence Agreement with Accord. A summary of the Recognised application, assessment and licensing processes is provided in Figure 1.

For detailed information on the Assessment process, see the *Recognised Ecolabel Rules* or the *Guidance on Application and Licensing*.

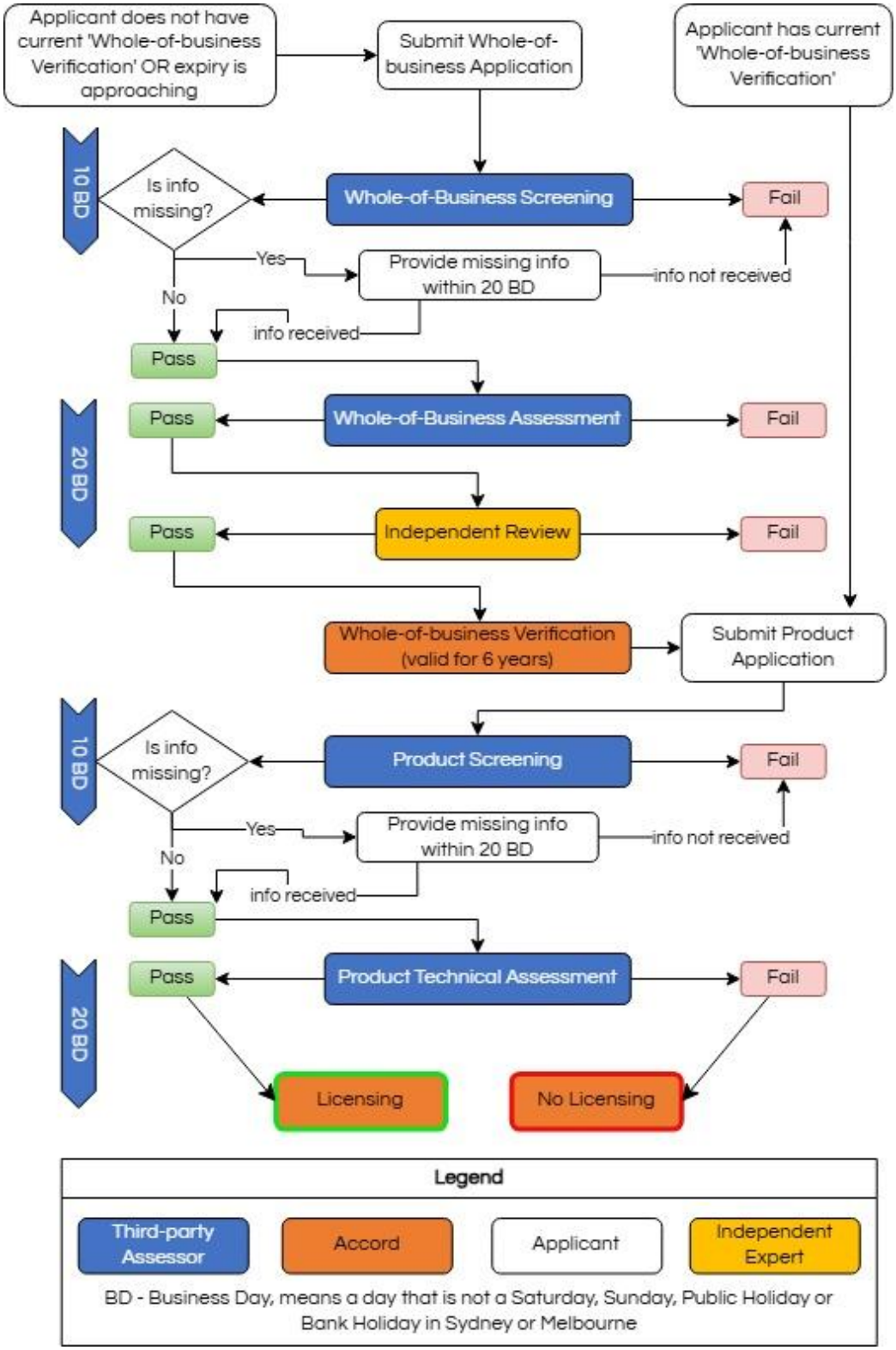

Figure 1: Summary of Recognised Ecolabel application, assessment and licensing processes

3.1.1 Third-party Assessment

The Recognised Third-party Assessment process consists of four stages for a new Applicant.

1. Whole-of-business Screening
2. Whole-of-business Assessment (pass = awarded 'Whole-of-business Verification')
3. Product Screening
4. Product Technical Assessment

For an Applicant that has already passed the Whole-of-business Assessment and has a current Whole-of-business Verification, only stages 3 and 4 apply.

All these stages are performed by the Third-party Assessor. The Third-party Assessor is engaged under a legal services agreement by Accord and performs an independent, expert, consistent scientific review of each application against the *Recognised Ecolabel Standard*. The Third-party Assessor is subject to impartiality, independence and confidentiality requirements, as described in the *Recognised Third-party Assessor and Independent Expert Requirements*.

The Third-party Screening and Assessment follow the Third-party Assessor's *Screening and Technical Procedure*, a standardised process document.

3.1.2 Independent Review

The outcomes of all Whole-of-business and some Product Assessments undergo further Independent Review to uphold procedural consistency and scientific integrity. This Independent Review is carried out by an Independent Expert whom the Third-party Assessor formally engages under a signed independent contractor agreement. The Independent Expert is subject to competency, impartiality, independence and confidentiality requirements, as described in the *Recognised Third-party Assessor and Independent Expert Requirements*.

The Independent Review follows the Third-party Assessor's *Screening and Technical Procedure*, a standardised process document provided to the Independent Expert.

Refer to the Recognised Third-party Assessor and Independent Expert Requirements for more information.

3.1.3 Product Licensing

Licensing is the granting of legal permission to an Applicant to promote their product as certified under the Recognised Ecolabel program, in accordance with the terms of the Recognised Licence Agreement.

If the Product Application passes the Product Technical Assessment, it is eligible for Licensing as a certified Recognised product. This requires the Applicant to enter a Recognised Licence Agreement with Accord and pay the Licensing Fee. A Licensed Product will be listed on the online Recognised Product Register, and a Product Certificate (stating the Commencement Date and Expiry Date of the Licence) will be issued.

3.2 Overview of ongoing eligibility for certification

The duration of a Product License is three years. During this period, by the anniversary of the Product Licence, the Licence Holder must sign and return an *Annual Confirmation Notification* to Accord, declaring that there has been no change to the formulation or packaging, and that they have not become aware of any new information that could potentially alter the environmental/human health preferability of the product. The License Holder must also comply with all conditions of the Licence Agreement.

The Whole-of-business Verification is valid for six years. An Applicant must have a current Whole-of-business Verification to apply for new product certifications under the Recognised Ecolabel program.

For more information, see the Recognised Ecolabel Rules or the Guidance on Application and Licensing.

4. GOVERNANCE

The operational responsibilities for the Recognised ecolabel are summarised in Figure 2.

Accord Australasia ('Accord') is the Programme Operator and is responsible for developing, maintaining and administering the Recognised Ecolabel program, including the Licensing of certified products.

The Third-party Assessor is responsible for conducting the Whole-of-business Assessment, Initial Screening and Technical Assessment stages.

The Independent Expert is responsible for reviewing Third-Party assessments.

The *Recognised Ecolabel Rules* provide detailed information on the governance of the Recognised Ecolabel program.

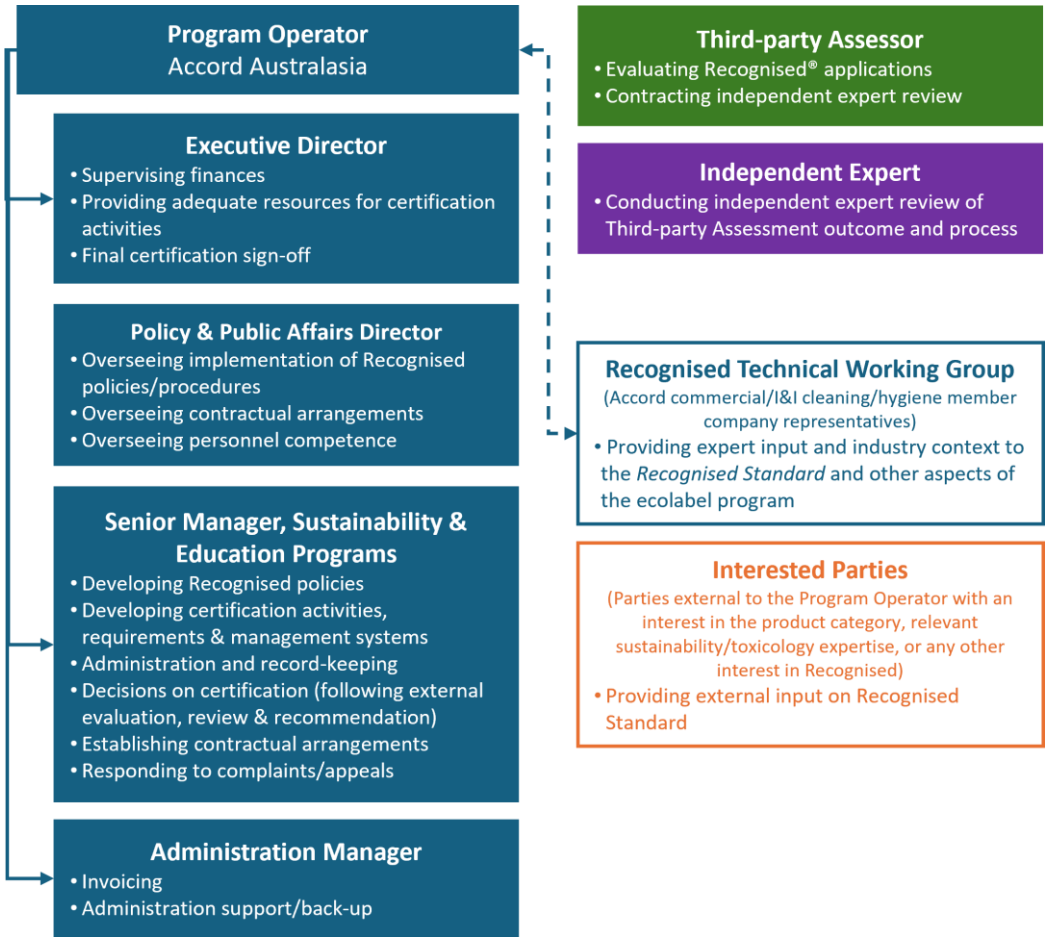

Figure 2: Recognised Ecolabel responsibilities chart

5. ABBREVIATIONS and DEFINITIONS

AOAC: Association of Official Analytical Chemists

Certification: The formal recognition, or the process of formal recognition, of a product as meeting the requirements of the *Recognised Ecolabel Standard* and the Applicant complying with all relevant *Recognised Ecolabel Rules*. (Note that the Whole-of-business Verification is a prerequisite for product certification but does not enable certification on its own.)

Annual Confirmation Notification: A formal communication that must be provided by the License Holder to the Licensor each year by the anniversary of the Licence Agreement, requiring the Licensee to confirm that their certified product/s continue to comply with the requirements of the *Recognised Ecolabel Standard* and the Recognised Licence Agreement.

Applicant: A manufacturer/brand owner of commercial and I&I cleaning, hygiene and related products that has submitted an Application for Certification under the Recognised ecolabel.

Application: The evidence/information submitted by an Applicant to the Third-party Assessor, based on the requirements specified in the *Recognised Ecolabel Standard*, for assessment against the *Recognised Ecolabel Standard*.

AS: Australian Standard

AS/NZS: Australian/New Zealand Standard

ASTM: American Society for Testing and Materials

BCF: The 'bioconcentration factor' is a measure of bioconcentration, the process by which the concentration of a substance in an aquatic organism achieves a level that exceeds the concentration of that substance in the water, as a result of exposure of the organism to the substance via the water but excluding exposure via the diet. BCF is the ratio of the concentration of a substance in/on the aquatic organism to the concentration of the substance in the water at steady state.

CAS number: The 'Chemical Abstracts Service' Registry Number is a unique numerical identifier assigned to chemical substances by the Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS).

Cleaning products: Products with the primary function of removing visible matter (soil) and odours (often in conjunction with physical action); examples are detergents, cleansers and soaps.

Commercial and I&I products: Products designed primarily for use in workplaces, institutions, warehouses and industrial facilities.

Contract manufacturer: A business, external to the Applicant, that conducts manufacturing on behalf of the Applicant under a contractual arrangement.

Domestic use: Products that are primarily intended for use in households.

EC: European Commission

Enzyme: A protein that acts as a catalyst in biochemical reactions. Each enzyme is specific to a particular reaction or group of similar reactions.

EPI Suite™: 'Estimation Program Interface', a Windows-based screening tool developed by the US EPA and Syracuse Research Corp. (SRC).

Expert Panel: Panel of three expert human health and environmental toxicologists who reviewed the original *Recognised Ecolabel Standard* and program operations, making recommendations that were acted upon prior to the original launch of the Recognised Ecolabel program.

Formulated (product)/Formulation: A chemical product made from a carefully selected and proportioned mixture of substances (which may also include live microorganisms) that do not chemically react, but that each play a part in the properties of the finished product. 'Formulation' also refers to the act of formulating a formulated product, or all ingredients within a formulated product.

GHS: Globally Harmonised System for the Classification and Labelling of Chemicals[1]

GMO: Genetically modified organism, an organism that has been modified by gene technology or that has inherited particular traits from an initial organism that occurred in the initial organism because of gene technology.

Hygiene products: Products with the primary function of killing and/or deactivating microorganisms.

I&I: 'Industrial and institutional'; that is, products specifically designed for cleaning and maintenance in non-household environments, including workplaces, public facilities, commercial operations and industrial plants.

IARC: International Agency for Research on Cancer

IFRA: International Fragrance Association

Independent Expert: A suitably qualified and experienced professional engaged by the Third-party Assessor to provide an impartial review of the Third-party Assessment process and decision.

Interested Party: 'A person or organisation that can be affected or perceives itself to be affected by an ecolabel'[2].

Independent Review: The impartial review of the Third-party Assessment process and decision by a suitably qualified and experienced professional engaged by the Third-party Assessor.

ISO: International Organization for Standardization

K_{ow}: Octanol/water partition coefficient, describing the ratio of the concentration of a chemical in octanol and in water.

L/E/IC50: Concentration of a substance that is lethal/effective/inhibitory to 50% of test organisms after a specified time (e.g. 48 h, 96 h, etc).

Licence Agreement: The formal, legally binding authorisation issued under the Recognised ecolabel that permits an Applicant to promote their product as certified, subject to the conditions set out in the Recognised Licence Agreement.

Licensing: Granting of legal permission to an Applicant to promote their product as certified under the Recognised ecolabel, in accordance with the terms of the Recognised Licence Agreement.

License Holder: An Applicant that has been granted a Licence under the Recognised program and is thereby authorised to promote their product as certified under Recognised.

$mg \cdot L^{-1}$: Milligrams per litre

Microorganisms: Organisms of microscopic size, including bacteria, fungi, viruses and protozoa.

NPI: National Pollutant Inventory

OECD: Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development

OPPTS: Office of Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances (USA)

Preservative: A chemical substance added to a product to prevent spoilage due to microorganisms or undesirable chemical reactions, primarily oxidation.

Program Operator: The organisation (Accord Australasia Ltd) responsible for developing and maintaining the Recognised Ecolabel program.

'Related products': Products that complement the action of commercial and I&I cleaning and hygiene products, without a cleaning or hygiene function and that are supplied with commercial and I&I cleaning

[1] GHS: Different jurisdictions have adopted different versions of the GHS. For example, revised versions of GHS 10 & 11 have been implemented in Europe, while Australia implements GHS 7. https://unece.org/ghs-rev7-2017

[2] ISO/DIS 14024

and hygiene products and used in commercial and I&I cleaning and hygiene settings. Examples are skin moisturisers and barrier creams.

RIFM: Research Institute for Fragrance Materials

RSPO: Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil

Screening: The preliminary review of an Application under the Recognised ecolabel by the Third-party Assessor to confirm eligibility, completeness of documentation, and readiness for Technical Assessment against the *Recognised Ecolabel Standard*.

SDS: Safety Data Sheet

Spores: Dormant microorganisms that only become active after germinating; a resistant form of the organism often adopted in adverse conditions

Supplier: An individual or organisation that provides service or product inputs to an Applicant.

SUSMP: Standard for the Uniform Scheduling of Medicines and Poisons

Technical Assessment: The evaluation of an Application for Certification under the Recognised ecolabel against the requirements of the *Recognised Ecolabel Standard* by the Third-party Assessor (also known as 'Third-party Assessment').

Third-party Assessment: The evaluation of an Application for Certification under the Recognised ecolabel against the requirements of the *Recognised Ecolabel Standard* by a party distinct from the Program Operator (also known as 'Technical Assessment').

Third-party Assessor: The individual/organisation responsible for the Third-party Assessment process, independent of the Program operator. Details of the current Third-party Assessor are in Annex B.

US EPA: Environmental Protection Agency (USA)

VOC: Volatile organic compound; see technical definition in Section 6.2.4.

VOC Exempt: An organic compound that is specifically excluded from the regulatory definition of a VOC because it has been determined to have negligible photochemical reactivity (refer to Section 6.2.4).

WDCM: World Data Centre for Microorganisms

Whole-of-business Criteria: The requirements within the *Recognised Ecolabel Standard* that apply to the overall policies, practices, and operations of a business, beyond individual product performance

Whole-of-business Assessment: The evaluation of a Whole-of-business Application by the Third-party Assessor against the requirements of *Recognised Ecolabel Standard* Section 7.

YOPI: Vulnerable populations, i.e., Young (under 5), Old (over 65), Pregnant and Immunocompromised

6. PRODUCT CRITERIA

6.1 General principles

6.1.1 Product performance

Products must be fit for purpose, i.e., satisfying consumer performance needs. Specific evidence is needed in any of the following cases:

1. If a specific product performance claim is made, evidence supporting the claim must be provided. A claim may not be made for any aspect that is a legal performance requirement for the product category/an ingredient used in the product category. See Annex C for examples of product claims that require evidence.[3] See Annex D for examples of performance data and test methods.

2. If the product is advertised for use on a particular surface type (e.g., stone, stainless steel), evidence supporting the suitability of the product for that surface must be provided.

3. For leave-on products, evidence that the residue is suitable for the application must be provided.

Required evidence/supporting information:

- List of product performance claims, if applicable
- Product information, e.g., product brochure, webpage information, label information
- Manufacturer's instructions for use
- If any of the specific requirements 1–3 apply, evidence must be provided for each. Either of the below forms of evidence, or a combination, may be provided:
  - Third-party test reports
  - Applicant company test reports/data

    In either case, the standard or test method must be provided.

If Applicant company data is supplied, it must be accompanied by a Declaration (see Annex E), signed by a representative of the Applicant company with suitable expertise and authority.

Rationale: 'Fit for purpose', that is, satisfying user performance needs, is a fundamental requirement of any environmentally preferable product. A product that does not effectively fulfil its intended function is wasteful of its constituent resources, the labour expended in using the product, and—in the case of an ineffective hygiene product in particular—may jeopardise health and wellbeing.

All businesses supplying products to the Australian market have legal obligations under Australian Consumer Law (ACL). This specifies that products must be fit for their advertised purpose and that product descriptions must be accurate. Other jurisdictions have similar provisions. Given these legal requirements, and that the highly competitive commercial/I&I market is the best determinant of product performance, any further demonstrations of product performance are unnecessary. However, evidence is required to verify any specific claims and, in the case of leave-on products, to ensure product residue safety.

6.1.2 Product ingredient and hazard disclosure

Confidential, full-formulation disclosure is required to the third-party assessor.

Required evidence/supporting information:

- List of ingredients, including CAS number, chemical/trade name, function and proportion in the formulation, to a total of 100%.

[3] Specific evidence is not needed in the case of a soil type–related claim, as this falls under the product function characteristics/key performance elements (see Annex A); that is, it is an expected performance element.

- Product SDS, if available. The SDS must contain current information and not be older than 5 years from the date of application.
- SDS for each ingredient. The SDS must contain current information and not be older than 5 years from the date of application.

Rationale: Full-formulation ingredient information is required by the third-party assessor to enable the screening and technical assessments to be performed. The technical assessment is to determine conformance with this Standard.

6.2 Environmental criteria

With the exception of Section 6.2.2 (Aquatic toxicity, persistence and bioaccumulation) and 6.2.3 (colourants), which relate to undiluted product/product components, all other environmental criteria relate to the in-use product, as per label directions, rather than the product concentrate. Where multiple dilution factors are specified for different product applications, these criteria relate to the most concentrated dilution.

Rationale: Commercial and I&I cleaning, hygiene and related products enter the environment in the form in which they are used. For the vast majority of contexts, the immediate post-use receiving environment for commercial and I&I cleaning, hygiene and related products is the sewage/wastewater system operating in the specific area of use. The Recognised Ecolabel program does not, nor can it, consider all potential disposal scenarios, including accidents and intentional misuse.

6.2.1 Product concentration

Liquid products must be concentrated to the greatest degree practicable. The required dilution factor must be clearly stated on the product label. The minimum dilution ratios in Table 1 apply.

In general, ready-to-use liquid products are not eligible for licencing under this ecolabel program. Incidental use of the liquid product concentrate (e.g., for special applications such as hard-to-remove soils or stains), is permitted if this application is stated on the product label or in the manufacturer's instructions.

On this basis, the only product categories that can be assessed as ready-to-use products and are exempt from the concentration requirement are:

- Toilet bowl cleaners
- Liquid hand hygiene/body wash products
- Abrasive cleaners
- Oven cleaners
- Some enzymatic/microbial cleaners
- Moisturisers/barrier creams

Products (in any product category) that are solids or are not miscible with water are exempt from the concentration requirement and may be assessed as ready-to-use. For liquid products, specific cases for which there is a significant safety, performance, technical, or practical reason preventing dilution will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Table 1: Minimum dilution ratios

Liquid product category	**Minimum dilution** (v/v, unless otherwise stated)
General-purpose/hard-surface cleaners	1:10
Bathroom cleaners	1:15
Glass cleaners	1:15
Hard floor cleaners	1:50
Carpet and soft furnishing cleaners	1:16
Dishwashing products	1:100
Automotive cleaners	1:50
Sanitisers	1:100
Disinfectants	1:10
Laundry detergent	16 $mL \cdot kg^{-1}$ dry wash weight
All other non-exempt products	1:15

Required evidence/supporting information:

- Identification of product form, i.e., liquid/solid/not miscible with water
- For liquid products, identification of the product category
- For liquid products that are not in an exempt category, product dilution factors as communicated in product marketing/information (either a copy of the materials or the replicated text must be provided)
- (If applicable) For liquid products not covered by an exempt category, that are not supplied in concentrated form, evidence for why supplying as a concentrate is not possible for safety, performance, technical or practical reasons

The third-party assessor will conduct the assessment based on the above information and the information provided in fulfilment of Section 6.1.2.

Rationale: Concentrated products have a lower impact on the environment because they reduce the volume of packaging required and the volume of product being transported, translating to savings in energy (fuel) and greenhouse gas emissions.

Exempt categories are based on the significant adverse effect on product hygiene performance, stability or customer safety arising from dilution upon use, as described below. In addition to these exempt categories, no concentration requirements/minimum dilution ratios are specified for solid products, as these are already formulated without water and therefore have much lower packaging requirements and transport impacts.

- *Toilet bowl cleaners are specifically formulated to achieve a desired viscosity for vertical cling in toilet bowls. Dilution of these products may result in reduced product performance. Also, as concentrated products, these would be very viscous and may not be easily or safely mixed manually.*
- *Liquid hand hygiene/body wash products are specifically formulated to achieve a desired viscosity for pumping. Allowing the consumer to dilute this type of product may also introduce bacterial contamination and reduce the efficacy of the preservative.*
- *Abrasive cleaners are specifically formulated with the correct viscosity to suspend abrasives.*
- *Oven cleaners are specifically formulated to achieve a viscosity/clinginess that is critical to product performance. Dilution of these products may result in reduced product performance. Also, as concentrated products, these would be very viscous and may not be easily or safely mixed, manually.*

- *Some enzymatic and microbial cleaners are specifically formulated for neat addition to traps/drains to digest recalcitrant soils and clear blockages, especially upon first use. Thus, they are supplied as 'ready to use' for the initial application, but in a concentrated form to deliver a sufficient enzymatic dose or microorganism population to kickstart the digestion process. The neat product is subsequently diluted in situ with a non-controlled volume of water.*
- *Moisturisers and barrier creams are specifically formulated as emulsions; dilution is not applicable to this category.*

6.2.2 Aquatic toxicity, persistence and bioaccumulation

Each of the undiluted chemical product components, or the undiluted whole product, must meet the requirements for aquatic toxicity, persistence and bioaccumulation set out in Table 2 [adapted from the US EPA's Safer Choice Program '*Master Criteria for Safer Chemical Ingredients*' (formerly the Design for the Environment 2009 '*General Screen for Safer Ingredients'*), Table 12[4]].

Table 2: Environmental toxicity and fate (persistence and bioaccumulation) criteria

Acute Aquatic Toxicity[i, ii, iii, iv] (L/E/IC50)	Persistence (measured in terms of level of biodegradation)[v]	Bioaccumulation potential[ix]
If ≤ 1 mg·L^{-1}…	…then may be accepted if the component meets the 10-day window[6] as measured in a ready biodegradation test[vii] without degradation products of concern[viii]…	…and is not expected to bioaccumulate
If > 1 mg·L^{-1} and ≤ 10 mg·L^{-1}…	…then the component must meet the 10-day window[vi] as measured in a ready biodegradation test[vii] without degradation products of concern[viii]…	
If > 10 mg·L^{-1} and ≤ 100 mg·L^{-1}…	…then the component must meet the 28-day pass level as measured in a ready biodegradation test[vii] without degradation products of concern[viii]…	
If ≥ 100 mg·L^{-1}…	…then the component need not meet the 28-day pass level as measured in a ready biodegradation test[vii] if there are no degradation products of concern[viii] and half-life is <60 days in water…	

Specific notes regarding Table 2:

i. Acute toxicity data is specified, as this data is often more readily available than chronic toxicity data, and because a predictive relationship between acute toxicity and chronic toxicity is generally observed across broad data sets for organic chemicals (see footnote 6 to Table 12 of the following link: www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/201312/documents/dfe_master_criteria_safer_ingredients_v2_1.pdf). Where experimental chronic toxicity data is available (whether primary or published – see 'Hierarchy of data preferability' under Required evidence/supporting information on page 21–22), it will be assessed with other data and applied based on the relationship between acute and chronic aquatic toxicity of organic chemicals.

ii. Acute toxicity data for algae, aquatic invertebrates and freshwater fish are required. Primary experimental test data are preferred, if available. Published and modelled data may be used, along with data from suitable analogues, in the absence of primary test data. The lowest value (highest toxicity) is used for evaluation. See *Required evidence/supporting information* for more information on the data hierarchy.

[4] www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2013-12/documents/dfe_master_criteria_safer_ingredients_v2_1.pdf

iii. Where available, primary whole-product toxicity test data will be considered in preference to primary individual component/ingredient data.
iv. For component-based assessment, the percentage at which each component is present in the product formulation is factored in when applying the requirements of Table 2. For example, if ethanol is present in a formulation at 5% of the total volume, the toxicity assessment accounts for the 5% ethanol rather than treating the product as 100% ethanol. This is essential to ensure that component-based and whole-product assessments are equitable, because whole-product data is, by default, based on the sum effects of all individual components at the levels present in the formulation.
v. Biodegradation by definition only applies to organic compounds. Therefore, inorganic compounds need only comply with the bioaccumulation potential requirements.
vi. For some mixtures of structurally similar chemicals, e.g. surfactants, testing may be performed on the mixture. In such circumstances where it is anticipated that a sequential biodegradation of the individual structures is taking place, the 10-day window result is deemed inappropriate to interpret the test result. (See OECD Guidelines for the Testing of Chemicals, Section 3, Part 1, Paragraph 43.) For such mixtures with acute aquatic toxicity $\leq$ 10 $mg \cdot L^{-1}$, the third-party assessor will make an expert determination regarding the acceptability of the data set.
vii. In recognition that the environment is a highly complex system, expert judgment by the third-party assessor with full rationalisation and data disclosure may be acceptable for ingredients or products which do not meet the ready biodegradability requirements of Table 2. For example, other types of test data that may be considered in an assessment of the potential environmental hazard or risk include sewage treatment plant (STP) simulation data, inherent biodegradability, anaerobic biodegradability, or biodegradability in seawater and abiotic transformation. (See OECD Guideline for Testing of Chemicals: Proposal for Revised Introduction to the OECD Guidelines for Testing of Chemicals, Section 3 (2005)).
viii. The US EPA defines degradation products of concern as 'compounds with high acute aquatic toxicity (L/E/IC50 $\leq$ 10 $mg \cdot L^{-1}$) which mineralise < 60% in 28 days'.
ix. Bioaccumulation potential is indicated when BAF ≥ 2000 or BCF ≥ 2000, or log K_{ow} ≥ 4.2 (if BAF and BCF are not available). Consideration of bioaccumulation potential is not required for surfactants due to the difficulty in measuring the octanol/water partition coefficient (K_{OW}) for these components, which sit at the octanol/water interface.

General notes regarding Table 2:

x. Ingredients added at < 0.1% or as preservatives are exempt from Table 2 requirements.
xi. Microorganisms (or viable spores) present as active ingredients are exempt from Table 2 requirements but must satisfy the criteria in Section 6.4. Microorganism-derived products, i.e. enzymes, must meet the requirements of Table 2 if present at $\geq$ 0.1%.
xii. Fragrance ingredients are only assessed against Table 2 requirements when the in-use concentration is $\geq$ 0.1% (see Section 6.3.3).
xiii. The criteria in Table 2 cover ingredients such as optical brighteners and biocides, which many other ecolabel programs categorically ban without consideration of the individual ingredient characteristics.
xiv. The criteria in Table 2 provide a highly conservative approach for the vast majority of commercial and I&I cleaning, hygiene and related products. The assessment is performed on the undiluted ingredients or whole product, but in most real-life contexts, these components will be diluted prior to product use, diluted subsequently as they enter the wastewater system, and then diluted finally as they enter receiving environmental waters following treatment. Therefore, any toxic effects of the undiluted ingredients will be significantly mitigated by the time they reach environmental waters.
xv. The Recognised criteria do not, nor can they, take into account all potential misuse scenarios, including accidental or intentional unregulated release to natural waterways.

Rationale: Table 2 recognises that the potential environmental impact of an ingredient or product is a function of its toxicity, the time it persists in the environment, whether its biodegradation products are themselves harmful in that environment, and whether it bioaccumulates in organisms. These properties must be considered in relation to each other for a meaningful evaluation of environmental impact. For

example, a product that is highly toxic but rapidly breaks down to harmless products in the aquatic environment will have minimal adverse effects on aquatic organisms.

The vast majority of commercial and I&I cleaning, hygiene and related products enter a wastewater treatment system following use. In these aquatic environments, the product exists not as a single entity but as its constituent ingredients. Following treatment, which for wastewater containing commercial and I&I cleaning, hygiene and related product waste most commonly occurs at a sewage treatment plant, effluent is discharged to one of several possible destinations, including the ocean, an inland waterway or for reuse on land.

For cases where use of the product will or is likely to result in direct release of the product to the environment, and where such practice is permitted according to all relevant regulatory and legal requirements, the Applicant is advised to refer to Section 8.

Required evidence/supporting information:

Hierarchy of data preferability to demonstrate conformance to Table 2 requirements:

1. Primary experimental test data

Where it exists, primary experimental test data is the preferred data source. As described in *Specific note 2* to Table 2, where available, whole-product experimental test data will be considered in preference to individual ingredient experimental test data, but either is acceptable.

Primary experimental test data is defined as data that has been generated from testing conducted on the product, or on an ingredient in the product. Annex F provides a list of tests to generate primary experimental data on aquatic toxicity, persistence and bioaccumulation.

This standard does not require primary test data to be generated, either on the product or its ingredients, if reliable ingredient data can be accessed through options 2 and 3, below.

2. Published ingredient experimental data

Where available, ingredient data published in peer-reviewed literature or databases is the preferred data source in the absence of primary experimental test data.

A list of example data sources is provided in Annex G.

3. Modelled data

In the absence of primary experimental test data or published ingredient experimental data, modelled data from the EPA's Estimation Programs Interface for Windows (EPI Suite™) may be considered. EPI Suite™ interfaces numerous models to provide users with estimates of a chemical's physical/chemical and environmental fate properties. Amongst these, of relevance to sourcing modelled data for ecotoxicity, persistence and bioaccumulation are:

- BCFBAF™ – estimates bioconcentration factor (BCF) and biotransformation rate (kM)
- BioHCwin – estimates biodegradation half-life of hydrocarbons
- BIOWIN™ – estimates aerobic and anaerobic biodegradation probability
- ECOSAR™ – estimates aquatic toxicity (LD50, LC50)
- KOWWIN™ – estimates octanol-water partition coefficient (Kow)

The most conservative result is used, that is, the lowest value (highest toxicity) among the available data.

Modelled data is not acceptable if the model is not validated, scientifically sound and appropriate for the chemical structure being assessed.

Rationale for hierarchy: In the instance of existing, published and peer-reviewed data, further testing is unnecessary and wasteful. However, where primary experimental test data exists, it is considered the most preferred and reliable information source. Modelled data may be acceptable in the absence of existing primary experimental data or published data.

6.2.3 Colourants

No colourant may have any of the following metals intentionally added during its production: arsenic, cadmium, cobalt, hexavalent chromium, lead, manganese, mercury, nickel and selenium.

For the following metals, which are the priority focus of many jurisdictions globally, the maximum allowable incidental levels in the colourant are shown in Table 3.

Each colourant shall be used in the minimal concentration necessary for the maintenance of stable colour in the diluted product. If a colourant is present in the product concentrate at ≥ 0.1%, evidence to justify the inclusion of this level must be provided.

Table 3: Maximum incidental levels of metals

Metal	Maximum incidental level (ppm)
Arsenic	3
Cadmium	3
Lead	10
Mercury	1

Each colourant that is present in the product concentrate at ≥ 0.1% is subject to Section 6.3 requirements, unless it falls into at least one of the categories i–iii below. (Each colourant that is present at < 0.1% is exempt from Table 2 requirements according to *General note x* regarding Table 2.)

i. Listed by Commission Regulation (EU) No. 1129/2011, Annex II, Part B (https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX%3A32011R1129)
ii. Listed by Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) in Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code, Schedule 16 – *Types of substances that may be used as food additives* (www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2019C00128)
iii. A natural colour.[5]

Required evidence/supporting information:

- If ≥ 0.1% colourant is present in the product concentrate, evidence to justify the inclusion of this level must be provided (e.g., to maintain visible colour in its most diluted form).
- For each colourant identified in fulfilment of Section 6.1.2, whether it meets criteria i, ii or iii *(to be exempt from Section 3 requirements).*

  AND
- Certificate of analysis (from colourant manufacturer/supplier) confirming that none of the listed metals were used in the manufacture of the colourant and the specified metals are below the permitted levels.

  OR (if not available)
- Signed declaration from colourant manufacturer/supplier confirming that none of the listed metals were used in the manufacture of the colourant and that the specified metals are below the permitted levels (see Annex H).

[5] To be a natural colour, the ICNA Act 2019 definition of 'naturally-occurring chemical' must apply:
(a) an unprocessed chemical occurring in a natural environment; or
(b) a chemical occurring in a natural environment, being a substance that is extracted by:
(i) manual, mechanical or gravitational means; or
(ii) dissolution in water; or
(iii) flotation; or
(iv) a process of heating for the sole purpose of removing uncombined water; without chemical change in the substance; or
(v) any other process prescribed by the rules for the purposes of this subparagraph.

Rationale: Colourants are ingredients with the sole purpose of modifying the product colour. Colourants are important components of commercial and I&I cleaning, hygiene and related product formulations due to their role in product identification and differentiation, helping protect worker safety.

Heavy metals can pollute the environment, causing harm to aquatic life and soil organisms. They can also enter and concentrate in the food chain through bioaccumulation.

Colourants are usually in commercial and I&I cleaning, hygiene and related product formulations at very low levels (usually < 0.01% w/v). These are expensive ingredients, so there is no incentive to formulate a product with more than the minimum amount to achieve a stable colour in the final dilution.

6.2.4 Volatile organic compounds

VOC content in the in-use product (most concentrated dilution, excluding recommendations for incidental use of a concentrated product to deal with limited special applications such as hard-to-remove soils or stains) is limited to the levels prescribed in Table 4.

A VOC is defined as any chemical compound based on carbon chains or rings with a vapour pressure greater than 0.01 kPa at 293.15 K (i.e. 20 °C), that participates in atmospheric photochemical reactions.[6] Exempt compounds are listed in parts (1) and (5) of *40 CFR 51.100 (s)* (See www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/40/51.100) and on pages 2-3 of DCCEEW's NPI Volatile Organic Compound Definition and Information. In accordance with *40 CFR 59.203 (f)*, solvents may also qualify as 'VOC-exempt' and the VOC content limits prescribed above shall not include any VOC that:

- Consists of more than 12 carbon atoms, if the vapour pressure is unknown, or
- Has a melting point higher than 20 °C and does not sublime (i.e., does not change directly from a solid into a gas without melting), if the vapour pressure is unknown.

A solvent may also be considered for VOC exemption under California Air Resources Board (CARB) criteria. (From Title 17, California Code of Regulations, Division 3, Chapter 1, Subchapter 8.5, Article 2, Consumer Products, § 94508 (83), found at ww2.arb.ca.gov/sites/default/files/2020-12/cp_all_regs_5-2019.pdf.)

Table 4: VOC limits by product category

Product category	**VOC limit** (in the in-use product, most concentrated dilution)
Bathroom cleaners	0.5%
General-purpose cleaners	0.1%
Glass cleaners	0.5%
Oven cleaners	5% (liquids), 8% (aerosols/pumps)
Liquid laundry detergent	1%
Floor cleaners	0.1%
Disinfectants / sanitisers	0.5%
Odour removers	1%
Automotive cleaners	0.1%
All other in-scope products	0.1%

Required evidence/supporting information:

For the ingredients identified in fulfilment of Section 6.1.2, identification of:

- each ingredient that is defined as a VOC according to the above definition
- any ingredients that would otherwise be classified as VOCs but are exempt from the VOC definition according to the above criteria, and the basis for their exemption.

[6] www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/protection/npi/substances/fact-sheets/total-volatile-organic-compounds

Rationale: Volatile organic compounds, or VOCs, are compounds released into the outside air that can photochemically react to cause ozone or smog. Some VOCs also contribute to poor indoor air quality and, therefore, potentially impact human health. VOC limits are set to minimise any negative impacts of commercial and I&I cleaning and related products on air quality.

Some VOCs are classified as VOC-exempt. These are VOCs that the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has exempted from VOC regulations because they do not significantly contribute to ground-level ozone formation. The EPA designates these organic compounds as having 'negligible photochemical reactivity'.

6.2.5 Phosphorus

The product as used (most concentrated dilution) must not contain more than 0.5% by weight of intentionally added[7] phosphorus.

A 'No intentionally added phosphorus' claim can be made for commercial and I&I cleaning, hygiene and related products that have been formulated without intentionally added phosphorus. It should be noted that these products may contain trace amounts of incidental phosphorus.

Required evidence/supporting information:

Calculated phosphorus content (as wt%), supported by:

- Total phosphorus analytical test results for the product

  OR (if not available)

- Total phosphorus calculations based on product formulation and dilution, showing that the product (most concentrated dilution) contains < 0.5% by weight of intentionally added phosphorus.

Rationale: High phosphorus levels in water, in conjunction with other conducive characteristics of aquatic environments, can result in plant and algal blooms. Phosphorus pollution is a major driver of biodiversity loss and contributes to ecosystem degradation.[8]

Phosphorus comes from many sources and exists in three primary forms: complexed, organic and inorganic. Inorganic phosphorus has high bioavailability, so it is readily taken up by plants and algae. Various processes, such as assimilation by plants, algae and microorganisms, and mineralisation, can transform organic and complexed phosphate forms through various steps into the readily available inorganic phosphate form.

Therefore, a limit is set on overall phosphorus content rather than specific phosphorus ingredients.

6.2.6 Sodium

The Licence Holder for a certified product under the Recognised Ecolabel program must disclose the sodium content in the product concentrate (%w/w) upon request by a customer or interested party. This ensures transparency where the sodium concentration is relevant to considerations relating to, for example, environmental, human health, technical or regulatory considerations.

Rationale: Sodium is ubiquitous in the environment. For specific situations where the sodium content of the commercial and I&I cleaning, hygiene or related product is relevant, Applicants agree to disclose the sodium content.

---

[7] Intentionally added phosphorus means where phosphorus is a component element of an intentionally added ingredient. Intentionally added ingredients are all the constituents of a formulated chemical product, with the exception of incidental ingredients. Incidental ingredients are those ingredients that have no technical or functional effect in the product, but which may be present in the product at trace levels as an ingredient of another product ingredient, or as a result of their use during manufacture as processing aids.

[8] www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/what-phosphorus-and-why-are-concerns-mounting-about-its-environmental-impact

6.2.7 Palm oil and palm kernel oil

All ingredients that are derived from palm oil or palm kernel oil must be:

- Sourced from certified sustainable plantations (via Identity Preserved, Segregated and/or Mass Balance supply chains)

  OR

- Offset through book and claim systems (e.g., RSPO credits), based on the annual volume of these ingredients used in the product. The annual production volume can be based on the previous year (calendar or financial) or forecasts for the following year.

This requirement applies to the following ingredients ('potential oil palm derivatives'):

- Fatty acids, fatty alcohols, fatty methyl esters and their derivatives with carbon chain lengths in the range of C6–C18, and
- Glycerin and its derivatives.

See Annex I for a list of prefixes and suffixes that may indicate potential oil palm derivatives.

Ingredients present at < 1% in the product concentrate are exempt from this requirement. Fragrances, which are often complex mixtures of small amounts of many ingredients—some of which may be oil palm derivatives—are also exempt from this requirement.

If the origins of any ingredient in the above categories cannot be traced, it must be assumed that it originates from palm oil or palm kernel oil. Only the book and claim evidence method (see below) is applicable in this case.

When calculating the annual mass of potential oil palm derivatives used in the product, the ratios in Table 4 of the 2020 RSPO Supply Chain Certification Standard may be used. If the ingredient is not listed in Table 4, the proportion that is potentially derived from oil palm can be calculated based on the molecular weight of the ingredient. If the ingredient contains a range of carbon chain lengths, an average molecular weight can be used. An example calculation for a fictional formation is provided in Annex J.

Note: Any claims made in relation to palm oil must be in line with the RSPO Rules on Market Communications & Claims 2022.

Required evidence/supporting information:

When ingredient origins can be traced

- Verification that a potential oil palm–derived ingredient is not derived from palm oil or palm kernel oil, i.e., supply chain documentation tracing the origins of the ingredient to other vegetable/animal oils/fats and/or petrochemical feedstocks

  OR

- Evidence that each palm oil– or palm kernel oil–derived ingredient in the product can be traced to certified sustainable oil palm plantations via the RSPO Identity Preserved, Segregated and/or Mass Balance supply chains. A current certificate for each ingredient is required, with the following information included or provided separately[9]:

  a) The name and address of the buyer and seller

  b) The loading or shipment/delivery date

  c) The date on which the documents were issued

[9] From 2020 RSPO Supply Chain Certification Standard (clause 5.4.1).

d) A description of the ingredient, including the applicable supply chain model (Identity Preserved (IP), Segregated (S), Mass Balance (MB), or the approved abbreviations)

e) The quantity of the ingredient delivered

f) Any related transport documentation

g) Supply Chain Certificate number of the seller

h) A unique identification number

OR

- Book and claim credits (e.g., RSPO credits) held by the Applicant to fully offset their use of any oil palm derivatives that are not covered by the two forms of evidence, above, in the product per annum. The calculations of the annual volume of oil palm derivatives in the product must also be provided, with an explanation of any assumptions made

OR

- Evidence that the Applicant requires all supplier/s to hold book and claim credits (e.g., RSPO credits) for all their oil palm–derived oleochemicals.

When the ingredient origins cannot be traced

- Book and claim credits (e.g., RSPO credits) held by the Applicant to fully offset their use of all potential oil palm derivatives in the product per annum. Calculations of the annual volume of potential oil palm derivatives in the product must also be provided, with an explanation of any assumptions made.

Rationale: Palm oil and palm kernel oil are products of the oil palm. Oil palm is the highest-yielding commercial oilseed crop per land area, which—along with many desirable properties of oil palm products and their derivatives—has led to a marked increase in its demand and cultivation. The expansion of oil palm cultivation has given rise to numerous serious environmental threats, including biodiversity loss, habitat loss, species endangerment, climate change, forest fires and soil erosion, as well as social/welfare issues. Therefore, the sustainable production of palm oil is essential to mitigate these threats.

Palm oil and palm kernel oil are not used directly in commercial and I&I cleaning, hygiene and related products. However, many ingredients in commercial and I&I cleaning, hygiene and related products may contain oil palm–derived components, some of which will have undergone multiple transformations before their use in the product. For many ingredients, diverse and interchangeable sources of raw materials (fatty acids and glycerol) are often used.

Additionally, raw materials suppliers do not always make information on feedstocks available to product manufacturers. It can be especially challenging for smaller companies to obtain this information.

As it is not always possible for ingredient end-users to trace the origins of ingredients, and as certified oil palm derivatives are not always available on the market, a flexible approach that enables multiple ways to support sustainable palm oil and palm kernel oil production, for companies of all sizes, is most suitable for commercial, I&I and related products.

6.2.8 Ozone-depleting compounds

Ozone-depleting compounds (US EPA Classes I and II) are already banned in commercial and I&I cleaning, hygiene and related products. The product must not contain any of the compounds listed at www.epa.gov/ozone-layer-protection/ozone-depleting-substances.

Required evidence/supporting information:

- Full formulation details confirm that no EPA Class I and II compounds are present.

Rationale: Ozone molecules in the Earth's stratosphere serve as a protective shield against harmful ultraviolet (UV) radiation. However, certain human-made compounds–like chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs)–can destroy stratospheric ozone, resulting in heightened UV exposure that threatens human health,

food and water security and the environment. To safeguard public health and facilitate the recovery of the ozone layer, Australian regulations ban the use of such ozone-depleting compounds in products.

6.2.9 Primary packaging

The primary packaging, that is, the main product container, must meet at least one of the following:

- Be reusable; that is, there is a designated, practical pathway to facilitate packaging reuse for the same purpose as for the original packaging use, in the jurisdiction in which the product is used.
- Be recyclable; that is, suitable collection, sorting and reprocessing capabilities exist in the jurisdiction in which the product is used to enable recycling of the packaging at scale. The packaging label or accompanying product information must clearly identify the post-use pathway for the packaging, and plastic packaging must be labelled with the relevant resin code.
- Be compostable; that is, meets the requirements of AS 4736-2006 or AS 5810-2010 (or the equivalent national standard of the jurisdiction in which the product is used). The packaging label or accompanying product information must clearly identify the post-use pathway for the packaging.
- Contain ≥ 50% post-consumer recycled material.
- Use ≥ 25% less materials by weight or volume than traditional packaging for the product type (e.g., replacement of rigid containers with flexible pouches; increase in packaging efficiency, i.e., more doses per container).

Please see Sections 7.1 and 7.3 for criteria relating to secondary/tertiary packaging.

In recognition that other components of commercial and I&I cleaning, hygiene and related product packaging are often integral to product safety and quality, and that these packaging components can be made from different materials and may have different recycling profiles to the primary container but are only a minor percentage of the overall packaging componentry, they are excluded from the packaging requirements. These include components such as the closure (lid, trigger, etc.) and any inserts/tubing designed for dispensing.

Required evidence/supporting information:

One or more of the following, as relevant:

- For reusable packaging: The packaging label and/or accompanying product information, identifying the post-use pathway (i.e., how to return the container and/or how the container is refilled). Evidence that this pathway is practically being utilised is also required.
- For recyclable packaging: The packaging label and/or accompanying product information, identifying the post-use pathway and (for plastic) the resin code.
- For compostable packaging: The packaging label and/or accompanying product information, identifying the post-use pathway; evidence of conformance with AS 4736-2006, AS 5810-2010 (or the equivalent national standard of the jurisdiction in which the product is used).
- For recycled content: Evidence of the percentage of post-consumer material in the container, e.g., an independent certification or Supplier Declaration (see Annex K).
- For packaging reduction: Images of the reduced-packaging container and comparison container type; calculations of the percentage decrease in packaging material per product dose. If Applicant company data is supplied, it must be accompanied by a Declaration (see Annex E), signed by a representative of the Applicant company with suitable expertise and authority.

Rationale: Packaging reuse, reduction, recycling and recycled content saves virgin resources. In some jurisdictions, where there can be limited availability of certain types of recycled packaging, as well as limited or variable accessibility to recycling services, it is important that packaging requirements are flexible enough to facilitate different approaches to minimising packaging waste. Compostable packaging helps minimise landfill.

6.2.10 Microbeads

Solid plastic microbeads (measuring < 5 mm in any dimension and that do not degrade or dissolve in water) may not be intentionally added.

Required evidence/supporting information:

- The ingredients identified in fulfilment of Section 6.1.2 confirm that no solid plastic microbeads are present.

Rationale: Microbeads are solid plastic particles, historically used as abrasives in product formulations, that do not biodegrade and are too small to be effectively captured by wastewater treatment systems. When released into aquatic environments, they persist and accumulate, contributing to the growing problem of microplastic pollution. Research indicates that microbeads can absorb toxic substances, be ingested by aquatic organisms and enter food chains, creating risks for ecosystems and potentially for human health.

Banning intentionally added microbeads in commercial and I&I cleaning, hygiene and related products aligns with global best practice and regulatory trends. For example, Australia's Environment Ministers agreed on a voluntary phase-out of solid plastic microbeads in certain products, including industrial handwash, by 1 July 2018, implemented through Accord's BeadRecede initiative. Legislation banning microbeads now exists or is planned in several Australian states and in many jurisdictions worldwide.

This criterion helps address the issue of microplastic pollution. The potential environmental and human health impacts of other solids that may be present in commercial and I&I cleaning, hygiene and related products are addressed by other criteria in this Standard.

6.2.11 Product environmental claims

If a specific product environmental claim is made, beyond the scope of the criteria assessed under Recognised, evidence supporting the claim must be provided. See Annex C for examples of product environmental claims that require evidence.

Required evidence/supporting information:

- List of product environmental claims. Product information, e.g., product brochure, webpage information, label information, must be supplied to verify that these and no additional claims are being made, and that no inappropriate claims are being made.
- Evidence to support the environmental claim. Either of the below forms of evidence, or a combination, may be provided:
    - Third-party test reports or certifications
    - Company test reports/data

If Applicant data is supplied, it must be accompanied by an Applicant Product Declaration (see Annex E), signed by a representative of the Applicant company with suitable expertise and authority. *Rationale: All businesses supplying products to the Australian market have legal obligations under Australian Consumer Law (ACL), including that product descriptions be accurate. Other jurisdictions have similar provisions. Evidence for specific environmental claims, beyond the scope of the Recognised Ecolabel Standard, provides certainty for product users regarding any such claims.*

6.3 Human health criteria

Human health criteria are included in this primarily environmental ecolabel program in recognition of the potential for human exposure to commercial and (I&I) cleaning, hygiene and related products, in either concentrated or diluted form, through contact with the skin or via inhalation.

Unless otherwise stated, all human health criteria relate to ingredients in the undiluted product concentrate, in recognition of the fact that human contact with the product is possible before product dilution. If the product is only available with closed-dispensing systems that prevent human contact with the product concentrate, the human health criteria relate to the most concentrated dilution available

through the closed-dispensing system. In these cases, evidence relating to the closed-dispensing system is required—see Section 6.3.2.

No specific criteria relating to endocrine disruptors are included. This is because endocrine disruption is not a toxicological endpoint, but in some cases can lead to toxicological endpoints such as carcinogenicity, mutagenicity or reproductive toxicity. Carcinogenic, mutagenic or reproductive effects are covered by criteria in Section 6.3.2.

6.3.1 Prohibited substances

All products classified as acute toxicity categories 1–3 under GHS[10] (H300, H301, H310, H311, H330, H331) or as Dangerous Goods Division 6.1 (toxic substances) under the Australian Dangerous Goods Code are prohibited.

Required evidence/supporting information:

- Ingredients identified in fulfilment of Section 6.1.2 are not classified as any of the above.

Rationale: GHS acute toxicity categories 1–3 and Dangerous Goods Division 6.1 (toxic substances) comprise substances liable to cause death or serious injury or harm from inhalation, ingestion or absorption through the skin.

6.3.2 Restricted Substances

6.3.2.1 Carcinogens

The GHS 7th revised edition[10] identifies three categories of carcinogenic substances. Table 5 lists these categories and the applicable cut-off values under the Recognised Ecolabel program.

Table 5: GHS categories for substances classified as carcinogens and applicable Recognised criteria.

Category	GHS classification	Limit (%) under Recognised
Known human carcinogens	Category 1A (H350)	≤ 0.1 as impurity only
Presumed human carcinogens	Category 1B (H350)	≤ 0.1 as impurity only
Suspected human carcinogens	Category 2 (H351)	≤ 1 of product

Where there is sufficient evidence for the carcinogenic effects of an ingredient, expert judgment by the third-party assessor will be applied to ascertain whether the effects are relevant to the use of the cleaning or hygiene product.

Ethanol, for example, is classified as a Group 1 carcinogen (see *Note*, below). However, as there is sufficient evidence linking this carcinogenic effect to a specific route of exposure that is not relevant for cleaning and hygiene products, i.e., ingestion, ethanol in cleaning and hygiene products would pass this criterion.

Required evidence/supporting information:

- Ingredients list (required to fulfil Section 6.1.2) confirms that no ingredients with the above classifications exceed the permitted limits.

Rationale: Trace amounts of known and presumed human carcinogens are permitted on the basis that raw materials may contain trace impurities that cannot easily be removed. Limited amounts (≤ 1%) of suspected carcinogens are permitted on the basis that there is insufficient evidence to conclusively demonstrate the carcinogenic potential of these substances on humans, and because the presence of the ingredient at ≤ 1% in the product concentrate will represent a very low risk to users, especially after dilution.

[10] GHS7 is the version to which Australia's model WHS safety regulations are aligned and to which Australian SDSs will be prepared. Other regulations may use a different edition of the GHS. Information on the SDS will be checked against the most current classification data (typically drawn from ECHA), which more recent versions of the GHS may inform.

Note: Listing of carcinogens with known, probable or possible human carcinogenic effects as defined by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) as Group 1, 2A and 2B, respectively, can be found at https://monographs.iarc.who.int/list-of-classifications.

6.3.2.2 Mutagens

The GHS 7th revised edition identifies three categories of mutagenic substances. Table 6 lists these categories and the applicable cut-off values under the Recognised Ecolabel program, which are in line with the Australian implementation of GHS.

Table 6: GHS categories for substances classified as mutagens and applicable Recognised criteria.

Category	GHS classification	Limit (%) under Recognised
Known human mutagens	Category 1A (H340)	≤ 0.1 as impurity only
Presumed human mutagens	Category 1B (H340)	≤ 0.1 as impurity only
Suspected human mutagens	Category 2 (H341)	≤ 1 of product

Where there is sufficient evidence for mutagenic effects of an ingredient, expert judgement by the third-party assessor will be applied to ascertain whether the effects are relevant to the use of the cleaning or hygiene product.

Required evidence/supporting information:

- Ingredients list (required to fulfil Section 6.1.2) confirms that no ingredients with the above classifications exceed the permitted limits.

Rationale: Trace amounts of known and presumed human mutagens are permitted on the basis that raw materials may contain trace impurities that cannot easily be removed. Limited amounts (≤ 1%) of suspected mutagens are permitted on the basis that there is insufficient evidence to conclusively demonstrate the mutagenic potential of these substances on humans, and because the presence of the ingredient at ≤ 1% in the product concentrate will represent a very low risk to users, especially after dilution.

6.3.2.3 Reproductive toxicants

The GHS 7th revised edition identifies four categories of reproductive toxicants. Table 7 lists these categories and the applicable cut-off values under the Recognised Ecolabel program, which are in line with Australia's implementation of GHS.

Table 7: GHS categories for substances classified as reproductive toxicants and applicable Recognised criteria

Category	GHS classification	Limit (%) under Recognised
Known human reproductive toxins	Category 1A (H360)	≤ 0.3 as impurity only
Presumed human reproductive toxins	Category 1B (H360)	≤ 0.3 as impurity only
Suspected human reproductive toxins	Category 2 (H361)	≤ 3 of product
	Effects on or via lactation (H362)	≤ 0.3 as impurity only

Where there is sufficient evidence for reproductive toxicity effects of an ingredient, expert judgement by the third-party assessor will be applied to ascertain whether the effects are relevant to the use of the cleaning or hygiene product.

For example, ethanol is classified as a reproductive toxicant based on epidemiological data derived from human alcohol (i.e. beverage) consumption. However, as these effects are linked only to ingestion of ethanol, ethanol in cleaning and hygiene products would pass this criterion.

Required evidence/supporting information:

- Ingredients list (required to fulfil Section 6.1.2) confirms that no ingredients with the above classifications exceed the permitted limits.

Rationale: Trace amounts of known and presumed human reproductive toxicants are permitted on the basis that raw materials may contain trace impurities that cannot easily be removed. Limited amounts (≤ 3%) of suspected reproductive toxicants are permitted on the basis that there is insufficient evidence to conclusively demonstrate the reproductive toxicity potential of these substances on humans, and because the presence of the ingredient at ≤ 3% in the product concentrate will represent a very low risk to users, especially after dilution.

The use of ethanol in cleaning and hygiene products, leading to potential inhalation or skin absorption of ethanol, is not likely to lead to reproductive toxicity. For example, Australia's Standard for the Uniform Scheduling of Medicines and Poisons (SUSMP) lists ethyl alcohol as one of the substances considered not to require control by scheduling (Appendix B, Part 3).

6.3.3 Fragrances

Fragrances that adhere to the International Fragrance Association (IFRA) 'Code of Practice' are exempt from other Section 6.3 requirements.

Listings of fragrances can be found in the:

- Research Institute for Fragrance Materials (RIFM) Database (www.rifm.org)
- The IFRA list of fragrance ingredients (https://ifrafragrance.org/initiatives/transparency/ifra-transparency-list)

Additionally, each fragrance that is present at ≥ 0.1% in the in-use product (most concentrated dilution, excluding recommendations for incidental use of a concentrated product to deal with limited special applications such as hard-to-remove soils or stains) is subject to Table 1 requirements. For fragrances that are mixtures of different ingredients, the ≥ 0.1% cut-off applies to each individual ingredient (taking into account the fragrance's concentration in the in-use product) rather than the fragrance mixture as a whole. For example, if a fragrance mixture present in the in-use product at 0.3% contains an ingredient present at 20%, the level of that ingredient in the final product is 0.06% and therefore not subject to Table 1 requirements.

Required evidence/supporting information:

- Evidence of RIFM Database or IFRA listing, for exemption from other Section 6.3 requirements.

Rationale: The primary concerns regarding fragrances are potential human health impacts, including irritation and sensitisation, that can occur in some individuals following exposure. Therefore, it was considered appropriate that fragrances be considered in the Human Health Section of this document.

Fragrance ingredients in these databases have been assessed for human health impacts and are approved for use.

Fragrance ingredients may also have environmental impacts, and these are considered in Table 1. However, as fragrance ingredients are designed to volatilise and enter the air rather than entering the wastewater stream, unlike most other cleaning and hygiene product ingredients, it is the in-use concentration that determines whether environmental assessment is required.

6.3.4 Corrosives

The Applicant agrees to provide, upon request, information on the product's pH (as an indicator of corrosivity in the absence of corrosion/irritation data) or whether it is classified as H314.

Rationale: Commercial and I&I cleaning, hygiene and related products are intended for use by professionals, with most jurisdictions having workplace safety requirements to minimise the risk of harm from workplace activities, including product use.

Some commercial and I&I products may have performance requirements/applications that necessitate product corrosivity to ensure fit-for-purpose.

Environmental impacts of product corrosivity are not considered because the vast majority of I&I and commercial cleaning and hygiene products are diluted prior to discharge to the environment, so product corrosivity is generally irrelevant to their environmental impact.

The provision upon request of information on pH or classification as H314 may support the establishment of appropriate storage and handling procedures, without potentially limiting commercial and I&I cleaning and hygiene product performance.

6.3.5 Sensitisers

6.3.5.1 Respiratory sensitisers

Any ingredient that is classified as Respiratory Sensitisers Category 1 (H334) must be present at < 0.1% in the product concentrate (or most concentrated dilution, if the product is only available with a closed-dispensing system).

Products containing enzymes in granulated or liquid form are exempt from the < 0.1% limit. In this case, the Applicant must adhere to the concentration for safe use provided by the enzyme supplier. Products containing other H334-classified ingredients for which it can be demonstrated that the respiratory sensitisation risk no longer applies in the formulation are also exempt from the < 0.1% limit.

Required evidence/supporting information:

- Ingredient list provided in fulfilment of Section 6.1.2 confirms that any ingredient classified as H334 is present at < 0.1% in the product concentrate.
- For an enzyme (or other proposed exempt ingredient), the SDS provided in fulfilment of Section 6.1.2 will be used to confirm the hazard classification, composition and physical form of the ingredient

  AND, if applicable,

- Product/technical specification sheet for any proposed exempt ingredient to confirm recommended concentration/dilution ratios.
- Evidence that contact with the product concentrate is not possible, which may include:
  - a photograph/diagram/description of the product container, closure and dispensing mechanism
  - the manufacturer's instructions for use
  - a photograph of the product label showing the warning statement

6.3.5.2 Skin sensitisers

Any ingredient that is classified as Skin Sensitiser Category 1 (H317) must be present at < 0.1% in the product concentrate (or most diluted concentration, if only available with a closed-dispensing system).

Required evidence/supporting information:

- Ingredient list provided in fulfilment of Section 6.1.2 confirms that any ingredient classified as H317 is present at < 0.1% in the product concentrate.

  AND (if applicable)

- Evidence that contact with the product concentrate is not possible, which may include:
  - a photograph/diagram/description of the product container, closure and dispensing mechanism
  - the manufacturer's instructions for use
  - a photograph of the product label showing the warning statement

Rationale: In many jurisdictions, existing regulations specify concentration cut-offs for which skin sensitisers are required to be listed on the product label. However, specific individuals may be affected by sensitiser ingredients to a greater extent than others if they have had prior exposure to these ingredients. Thus, primarily to protect personnel working with Recognised products from sensitisation, Recognised limits skin sensitisers to low levels in any form of the product with which a product user may come into skin contact.

6.3.6 Product human health claims

If a specific product human health claim is made, beyond the scope of the criteria assessed under the Recognised Ecolabel program, evidence supporting the claim must be provided. See Annex C for examples of product human health claims that require evidence.

Required evidence/supporting information:

- List of product human health claims. Product information, e.g., product brochure, webpage information, label information, must be supplied to verify that these and no additional claims are being made, and that no inappropriate claims are being made.
- Evidence to support the human health claim. Either of the below forms of evidence, or a combination, may be provided:
  - Third-party test reports
  - Company test reports/data

If Applicant company data is supplied, it must be accompanied by an Applicant Product Declaration (see Annex E), signed by a representative of the Applicant company with suitable expertise and authority.

Rationale: All businesses supplying products to the Australian market have legal obligations under Australian Consumer Law (ACL), including that product descriptions be accurate. Other jurisdictions have similar provisions. Evidence for specific human health claims, beyond the scope of the Recognised Ecolabel Standard, provides certainty for product users regarding any such claims.

6.4 Microorganisms

All products to which microorganisms (or viable spores) have been added as active ingredients must meet the criteria outlined in Section 6.4. Please note that this Section does not apply to microorganism-derived products, e.g. enzymes, which are assessed according to the requirements of Sections 6.2 and 6.3.

6.4.1 Taxonomic identification

All intentionally added microorganisms must be pure and either:

- belong to or be deposited in a collection of an International Depository Authority (e.g., WFCC-MIRCEN World Data Centre for Microorganisms http://ccinfo.wdcm.org/) and be maintained by the culture collection for the authorised period of certification

  OR

- be precisely identified by a specialist laboratory to:
  - the species level for all microorganisms
  - the strain level for species that include higher-risk strains (e.g., opportunistic pathogens or food-poisoning organisms).

Acceptable identification methods (context-dependent[11]):

- 16S rDNA or rRNA sequencing remains a widely used and suitable method, provided appropriately validated databases are applied.
- Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS) offers comprehensive resolution and should be considered where feasible, noting that time and cost may limit its use in some cases.
- MALDI-TOF is generally acceptable and efficient for many species; however, limitations may arise where species-level resolution is not achieved.

[11] Depending on the risk, purpose, and resources available.

Required evidence/supporting information:

- International Deposition Authority collection listing

  OR

- Specialist laboratory taxonomic identification report, including results from one or more of the above methods, appropriate to the context.

Rationale: Accurate microorganism identification is essential to draw valid conclusions about potential impacts on human health and the environment. Since closely related species or strains may differ significantly in their pathogenic or toxigenic properties, the application of validated and context-appropriate identification methods is critical.

6.4.2 Quality assurance

The product must contain only the species or strain/s taxonomically identified in part 6.4.1.

The product must be manufactured in a facility with a documented quality control/quality assurance procedure.

Required evidence/supporting information:

- Copy of manufacturing QC/QA protocols

  OR

- Product test results confirming the purity of the microorganism species or strains/s.

Rationale: Product purity is essential for a meaningful determination of the potential human health and environmental impacts of the product. Manufacture according to documented procedures will help prevent microbial contamination during manufacture and subsequent processing.

6.4.3 Impacts on organisms

Microorganisms must be considered non-pathogenic and classified as Risk Group 1 according to AS/NZS 2243.3:2022 or the World Health Organization (WHO), or equivalent.

Required evidence/supporting information:

- Documentation showing pathogen/risk group status of microorganisms and the source of this classification

Rationale: According to AS/NZS 2243.3:2010, Risk Group 1–4 classifications are based on the pathogenicity of the agent, the mode of transmission and host range, availability of effective preventative measures, and the availability of effective treatment. Classifications are based on healthy adults. Risk Group 1 (low individual and community risk) identifies microorganisms that are unlikely to cause human or animal disease.

6.4.4 Susceptibility to antimicrobial agents

6.4.4.1 Susceptibility to disinfectants

Each species/strain of microorganism in the product must be demonstrated to be susceptible to a TGA recognised disinfectant in accordance with the TGA Disinfectant Test (Australian Therapeutic Goods Order 54 Schedule 1, Option C or higher, see https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2019L00482), or equivalent.

Required evidence/supporting information:

- Test results from an appropriately qualified external laboratory.

  OR (if not available)

- Applicant company data, accompanied by a declaration signed by a representative of the Applicant company with suitable expertise and authority (see Annex E).

6.4.4.2 Susceptibility to antibiotics

Each species/strain of bacteria in the product must be demonstrated to be susceptible to each of the five major classes of antibiotics (aminoglycoside, macrolide, beta-lactam, tetracycline and fluoroquinolones) in accordance with the Becton Dickinson BBL™ Sensi-Disc™ Antimicrobial Susceptibility Disc Method (see https://www.bd.com/en-us/products-and-solutions/products/product-families/bd-bbl-sensi-disc-antimicrobial-susceptibility-test-discs), or equivalent. The EUCAST 'Antimicrobial wild type distributions of microorganisms' database (see https://mic.eucast.org/) contains searchable information on antimicrobial susceptibility and may provide evidence in relation to this requirement.

Required evidence/supporting information:

- Test results from an appropriately qualified external laboratory.

  OR (if not available)

- Applicant company data, accompanied by a declaration signed by a representative of the Applicant company with suitable expertise and authority (see Annex E).

  OR

- EUCAST database listing confirming susceptibility.

Rationale: Disinfectants and antibiotic agents play a vital role in preventing the unwanted over-proliferation of microorganisms. Resistance to antimicrobial agents could increase the risk of an uncontrolled outbreak with potentially significant impacts on human health and the environment, including the development of environmental reservoirs and zoonotic potential.

6.4.5 Exposure during use (YOPI, food handling/processing)

To help prevent the inhalation of microorganisms, products containing microorganisms must not be applied as aerosols.

Additionally, products containing microorganisms must not be intended for use in areas commonly frequented by vulnerable populations, unless it can be demonstrated that there is a low risk of exposure to the vulnerable population (e.g., due to the mode or nature of product application), or on food-contact surfaces, unless it can be demonstrated that the microorganisms are safe for food use (e.g., QPS organisms[12]).

Required evidence/supporting information:

- See requirements of Section 6.4.8.

Rationale: Research into the causes of laboratory-acquired microbial infections has indicated that a high proportion (up to 80%) of infections is caused by inhalation of aerosols.[13]

Vulnerable populations include children under 5 years of age, adults over 65, pregnant women and immunocompromised individuals. These categories may be more susceptible to infection than healthy adults on whom Risk Group classifications (see Section 6.4.3) are based. This Standard takes a cautious approach to help ensure safety.

6.4.6 Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs)

GMOs may not be present unless permitted according to the Office of the Gene Technology Regulator (OGTR) (see www.ogtr.gov.au).

Required evidence/supporting information:

- Evidence of OGTR permission for GMO use.

---

[12] The Qualified Presumption of Safety (QPS) list can be accessed from the EFSA website

[13] Collins, C. H. and Kennedy, D. A. (eds.) Laboratory-acquired infections: history, incidence, causes and prevention. 4th ed. Oxford: Butterworth Heinemann, 1999; cited in AS/NZS 2243.3:2010.

Rationale: Unapproved GMOs or unlicensed applications of GMOs pose unknown potential risks to human health and the environment.

6.4.7 Efficacy

Evidence that product performance is maintained for the duration of the product's shelf life must be provided.

Required evidence/supporting information:

- Identification of the advertised shelf-life
- Product efficacy data demonstrating performance for the specified shelf life. See Annex D for some performance data and method examples that may be suitable to demonstrate conformance to this criterion. If internal data is supplied, this must be accompanied by a declaration signed by a representative of the Applicant company with suitable expertise and authority.

Rationale: It is essential that, where microorganisms perform an active function in the product, they remain viable throughout the use life of the product. The evidence requirement for product performance is flexible rather than prescriptive (e.g. requiring a minimum plate count) to provide assurance of product performance whilst also ensuring that potential new technologies and microorganism-based cleaning and hygiene product applications are assessable under the Recognised Ecolabel program.

6.4.8 Accompanying information

Documentation containing the following information must accompany a product containing microorganisms:

- Clear identification that the product contains microorganisms
- Instructions for use, including warnings that:
  - the product may not be effective in the presence of chemical sanitisers/disinfectants
  - the product should not be used by, or in areas frequented by, YOPI populations, nor should it be used on food-contact surfaces (unless evidence of safety can be provided – see Section 6.4.5)
  - contact with open cuts or sores should be avoided
  - the product must not be used with spray application
  - users should wash their hands after using the product.

Required evidence/supporting information:

- Product information/instructions for use supplied in fulfilment of Section 6.1.1, containing all of the required warnings

Rationale: These information-based requirements help ensure that products containing microorganisms are used safely, effectively and in appropriate settings. Clear identification allows users to understand that the product relies on living organisms and may behave differently from conventional cleaning and hygiene products. The required warnings address known limitations and risks, including reduced effectiveness when used with sanitisers, potential harm to vulnerable YOPI populations, and the need to avoid food-contact surfaces and open wounds. Prohibiting spray application minimises inhalation risks, while handwashing reduces unintended exposure. Requiring documented instructions ensures users receive consistent, accurate information that supports safe handling and responsible use of microbial-based products.

7. WHOLE-OF-BUSINESS CRITERIA

The aspects in this section—ingredient and material sourcing, energy efficiency and greenhouse gas emissions, material efficiency and waste management, and social—are assessed at a whole-of-business level rather than on a product-specific basis because they reflect systemic policies, practices, culture and governance, not isolated product decisions. Sourcing policies, emissions reduction efforts, waste management strategies and social practices are typically implemented across entire operations, making a company-wide view more accurate and meaningful.

Applicants are required to have passed the Whole-of-business Assessment within the past six years (i.e., they have a current Whole-of-business Validation) before they can submit product applications under the Recognised Ecolabel program. For more information, see *Guidance on Application and Licensing*.

7.1 Ingredient/material sourcing

(Please refer to Section 6.2.7 for specific criteria relating to palm oil and palm kernel oil and 6.2.9 regarding raw materials in primary packaging.)

The Applicant must demonstrate efforts to increase the use of ingredients and/or materials with lower environmental impacts. Here, 'ingredients' refers to chemicals used in formulated products, and 'materials' refers to any other items used by the Applicant business (e.g., office supplies, supply chain packaging and other products). These efforts may include, but are not limited to:

- Prioritising the use of ingredients/materials from sustainable and renewable feedstocks, or requiring this of their contract manufacturer
- Prioritising the use of ingredients with decreased environmental impacts in production (e.g., produced using renewable energy, with effective production waste minimisation procedures, using environmentally-friendly technologies, etc), or requiring this of their contract manufacturer (depending on responsibility for ingredient sourcing)
- Prioritising suppliers with demonstrated and verified commitments to sustainable ingredient sourcing/production, or requiring this of their contract manufacturer (depending on responsibility for ingredient sourcing)
- Prioritising the use of materials with decreased environmental impacts (e.g., certified sustainable paper and cardboard for use in offices; secondary/tertiary packaging containing recycled content; pallets that are made from recycled timber or alternative sustainable materials) and 'green' procurement.

Evidence for at least one action must be provided. For each subsequent Whole-of-business assessment[14], a commitment to continuous improvement must be demonstrated. This requires either showing an additional action or reviewing and refining efforts made during the previous six-year verification period. Please note that efforts to source sustainable oil palm derivatives are required under Section 6.2.7 and cannot be used to satisfy the requirements of Section 7.1.

Required evidence/supporting information:

(One or more than one of the below may be provided, or other evidence as applicable to the action taken.)

- The Applicant's sustainable sourcing policy, guideline, purchasing checklist or similar, outlining how the Applicant prioritises ingredients and materials from sustainable or renewable origins, or with reduced environmental impacts (e.g., feedstocks that do not negatively impact biodiversity, soil erosion, animal warfare etc.; supply chain transparency; sustainable production practices, etc.), in conjunction with documentation of how this is implemented in practice (e.g., internal procedures, sourcing criteria, staff training materials)

[14] A Whole-of-business assessment is required every six years

- Documentation for ingredients or materials purchased by the Applicant that demonstrate preference for sustainable options (e.g., certifications like Ecocert, USDA, FSC, PEFC, Responsible Wood, Carbon Neutral, etc., or other evidence for ingredients, office supplies, secondary/tertiary packaging made from recycled or sustainably sourced materials, pallets made from recycled timber or low-impact alternatives, etc.)
- For Applicants involved in ingredient purchasing, annual purchase volumes of ingredients from sustainable/renewable origins versus volumes of conventional ingredients (and resulting calculated % of ingredients based on sustainable/renewable raw materials). For subsequent applications, evidence must be provided that the proportion of sustainable ingredient use has increased over time.

Any company data/information not in the public domain must be accompanied by an Applicant Whole-of-business Declaration (see Annex L), signed by a representative of the Applicant company with suitable expertise and authority.

7.2 Energy efficiency and greenhouse gas emissions

The Applicant must demonstrate efforts to increase energy efficiency/decrease their greenhouse gas emissions. These efforts may include, but are not limited to:

- Identifying strategies/measures for enhancing energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions
- Establishing and maintaining processes for monitoring, reporting and evaluating the effectiveness of energy efficiency and greenhouse gas reduction strategies/measures
- Adopting energy-efficient technologies (e.g., electric vehicles, LED lighting or energy-efficient appliances)
- Increasing reliance on low-carbon or renewable energy solutions, such as wind or solar power
- Improving organisational energy conservation and effecting behavioural change through tailored staff education, training programs or practices that reduce or eliminate unnecessary or wasteful energy consumption
- Developing an energy management plan that is embedded into internal management processes.
- Locating manufacturing close to product end-users to decrease energy and GHG emissions associated with shipping

Evidence for at least one action must be provided. For each subsequent Whole-of-business assessment[15], a commitment to continuous improvement must be demonstrated. This requires either showing an additional action or reviewing and refining efforts made during the previous six-year verification period.

Required evidence/supporting information:

(One or more than one of the below may be provided, or other evidence applicable to the action/s taken.)

- A copy of the relevant energy efficiency/greenhouse gas emissions reduction strategy, in conjunction with documentation of how this is implemented
- *[For Applicants that are also the product manufacturer]* Evidence of decreased energy consumption (per tonne of overall production volume or other relevant output) since the implementation of a strategy/action (within the past six years) OR (in the absence of data) evidence of the implementation of a strategy/action within the past six years that would result in decreased energy consumption
- Evidence of an increased proportion of renewable energy use since the implementation of a strategy/action (within the past six years)
- Evidence of decreased greenhouse gas emissions since the implementation of an identified strategy/action OR (in the absence of data) evidence of the implementation of a strategy/action that would result in decreased greenhouse gas emissions (within the past six years)

[15] A Whole-of-business assessment is required every six years

- An environmental management system certified to ISO 14001:2016, if energy and greenhouse gas emissions and accompanying actions have been identified under sections 6.2.1 and 6.2.2 of ISO 14001:2016, respectively.
- Records of energy efficiency or greenhouse gas emissions reduction strategies/measures implemented and outcomes

Any company data/information not in the public domain must be accompanied by an Applicant Whole-of-business Declaration (see Annex L), signed by a representative of the Applicant company with suitable expertise and authority.

7.3 Material efficiency and waste management

The Applicant must demonstrate efforts to improve material efficiency and waste management.

(Please note that primary packaging requirements are addressed separately, under criterion 6.2.9.)

These efforts could include (for example):

- Adopting measures to support the efficient use of ingredients and/or components in manufacturing processes (e.g., dematerialisation and/or optimisation)
- Reducing or avoiding the generation of hazardous and non-hazardous waste sent to landfill
- Adopting waste recovery procedures to capture and reuse as much waste as practicable
- Establishing measurable targets for waste reduction, with periodic monitoring and reporting
- Implementing waste segregation and disposal protocols via designated waste streams, including educating and training employees on best waste management practices
- Participation in relevant product stewardship schemes, if available

Evidence for at least one action must be provided. For each subsequent Whole-of-business assessment[16], a commitment to continuous improvement must be demonstrated. This requires either showing an additional action or reviewing and refining efforts made during the previous six-year verification period. In addition, it is a legal requirement that the Applicant complies with all existing requirements for waste management (including storage, transportation and disposal) of hazardous and non-hazardous wastes in Australia and, if applicable, external jurisdictions. It is not the place of this Standard to duplicate compliance requirements. In the event of a breach in the past six years, evidence of corrective action must be provided.

Required evidence/supporting information:

(One or more than one of the below may be provided, or other evidence as applicable to the action/s taken.)

- A copy of the Applicant's waste management plan/relevant policy, or evidence that this is required of their contract manufacturer, plus evidence of how this is implemented
- Evidence of a dematerialisation/material optimisation strategy, or evidence that this is required of their contract manufacturer, plus evidence of how this is implemented
- *[For Applicants that are also the product manufacturer]* Relevant periodic monitoring and reporting data (e.g., waste audit reports, liquid waste disposal reports, material reduction/optimisation data, etc.). If demonstrating an improvement over time, data must be per tonne of production volume or other relevant output
- Records of waste contractor arrangements and disposal pathways
- A circular design policy/guideline/commitment, in conjunction with evidence of/plans for implementation
- Evidence of on-site recycling/treatment facilities, with data to support
- Training records for relevant staff

[16] A Whole-of-business assessment is required every six years

- Evidence of participation in relevant stewardship schemes

  AND (if applicable)

- Evidence of corrective action for any breach of relevant waste management requirements

Any company data/information not in the public domain must be accompanied by an Applicant Whole-of-business Declaration (see Annex L), signed by a representative of the Applicant company, with suitable expertise and authority.

7.4 Water management

The Applicant must demonstrate efforts to improve water management.

Efforts may include, but are not limited to the following:

- Identifying strategies/measures for enhancing water efficiency in production, e.g., through process optimisation, equipment upgrades, etc, or requiring this of their contract manufacturer/s.
- Adopting water conservation measures to optimise and reduce water usage in production (e.g., avoiding 'losses' in cooling or manufacturing processes, using 'low-flow' fixtures, etc.), or requiring this of their contract manufacturer/s.
- Establishing and maintaining processes for monitoring, reporting and evaluating the effectiveness of water efficiency strategies/measures, or requiring this of their contract manufacturer/s.
- Developing a water management plan that is embedded into internal management processes, or requiring this of their contract manufacturer/s.
- Minimising water extraction from local water bodies/aquifers, e.g., by use of rainwater harvesting, closed-loop systems and greywater reuse/recycling, or requiring this of their contract manufacturer/s.
- Assessing water-related risks specific to its geographic and social context (e.g., via a water risk assessment) and taking action to mitigate these, or requiring this of their contract manufacturer/s.

Evidence for at least one action must be provided. For each subsequent Whole-of-business assessment[17], a commitment to continuous improvement must be demonstrated. This requires either showing an additional action or reviewing and refining efforts made during the previous six-year verification period.

Required evidence/supporting information:

(One or more than one of the below may be provided, or other evidence as applicable to the action/s taken.)

- The Applicant's water efficiency strategy/management plan, in conjunction with documentation of how this is implemented/required of their contract manufacturer/s.
- *[For Applicants that are also the product manufacturer]* Evidence of decreased water consumption (per tonne of overall production volume or other relevant output) since the implementation of a strategy/action (within the past six years) OR (in the absence of data) evidence of the implementation of a strategy/action within the past six years that would result in decreased water consumption.
- Evidence of increased use of alternative water inputs, e.g., rainwater, recycled water (within the past six years).
- Records or photos of installed water-saving technologies.
- An environmental management system certified to ISO 14001:2016, if water and accompanying actions have been identified under sections 6.2.1 and 6.2.2, respectively.
- A copy of the Applicant's water risk assessment, or similar, and evidence of action to mitigate any identified risks, or evidence of how this is required of their contract manufacturer/s

[17] A Whole-of-business assessment is required every six years

Any company data/information not in the public domain must be accompanied by an Applicant Whole-of-business Declaration (see Annex L), signed by a representative of the Applicant company with suitable expertise and authority.

7.5 Social

7.5.1 Compliance with human rights/rights at work requirements

The Applicant must demonstrate compliance within their organisation with the principles articulated in the following instruments:

- UN International Bill of Human Rights
- International Labour Organization (ILO) Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, i.e.:
  - freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining
  - the elimination of all forms of forced or compulsory labour (modern slavery)
  - the effective abolition of child labour
  - the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation (diversity, equity and inclusion, remuneration), and
  - a safe and healthy working environment (working conditions, workplace health and safety)

Additionally, the Applicant must not contract/engage/purchase from any supplier that has been convicted of a breach of any legislated requirements relating to employment, workplace health & safety, anti-discrimination/equal opportunity, etc., in Australia or the relevant jurisdiction unless corrective action has been taken.

Required evidence/supporting information:

- A copy of the Applicant company's most recent Modern Slavery Statement, if applicable under the *Modern Slavery Act 2018* (Cth) or equivalent international legislation (if applicable). For companies below the reporting threshold that produce a voluntary Statement, a copy of the Statement.

Evidence of compliance with human rights/rights at work requirements within the Applicant's business and supply chain is required and may include, but is not limited to, any combination of the following:

- A relevant social, CSR/ESG policy, or equivalent, as well as information on how this is implemented, promoted and enforced
- A Code of Conduct, or equivalent, that includes expectations for employee behaviour
- Documentation relating to ethical labour practices and monitoring systems
- A declaration of compliance signed by a Director/General Manager from the Applicant company that, to the best of their knowledge, they do not contract/engage/purchase from any supplier that has been convicted of a breach of any of legislated requirements relating to employment, workplace health & safety, anti-discrimination/equal opportunity, etc., unless corrective action has been taken (see Annex M)

7.5.2 Meaningful and positive social impacts

The Applicant must demonstrate efforts to have meaningful and positive social impacts through their business operations, above and beyond 'business-as-usual'.

Required evidence/supporting information:

Evidence of at least one initiative that delivers meaningful and positive social impact through the applicant's business operations. Acceptable examples may include, but are not limited to:

- Enhancing community employment and business opportunities
- Employing disadvantaged workers and/or enhancing diversity, equity and inclusion within the Applicant's workforce

- Fostering social cohesion, e.g., employee training programs
- Advancing community wellbeing, e.g., through volunteering, donations, or education, healthcare or livelihood programs
- Promoting/elevating Indigenous rights and local cultures
- Establishing measurable targets for social impact, with periodic monitoring and reporting
- Identifying and managing business impacts on workers in the value chain, customers and local communities
- Supporting/promoting public policies that support social sustainability
- Participating in global initiatives, such as the UN Global Compact

Rationale: Integrating social criteria into business practices is essential for managing operational and reputational risks within an organisation and its supply chains. Beyond risk management, robust social criteria create tangible business value by enhancing trust, improving operational efficiency and strengthening supplier relationships. Additionally, companies that drive positive societal impact within their organisation not only protect their business interests but also contribute to broader social wellbeing.

As a signatory to key international human rights treaties, Australia, along with many other jurisdictions, maintains legal frameworks that mandate business compliance with fundamental human rights principles. It is not the intent of these criteria to duplicate legal requirements, nor is it appropriate to do so, as these are required of all businesses and there are legal ramifications for non-compliance. Rather, these criteria require companies to provide evidence for the integration of fundamental social principles within their business practices.

8. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Applicants may have additional requirements relating to, but not covered by, the Recognised Ecolabel program, as detailed in Sections 1–7.

Such requirements could include, for example:

- additional advice regarding the suitability of the product to direct-release scenarios (for products that are assessed as meeting all Recognised criteria)
- additional explanation/feedback regarding specific aspects of, or the outcome of, the third-party assessment, beyond that provided in the summary report.

All such requirements are subject to negotiation with the third-party assessor, including regarding an additional fee for the additional service requested.

Annex A – Product function characteristics and key performance elements

Product category	Examples	Product function characteristics	Key performance elements
'Cleaning products'	Detergents Cleansers Soaps (not cleaning equipment)	• Removal of visible matter (soil) and odours (often in conjunction with physical action) • Compatible with/does not damage or harm the substrate • No unsuitable physical residue or odour • Compatible with and stable in primary packaging	• No apparent soils on the surface and/or absence of original odour • Original texture, lustre, integrity of substrate are preserved • If residue is present, it is harmless in the application context • Formulation maintains integrity for duration of shelf life
'Hygiene products'	Sanitisers Disinfectants Biocides (not related equipment)	• Kills and/or deactivates microorganisms • Compatible with/does not damage or harm the substrate • No unsuitable physical residue or odour • Compatible with and stable in primary packaging	• Antimicrobial efficacy at specified dilutions • Original texture, lustre, integrity of substrate is preserved • If residue is present, it is harmless in the application context • Formulation maintains integrity for duration of shelf life
'Related products' [to cleaning and hygiene]	Skin moisturisers Skin barrier creams Other – suitability determined on case-by-case basis Not equipment	• Complement the action of commercial and I&I cleaning, hygiene and related products, without cleaning or hygiene function • Compatible with and stable in primary packaging If skin moisturiser: • Skin repair and moisture retention • Does not harm skin If barrier cream: •Prevents/delays the penetration of the skin and absorption of exogenous substances • Persists on the skin (for several hours), even after gentle washing • Does not harm skin	• Supplied with commercial and I&I cleaning, hygiene and related products and used in commercial and I&I cleaning and hygiene settings • Formulation maintains integrity for duration of shelf life • Product improves skin texture and moisture content • Product does not negatively affect skin texture and does not cause redness, itching or swelling, etc. • Product enhances the skin's ability to repel water- or oil-based substances (as relevant) • Product remains functional on the skin surface • Product does not negatively affect skin texture and does not cause redness, itching or swelling, etc.
'Commercial and I&I products'	Any of the above	• Designed primarily for use in workplaces, institutions, warehouses and industrial facilities	• Marketed primarily for use in workplaces, institutions, warehouses and industrial facilities

Annex B – Third-party Assessor details

Current as of 1 January 2026, the Third-party Assessor for the Recognised Ecolabel is Davoren Environmental Pty Ltd.

Contact Maria Davoren:

Phone: +61 (0)447 079 022

Email: de.recognised@davorenenvironmental.com.au

www.davorenenvironmental.com.au/recognised

Annex C – Example product claims

A product claim is any performance, environmental or human health claim, whether comparative or absolute. A non-exhaustive list of examples is below.

Claim	**Type of claim**
'As effective as…'	Performance
'More effective than…'	Performance
'Aluminium safe'	Performance
'No unpleasant odour'	Performance
'Eliminates all odours'	Performance
'Kills X% of germs'	Performance
'Kills [specific bacterium]'	Performance
'Food safe'	Performance
'Gentle on skin'	Human health – for cleaning & hygiene products only (For 'related' products, like barrier creams and moisturisers, 'gentle on skin' is a product functional characteristic)
'Requires no gloves'	Human health – for cleaning & hygiene products only (For 'related' products, like barrier creams and moisturisers, skin contact is inherent to the product function)
'Non-toxic'	Environmental and/or Human health
'100% plant-based surfactants'	Environmental
'Greywater safe'	Environmental
'100% biodegradable surfactants' (citing relevant standard)	Environmental
Packaging-related claims/symbols	Environmental

Annex D – Performance data examples and test methods

Cleaning performance

- Visual inspection (photographs)/spectroscopic data – 'before' and 'after'
- Olfactory inspection – 'before' and 'after'
- Soil removal test results, e.g., specific tests relevant to the application or for relevant target soils. May be comparative or according to a published protocol (see examples below)

Cleaning efficacy test methods

- Recommendation for the quality assessment of acidic toilet cleaners (SÖFW Journal, 126th Year, 11, P. 50-56, 2000)
- Recommendation for the Quality Assessment of the Product Performance of All-Purpose Cleaners 2014 (SÖFW Journal | 141 | 4-2015)
- IKW Recommendation for the Quality Assessment of the Product Performance of Degreasing Power Cleaners (2017) (SÖFW Journal 7|8 2018)
- Recommendation for the Quality Assessment of Bathroom Cleaners (SÖFW Journal | 129 | 3-2003), Section 3.1.2
- Lime soap removal: Recommendation for the Quality Assessment of Bathroom Cleaners (SÖFW Journal | 129 | 3- 2003), section 3.2
- Standard protocol for evaluating performances of hand dishwashing detergents
- Laundry System Evaluation - AWTA Product Testing and TECHNOLOGIES Wash cycle and durability testing with EMPA 103 and EMPA 300 "strips" (laundry)

Antimicrobial performance

Antimicrobial performance test results, as applicable to the nature of the product and any specific claims made (see examples below)

Antimicrobial efficacy test methods

- Chemical Disinfection AS/NZS 4146: 2000
- TGA Disinfectant Test for Hospital Grade Disinfectants, Clean/Dirty Conditions
- ASTM E1053
- AOAC 961
- AOAC 991
- AOAC Germicidal Spray Test
- AATCC 100, ISO 22196 (textiles)
- Time Kill tests, e.g., N 1276, EN 1275, EN 1040, ASTM 2315
- EN 14476 (viruses)
- EN 13727 (hand sanitisers)
- AOAC 991.47 (Salmonella choleraesuis), 991.48 (Staphylococcus aureus), and 991.49 (Pseudomonas aeruginosa) test methods
- AOAC Use Dilution Method for Testing Disinfectants, SOP Number: MB-05-04

Related products performance

(e.g., skin moisturisers/barrier creams)

- Skin hydration test results, e.g. corneometry
- Wetting ability/contact angle test results
- Other applicable test results, e.g., hysteresis loop test

Leave-on cleaning/hygiene products – residue assessment

- Suitable product residue assessment, e.g., visual (especially for window cleaners), olfactory, chemical
- For food-contact applications, evidence that the residue is safe (see fitforfood.org.au/hygiene-products-for-food-premises/#evidence-of-food-safety)

All products – substrate suitability

- Visual inspection (photographs) – 'before' and 'after'
- Tactile inspection – 'before' and 'after'
- Mass loss test results
- Skin patch test results (if applicable)
- Ingredients list – no known sensitisers (for skin-contact products), etc (if applicable)
- Product properties, e.g., pH (if applicable)

All products – Product quality and stability/shelf life

Product characteristics/quality/performance data for key basic properties, e.g.:

- appearance
- odour
- pH
- specific gravity
- refractive index
- foam height tests
- wetting ability
- viscosity
- % non-volatiles
- active or total alkalinity/acidity
- concentrations of specific ingredients, e.g., actives, quaternaries, free chlorine, available oxygen, surfactant types (at various concentrations and temperatures)
- artificial soil removal data, including for hard surfaces, dishwash and laundry applications. (Notably, performance testing is often comparative rather than absolute; that is, compared to competitor products or other internal products)
- surface compatibility
- stability
- user experience (qualitative)

Third-party Assessor use only

Application number:

Unique Declaration identifier:

Annex E – Applicant Product Declaration

To be completed by the Applicant when Applicant data—that is, originating from the Applicant and not an external laboratory/organisation, and not verified by an external laboratory/ organisation—is supplied in support of a Product Application for certification under the Recognised ecolabel. This Declaration must be submitted to the Third-party Assessor as part of the Application documentation.

1. Applicant details

Legal name of organisation: ……..

Business address: ……

……..

2. Object of the declaration

Product name: ……

3. Declaration

I hereby declare that all evidence supplied by the Applicant (identified in 1), in relation to the Object of the Declaration (identified in 2), relating to the *Recognised Ecolabel Standard* sections selected below, is true, accurate, complete and current. The evidence was obtained using appropriate and scientifically valid methods and generated in accordance with good laboratory practice or equivalent quality assurance procedures. I understand that providing false or misleading information may result in rejection of the application or revocation of certification.

(Tick if applicable)	Recognised Ecolabel Standard section
☐	6.1.1 Product performance
☐	6.2.9 Primary packaging (decrease in packaging volume)
☐	6.2.11 Product environmental claims
☐	6.3.6 Product human health claims
☐	6.4. Susceptibility to antimicrobial agents

4. Applicant representative

Full name: ……

Position / Title: ……

Telephone: ……..

Email: ……

Signed on behalf of the applicant: ……

Date: ……

Annex F – Tests for primary experimental aquatic toxicity, persistence and bioaccumulation

Aquatic toxicity:

- ISO 7346-2 (fish)
- OECD Test Guideline 203: Fish, Acute Toxicity Test
- OPPTS Harmonised Guideline 850.1075: Fish acute toxicity test, freshwater and marine
- OECD Test Guideline 202, Part 1, Daphnia sp., Acute Immobilisation Test
- OPPTS Harmonised Guideline 850.1010: Aquatic invertebrate acute toxicity test, freshwater daphnids
- OPPTS Harmonised Guideline 850.1035: Mysid acute toxicity test
- OECD Test Guideline 201, Alga, Growth Inhibition Test
- OPPTS Harmonised Guideline 850.5400: Algal toxicity, Tiers I and II

Where relevant, the following test methods may also be considered:

- OPPTS Harmonised Guideline 850.1085: Fish acute toxicity mitigated by humic acid
- OPPTS Harmonised Guideline 850.1025: Oyster acute toxicity test (shell deposition)
- OPPTS Harmonised Guideline 850.1045: Penaeid acute toxicity test
- OPPTS Harmonised Guideline 850.1055: Bivalve acute toxicity test (embryo larval)
- OPPTS Harmonised Guideline 850.4400: Aquatic plant toxicity test using Lemna spp. Tiers I & II

Persistence:

- OECD Test Guidelines 301A–F: Ready Biodegradability
- OPPTS Harmonised Guideline 835.3110: Ready Biodegradability
- ISO 7827, 9439, 10707, 10708, 9408, 14593
- EC Regulation No 648/2004 on detergents

For organic ingredients that do not exhibit ready biodegradability in these tests, biodegradability in sewage treatment plants using the OECD 303A Activated Sludge Units Test may be demonstrated. (This does not apply where products may be released directly to natural waterways).

Bioaccumulation:

- OECD Test Guidelines 305: Bioconcentration: Flow-Through Fish Test
- OPPTS Harmonised Guideline 850.1710: Oyster BCF
- OPPTS Harmonised Guideline 850.1730: Fish BCF
- ASTM E-1022-94(2013) Standard Guide for Conducting Bioconcentration Test with Fishes and Saltwater Bivalve Molluscs

Annex G – Example data sources for assessing human health and environmental (aquatic toxicity, persistence and bioaccumulation) hazards

Hazard classification data sources

Where test data are not available for a product, the classification will be derived against each relevant *Recognised Ecolabel Standard* endpoint (e.g., carcinogens, mutagens, sensitisers, etc.) for each product constituent, in accordance with GHS requirements. Hazard classification data will be sourced from reputable and authoritative sources. The list below, while not exhaustive, outlines key databases and publications that may be used. Additional information may also be sourced from peer-reviewed scientific literature.

Only quality-screened data will be employed in the assessment to ensure it is robust and reliable, including confirmation that studies were conducted using standardised methods (e.g., OECD Test Guidelines, ISO standards) and that they meet accepted validity and reliability criteria.

- AICIS (Australian Industrial Chemicals Introduction Scheme) published assessments
- CESIO (European Committee of Organic Surfactants and their Intermediates) – for surfactants
- CCID (Chemical Classification and Information Database (CCID), New Zealand
- DID (Detergents Ingredients Database) Version 2023
- ECHA CHEM (European Chemicals Agency Chemicals Database)
- Environment Canada published assessments
- HCIS (Hazardous Chemical Information System) Safework Australia (confirms the GHS classification of substances)
- HERA (Human and Environmental Risk Assessments on Ingredients of Household Cleaning Products)
- OECD Existing Chemicals Database (for high production volume chemicals)
- PubMed Database of Biomedical and Life Science Journals
- Science Direct Database of Scientific and Medical Research Journals
- United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA):
  - Safer Chemical Ingredients List
  - ECOTOX Knowledgebase (chemical environmental toxicity data on aquatic and terrestrial species)

Third-party Assessor use only

Application number:

Unique Declaration identifier:

Annex H – Supplier Declaration – Colourants

To be completed by the colourant Supplier in support of a Product Application for certification under the Recognised ecolabel. The Applicant must submit this Declaration to the Third-party Assessor as part of the Application documentation.

1. Supplier details

Legal name of organisation: ……..

Business address: ……..……..

…….

2. Object/s of the declaration (complete as many as necessary)

Ingredient name: ……..

Ingredient name: ……..

Ingredient name: ……..

Ingredient name: ……..

3. Declaration

I hereby declare that the Object of the declaration (identified in 2) conforms to the requirements of Recognised Ecolabel Standard Section 6.2.3. That is:

- No arsenic, cadmium, cobalt, hexavalent chromium, lead, manganese, mercury, nickel or selenium was used in its manufacture
- Incidental levels of the following metals are below the levels listed below:

  Lead: ≤ 10 ppm
  Cadmium: ≤ 3 ppm
  Arsenic: ≤ 3 ppm
  Mercury: ≤ 1 ppm

4. Supplier representative

Full name: ……

Position / Title: ……

Telephone: ……..

Email: ……

Signed on behalf of the applicant: ……

Date: ……

Annex I – Potential oil palm derivatives

Palm oil and palm kernel oil requirements (6.2.X) apply to the following chemicals and chemical classes containing carbon chain lengths of 6–18. Any of the following names, prefixes or suffixes may indicate an oil palm origin.

Substance/chemical class	**Prefix or suffix**
Fatty acids Fatty acid esters Fatty alcohols …and their derivatives	capryl-, octano-, C8 capr-, decan-, decyl-, C10 laur-, dodecan-, C12 myrist-, tetradec-, C14 palmit-, palm, palmate, cetyl, hexadec- C16 stear-, octadecan- C18 linol-, octadecen-, C18 oleic, olean, oleate, olein, oleyl, octadecen- C18 cetear- , ceteth-, cetyl- kernel- coco-, coca- alkyl-, triglyceride, fatty (C6-C18) polysorbate, sorbitan (C6-C18) PEG wax
Glycerin/glycerine/glycerol	glyceryl, glycereth, glyceride, polyglyceryl, humectant 422, glycol, behen-
Emulsifiers	E304, E422, E430, E431, E432, E433, E434, E435, E436, E470, E470a, E470b, E471, E472, E472a, E472b, E472c, E472e, E472f, E473, E474, E475, E476, E477, E478, E479, E480, E481, E482, E483, E493, E494, E495
Cocoa butter equivalent/ substitute	–
Vegetable oil/emulsifier	–
Elaeis guineensis	–

Annex J – Example calculation for potential oil palm–derived ingredients

Fictional formulation for detergent concentrate

Ingredient	Percentage in product (w/w)	Potential oil palm derivative?	Palm oil derivative conversion ratio[18]
Deionised Water	To 100%	No	n/a
Decyl polyglucoside	60.0%	Yes	0.4
Cocamidopropyl betaine	18.0%	Yes	0.6
Sodium citrate	5.0%	No	n/a
Sodium benzoate	0.5%	No	n/a
Fragrance	0.5%	Yes	n/a (below 1% threshold)
Colour	0.5%	No	n/a

Annual quantities

Annual production volume for detergent concentrate: 10000 kg

Annual volume of potential palm oil–derived ingredients in product:

Decyl polyglucoside

Volume: 60% x 10000 kg = 6000 kg

Proportion derived from oil palm: 0.4 x 6000 kg = 2400 kg

Cocamidopropyl betaine

Volume: 18% x 10000 kg = 1800 kg

Proportion derived from oil palm: 0.6 x 1800 kg = 1080 kg

Total annual volume of potential palm oil–derived ingredients in product = 3480 kg

[18] From RSPO Supply Chain Certification Standard, Table 4

Third-party Assessor use only

Application number:

Unique Declaration identifier:

Annex K – Supplier Declaration – Packaging recycled content

To be completed by the packaging Supplier in support of a Product Application for certification under the Recognised ecolabel. The Applicant must submit this Declaration to the Third-party Assessor as part of the Application documentation.

1. Supplier details

Legal name of organisation: ……..

Business address: ……

……..

2. Object/s of the declaration

Packaging description: ……..

……..

……..

……..

3. Declaration

I hereby declare that the Object of the declaration (identified in 2) contains the percentage of post-consumer recycled material specified below:

……%

Please briefly describe the basis for assurance of the percentage identified above.

……..
……..
……..
……..
……..

4. Supplier representative

Full name: ……

Position / Title: ……

Telephone: ……..

Email: ……

Signed on behalf of the applicant: ……

Date: ……

Annex L – Applicant Whole-of-business Declaration

To be completed by the Applicant when Applicant data/information not in the public domain—that is, originating from the Applicant and not an external laboratory/organisation, and not verified by an external laboratory/ organisation—is supplied in support of a Product Application for certification under the Recognised ecolabel. This Declaration must be submitted to the Third-party Assessor as part of the Application documentation.

1. Applicant details

Legal name of organisation: ……..……...

Business address: ……..……

……...

2. Declaration

I hereby declare that all evidence supplied by the Applicant (identified in 1), in relation to the *Recognised Ecolabel Standard* sections selected below, is true, accurate, complete and current. The evidence was obtained using appropriate and scientifically valid methods and generated in accordance with good laboratory practice or equivalent quality assurance procedures. I understand that providing false or misleading information may result in rejection of the application or revocation of certification.

(Tick if applicable)	Recognised Ecolabel Standard section
☐	7.1 Ingredient/material sourcing
☐	7.2 Energy efficiency and greenhouse gas emissions
☐	7.3 Material efficiency and waste management
☐	7.4 Water management

4. Applicant representative

Full name: ……

Position / Title: ……

Telephone: ……..

Email: ……

Signed on behalf of the applicant: ……

Date: ……

Annex M – Applicant Social Declaration

To be completed by a Director/General Manager from the Applicant company, if provided as evidence according to the requirements of Section 7.5.

1. Applicant details

Legal name of organisation: ……..

Business address: ……..……

……...

2. Declaration

I hereby declare that, to the best of my knowledge, the Applicant (identified in 1) does not contract/engage/purchase from any supplier that has been convicted of a breach of any of legislated requirements relating to employment, workplace health & safety, anti-discrimination/equal opportunity, etc., unless corrective action has been taken. I declare that I am authorised and competent to make this declaration based on my knowledge of the Applicant's sourcing operations and seniority within the organisation.

3. Applicant representative

Full name: ……

Position / Title: ……

Telephone: ……..

Email: ……

Signed on behalf of the applicant: ……

Date: ……