Ecolabelling Certification Criteria for

Construction Chemicals & Products

CC-EL-03

National Cleaner Production Centre, Sri Lanka

1. Introduction

1.1 The Certification Scheme for Eco Labelling of Products/Services of the National Cleaner Production Centre, Sri Lanka (NCPC-SL) is based on the requirements laid down in the ***ISO 14024:2018*** **Environmental labels and declarations - Type 1 environmental labeling – Principles and procedures.**

ISO 14024 specifies the requirements for eco-labeling certification. The Eco Labelling criteria /s of NCPC SL satisfy the ISO 14024 requirements as required by the eco-labelling certification schemes. Here are the key requirements fulfilled accordingly;

- Scope: The eco-labeling certification scheme covers specific product categories/services with a significant impact on the environment.
- Product Criteria: Clear and transparent environmental criteria has been established for products/ services to be eligible for the eco-label. These criteria has been based on scientific evidence and consider the entire product life cycle.
- Independent Third-Party Verification: NCPC SL conduct independent third-party verification of compliance with the eco-labeling criteria.
- Impartiality: The certification process is impartial and free from any conflicts of interest that could undermine its credibility.
- Transparency: The eco-labeling scheme has provided transparent information about the certification process, criteria, and audit procedures.
- Continuous Improvement: The scheme encourages continuous improvement in the environmental performance of certified products /services.
- Stakeholder Involvement: Stakeholders, including businesses, NGOs, consumers, and government representatives, has been involved in the development and revision of the eco-labeling criteria.
- Non-Discrimination: The certification scheme has not discriminated against products or services from different sources based on factors unrelated to environmental performance.
- Compliance Monitoring: Regular monitoring and surveillance of certified products or services has been conducted to ensure ongoing compliance with eco-labeling criteria.
- Public Access to Information: Information about the eco-labeling scheme, certified products, and their environmental criteria shall be accessible to the public.
- Environmental Labeling and Advertising: The use of the eco-label in advertising or labeling has been controlled and subject to the certification scheme's rules.
- Review and Revision: The certification scheme should undergo periodic review and revision to ensure its relevance and effectiveness.

1.2 This document sets out specific managerial and technical criteria for raw material extraction, transportation, manufacturing, dispatch of construction chemical products for sale, etc. Terminologies and aspects related to the concepts of sustainability management are covered during the involved processes. The aspects related to sustainability management described in this document can include environmental impacts, energy, and water security or socio-economic development, or any combination thereof.

1.3 The certification of Eco Labelling of construction chemical products is implemented through a set programme operated over a specified period as agreed with relevant parties. The NCPC-SL functions as the scheme owner of this certification scheme. This document includes environmental criteria, function characteristics, and legal requirements related to Paint, Wall pre Coating/Floor Polish, Roof Waterproof Chemicals, Wood and metal coating, Tile Adhesive and other construction chemicals and Products.

1.4 This specific product environmental criteria document has been prepared by the Expert Committee on Eco Labelling appointed by the NCPC-SL and authorized for adoption by the Governing Council of NCPC-SL. The construction chemical products manufacturers who are seeking eco-labeling certification are required to meet the following requirements.

i. The product and processing conditions shall comply with the requirements given in the below NCPC-SL guidelines;

and

ii. The product and processing shall comply with relevant regulations mentioned in this document and enforced in the country, as applicable;

and

iii. The product should conform to the relevant national, regional, and internationally recognized standards

1.5 This document supplements the below guidelines and provides guidance for the certification of construction chemical products for both Assessors and Producers who are preparing for certification. Each criterion mentioned herein is categorized depending on the significance of its impact on the product environmental criterion or product function characteristic being discussed, e.g. energy, water, material, environment, or socio-development, as follows.

I. Mandatory requirements (M) – Related to the legal requirements for product functional characteristics
II. Critical requirements (C) – Significant to product environmental criteria
III. Non-critical requirements (NC) – Not so significant to product environmental criteria when compared to critical requirements

1.6 This document should also be read in conjunction with the Rules and Procedures of NCPC-SL as applicable to the Eco Labelling Certification scheme.

1.7 This document will be periodically reviewed and updated based on the experience gained and the developments that have taken place in technology and the use of energy, water, material and the environment. The term 'shall' is used in this document to indicate those provisions which are mandatory. The term 'must' is used to indicate the guidance which, although not mandatory, is provided by NCPC-SL as a recognized means of meeting the requirements of the standard. The term 'should' is used to indicate recommendations for implementation.

1.8 The client should submit the relevant pieces of evidence for conformity verification for the last calendar year.

2. References

In the preparation of this criteria document, the following documents were referred.

2.1 ISO 14020 – Environmental labels and declarations - General principles

2.2 ISO 14024 – Environmental labels and declarations- Type 1 environmental labeling– Principles and procedures

2.3 Guidelines for Providing Product Sustainability Information, UN Environment Programme,2017

2.4 establishing the ecological criteria for the award of the EU Ecolabel for indoor and outdoor paints and varnishes, Official Journal of the European Union.

3. Terms and definitions

For the purpose of this document, the terms and definitions given in the referred standards and the following shall apply.

3.1 **Conformity**: Fulfillment of a requirement

3.2 Note: Conformance and compliance are synonymously used for conformity but deprecated.

3.3 **Verification:** Confirmation through the provision of objective evidence that specified requirements have been fulfilled.

3.4 **Organization:** The Applicant organization is hereinafter referred to as an organization.

Certification Criteria Requirements	Weighting Factor
4. Product Design for Sustainability	
a) The product/s must be designed holistically, considering all the environmental aspects (eg: Resource Efficiency improvement, Minimizing waste/pollution/emissions, Eliminating toxicity, design disassembly, extended product lifetime, etc), to minimize associated impacts throughout the lifecycle. Conformity verification ➢ Strategies adopted at Design & Manufacturing Process/Operations to improve the environmental performance of the product ➢ Resource allocation for improving the design of the product & manufacturing of the product ➢ Details of the Stakeholder engagement ➢ Implemented measures and addressed environmental Impacts ➢ R & D plans, test reports, etc	C
5. Raw Materials/Chemical Extraction	
5.1 Responsible for the Acquisition of Raw Materials	
a) Ensure raw materials are extracted responsibly to avoid harm to biodiversity-rich areas. ➢ Avoid sourcing materials from ecologically sensitive zones, such as wetlands, forests, or protected areas. ➢ Verify supplier practices to prevent water pollution, deforestation, habitat destruction, or over-extraction. Conformity Verification: ➢ Supplier certifications/Third party certifications (e.g., FSC for wood-based	C

materials, ISO 14001 for environmental management). ➢ Mapping of extraction sites relative to biodiversity-sensitive zones. ➢ Ecological impact assessments for raw material extraction sites. (EIA Approval Report, Mining Licenses or Permits)	
b) Environmental impacts shall be assessed and addressed by the supplier for the locally extracted materials or imported RM as applicable by the National & International Laws Conformity verification ➢ Environmental clearance reports (EPL or EIA reports) if prescribed ➢ Ecological survey ➢ Supplier declarations ➢ Topographic Map and Satellite Image Showing the Location of the Raw Material Field (Quarry) ➢ Business License to Open and Operate ➢ Operating License ➢ Reinstatement Plan ➢ Hydrological survey report for water table management ➢ Certificates of environmental conformance received from the supplier. ➢ Legal agreements with the supplier (Refer the clauses relate to environmental aspects) ➢ Process and the criteria of material selection/ evaluation	C
c) **Strategies must be implemented to monitor environmental impact** – The organization must establish systems to continuously track and evaluate the environmental impact of its operations, ensuring compliance with environmental standards, identifying potential risks, and implementing corrective actions to maintain sustainability and minimize harm.Conformity Verification ➢ Details of the monitoring plan and bioassays conducted ➢ Photographic evidence of the corrective actions taken ➢ Hydrological survey report for water management ➢ Documentary evidence such as study reports, photo graphs for restoration of spent mines and Green Belt development ***If the supplier is beyond the control of the manufacturer due to reasonable facts,*** Conformity Verification ➢ Certificates of environmental conformance received from the supplier. ➢ Site visit records by the manufacturer ➢ Photographs of the site visits conducted ➢ Agreements with the supplier (Refer the clauses relate to environmental aspects)	C
6. Raw Material Transport to the Factory	
a) Appropriate measures (eg: pre-planning of transportation, avoiding unnecessary movements, covering of materials during transportation, etc) must be taken to minimize oil/fuel consumption, and air emissions related to environmental impacts during the raw material transportation; *Conformity verification*	C

➢ The records on oil/fuel consumption for transportation are maintained ➢ Emission test reports of the vehicles ➢ evidence for green practices such as two mode transportation and etc. **Or** b) If the material transportation is carried out by a third party, appropriate measures should be taken to reduce associated environmental impacts with the involvement of the relevant party (Eg: conditions through agreements) *Conformity verification* ➢ Copy of Signed Agreement ➢ Details of the projects implemented and the efforts are taken to minimize dust emission/material spillage reduction due to transportation. ➢ Details of the safety precautions taken during transportation, and photographic evidence.	
7. Manufacturing Process	
7.1 General Requirement	
a) Effective Environmental Management System (EMS) policies, procedures, and environmental management programmes should be implemented by the organization *Conformity verification* ➢ Valid ISO 14001 EMS Certificate ➢ Records on Environmental Management Policy, procedures, and environmental management programmes are maintained	NC
d) Documented Environmental Management Roadmap must be developed to address the potential environmental problems of the organization *Conformity verification* Environment management roadmap of the organization	C
7.2 Water Resource Consumption and Conservation	
a) Infrastructure must be maintained to quantify the water usage for industrial processes and other purposes in the organization *Conformity verification* ➢ *Water supply metering and/or submetering facilities established in the organization* ➢ *Water consumption records are maintained on a daily/monthly basis*	C
b) A detailed and documented water distribution system/plan must be maintained to ensure efficient water management. *Conformity verification* ➢ *Plumbing Layout of the factory*	C
e) Company benchmark/baseline for water consumption should be established and monitored continuously Eg: specific water consumption in m^3 / litres (m^3/Kg, m^3/MT) of product manufactured or per employee water consumption *Conformity verification* ➢ Details of annual production, annual water consumption & Specific water consumption	NC

for at least 2 years ➢ Details of company benchmarks including comparisons with the previous two years or national and international benchmarks	
f) Specific water consumption must be reduced by a minimum of 5% from the baseline/Base year and has to be reported *(Reduction in specific water consumption ≥ 5%* *Reduction in specific water consumption ≥ 10%* *Reduction in specific water consumption ≥ 15%)* *Conformity verification* ➢ Details of annual production, annual water consumption & Specific water consumption for 3 years	NC
g) Water conservation techniques and technologies must be implemented to ensure efficient water use and reduce wastage. *Conformity verification* ➢ *Evidence of implemented water conservation techniques and site inspections* Details of annual water consumption & Specific water consumption (Reduction in specific water consumption ≥ 2% from the previous year Reduction in specific water consumption ≥ 3% from the previous year Reduction in specific water consumption ≥ 5%) from the previous year	C
h) Resource improvement - Water recycling and reuse practices must be implemented to minimize freshwater consumption and maximize the efficient use of resources. *Conformity verification* ➢ Evidence of water recycling infrastructure, including technologies used. ➢ Records of recycled / reused water volumes and its utilization in industrial processes or other applications. (e.g., cooling systems, irrigation, etc.).	C
i) A minimum of 5% of the total annual water consumption must be sourced from harvested rainwater collected from the roof and non-roof areas of the facility. *Conformity verification* ➢ Factory observations of the operating rain water harvesting system ➢ Quantitative information on the rain water collected monthly/ annually	NC
j) Organizational/product water footprint should be calculated, recorded, and maintained. *Conformity verification* ➢ *The transparent and verifiable calculation method is available*	NC
k) A Method must be introduced and implemented for continuous monitoring and measuring the progress of the water management programmes and analysing water consumption/conservation relevant data to make sure that the water-saving efforts have been effective and communicating the progress to the relevant authorities (eg: top management) *Conformity verification* ➢ Progress report ➢ Impact/water Assessment Reports ➢ Management review meeting minutes, etc	C

7.3 Energy Resource Consumption and Conservation	
a) Infrastructure must be maintained to quantify the energy (Renewable and Non-renewable) usage for industrial processes and other purposes in the organization *Conformity verification* ➢ *Electricity sub-metering facilities established in the organization* ➢ *Electricity/Fuel consumption records are maintained on a daily/monthly basis* ➢ *Metering facilities for measuring renewable energy consumption/production are established in the organization and records are maintained*	C
b) Company benchmark/baseline for energy consumption should be established and monitored continuously. (eg: specific electrical energy consumption in KWh / litres (KWh / kg, KWh / g, KWh / MT) of product produced and specific thermal energy consumption in MJ/litres,(MJ / kg, MJ / g ,MJ/MT)of product produced) *Conformity verification* ➢ Details of annual/monthly production, energy consumption & specific energy consumption for the preceding at least 2 years	C
c) Specific electricity consumption should be reduced by a minimum of 5% from the baseline/Base year has to be reported (Reduction in specific electricity consumption ≥ 5% Reduction in specific electricity consumption ≥ 10% Reduction in specific electricity consumption ≥ 15%) *Conformity verification* ➢ Details of annual production, energy consumption & specific energy consumption for at least 2 years ➢ Details of the implementation of energy efficiency improvement measures with actual benefits achieved	NC
d) Specific thermal energy consumption should be reduced by a minimum of 5% from the baseline/base year has to be reported *(Reduction in specific electricity consumption ≥ 5%* *Reduction in specific electricity consumption ≥ 10%* *Reduction in specific electricity consumption ≥ 15%)* *Conformity verification* ➢ Details of annual production, energy consumption & specific energy consumption for the preceding 2 years ➢ Details of the implementation of energy efficiency improvement measures with actual benefits achieved	NC
e) The organization should be substituted nonrenewable energy sources (On-site & off-site) with renewable energy (Eg: biomass, solar power, hydropower, etc) *Conformity verification* ➢ Details of installation of onsite and offsite renewable power generating sources including the technology, installed capacity and location with photographs of installations ➢ Details of total power/energy consumption in the manufacturing facility and renewable	NC

power produced in kWh, ➢ Solar connection agreement, etc	
f) Appropriate measures (Eg: Fuel switching, waste heat recovery applications, etc) should be implemented to improve energy efficiency in the organization *Conformity verification* ➢ *Site inspection relevant to the energy efficiency measures implemented* ➢ *Records on energy savings done through such implementation, investment records, etc*	C
g) Effective Energy Management System (EnMS) or policies, procedures, and energy management programmes should be implemented by the organization *Conformity verification* ➢ *Valid EnMS Certificate* ➢ *Records on Energy management Policy, procedures, and energy management programmes are maintained*	NC
h) Organizational/product carbon footprint (assertion of GHG emissions and removals) should be calculated, recorded, and maintained. *Conformity verification* *A transparent and verifiable calculation method is available.*	NC
i) A Method should be introduced and implemented for continuous monitoring and measuring the progress of the energy management programmes and analysing energy relevant data to make sure that the energy-saving efforts have been effective and communicating the progress to the relevant authorities (eg: top management) *Conformity verification* ➢ Progress report ➢ Impact/Energy Assessment Reports, Management review meeting minutes, etc	C
7.4 Raw Material Consumption	
a) Input/Raw materials must be non-toxic to eliminate exposure to heavy metals (eg: mercury, lead, cadmium, hexavalent chromium, arsenic & antimony) and release of solvents. *Conformity verification* ➢ Records on Raw material consumption ➢ Product Sample test report ➢ Product certificates	C
b) The amount of raw materials acquired locally should be 3% or more than that out of the total raw material consumption to produce a unit of product Conformity Verification ➢ Records of total and local raw material content, source/location of material acquired/Purchased	NC
c) Appropriate measures must be taken to eliminate exposure to release of organic solvents. Aromatic hydrocarbons and Halogenated solvents – 0.01 % by weight VOC (not including 1) in water borne coatings 2.0% max	C

Conformity verification ➢ Test certificates as per the standards specified complying with the limits in case of contamination	
d) Appropriate measures must be taken to eliminate the consumption of organic solvents/solvent base and the products must be waterborne/water base *Conformity verification* ➢ Test certificates as per the standards specified, Products records, etc	C
e) Appropriate measures must be taken to eliminate exposure to Free formaldehyde. Formaldehyde; Free formaldehyde MUST not be intentionally added. Free formaldehyde in product MUST be 0.001% for coating products, 0.01 % for other dispersions *Conformity verification* ➢ Test reports or certificates confirming the absence/level of formaldehyde	C
f) Heavy Metals; Must not be added intentionally to the product; if added as driers 0.10%; if added as pigments supplier should ensure the metal is bonded to the chromophore *Conformity verification* ➢ Test certificates as per the standards specified complying with the limits in case of contamination	C
g) Raw materials must be stored in a way that reduces spills, wastage and leaks. (Chemical raw materials are exempted under this criterion) *Conformity verification* ➢ Site inspection	C
7.5 Occupational Health and Safety and Responsible Chemicals Management	
h) A sound chemical management plan must be developed and implemented to ensure the safe and proper use of hazardous/Non-hazardous chemicals, dangerous goods/controlled substances and to comply with applicable governmental regulations *Conformity Verification* ➢ Chemical Management Plan which includes the following as necessary: Legislation and Licensing, Signage & Placarding, Training & Induction, Personal Hygiene, Chemical Handling, Safety Data Sheets, Risk Assessment of Tasks Involving Chemicals, Labelling, Storage, Transportation of Chemicals, Chemical Waste and Disposal and etc.	C
i) The organization must obtain the necessary precursor licenses for chemicals, especially those that are subject to international regulations due to their potential use in chemical weapons or illegal activities. Conformity Verifications ➢ **License Records:** Verify that the organization holds valid precursor licenses from relevant	C

authorities for the production, use, and sale of regulated chemicals.	
j) Occupational Health and Safety practice guidelines, Emergency Preparedness plan must be developed and implemented as per the following national/international requirement and appropriate measures must be Initiated for improving occupational well-being Eg: ISO 45001:2018 Occupational Health and Safety Management systems or equivalent. Standard procedure/ practices for chemical storage as per GHS -Globally Harmonized System of Classification and labelling of chemicals. *Conformity Verification* ➢ Valid ISO 45001:2018 Certificate ➢ Supporting documents which demonstrate the set objective for OH&S are met. ➢ Copy of emergency response plan (The organization must assess and communicate the potential risks to the surrounding community within at least a 1 km radius from the facility, including residences, hospitals, schools, etc.) ➢ Documentary evidence for applying standards in chemical storage and handling ➢ Records of training and awareness sessions conducted ➢ Incident and accident register, ➢ Observations of using personal protection equipment ➢ Evidences of Safety Drills (Once in 4 months/6 months/ at least Annually) ➢ Records of weekly safety walk in the factory ➢ Proper alarming system – Fire ➢ Records of Safety Audit (Once in 6 months) ➢ Green area – Chemical storage/management (can serve as buffer zones around chemical storage and handling areas to reduce the impact of potential contamination) ➢ Ensure access to the fire truck ➢ Fire Dep. certificate	C
k) Green initiatives (such as chemical leasing, shifting to green chemicals and application of green chemistry, etc) should be adopted and implemented to design and/or produce cost-competitive chemical products and processes by reducing pollution at their source *Conformity Verification* ➢ Agreements with suppliers ➢ Purchasing orders of Chemicals ➢ Safety Data sheets of Chemicals.	NC
7.6 Product Quality	
a) The product must be fit for its intended purpose and must meet performance requirements of relevant national/International standards, or prove fitness for purpose with other appropriate documentation (standards/guidelines) (Refer Annexure - 1) *Conformity Verification* ➢ Valid SLS certificate or ➢ Test reports verifying the performance parameters of the product are met.	NC
b) Effective Quality Management System (QMS) or policies, procedures, and quality plans/programmes should be implemented by the organization *Conformity Verification* ➢ *Valid ISO 9001 QMS Certificate* ➢ *Records on Quality Policy, procedures, and quality plans/ programmes are maintained*	NC

c) Toxic heavy metals and their compounds, or ingredients containing heavy metals and their compounds, (including lead (Pb), cadmium (Cd), mercury (Hg), chromium (Cr), arsenic (As), selenium (Se), cobalt (Co), tin (Sn) and antimony (Sb), and Nickel) must not be added to products or used during manufacture to reduce the use of hazardous materials and to prevent pollutants entering the environment and to protect human health (Refer Annexure - 2) *Conformity Verification* ➢ Ingredients list for the product and Safety Data Sheet (SDS) for each ingredient, identification of potential contamination sources.	C
7.7 Waste Water Management	
a) The organization shall be complied with Central Environment Authority (CEA) stipulated regulations before discharging water into the environment. *Conformity Verification* ➢ Treated waste water test reports.	M
b) Emergency Response and Contingency Planning A documented emergency response plan must be in place to handle accidental discharges or failures in the wastewater treatment system. Conformity Verification: ➢ Copy of the emergency response plan detailing procedures for containment, mitigation, and notification. ➢ Records of training sessions conducted for employees on emergency protocols. ➢ Incident reports of past emergencies and corrective measures implemented.	C
7.8 Solid Waste Management	
a) Effective waste management policies and programmes/plans must be documented for hazardous and Non-Hazourdous solid waste with regard to the following; ➢ Quantities and types of waste recovered for reuse internally and externally; ➢ Quantities and types of waste recycled internally and externally; ➢ Quantities and types of waste disposed of to landfill; ➢ Information on disposal locations for all wastes; and ➢ Initiatives are taken to reduce waste generation and improve recovery/recycling of waste *Conformity verification* ➢ Copy of Waste Management policy and waste management Plan/Programmes ➢ The waste management plan should cover the following attributes as necessary *Assigning a responsible person for managing waste on site., obtaining legal compliance for, managing waste., establishing goals and objectives., estimating the waste types and amounts involved., set targets for reducing the amount of each waste sent to landfill., describe recycling/reuse methods for each material., identify the waste destinations and transport modes, including what materials are being segregated on-site for reuse or recycling., Track progress., Describe special measures for material use and handling., Describe communication and training to support and encourage participation from everyone on site., If applicable, describe the sequencing and methods for deconstruction projects., Project review.*	C
b) A scheduled waste management license for the manufacturer for producing hazardous solid waste shall be obtained from Central Environmental Authority and implemented accordingly. *Conformity verification*	M

➢ Copy of contract/agreement with CEA certified third-party waste collection agencies for safe disposal ➢ Site visits for Hazardous waste stores ➢ Record of hazardous waste generation is maintained	
c) Appropriate waste management practices (such as Collection, Monitoring and recording waste generation, Reuse, and recycling internally or externally), Provide waste to third-party for safe disposal. Consider choosing Central Environment (CEA) registered waste collecting agents must be implemented for Non-hazardous solid waste *Conformity verification* ➢ Copy of contract/agreement with CEA certified third-party waste collection agencies for safe disposal ➢ Site visit for waste stores/yard ➢ Records of Non-hazardous waste generation are maintained	C
d) Circular economy concept - The organization should incorporate circular economy principles into the production and waste management of construction chemicals and products. This includes strategies to design for resource efficiency, utilize recycled or renewable raw materials, promote material reuse and recycling, minimize waste generation, and ensure the recovery of resources at the end of the product's life cycle. Conformity verification ➢ Evidence of material recovery initiatives, such as waste-to-resource conversion or upcycling programs. ➢ Records of closed-loop systems where waste materials are reused within the manufacturing process. ➢ Partnerships or collaborations with external recycling facilities.	NC
e) Infrastructure availability – Organization must maintained waste segregation, storage, and handling facilities. *Conformity verification* ➢ Presence of labeled bins and sepepration facilities ➢ Awareness posters for waste separation	C
f) Chemical waste must be collected, treated, and disposed in accordance with Basel Convention guidelines. Conformity Verification: ➢ Chemical waste records and recycling/disposal certificates from authorized facilities	C
7.9 Air Emissions	
a) Emissions to air shall not be exceeded the CEA stipulated limits to make it ensure the factory atmosphere is safe for its occupants. *Conformity verification* ➢ Valid Environmental Protection License	M
b) Appropriate Initiatives (such as installing scrubbers, implementing a dust management plan and other suitable initiatives) must be taken to the reduction of dust and fumes emission. *Conformity verification*	C

➢ Site inspections, Records relevant to the dust management activities/plan	
7.10 Packaging	
a) Product Packaging should be complied with at least one of the following to reduce the ecological impact of the packaging stage of the product life cycle: ✓ Each material constituting >20% by weight of the total primary and secondary packaging used, must contain at least 30% recycled content by weight; or ✓ Each material constituting >20% by weight of the total primary and secondary packaging used, must be derived from Bio-Degradable materials (e.g. PLA plastics); or ✓ Each separable item constituting >20% by weight of the total primary and secondary packaging, must be recyclable in Sri Lanka. or ✓ Paper and cardboard packaging must be either certified under recognised forest certification scheme (e.g. FSC or PEFC) or contain at least 20% recycled content by weight *Conformity verification* ➢ MSDS of packing materials ➢ Records relevant to the packaging material procurement and consumption	NC
b) The manufacturer should provide relevant environment-related information (eg: recycle material content of the product, etc) on the label/packaging of the product *Conformity verification* ➢ Observations on the product label	NC
c) Advertisements on the product in communication media should deliver the environmental friendliness of the particular product *Conformity verification* ➢ Observations on the product advertisements (leaflets/booklets, company profile, tv/radio advertisement, etc	NC
8. Distribution	
a) Efficient transport modes/ plans should be used for finished product distribution *Conformity verification* ➢ The transport management plan/Product distribution plan is maintained and implemented	NC
9. Consideration of the End-of-life phase	
a) Appropriate initiatives/measures should be taken toward reducing the impact of the product's end-of-life phase by showing that ; ✓ The product/packaging is recyclable at the end of its life/ elements that may prevent recycling have been avoided; or ✓ Information is provided to the user on recycling of the product/ packaging (e.g. possible options for recycling, with names of recycling facilities where possible). to minimize the amount of solid waste that ends up as land-fills *Conformity verification* ➢ Description and proof of initiatives taken to reduce impact from usage and/or end-of-life	NC

phase of the product	
b) A mechanism for encouraging product take back should be implemented for recycling or safe disposal at the end of useful life and which would involve; ✓ Collection ✓ Environmentally sound treatment of the collected product ✓ Use of products & materials in the form of reuse or recycling *Conformity verification* ➢ Details of the mechanism in place for product takeback ➢ Quantity of reduction in product takeback	NC
10. Legal Requirements	
a) The Environmental Protection License (EPL) shall be obtained and all its requirements shall be implemented *Conformity verification* ➢ Valid Environmental Protection License is available	M
b) All production activities and products shall comply with the requirements of the relevant national legislation in Sri Lanka *Conformity verification* ➢ Compilation of all the applicable Environmental and other Regulations is maintained	M
11. Biodiversity conservation	
a) Organizations applying for ecolabel certification must demonstrate that their operations, supply chains, and products align with the principles and objectives of the National Biodiversity Policy. Conformity Verification ➢ Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP) ➢ **Supply Chain Checks:** Verify sustainable sourcing and supplier adherence to biodiversity conservation. ➢ **Site Inspections:** Check if operations protect or restore biodiversity.	C
b) The company should conduct a biodiversity study including comprehensive ecological survey within its premises to identify and understand the flora, fauna, and ecological dynamics. This includes identifying invasive species and ensuring gardening and landscaping practices favor native species to support local biodiversity. Conformity Verification: ➢ Study report (Fuana / Flora identification) ➢ Invasive species/vulnerable/endangered/native/endamic identification ➢ Gardeninig practices with native species	NC
c) Invest on biodiversity conservation projects with local community Conformity Verification:	C

➢ Project details (reports and photographs) ➢ Area Maps ➢ Stakeholder Collaboration Records	
d) Organization should encouraged the rehabilitation of degraded land around manufacturing plants by restoring natural habitats that promote biodiversity. Conformity Verification ➢ Reports on and rehabilitation efforts ➢ Quarry/ Site Restoration Plan and demonstration of efforts towards following. a) Restoration of spent mines b) Green belt development and bio diversity c) Water table management d) Top soil conservation	NC
12. Resource Protection	
a) Reduction of Non-Renewable Resource Dependence – Organization should actively reduce the use of non-renewable resources in product formulations. Conformity Verification: ➢ Product composition data highlighting renewable material content (Percentage of renewable versus non-renewable materials in products.) ➢ Evidence of ongoing R&D and trials for alternative materials/R&D initiatives focused on replacing non-renewable resources. ➢ R & D for alternatives and minimizing non-renewable resources	NC
13. Social Responsibility	
➢ Fair Labor Practices - Organization shall ensured compliance with labor laws, including fair wages, workplace safety, and non-discrimination. Conformity Verification: ➢ Employment records and grievance mechanisms ➢ Safety measures and protective equipment for workers ➢ Non-Discrimination Policies	M
b) Medical checkups should be provided to factory employees, especially in chemical industries, to monitor health risks associated with workplace conditions. Conformity Verification ➢ Records of medical checkups conducted for employees, ensuring all required tests and health monitoring are performed regularly	C
a) Training and awareness - Regular training programs must be given to employees on sustainability practices, resource conservation, and health and safety. Conformity verification ➢ Records of training sessions, including attendance sheets, training materials, and evaluation results ➢ Employee Feedback records	C
b) The organization should produce regular CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) reports that highlight efforts to support employees, communities, and the environment, and comply with	NC

ESG standards. Conformity Verification ➢ **CSR(Corporate Social Responsibility) Reports Review:** Review the content of CSR reports to confirm they include details on employee welfare initiatives, environmental responsibility, and governance practices.(Local community engadgement to ensure minimizing the environment impact) ➢ **ESG Audits:** Conduct audits of the organization's ESG performance to assess compliance with international sustainability standards.	
c) The organization must allocate a budget for employee welfare activities, including entertainment and recreational programs, to support employee well-being and work-life balance. Conformity Verifications ➢ Records of Employee Welfare Programs	NC

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USERS

This criteria document contains 69 requirements; 07 Mandatory requirements, 35 critical requirements, and 27 non-critical requirements. Marks are allocated for each criterion except Mandatory criteria. At least 70% of the total marks allocation for the criteria shall be scored by the applicant for being successful in the Eco Labelling certification process.

Marks Allocation	
Critical requirements	**5**
Non-Critical requirements	**3**

Requirement	**Total Marks**
Critical (C)	**35*5 = 175**
Non-critical (NC)	**27*3 = 81**

Mandatory Requirements

When the adequacy audit of the organization's application is conducted, there shall be no non-compliance related to the mandatory requirements, and if any nonconformity is reported during the adequacy audit stage or the certificate audit, a major nonconformity will be raised, and that shall be corrected within two months of the certification Audit.

Critical Requirements

If any violation of critical requirements is found during the certification audit visit, a minor nonconformity will be raised, and suitable corrective action shall be taken within two months.

Non-critical Requirements

If any non-compliance of non-critical requirements is found during the certification Audit, it will be considered as an observation for the improvement. The effectiveness of the corrective actions taken for the observations raised will be audited in the next surveillance audit.

Note: Until the non-conformities are addressed, the marks should not be released to the governing council, and the certificate should not be granted

APPENDIX 1: SLS Standards
LIST I
VOLUNTARY SLS STANDARDS

Product/ Material		**Relevant SLS Standard**
Paints	Emulsion paints for interior use	SLS 533
	Emulsion paints for exterior use	SLS 557
	Enamel Paints	SLS 539
	Water based enamel paints	SLS 1536

NOTE: The applicants/ manufacturers have voluntarily obtained SLS certification, they could be able to achieve points

APPENDIX **2**

Toxic heavy metals and their compounds, or ingredients containing heavy metals and their compounds, including lead (Pb), cadmium (Cd), mercury (Hg), chromium (Cr), arsenic (As), selenium (Se), cobalt (Co), tin (Sn) and antimony (Sb), and Nickel must not be deliberately added or used.

Exemptions:
The above substance may be present as a contaminant. Contaminants are defined as residues from raw material production or from a previous lifecycle (in the case of recycled materials) present in the finished product, in raw materials, or in alternative fuels used in the kiln, but not substances that are added to raw material or product for a purpose, irrespective of quantity. Trace levels of contaminants must not exceed publically available safety standards. Exemptions for a specific substance must be permitted only where the applicant can demonstrate that the substance:

- Is necessary for performance or safety reasons; and
- Is stored and managed in a manner that prevents environmental pollution during manufacture; and
- Is chemically bound in a way that will prevent environmental pollution upon disposal by landfill or incineration.

Limits for Components

Construction Chemical products		**Substances in the product/ material**	**Limits**
Paint	**Water Based Paints**	**Lead, Mercury, Cadmium, Chromium (VI), Arsenic, Antimony**	Lead, Mercury, Cadmium, Chromium (VI), Arsenic, and Antimony must not be intentionally added. However, Lead shall not be more than 0.02 % (200 mg/kg) as a mass fraction.
		Formaldehyde	Formaldehyde shall not be used or no more than 0.01% by wet weight
		Volatile organic compounds (VOCs)	The paint shall not contain volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in excess of: ➢ 50g per liter (g/L) of the water-based coatings for indoor

			application; ➢ 150g per liter (g/L) of the water-based coatings for outdoor application
		Volatile aromatic hydrocarbons	Volatile aromatic hydrocarbons shall not be used or shall not exceed 1.0% Contamination by weight
		Halogenated solvents	Halogenated solvents shall contain no more than 0.01% by wet weight or 100mg/L
	Oil based paints	**Mercury, Lead, Cadmium, Hexavalent Chromium, Antimony**	Should not be used
		VOC	Shall not exceed 380 g/L including colorants
		Aromatic hydrocarbon solvents	Should not be used
Construction chemicals		**Lead**	Lead should not be used. However, Lead content shall not exceed 0.1 (mg/l)
		Chromium (VI), Cadmium	Chromium (VI) and Cadmium should not be used. However, those contents shall not exceed 2.0 (mg/l)
		Mercury	Mercury should not be used. However, Mercury contents shall not exceed 0.01 (mg/l)
		Selenium	should not be used
		Arsenic	Arsenic shall not exceed 0.2 (mg/l)
Adhesives and sealants		**Lead, Cadmium, Mercury, Chromium and Arsenic**	Lead, Cadmium, Mercury, Chromium and Arsenic should not be used. However, volume of lead (Pb) is limited only for less than 100 mg/kg
		VOC	exterior products should be less than 1.0 % as a mass fraction
		Formaldehyde	Formaldehyde should not be used
		Phathalates, Alkylphenol ethoxylates and Halogenated solvents	Phathalates, Alkylphenol ethoxylates and Halogenated solvents should not be used

Guideline for Marks Allocation;

The below guidelines are to be followed while assessing the implementation of criteria requirements. Marks allocation should be based on the level of implementation and the availability of sufficient evidence.

- ✓ **Criteria 1: Full Marks allocation:**
  - The criteria requirement has been fully implemented.
  - If sufficient evidence exists, the full marks mentioned in the mark's column can be given.
- ✓ **Criteria 2: 70%-80% Marks (Improvement Opportunities)**
  - The criteria requirement has been fully implemented.
  - However, sufficient evidence does not exist or has not been maintained.
  - In such cases, 80% of the allocated marks can be given.
- ✓ **Criteria 3: 60%-50% Marks (Improvement Opportunities)**
  - The criteria requirement has been implemented partially.
  - If sufficient evidence exists, 50% of the allocated marks can be given.
- ✓ **Criteria 4: 30%- 20% Marks (Improvement Opportunities)**
  - The criteria requirement has been implemented partially.
  - However, sufficient evidence does not exist or has not been maintained.
  - In such cases, 30% of the allocated marks can be given.
- ✓ **Criteria 5: 0 Marks - Non-Conformity (Critical Requirement)**
  - The criteria requirement has not been implemented.
  - If it's a critical (C) requirement, it must be raised as a Non-Conformity.
  - In this case, 0 marks should be given.
- ✓ **Criteria 6: 0 Marks - Observation (Non-Critical Requirement)**
  - The criteria requirement has not been implemented.
  - If it's a non-critical (NC) requirement, it must be raised as an observation.
  - In this case, 0 marks should be given.

During the mark allocation process, the team of auditors engages in discussions based on the audit findings, which include document reviews, observations, interviews, and other relevant sources of information. These discussions serve to ensure accuracy and prevent inconsistencies in the marks assigned. By collectively evaluating the evidence and considering different perspectives, the team strives to reach a consensus on the appropriate allocation of marks. This collaborative approach helps to enhance the fairness and reliability of the mark allocation process, allowing for a more comprehensive and well-rounded assessment.