

Hong Kong Green Label Scheme

Product Environmental Criteria for Pencil (GL-004-002)



BACKGROUND

The Hong Kong Green Label Scheme (HKGLS) is an independent and voluntary scheme, which aims to identify products that are, based on life cycle analysis consideration, more environmentally preferable than other similar products with the same function. The Scheme is organized by the Green Council (GC) with contributions from the HKGLS Advisory Committee and a number of supporting organizations.

The prime objectives of HKGLS are:

- For Consumers: assist in making purchases of products that are less harmful to the environment;
- For Industry: stimulate development and production of environmentally preferable alternatives.

This specification sets out the requirements that pencil will be required to meet in order to be licensed to use the HKGLS label. The requirements include environmental criteria and related product characteristics. The specification also defines the testing and other means to be used to verify conformance with the environmental criteria and product characteristics.

POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

The environmental impact of pencil is related to heavy metals and the use of materials. The release of heavy metals may have toxic effects on humans and the environment. The use of packaging contributes to an increase in consumption of resources. In the case of wooden pencil, production of wooden pencil may exploit the use of natural forest.

LABEL OBJECTIVE

The aim of the environmental criteria developed for pencil is to:

- Reduce the toxicity of the materials used and hence the potential health risk posed to the users.
- Minimize resource consumption and waste production by reducing the amount of primary packaging and promoting its re-usability and/or recyclability.

PRODUCT DEFINITION

This document and all product environmental criteria therein apply to wooden pencils, colored pencils and mechanical or automatic pencils.

PRODUCT CRITERIA

The table below sets out the environmental criteria for the product category of Pencil (GL-004-003) under the HKGLS.

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Product Environmental Criteria for
Pencil (GL-004-002)**



Criteria	Verification Method
1. The material used on the product shall not contain antimony, arsenic, barium, cadmium, selenium, mercury, lead and chromium VI.	C,D
2. In case of wood to be used in the production of pencils, wood type and its place of origin and the type of forest from which the wood was taken shall be specified.	C,D
3. General packaging requirements : (Refer to criteria for packaging materials : GL-Packaging)	B,C,D

Legend:

A - Analytical testing shall be performed by laboratories that meet the requirement laid out in the EN45001 standards or any equivalent systems (e.g. HOKLAS, IEC/ISO 17025)

B – Inspection of product samples

C- Review of supporting information as required by the GC

D – Interviews with relevant personnel and/or site visits to relevant facilities