

# Hong Kong Green Label Scheme

## Product Environmental Criteria for

### Wall Coverings (GL-008-003)



## 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 wall coverings will be required to meet in order to be licensed to use the HKGLS label. The requirements include environmental criteria and 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 key environmental impacts of wall covering relate to discharges during the production of paper and textiles, and further in the coating and printing processes during production of wall coverings.

In the production of pulp and paper, the environmental impacts include both gas emissions (e.g. SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub> etc) and effluent discharges (e.g. COD, phosphorous etc). The use of chemicals that may be harmful to the environment also imposes an adverse effect on the environment. The environmental impacts in the printing and coating processes mainly associate with the use of chemicals.

## LABEL OBJECTIVE

The aim of the environmental criteria developed for wall covering materials is to :

- Discourage use of chemicals or other substances that are harmful to the environment;
- Promote waste avoidance and conservation of resources; and
- Conserve landfill space and promote the concept of recycling.

## PRODUCT DEFINITION

This document and all product environmental criteria therein apply to products comprising finished wall coverings in roll form where paper is the foundation layer. Finished wall covering is defined as wall covering that does not require further processing or painting.

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**PRODUCT ENVIRONMENTAL CRITERIA**

The table below sets out the product environmental criteria for wall coverings (GL-008-003) under the HKGLS.

It is noteworthy that the criteria do not impose any requirements in regard to the disposal of used wall covering even though this represents an environmental problem. The reason of non-inclusion is that the product manufacturer in general has no means to influence the way in which the wall coverings are disposed of.

The product in application shall comply all statutory safety and fire protection requirements.

Criteria	Verification Method
1. Wall covering made of paper: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The product shall comply with environmental criteria as developed for paper products (refer to GL-001-001).</li></ul>	Refer to GL-001-001
2. Wall covering made of fabrics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The quantity of chlorophenols shall not exceed 20 ug/kg fibre in textile materials used in wall covering;</li><li>• The quantity of extractable organic halogens (EOX) shall not exceed 3 mg/kg fibre in textile materials used in wall coverings;</li><li>• The quantity of heavy metals shall not exceed the following threshold values (in terms of mg/kg finished product):<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* Arsenic – 0.2</li><li>* Cadmium –0.1</li><li>* Chromium - 900</li><li>* Chromium VI –0.02</li><li>* Cobalt - 900</li><li>* Copper - 900</li><li>* Mercury –0.02</li><li>* Nickel – 4.0</li><li>* Tin – 4.0</li><li>* Zinc - 60</li></ul></li></ul>	A,C
3. Wall covering made of plastics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The product shall not contain chlorine-based plastics.</li></ul>	C,D

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Criteria	Verification Method
<p>4. Coating, printing colour and/or adhesive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Shall not contain halogenated or aromatic solvents, organic tin, halogenated organic agents or halogenated organic flame-retardants.</li><li>• Total content of lead, cadmium, chromium (VI) and mercury in the print colour shall not exceed 100 ppm.</li></ul>	A,C
<p>5. Emission of formaldehyde from the finished product shall not exceed 8 mg/100g finished product.</p>	A (CEN N127), C
<p>6. Packaging requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Packaging materials shall not contain chlorine-based plastics;</li><li>• General packaging requirements (refer to criteria for packaging materials : GL-Packaging).</li></ul>	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