

Media Release

Accord's Recognised® ecolabel passes latest probity audit with flying colours

Sydney, 27 October 2022. Accord's Recognised® ecolabel scheme for commercial cleaning and hygiene products this week passed its latest independent probity audit with flying colours.

Independent auditor RSM Australia has concluded that: "...based on the audit procedures conducted, the application and assessment processes were robust and independent, and free from any potential influence by Accord, throughout the period September 2018 to July 2022."

This is the third independent audit commissioned by Accord since the Recognised® ecolabel was formally launched back in 2011. Similar to this latest audit, the ecolabel has previously been independently audited for scheme governance and probity in both 2015 and 2018.

"Regular audits of this type are essential for scheme transparency and to demonstrate the ongoing integrity of the Recognised® ecolabel," Accord Executive Director Ms Bronwyn Capanna said.

"When we established the scheme in back in 2011, we did so against a background of concerns about potentially unfounded environmental claims for commercial cleaning and hygiene products.

"Front and centre of Accord's development process for the Recognised® ecolabel were the goals of establishing robust, science-based criteria backed by independent experts, all underpinned by a product assessment system that operated fully at arms-length from Accord and other industry players.

"Pleasingly, this latest audit re-confirms the Recognised® ecolabel as both robust and independent. The ACCC's current high-profile focus on greenwashing makes this audit result especially timely, as all environmental claims must be able to stand up to the regulator's scrutiny," Ms Capanna said.

The Recognised® ecolabel was developed to provide a meaningful accreditation of environmentally preferable commercial cleaning and hygiene products. It is voluntary, multiple-criteria-based and third-party assessed, with the scheme's fees and charges set to maximise its accessibility for businesses rather than for profit.

An independent panel of experts in environmental and human health toxicology affirmed the scheme's criteria as "sound and robust...science-based, targeted and pragmatic".

A total of 96 commercial cleaning and hygiene products have been independently assessed and certified as fit to carry the Recognised® ecolabel.

Accord thanks RSM Australia for conducting this most recent audit. Thanks also to the Recognised® ecolabel scheme's long-serving, expert third-party assessment organisation, Davoren Environmental.

For more details about Recognised®, including a copy of the audit report - <https://accord.asn.au/sustainability/recognised/recognised-documents/>

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