Standard Update Summary

Furniture, Fittings and Flooring (EC 32-25)

Eco Choice Aotearoa

Ministry for the Environment
Manatū Mō Te Taiao

Introduction

In alignment with Eco Choice Aotearoa's continued commitment to ensure our certifications reflect the best ethical and environmental standards possible, this document summarises the changes to the Furniture, Fitting, and Flooring Standard (EC 32-25). EC 32-25 and its companion document, Supplementary Modules, underwent an extensive review and now include two new requirements: **Environmental Management Systems and Modern Slavery and Social Accountability.**

In addition to including the Environmental Management Systems and Modern Slavery and Social Accountability requirements, ECA updated the **Legal Requirements, General Hazardous Substances, Energy Management and Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Waste Management, Fitness for Purpose, and Requirement and Notes for Licence Holders** sections.

The EC 32-25 Supplementary Modules now have 19 modules (previously 16). The previous **Fibre Cement** module is now broken down into **Other Wood Fibre, Cement, Sand Aggregates and Minerals, and Crystalline Silica modules**. The EC 32-25 Supplementary Modules document also includes a module for engineered stone.

How to read this document:

Each update and inclusion of new requirements are identified by the section name, section number, and page number where the changes are located in the standard. A screenshot of the relevant section is also included for reference. Text changes/updates to previously existing requirements in the standard are indicated in **red.**

Update to Legal Requirements
(Section 5.1; page 10)

The language in the Legal Requirements section has been updated to align with other ECA standards. The verification required to comply with this section includes a written statement on regulatory compliance signed by the Chief Executive Officer or other authorised representative of the applicant company. In addition to the written statement, the applicant must include documenting regulatory requirements and examples of monitoring and maintaining compliance.

The section reads as follows:

a ***The applicant/licence holder must demonstrate how applicable environmental legal requirements are met, including that all necessary environmental consents and permits are in place.***

b *Significant component manufacturing or processes involved in the production of a furniture, fitting or flooring product may not be under the direct control of an applicant/licence holder. Where this is the case, the licence applicant/holder must have and implement a formal supplier regulatory compliance management/assurance programme that:*

- *Includes documented requirements for suppliers to provide components or services compliant with applicable environmental regulatory requirements (for example in supply contract conditions).*
- *Identifies suppliers, materials or processes that involve, or would be expected to be subject to a high level of regulatory control and/or which present a risk of regulatory non-compliance; and*
- ***Includes appropriate requirements for suppliers to provide assurance to the applicant/licence holder on the supplier's environmental regulatory compliance.***

Please read the **Explantatory Notes section** under Section 5.1 (page 10-11) of the EC 32-25 Standard for more information regarding examples of relevant laws/regulations and documention required for compliance.

Introduction of the Environmental Management Systems or Process
(Section 5.2; page 11)

The Environmental Management Systems or Process section firmly introduces the requirement that applicants/licence holders or manufacturers must have an appropriate environmental management process or system (EMS). To demonstrate compliance, the applicant/licence holder or manufacturer must have a written statement of compliance signed by the Chief Executive Officer or other otherwise authorised representative and documentation of an EMS based on ISO 14001 or a detailed process for controlling environmental risks (hazardous substances, discharges to air land and water or other relevant environmental impacts).

The section reads as follows:

Criteria

The applicant / licence holder or manufacturer must have (or establish, if necessary) appropriate environmental management processes or an environmental management system (EMS), to manage the environmental impacts from the manufacturing of the product.

Verification required

Conformance with this requirement shall be demonstrated by providing a written statement on compliance, signed by the Chief Executive Officer or other authorised representative of the applicant/licence holder or manufacturer. The statement shall be supported by an EMS based on ISO 14001, or details of the processes for controlling hazardous substances, discharges to air, land and water or other relevant environmental impacts.

Introduction of the Modern Slavery and Social Accountability **(Section 5.3; page 11-12)**

The Modern Slavery and Social Accountability section introduces requirements for the applicant/license holder and manufacturer to have a publicly available document (example: easily accessible link on company webpage) outlining policies and procedures addressing human rights, diversity & inclusion and anti-bullying. The policy/policies should include explicit commitments based on international policies (The International Bill of Rights and the International Labour Organization), explicitly outline the company's expectations regarding conduct and process for how the company will implement its commitment and monitor compliance. A written and signed statement by the Chief Executive Officer or other authorised representative of the applicant/licence holder is required to demonstrate compliance and evidence of compliance (e.g., copies of policies and plans of implementation).

Please read the **Explantatory Notes section** under Section 5.3 (page 12) and **Appendix C** of the EC 32-25 Standard for more information.

Introduction of the Modern Slavery and Social Accountability **(Section 5.3; page 11-12)**

The section reads as follows:

Criteria

a The applicant/licence holder and manufacturer must have a publicly available policy/policies on human rights, diversity & inclusion, and anti-bullying. At a minimum, it should comprise:

- An explicit, commitment to respect all internationally recognized human rights standards – understood, at a minimum, as the International Bill of Rights and the International Labour Organization (ILO) Declaration on the Fundamental Principles (see below) and Rights at Work;
- Stipulations concerning the company's expectations of personnel, business partners and other relevant parties e.g. a code of conduct; and
- Information on how the company will implement its commitment and monitor compliance with it.

Note: The Trust expects the applicant/licence holder and manufacturer to show that it is undertaking activities to create more equitable conditions for those affected by, or involved in, the sourcing and manufacturing of products and materials, supported by a publicly available document.

b Where an applicant/licence holder and manufacturer has found instances of modern slavery in their business operations and or supply chains* in the past two years, there shall be evidence of corrective action.

c In addition to the above, the applicant/licence holder and manufacturer shall consider:

- Providing information to confirm whether the requirements of Social Accountability International Standard, SA8000 have been considered;
- Being a Living Wage employer (or equivalent); and
- Having a senior member of its organisation responsible for social and environmental sustainability.

Note: From ILO Declaration on the Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, there are the following core labour standards:

- Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87);
- Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 (No. 98);
- Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29);
- Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 (No. 105);
- Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138);
- Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182);
- Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 (No. 100); and
- Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111).

*Supply chains refer to the products and services (including labour) that contribute to the ECA-licensed products and services. This includes products and services sourced in NZ or overseas and extends beyond direct suppliers.

Verification required

Conformance with this requirement shall be stated in writing and signed by the Chief Executive Officer or other authorised representative of the applicant/licence holder. This statement shall be accompanied by documentation that:

- Copies of the relevant policies, procedures and plans; and
- Records demonstrating the plans are being effectively implemented (including monitoring results).

Update to General Hazardous Substances
(Section 5.5.1; pages 13-16)

Criteria a, b and c of **The General Hazardous Substances** section have been updated to reflect proposed technical changes, including outlining the exception cases for lead paint and requirements for Polymeric diphenylmethane diisocyanate (pMDI). In addition, ECA included criteria (e) regarding applicants providing publicly available documents of chemical ingredients to align with recently updated standards and the requirements of GBCA. Please read the final bullet point in the **Verifiction required** section regarding the requirements for criteria e.

These criteria apply to all materials in the product and all related processes used by the applicant / licence holder, their component suppliers and sub-contractors, unless otherwise specified.

The following are exempt from clause 5.5.1:

- Small parts such as screws, hinges, locks, bolts etc. unless they are parts that are intended to come in frequent contact with skin;
- Trace levels (< 0.1 % by weight) of substances reported in Safety Data Sheets to be potentially present as contaminants or impurities in raw materials or component substances; and
- Recycled content that may have been treated or produced with the prohibited substances during its previous lifecycle.

Update to General Hazardous Substances **(Section 5.5.1; pages 13-16)**

The section reads as follows:

Criteria

a The following substances shall not be added to the product or used during the production processes:

- Arsenic;
- Cadmium;
- Chromium VI compounds;
- Copper;
- Lead; and
- Mercury

Pigments, additives, catalysts and stabilisers are included in these requirements.

The following are exempt from this clause:

Small parts	Small parts such as keys, which are intended to come into frequent contact with skin, may be made from free-machining brass containing lead but must be designed to minimise skin contact.
PVC	PVC is specifically controlled by requirements in Supplementary Module 5. NOTE: The Trust intends to monitor information on PVC obtained from Supplementary Module 5 and may in future remove this exemption for PVC.
Copper	Copper can be included in a metal alloy, or in electrical components (if included in a product).
Outdoor furniture	Furniture that is permanently stored and used outdoors.
Fibre cement and gypsum	Fibre cement and gypsum-based boards are exempt from these requirements but must meet the limits for heavy metals in Supplementary Modules 10.1 and 11, respectively.
Lead-based paint	***Lead-based paint used in metal coatings for mirrors is permitted provided it does not contain more than 0.2% by weight of lead. Please refer to Supplementary Module 7.***

b No substances shall be added to products or used during the production processes that are classified as carcinogenic, harmful to the reproductive system or genetically harmful. See Appendix B, Table 4 for relevant classifications.

The following are exempt from this clause:

Wood dust	Wood dust which is physically and chemically bound in the product
Formaldehyde	Uses of formaldehyde (including Urea Formaldehyde resins) which are specifically controlled by requirements in Supplementary Modules 1, 2, 12, 15 and 16.
Methanol	Residual methanol present as a contaminant in raw materials used in engineered wood product; and Surface pre-treatment chemicals containing up to 2 % methanol used for metal parts that require high scratch, wear or corrosion resistance.
Preservatives for solid wood	Arsenic, Chromium and Boron-compounds, aziridine and polyaziridines used in solid wood products that are permanently stored and used outdoors.
Borax/Boron	Used in glass wool fibre, which is specifically controlled by requirements in Supplementary Module 15.
1,3 butadiene, N-nitrosamines, styrene	1,3 butadiene, N-nitrosamines or styrene in padding materials or rubber. See Supplementary Modules 8 and 17 for further specific restrictions.

Update to General Hazardous Substances **(Section 5.5.1; pages 13-16)**

VCM and EDC	Vinyl Chloride Monomer (VCM) and Ethylene Dichloride (EDC) in the production of PVC, which is addressed in Supplementary Module 5.
Crystalline silica	Crystalline silica in Fibre Cement Boards and Engineered Stone, which is addressed in Supplementary Modules 11 and 19.
Polymeric diphenylmethane diisocyanate (pMDI)	***Use of pMDI resin in the manufacture of engineered wood which is specifically controlled by requirements in Supplementary Module 2.***

NOTES:

Under current HSNO, GHS classifications or EU Risk phrases, this clause will preclude the use of certain phthalates including DEHP and DBP, certain aziridine compounds, certain powder coating preparatory treatments and certain plastics.

c Wall lining products, flooring, chairs, tables, drawers, and any furniture and fittings products where regular human contact is likely, must not be manufactured from more than 0.1 % by weight (in total) of substances that are classified as acutely toxic, skin irritants or respiratory or contact sensitisers. See Appendix B, Table 4 for relevant classifications.

- The following are exempt from this clause:

Substances that change properties	Substances or materials which change their properties through processing and thus become no longer bioavailable (i.e. physically and chemically bound in the product), or undergo chemical modification in a way that removes the previously identified hazard, e.g. polyurethane binders and gum rosins. For substances that are used in accordance with this exemption, licence holders will be asked at supervision assessments to comment on the development and availability of environmentally preferable alternatives.
Formaldehyde	Uses of formaldehyde (including Urea Formaldehyde resins) which are specifically controlled by requirements in Supplementary Modules 1, 2, 12, 15 and 16.
Polymeric diphenylmethane diisocyanate (pMDI)	***Use of pMDI resin in the manufacture of engineered wood which is specifically controlled by requirements in Supplementary Module 2.***

d Halogenated organic substances or solvents, including methylene chloride, binding agents and flame retardants, shall not be added to products or used during the production processes.

The following are exempt from this clause:

Outdoor furniture	Furniture that is permanently stored and used outdoors
Blowing agents	Foam blowing agents (which are specifically controlled by requirements in Supplementary Module 8).

OR

Manufacturers of ceiling tiles who use halogenated organic binding agents must implement programme to phase out the use of these substances and report annually to the Trust on the progress of the programme.

e ***A publicly available document (example: safety data sheet or technical data sheet) which discloses all hazardous substances and chemicals of concern in accordance with the Globally Harmonized System (GHS).***

Update to General Hazardous Substances **(Section 5.5.1; pages 13-16)**

Verification required

Conformance with these requirements shall be demonstrated by providing a written statement on compliance, signed by the Chief Executive Officer or other authorised representative of the applicant company. The statement shall be supported by documentation that:

- identifies hazardous substances used in materials and production processes (including CAS numbers and Safety Data Sheets, where available);
- identifies the classifications that apply to these substances, confirming all meet criteria 5.5.1;
- where a pre-treatment chemical is being used under the exemption for metal parts requiring high scratch, wear or corrosion resistance, the applicant/licence holder, must provide evidence of:
  - the need for this performance on the parts concerned;
  - an ongoing programme to work with chemical suppliers to identify and, when available, use pre-treatment chemicals that will meet the requirements of Clause 5.5.1 b;
  - includes information (which may include supplier declarations and supporting evidence) demonstrating no banned substance in 5.5.1 d) are added or used; and
  - includes relevant test reports.
- ***for part e) a publicly available Safety Data Sheet (SDS) or Technical Data Sheet (TDS) may meet the requirements, provided it lists all hazardous substances in the product. Hazardous substances should be identified in accordance with the New Zealand Health & Safety at Work Act and Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act, or local equivalent legislation in the country where the product is manufactured. SDS for products sold in New Zealand must meet New Zealand legislative requirements. Hazardous substance classifications should be in accordance with the Globally Harmonised System (GHS).***

Update to Energy Management and Greenhouse Gas Emissions **(Section 5.7; page 17-18)**

Several changes/additions have been made to *Energy Management and Greenhouse Gas Emissions* requirement. The changes include the addition of criteria b, which requires improved objects and targets for reducing energy use related to the production of ECA products and greenhouse gas emissions on a year-by-year basis, as well as public disclosure of a commitment to decarbonize between now and 2050 on a 1.5 °C trajectory, with a significant reduction by 2030.

Please be aware that an EPD is **not mandatory** to fulfil the reporting requirements for the Energy Management and Greenhouse and Gas Emissions requirement. As indicated on **page 18** of EC 32-25, data generated from programs such as The Climate Action Toolbox from the Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment are acceptable means for providing evidence for this requirement.

Update to Energy Management and Greenhouse Gas Emissions **(Section 5.7; page 17-18)**

The section reads as follows:

a The furniture, fitting, or flooring applicant/licence holder must have effective energy management policies and procedures and/or an energy management programme.

b ***The furniture, fitting, or flooring manufacturer and applicant/licence holder must have improvement objectives and targets to reduce energy use related to production (of ECA-licensed products), and associated greenhouse gas emissions on a year-by-year basis. Furthermore, ECA licence holders must publicly disclose a commitment to decarbonise between now and 2050 on a 1.5°C trajectory, with a significant reduction prior to 2030. Any divergence from objectives or targets should be explained in the annual report.***

c The licence holder must report annually to the Trust on energy use and management including:

- total energy use;
- breakdown of total energy use to types of energy used, including energy from renewable sources;
- energy use related to production (i.e the embodied energy of a product);
- ***energy use during transport* of raw materials (if the licence holder is the manufacturer), or transport of furniture, fitting, or flooring products that are imported from overseas manufacturers (if the licence holder is an importer/supplier).;***
- initiatives taken to reduce energy use and improve energy efficiency;
- initiatives taken to calculate and reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with energy use; and
- initiatives or requirements for suppliers or contract manufacturers.

Verification required

Conformance with this requirement shall be stated in writing and signed by the Chief Executive Officer or other authorised representative of the applicant company. This statement shall be accompanied by relevant documentation that:

- describes the energy management policies, procedures and programmes;
- improvement objectives and targets for reduction of energy use related to production of ECA-licensed products and associated greenhouse gas emissions;
- ***confirms the licence holder has publicly committed to decarbonise between now and 2050 on a 1.5°C trajectory, with incremental reduction up to 2030 (any divergence from objectives or targets should be explained in the annual report); and***
- includes annual reports to ECA on energy use and management.

Update to Waste Management
(Section 5.8; page 19)

The **Waste Management requirement** received a minor update, including criteria c, which requires that the licence holder has continual improvement objectives and targets regarding reducing waste generation and increasing reuse and recycling.

The section reads as follows:

Criteria

a The furniture, fitting, or flooring applicant/licence holder, must have effective waste management policies and procedures and/or a waste management programme.

b Licence holders must report annually to the Trust on waste management including:

- 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;
- quantities and types of waste burned internally for energy recovery;
- waste generation related to production;
- initiatives taken to reduce waste generation and improve recovery/recycling of waste; and
- initiatives or requirements for suppliers or contract manufacturers.

c ***Licence holders must have continual improvement objectives and targets relating to the reduction of waste generation, and the increase of reuse and recycling rates over time. Any divergence from objectives or targets should be explained in the annual report.***

The annual report shall also include information on waste management during production and/or whole of life waste generation and management, where that information is available from the contract manufacturer or supplier.

Verification required

Conformance with this requirement shall be stated in writing and signed by the Chief Executive Officer or other authorised representative of the applicant company. This statement shall be accompanied by documentation that:

- describes the waste management policies, procedures and programmes;
- includes annual reports to ECA on waste generation and management; and
- ***details the improvement objectives and targets relating to the reduction of waste generation and the increase of reuse and recycling rates (any divergence from objectives or targets should be explained in the annual report).***

Update to Fitness for Purpose
(Section 6.1; pages 23-24)

Per the proposed addition of additional fitness testing standards during the draft phase of this standard, the **Fitness for Purpose** requirement now include two criteria (f and g) for testing moisture/rotting in fibre cement boards and Cellulose-cement products and mirror glass durability.

The section reads as follows:

Criteria

a The product shall be fit for its intended use and conform, as appropriate, to relevant product performance standards.

b Factory varnished wooden floorings and parquet floorings that may be re-varnished must achieve the following standards for the number of revolutions counted before varnish is worn through (measured in accordance with NS 3506/SS923509):

- Class 1: ≥750 revolutions
- Class 2: ≥1,500 revolutions
- Class 3: ≥3,000 revolutions
- Class 4: ≥5,000 revolutions

c Laminate floor coverings must as a minimum be classified as Class 2 (General)[1]. Wearing through of the abrasion surface shall be measured in accordance with EN 13329. The area of use of the floor must be classified in accordance with the standard.

d Plastic and linoleum floor coverings must as a minimum be classified as Class 22 (Medium). If the floor has a combination of transparent and patterned or pigmented abrasion layers, this will be counted as a single abrasion layer.

e Floor coverings made from other materials must be tested to demonstrate appropriate durability, based on the intended area of use.

f Testing for resistance to moisture/rotting in fibre cement boards should be measured in accordance with AS/NZS 2908.2 Cellulose-cement products - Flat sheets and fire performance shall be tested in accordance with AS/NZS 3837.

g Durability of mirror glass should be measured in accordance with AS/NZS 4667 Quality requirements for cut-to-size and processed glass standards.

Verification required

Conformance with this requirement shall be demonstrated by providing a written statement of compliance, signed by the Chief Executive Officer or other authorised representative of the applicant company. This statement shall be supported by documentation:

- identifying the applicable standards and/or consumer/customer requirements;
- demonstrating how compliance is monitored and maintained (including quality control and assurance procedures); and
- records of customer feedback and complaints.

Test methods

ASTM D 4060-90 or EN 175.333.08 may be used and adapted (as alternatives to NS3506 /SS923509), to demonstrate compliance with (b).

Update to Requirements and notes for Licence holders (Section 7; page 26)

Under the Using the Eco Choice Aotearoa Label subsection, ECA has updated the wording to reflect previously revised ECA standards. Please be sure to refer to the ECA brand kit and the relevant requirements in the EC 32-25 standard for more information.

The section reads as follows:

Using the ECA Label

The Label may appear on the wholesale and retail packaging for the product, provided that the product meets the requirements in this specification and in the Licence Conditions. Wherever it appears, the Label must be accompanied by the Licence Number e.g. 'licence No1234' (it is optional to include the specification name).

The Label must be reproduced in accordance with the ECA brand kit, which includes examples of keyline art for reproduction of the Label; and in accordance with the ECA Licence Conditions. Any advertising must conform to the relevant requirements in this specification, in the Licence Conditions and in the key line art. Failure to meet these requirements for using the ECA Label and advertising could result in the Licence being withdrawn.

Changes to Supplementary Modules for EC 32

In addition to the changes made to the main EC 32-25 standard, there are several significant changes to the supplementary modules. Firstly, the 16 modules in the previous iteration of EC 32 have now increased to 19. The following sections outline the relevant changes.

Replacement of Fibre Cement Boards Module

The Fibre Cement Borads module in the previous EC 32-25 Supplementary Modules (Supplementary 8) document has now been separated into the following Supplementary modules:

- **Other Wood Fibre (Supplementary 3; page 14)**
- **Cement (Supplementary 9; page 27)**
  - Cement
  - Cement Alternatives (Non-Kiln Materials)
- **Sand Aggregates and Minerals (Supplementary 10; pages 28-29)**
- **Crystalline Silica (Supplementary 11; page 30)**

Update to Engineered Wood Products Module
(Module 2; Section 2.2, pages 10-11)

In the *Hazardous Substances Used in Engineered Wood Products* section of the **Engineered Wood Products** module, criteria d and f were added regarding the use of pMDI resin. Criteria d limits the VOC emission rate of pMDI resin to 0.500 mg/m2/hr. Criteria f requires documentation of the implementation of a programme to monitor pMDI.

Criteria

a Engineered wood products must not contain substances exceeding 0.5 g/kg that are classified toxic or allergenic by inhalation.

Substances or materials which change their properties through processing and thus become no longer bioavailable (i.e. physically and chemically bound in the product), or undergo chemical modification in a way that removes the previously identified hazard are exempt from this requirement.

b Engineered wood products must not contain substances exceeding 0.5 g/kg panel that are classified as ecotoxic.

c Where wood-based materials (excluding raw timber) comprise more than 5 % by weight of the furniture or fitting product, the formaldehyde emissions from the wood-based components shall not exceed the following limits:

i 1.5 mg/L for raw particleboard; and

ii 1.0 mg/L for other engineered wood materials (manufactured until 31 December 2018)

0.5 mg/L for other engineered wood materials (manufactured from 1 January 2019)

(these limits applied as per AS/NZS 1859, i.e. 95 percentile compliance, Desiccator method).

NOTE: These limits are met by E_1 particleboard and E_0 MDF or other engineered wood material as defined by AS/NZS 1859.

d ***For products manufactured with pMDI resin, the VOC emission rate limit shall not exceed ≤0.500 mg/m²/hr.***

e Licence holders for particleboard products must:

- Document, implement and report on a programme to monitor resin and manufacturing technology of particleboard both domestically and internationally;
- Develop, maintain, implement and report on an improvement programme to produce lower formaldehyde emission particleboard products;
- Record performance of particleboard manufacturing processes (including achieved product emission levels and product reject rates); and
- Record information on the types of businesses that purchase their particleboard products.

f ***Licence holders for products manufactured using pMDI resin must:***

- ***Document, implement and report on a programme to monitor pMDI resin and manufacturing technology of the products both domestically and internationally; and***
- ***Record performance of pMDI resin manufacturing processes (including achieved product emission levels and product reject rates).***

Verification required

Conformance with these requirements shall be demonstrated by providing a written statement on compliance, signed by the Chief Executive Officer or other authorised representative of the applicant company/licence holder. The statement shall be supported by documentation that:

- lists all hazardous substances and products included in each wood panel product used in the product (including CAS No, where available);
- includes Safety Data Sheets for hazardous substances;
- identifies the classifications that apply to each substance;

- demonstrates that thresholds for groups or individual hazardous substances are not exceeded in each product;
- includes test reports for formaldehyde;
- *includes test reports for products manufactured with pMDI resin; 2.2(d)*;
- includes documentation for the implemented formaldehyde emission programme (for particle board products only; 2.2(e)); *and*
- *includes documentation for the implemented pMDI resin programme; 2.2(f).*

Compliance with the requirements in a) and b) may be demonstrated by providing data indicating that the substance does not have any of the classifications (or combinations thereof) listed in Table 4 (Appendix B of EC-32) for toxins, ecotoxins and respiratory sensitisers.

Testing method

Compliance with c) *and d)* shall be demonstrated by providing test reports from a competent laboratory using one of AS/NZS 2098.11, AS/NZS 4266.16, *ASTM D5116-2017* or JIS A 1460. If an alternative testing method (e.g. Air Chamber according to (ASTM E1333 or ASTM D6007) is used, the applicant must supply information that demonstrates equivalence between the testing method chosen and the dessicator method, including conversion of the test results to mg/L for comparison with the limits in c) *and d).*

Notes

It is sufficient to test the worst-case scenario product (i.e. the highest weight or the product containing the most engineered wood) from each product range.

Update to Glass Module
(Module 7; page 21)

The Glass module now includes two additional criteria (d and e) to broaden the category definition and allow for mirror glass. Under criteria d, glass products must either be pre or post-consumer recyclable. Criteria e limits the lead content of lead to 0.2% or less, and the mirror class cannot contain copper.

The section reads as follows:

Criteria

a No lead glazing, crystal glass, wire reinforced glass or laminated glass shall be used.

Wire-reinforced or laminated glass is exempt from these requirements if it is required by law in order to meet specific safety requirements.

b Glass parts of the product must be able to be easily replaced.

c If the glass component is greater than 20 % by weight of the finished product, licence holders must:

- maintain records of the types and percentages of recycled glass used in licensed products; and
- have, implement and report on an ongoing programme to review options and increase recycled glass content in licensed products until an optimal level is achieved, as determined by the required performance characteristics and availability of recycled materials.

d ***Glass parts of the product must be either pre-consumer or post-consumer recyclable.***

e ***Metal coatings used for mirror glass:***

- ***must not contain copper; and***
- ***must not contain more than 0.2% by weight of lead.***

Verification required

Conformance with this requirement shall be stated in writing and signed by the Chief Executive Officer or other authorised representative of the applicant company/licence holder. This statement shall be supported by appropriate documentation of product specifications, production methods and quality controls.

Introduction of Engineered Stone Module **(Module 7; page 21)**

The Engineered Stone module was introduced to the EC 32-25 Supplementary standard to cover materials engineered from natural materials (e.g. stone (including sintered stone) and resin). The requirements for compliance with this module include management plans to minimise the negative impacts of noise, vibration, dust, and discharge (surface water, groundwater, oceans or land), restore quarries, and address impacts on biodiversity. The requirement also refers to the Crystalline Silica requirement in Module 11.

The section reads as follows:

19.1 Sourcing of raw materials

The applicant/licence holder or manufacturer (if different) must request the following plans from the mining operations where non-recycled mined/quarried materials come from:

a) Management plans, including any necessary policies and management procedures, to minimise adverse effects from the following potential impacts:
   - Noise;
   - Vibration;
   - Dust; and
   - Discharges to surface water, groundwater, oceans or land.

b) A quarry restoration plan.

c) A biodiversity management plan that includes:
   - Assessment of risk and materiality of the impacts on biodiversity from the land use and activities on the mining site.
   - Consultation with relevant local groups (i.e. indigenous communities).
   - Addressing impacts in accordance with the mitigation hierarchy.
   - Implementing measures to prevent accidental or deliberate introduction of non-native species that could have significant adverse impacts on biodiversity.
   - A mine restoration plan for when the site is no longer operational.
   - Information on how the biodiversity outcomes is shared with stakeholders, made publicly available, periodically reviewed, and updated where necessary.

19.2 Crystalline Silica

a) For engineered stone made with Crystalline Silica, **see Section 11: Crystalline Silica criteria c**

Verification required

Conformance with these requirements shall be stated in writing and signed by the Chief Executive Officer or other authorised representative of the applicant/licence holder company. This statement shall be supported by:

- Copies of the relevant management plans for 19.1, a) – c).
- Records demonstrating the management plans are being effectively implemented (including monitoring results). For a) iii) this could include actions with time-bound targets to address material impacts and monitor effectiveness of the actions.