Technical Update

Technical Update Number: 1005
Version: 1.0
Published: 30/10/2026
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Standard: EC-32 Building Products and Furniture
Update Type: Standard Interpretation and Change to Standard Name

Change to EC-32 Standard Name and Additional Clarifications

Introduction

This Technical Update changes the name of EC-32 from *Furniture, Fittings and Flooring* to *Building Products and Furniture* and clarifies the range of products that may be certified under the standard. It also explains how Criteria 6.1, Fitness for Purpose, applies to relevant product standards, regulatory requirements and Building Code obligations. These clarifications do not introduce new technical requirements or affect currently certified products, or EC-32's GBCA Responsible Product Value (RPV) score.

EC-32 Building Products and Furniture Name Change

The Eco Choice Aotearoa standard EC-32 Furniture, Fittings, and Flooring has been changed to **EC-32 Building Products and Furniture**. The purpose of the standard's name change is to better reflect the breadth and depth of products and product systems that can be certified under the standard. There are no technical changes, additions or deletions to the standard and therefore the products currently certified under the standard, and GBCA RPV recognition will not be impacted.

Clarification of Scope

In addition to the name change of EC-32, Eco Choice Aotearoa has decided to update the standard's category definition to include the full scope of product types that are included under this standard. Previously the standard already accommodated these products but it was not reflected in the written category definition. The category definition is now as follows:

This category covers building products and fit-out products used in the construction, finishing, furnishing, and refurbishment of residential, commercial, institutional and industrial buildings. Products within the scope of this standard are intended for incorporation into, attachment to, or use within the built environment and may include products used for interior or exterior applications.

The category encompasses products that contribute to the structure, enclosure, envelope, fit-out, furnishing, finishing or functional performance of buildings, where relevant environmental

and product performance criteria can be applied.

Examples of products that are covered under this category include:

Exterior:

- *Exterior doors and door systems.*
- *Windows and window systems.*
- *Cladding systems.*
- *Outdoor furniture that can be fixed in position or be moveable, including chairs, tables, cabinets, benches or other typical exterior furniture items.*
- *Other exterior building products and components that meet the requirements of this standard.*

Interior:

- *Indoor furniture that can be fixed in position or be moveable, including chairs, desks, tables, cabinets, book shelves, beds, benches and wardrobes or other typical furniture items.*
- *Partitions and demountable wall systems.*
- *Joinery, cabinetry and built-in furniture.*
- *Indoor flooring that is fixed to the floor and laid on top of an underlying foundation.*
- *Wall, ceiling and surface finishes.*
- *Interior doors and door systems.*
- *Workstations, desks and storage systems.*
- *Panels to be used for making furniture or fittings.*
- *Indoor lining products intended for use on walls and ceilings, may be in board, panel, sheet or tile form, and may or may not have acoustic insulation properties.*
- *Interior fit-out and finishing components.*
- *Other interior building products and fit-out components that meet the requirements of this standard.*

The examples listed above are not exhaustive. Eligibility for certification is subject to the requirements of this standard and the applicable supplementary requirements.

The following products are excluded from this category:

- *Ceramic tiles, marble or granite.*
- *Flooring applied in a liquid state.*
    - *Paints, varnishes, sealers and thin-film floor coatings maybe considered under EC-07*
    - *Cement, concrete, mortar, plaster, cementitious screeds, self-levelling cementitious compounds and other predominantly cementitious flooring products may be considered under EC-44*
- *Integrated heating and flooring systems.*
- *Products covered by another current Eco Choice Aotearoa product standard:*
    - *Linings and insulation products primarily used to insulate against heat loss or gain (EC-25).*
    - *Carpets and rugs (covered by EC-63).*

- *Cement, concrete and concrete-related products (EC-44).*
- *Plaster and plasterboard products (EC-19).*
- *Heating and cooling products (HVAC) (EC-61).*

Where a product falls within the scope of more than one Eco Choice Aotearoa standard, the primary applicable standard shall be determined by Eco Choice Aotearoa and criteria may be used from another standard to supplement the certification. For example, a wall board certified under EC-32 with a bonded insulant material will use some criteria from EC-25 in addition to EC-32 to ensure certification addresses the insulant material.

Clarification of Criterion 6.1.a Fitness for Purpose

Ec-32 criterion 6.1.a currently states: "*The product shall be fit for its intended use and conform, as appropriate, to relevant product performance standards*".

Eco Choice Aotearoa clarifies that compliance with Criterion 6.1.a and the other 6.1 criteria includes demonstrating and providing evidence that the product meets any relevant product standards, regulatory requirements, and building code obligations applicable to its intended use. Evidence required , as already specified in the standard, must identify the applicable standards and/or consumer/customer requirements, as well as demonstrate how compliance is monitored and maintained. This clarification does not create new requirements and is intended to provide greater consistency in the interpretation of fitness for purpose criteria.

GBCA RPV Clarification:

EC-32 Building Products and Furniture standard is one of eleven standards currently recognized by the New Zealand Green Building Council and Green Building Council of Australia (GBCA)'s Responsible Products Framework programme. Under this scheme, EC-32 is currently awarded with a Responsible Product Value (RPV) of 15. With this score, products certified under EC 32 earn a 'Best Practice' rating under the following responsible categories:

- Responsible Structure
- Responsible Envelope
- Responsible Systems
- Responsible Finishes

The name and category definition change of this standard does not impact the current score.

Please contact Eco Choice Aotearoa at info@ecochoice.org.nz if you have any questions regarding this Technical Update. Include the technical update number in the subject line.

Version History

Version:	Updated:	Updated By:	Description:
1.0	30/10/2026	Andrea Edwards	Initial release.