

# Hong Kong Green Label Scheme

## Product Environmental Criteria for Paint (GL-008-010)



### 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 paint products 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

Paints are manufactured from a wide range of organic and inorganic materials. The significant environmental impacts in the life cycle of paint relates to the release of solvents, heavy metals and other toxic substances in their manufacture and during their application.

### LABEL OBJECTIVE

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

- Reduce the entry of organic solvents into the atmosphere and reduce the toxicity of its components which can impact adversely on the environment at different stages of the product life cycle.
- Minimize waste production by reducing the amount of primary packaging and promoting its reusability and/or recyclability.

### PRODUCT DEFINITION

This document and all product environmental criteria therein apply to all paints which have water as the primary solvent / diluent and all paints which have an organic solvent as the primary volatile component.

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The table below sets out the environmental criteria for the product category of Paint (GL-008-010) under the HKGLS.

Criteria	Verification Method
<p>1. The paint shall not contain volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in excess of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 50g per litre (g/L) of the water-based coatings for indoor application;</li> <li>- 150g per litre (g/L) of the water-based coatings for outdoor application;</li> </ul> <p>and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 250g per litre (g/L) of the solvent-based coatings of paint.</li> </ul>	A,C
<p>2. The paint shall contain no more than 0.01% by wet weight or 100mg/L of the halogenated solvents (including DCM and 1,1,1-Trichloroethane).</p>	A,C
<p>3. The paint shall not be formulated or manufactured with mercury or their compounds, or be tinted with pigment of cadmium, chromium VI or lead. The levels of the above hazardous elements as impurities shall not exceed 100 parts per million (ppm) for cadmium, 200 ppm for chromium VI, lead and mercury.</p>	A,C
<p>4. The paint shall contain no more than 0.01% by wet weight of formaldehyde.</p>	A,C
<p>5. The paint shall contain no more than 0.01% by wet weight of the sum total of aromatic compounds.</p>	A,C
<p>6. Packaging requirements :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The packaging of the product shall not contain PVC or chlorine-based plastics;</li> <li>• General packaging requirement (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

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