



## Standard Guide



### Choose GECA for better furniture, fittings, foam & mattresses

Furniture, fitting, foam and mattress products form a significant proportion of items manufactured for use within residential, commercial and government environments and form a significant manufacturing sector in Australia. Furniture transforms our homes and workplaces from empty rooms to inviting, functional spaces.

When a product is certified against GECA's **Furniture, Fittings, Foam & Mattresses (Level A) standard**, you know the product has been assessed to meet environmental, human health and social impact criteria while proving that it performs as promised.

#### Benefits for manufacturers and procurement

Once your product has been GECA certified, your company can use the GECA ecolabel to **show consumers and procurement teams that you are a sustainability leader in your sector**. Sustainability is becoming an increasingly important driver, particularly for the public sector, and **GECA's ecolabel makes it easier to identify your leadership**. You will be ahead of the game to win over more business!

When creating requests for tenders and developing contracts, specifying GECA certified products **prompts the market toward best practice**. It also reduces risk with the **assurance you are purchasing a third-party verified product**.

#### Green Building Scheme Recognition



Green Building Council of Australia's Green Star at Level A



The Infrastructure Sustainability Council's IS Rating Scheme



Contributes to meeting WELL Features 11 and 25 for the WELL Building Standard

#### What products does the standard cover?

The standard's scope applies to **indoor and outdoor furniture, fittings, foams and mattress products**, including office chairs, office desks and tables, domestic chairs, domestic desks and tables, bedroom furniture, fittings, recycled furniture, latex and polyurethane foam.





### Design for Environmental Performance

In this section, the standard's criteria focus on the **critical lifecycle factors** of a product that can be addressed **during the design phase** of product development. Unless otherwise stated, this section's requirements apply to each type of material in the finished product regardless of weight, including timber, fabrics, springs and wires (for mattresses). Criteria related to **resource efficiency** are also included in this section.

### Packaging, End of Life and Product Stewardship

This section addresses the **impacts arising during the remainder of the product's lifecycle**. This includes criteria for replacement parts, design for disassembly and separability, recyclability of plastics, coatings and treatments, packaging requirements, and product stewardship.

### Environmental Claims

Manufacturers **must not make false or misleading claims about their environmental performance**. This section addresses the need to ensure that any environmental claims made beyond this standard's scope by the manufacturer are verifiable.



### Emissions

This section covers three types of emissions: formaldehyde, volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and particulate matter (for mattresses only). This criterion **requires testing to be carried out to ensure emissions limits are met**.

### Hazardous & Prohibited Substances

This section's criteria address some of the main hazardous substances found within this product category, added to the product, or ingredients used during manufacturing. The intention is to **reduce the use of hazardous materials** and **prevent pollutants from entering the environment**.



### Social & Legal Compliance

Nothing is truly sustainable if it overlooks the treatment of workers. This section addresses compliance with the producer and applicant company's legal and social attributes. It also **engages with the supply chain to uphold human and labour rights**. Criteria focus on environmental legislation, minimum entitlement including wages, workplace health and safety, equal opportunity, lawful conduct, modern slavery and human and labour rights legislation.



### Quality

There's no use having a product if it doesn't **deliver on its promise**. The product must meet or exceed the relevant Australian Standards or equivalent international standards.

### SDGs relevant to this standard



### Let's Talk!

You can contact us via [info@geca.org.au](mailto:info@geca.org.au) or +61 2 9699 2850 for further information on how we can help. You can also find us at [www.geca.eco](http://www.geca.eco)



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