



**ENVIRONMENTAL
ASSURANCE**

ENVIRONMENTAL PRODUCT DECLARATION

LN: USG-2-2008

USG Australasia

Standard:
GECA 28-2006 – Furniture and Fittings

Conformance Declaration Date:
15th December 2008



**Environmental
Assurance**

*“ensuring accurate environmental
testing and verification of
conformance”*

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Choice Australia Ltd**

*“setting Australia’s product environmental
standards”*

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EPD

accurate
simplified
environmental
performance
information on
Environmental Choice
Australia Mark
Certified Products



environmental solutions for sustainable markets in Australia

The Environmental Choice Australia Mark ecolabelling program is the national product life cycle environmental declaration based on internationally recognized standard setting and assessment methodology.

The national program is managed by two distinct organisations:

Good Environmental Choice Australia Ltd. is the standard setting and sustainable consumption market promotions body which develops and declares the ecolabelling standards defining product environmental preference in conformance to ISO 14 024 – International Standard for Third Party Environmental Labelling and Declaration (www.geca.org.au). GECA is an independent non-profit environmental research and ecolabeling standard setting organisation recognised as the Australian member of an international network of ecolabelling schemes under the Global Ecolabelling Network.

Environmental Assurance (also trading as Good Environmental Choice Services Pty Ltd) is the auditing and certification body with responsibility for product assessment, certification and licensing of products against the declared standards (www.geca.org.au). GECS is the assessment body for this Program with expertise specific to quality product environmental performance auditing following the principles of ISO 14 010 and ISO 14 024 in it's audit and certification services.

Following an independent audit against the recognition requirements of the Australian Program this declaration outlines key environmental performance attributes of products that have been awarded the "Environmental Choice Australia" label for the Australian market. The Ecolabel is awarded to those products that meet or exceed voluntary standards of environmental performance.

The objectives of the program are to:

- a) Provide incentives for suppliers to reduce the environmental impacts of products sold in Australia;
- b) Provide a clear, credible and independent guide to consumers wishing to take account of environmental factors in their purchasing decisions;
- c) Encourage consumers to purchase products which have lower environmental impacts;
- d) Recognize genuine moves by companies to reduce the adverse environmental impacts of their products;
- e) Aim ultimately to improve the quality of the environment and to encourage the sustainable management of resources.

DISCLAIMER:

This report has been prepared by Good Environmental Choice Services Pty Ltd (Environmental Assurance) in respect of a Client's assessment results for product conformity to the requirements of the respective Good Environmental Choice Australia Ltd (GECA) standard. The purpose of this public report is to present summary evidence and overview of the Client's product conformity with the standards or other criteria specified. The content of this report applies only to matters which were evident to Environmental Assurance at the time of the audit within the audit scope. Environmental Assurance does not warrant or otherwise comment upon the suitability of the contents of the report or the certificate for any particular purpose or use. Environmental Assurance accepts no liability whatsoever for consequences to, or actions taken by, third parties as a result of or in reliance upon information contained in this report.



CERTIFICATION FINDINGS

The range of mineral fibre products manufactured by USG have been assessed against the GECA 28-2006 Furniture and Fittings Standard, and awarded the Environmental Choice Australia Eco-Label.

1. MANUFACTURER DESCRIPTION

USG Australasia

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The three groups of acoustic ceiling tiles certified under the USG-2-2008 licence are manufactured in the United States (Walworth Wisconsin, Cloquet Minnesota & Greenville Mississippi) by parent company USG Corporation and **are** distributed in Australia **through** subsidiary company USG Australasia.

Companies leading
Australia's environmental
response at work.

2: REGISTERED PRODUCTS

LN: USG-2-2008

The following USG Australasia products have been awarded the Environmental Choice Australia Declaration:



PRODUCT NAME	PRODUCT DESCRIPTION
Cast Mineral Fibre Group	Frost ClimaPlus, Sandrift ClimaPlus, Brio ClimaPlus and Fresco ClimaPlus.
X-Technology Mineral Fibre Group	Eclipse ClimaPlus, Millennia ClimaPlus
Water-Felted Mineral Fibre Group	Radar ClimaPlus High NRC, Radar ClimaPlus High CAC, Olympia Micro ClimaPlus

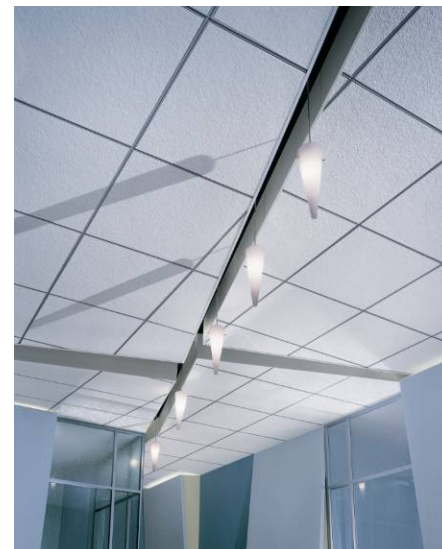
Cast Mineral Fibre Group

Frost ClimaPlus Shown.



X-Technology Mineral Fiber Group

Eclipse ClimaPlus Shown.



Water Felted Mineral Fiber Group

Olympia Micro ClimaPlus shown.



Products with a distinctive environmental edge.

3. KEY ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE FINDINGS

The key environmental performance criteria against which the USG Australasia products were assessed, and the findings by Environmental Assurance, are provided below.

Criterion	Core Environmental Performance Characteristics
Fitness for Purpose	The certified USG Australasia ceiling tile products have undergone and met relevant ASTM quality testing standards. The manufacturing facilities have internal quality assurance laboratory testing regimes to ensure compliance to quality benchmarks on a batch by batch basis. The certified products are backed by a 15 year manufacturer's warranty, which is extended to 30 years when installed with the recommended suspension system.
Tiber and Other Natural Materials	The certified USG Australasia products contain materials that conform to the requirements of this criterion. The material requirements are subject to periodic review, the manufacturer has committed to providing feedback when changes are made to the material supply or composition.
Air Emissions	The test reports provided indicate the certified USG Australasia ceiling tile products have low or nil VOC emissions. The products are also rated according to the US LEED as low to zero VOC content.
Glass	The product this criterion is applicable to contains a material that is not treated or impregnated in any manner that is contrary to the requirements of this criterion.
Adhesives	The adhesive used in the USG Australasia products certified under the USG-2-2008 licence contains very low hazardous materials and meets the relevant requirements of the GECA Adhesives Standard.
Hazardous Materials	Certified USG ceiling tile products do not contain prohibited materials or exposure pathways to very low hazardous materials content do not exist due to being bound in the physical matrix during production.
Separability	There is no technical barrier to the disassembly of the USG products covered under the USG-2-2008 licence.
Product Custodianship	USG Interiors Inc. operates an extensive system of mineral fibre ceiling product recycling in the USA. USG are working with local industry partners establishing a take back system in order to send the products certified under the Environmental Choice Australia Mark to the USA for recycling.
Coatings and Treatment	No Coatings that would prevent post consumer recycling are applied to the Certified USG ClimaPlus products, contained in the ranges assessed according to the GECA 28-2006 Furniture and Fittings Standard,
Recycled Content Requirements	The formulation of the certified USG Australasia ceiling tile products indicates that the recycled content is over 50%
Packaging Requirements	The shrink wrap used is Polyethylene no hazardous materials are listed in the composition information. All packaging is recoverable in mainstream recycling facilities.
Product Information	The product information available contains details for the intended use, instructions for use and maintenance, and also recycling instructions for end of life.
Environmental Regulations	USG Corporation complies with the applicable environmental licences. The corporate policies include environmental management systems a core focus being internal audits and environmental stewardship.
Labour, Anti-Discrimination and Safety Regulations	The USG Corporation, manufacturer of the certified products on the USG 2-2002 GECA Licence provides employment conditions that suitably satisfy the requirement of this criterion. The company has not been subject of a guilty verdict in a court of law in the last 24 months from the date of licence approval.

Quantifying key criteria for
assurance to the market.

FURTHER INFORMATION

A detailed Verification report is supplied to verified manufacturers regarding the findings of environmental characteristics of their products and evidence of compliance. The verification report can be made available at the sole discretion of the manufacturer.

This EPD has been made available for green purchasing officers, specifiers, and every day Australians seeking to purchase products and services on the basis of functional and overall environmental and human health performance.



**ENVIRONMENTAL
ASSURANCE**

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FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE WEB

The Australian Ecolabel Program is the national environmental product life cycle labelling program for Australia. Further details of the Australian Ecolabel Program are available from www.envassurance.com and www.geca.org.au.