

understanding the good environmental choice label

A number of core products from The Laminex Group have been awarded the Good Environmental Choice declaration in conformance to the AELA Furniture and Fittings Standard. The Standard is publicly available at www.aela.org.au.

The Good Environmental Choice label is awarded by an independent, not-for-profit research and certification organisation called the Australian Environmental Labelling Association (AELA). Where the Good Environmental Choice label is displayed, it acknowledges the product as meeting or exceeding the voluntary environmental declaration standards set by the AELA. The Standard is a comprehensive, life-cycle based assessment, which is scientifically and internationally recognised.

The objectives of the AELA program are to:

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



Licence Number
LA-2005

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THE **laminex** GROUP

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Verification Information

Following an independent audit against the recognition requirements of the Australian Ecolabel Program, a number of core products from The Laminex Group have been awarded the Good Environmental Choice label for the Australian market.

The Good Environmental Choice Mark of Conformity is managed by AELA in accordance to ISO 14 024 – International Standard for Third Party Environmental Labelling and Declaration. The verification procedure is managed via a Documented Quality Management System and Certification Program Manual which has made significant use of the ISO 14 000 series.

Verification information for The Laminex Group products is as follows:

CERTIFICATE NUMBER: LA-2005

Initial Certification Date: 22/11/2005

Term of Licence: 3 years

Standard: AELA 28/2005 – Furniture and Fittings

The following products from The Laminex Group have been awarded the Good Environmental Choice declaration:

- Craftwood MDF STD and Moisture Resistant
- E0 Particleboard STD and Moisture Resistant
- E0 Particleboard Decorated STD
- E0 Particleboard Decorated MR
- Laminex Decorwood (Decorated MDF)
- Laminex Lamiwood (Decorated MR MDF)
- Laminex Vertiboard E0 (Decorated Particleboard)
- Laminex Structural MR E0 (Decorated Particleboard)



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Key Environmental Performance Findings by AELA

AELA ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS	AELA FINDINGS ON ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS FOR CERTIFIED PRODUCTS
Fitness for Purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Real-time production testing and quality assurance was significant and comprehensive along the manufacturing chain. • Long term performance testing for each site was assessed using NATA certified results, demonstrating consistent compliance to Australian Standard performance requirements AS/NZS 4266.
Fibre Source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fibre sources for The Laminex Group were tracked, documented and investigated for origin. • All fibre sources originate from plantation forests in Australia, with the vast majority being from softwood plantation and sawmill residue.
Chemical Termiticide and Insecticide Additives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No termiticide or insecticide additives were applied to the wood fibre in production.
Formaldehyde Air Emissions in Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing independent and NATA laboratory test results confirm emission of below 1mg/lit using the Australian standard testing method. • Many results demonstrated an in-use emission profile well below this cut-off limit.
Hazardous Substances Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No other toxic chemicals are added in production at levels that expose end users above 1/20th of existing NICNAS limits.
Prohibited Substances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does not contain any prohibited substances in product manufacture which include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arsenic • Cadmium • Chromium • Copper • Lead • Mercury • Fluorine • Chlorine • Pentachlorophenol (PCP) • Tar oils (benzo(a)pyrene)
Product Stewardship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key manufacturing sites have commenced take back and recovery of wood and panel products from the industrial waste stream for recycling. • Significant investment is underway to expand end of life recycling of product on a commercial recovery basis.
Post Consumption Recycling, Coatings, Labels and other Treatment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The final product range does not prohibit recycling on the basis of coatings, treatments or mechanical properties.

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Environmental and Social Regulatory Obligations

AELA found that The Laminex Group sites associated with the manufacture of certified products have established, compliant ISO 14 001 systems, have not had any major environmental incidents in the last 36 months, and have not breached any environmental regulations or orders in the same period.

AELA found that sites associated with the manufacture of certified products comply with corporate obligations in regards to employee remuneration, anti-discrimination, equal opportunity and Occupational Health and Safety regulations.

Further activities by The Laminex Group

The Laminex Group is currently pursuing the Good Environmental Choice certification for other products, aiming to provide customers with environmental impact information for all its core products.

For more information regarding *Greenfirst* and other products from The Laminex Group, contact **132 136** or visit **www.thelaminexgroup.com.au**

Additional market inquiries about the verification process and findings can be obtained by contacting the Australian Environmental Labelling Association at:

The Australian Environmental Labelling Association Inc.

Phone: (02) 6287 3100

Fax: (02) 6287 3800

E-mail: inquiries@aela.org.au

Web Sites:

<http://www.aela.org.au/>

<http://www.greenprocurement.org.au/>

<http://www.goodenvironmentalchoice.org.au/>