SUSTAINABLE STEEL COUNCIL

Applicant Guide

for

NZ Responsible Products Certification

Supporting Client Green Star Projects

28 February 2025

Public Release Version 1.0

Document Approval and Revision

Version	Date	Changes	Author	Reviewer
V1.0	19/2/25	Release version	JPS	

Please note:

this document is updated occasionally

Always refer to the current version available through the SSC audit portal.

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1. About the SSC Responsible Product Certification

The SSC Responsible Product Certification is a response to the ever-present and increasing global focus on the sustainable performance and decarbonisation of the construction industry, including the exponential growth in demand for lower embodied carbon, more sustainable construction materials and high quality socially responsible business practices.

Our industry and our members are facing increased demands from their clients for evidence of environmental certification. In particular there is growth in the demand for products and suppliers that contribute to a building's Green Star certification requirements.

To meet this demand, the Sustainable Steel Council (SSC), the Australian Steel institute (ASI), and the Green Building Council of Australia (GBCA) have developed a robust sustainability certification Programme for the steel sector. The certification programme [once approved] is recognised by the New Zealand Green Building Council.

The programme engages the steel value chain by certifying steel manufacturers, importers, fabricators, roll formers, and recyclers, reinforcing processors and verifying the steel supply from upstream steel manufacturers, and their own businesses, against best practice environmental, social and governance (ESG) sustainability indicators.

This document outlines the underpinning principles and technical requirements for achieving compliance under each level of the Sustainable Steel Council's Responsible Products certification programmes.

The Responsible Products Certification Programme is adapted under licence from the Australian Steel Institute (ASI) Steel Sustainability Australia (SSA) certification Programme to provide a best practice standard for assessing sustainability performance in the New Zealand steel industry. https://www.steelsustainability.com.au/

Audit applicants are assessed against the Programme's principles and supporting criteria in terms of their:

- Corporate governance and management systems to ensure business integrity, good operations and governance.
- Implementation of appropriate management and control systems at the manufacturing/processing site level.
- Systems to manage environmental, social and health impacts of steel products in their site-specific steel manufacturing or processing operations, and across their supply chain.

Credits toward Responsible Product certification are scored on a pass/fail basis, and the applicant must pass ALL of the questions assigned to their target certification level.

- Certification is assessed against each of the five Responsible Products principles. The Principles are detailed in this document with outlines of compliance and evidence requirements, plus the on-line audit portal contains guidance notes and supporting tools and templates.
- Responsible Products Value (RPV) points associated with each Principle can be used regardless of whether the overall Responsible Product certification level is achieved.

2. Responsible Products Framework

The Green Star buildings system relies in part on the responsible Products Framework to measure the Responsible Products Value (RPV) used in a number of credits in the 'Responsible' Category.

The Responsible Products framework is a new assessment methodology developed with the aim of assessing the supply chain to understand how it must evolve to address the challenges of the next decade. The framework recognises valuable sustainability efforts aligned with five key principles:

- **Responsible** – The product's impacts and contents are transparently disclosed and meet high standards.
- **Healthy** – The product is low or non-toxic and drives valuable social outcomes.
- **Positive** – The manufacturing process avoids significant environmental impact and delivers climate positive outcomes.
- **Circular** – The product is ready for low carbon production and circular economy
- Leadership – The product manufacturer has shown achievement in an issue that will lead to market transformation.

The framework provides flexibility for product suppliers to have their own initiatives recognised in Green Star, provided they meet the principles outlined above. The framework rewards products for multiple distinct initiatives. Where products achieve more than one initiative scored in the framework, these scores add together to form a final Responsible Products Value for the product.

The Responsible Products Value is the score that determines whether a product complies with Green Star requirement. This score is unique to a product. It is a way of summarising and comparing initiatives that a product has complied with when compared against the framework.

To demonstrate compliance with the relevant initiatives, product manufacturers can do this via a number of third party verified schemes. Recognised schemes recognised by Green Building council in New Zealand and Australia are listed on the GBCA website https://new.gbca.org.au/green-star/rating-system/responsible-products-framework/

The information on this page is extracted from the following document

https://23159811.fs1.hubspotusercontent-na1.net/hubfs/23159811/Green%20Star%20Buildings/Technical%20resources%20(launch)/Green%20Star%20Buildings%20NZ%20Submission%20Guidelines%2012112024.pdf

3. Sustainable Steel Council Certification Programme

3.1. The Principles

The SSC programme is modelled on the principles of the New Zealand and Australian Green Building Councils' Responsible Product Value (RPV) Programme to recognise companies that have lower environmental impact, are transparent, respect human rights, and are taking action to reduce carbon emissions and pursue circular solutions.

3.1.1. Principle 1. Governance

SSC RPV certified companies conduct business transparently, with integrity and in compliance with relevant legislation. SSC certified companies should adhere to a strict code of conduct that prioritises fairness, equality, and transparency in all business practices. They should also be operating with robust environmental, and health and safety management systems in place.

SSC certified companies communicate openly with their stakeholders and enable stakeholders to engage effectively with them.

The objective of this principle is to provide a foundation, ensuring that all necessary systems and processes are in place so that SSC members can meet the requirements of this standard.

3.1.2. Principle 2. Responsible

SSC RPV certified companies manufacture or supply steel products in a responsible manner, with impacts and contents being transparently disclosed and meeting high standards.

The impacts and contents of responsible products are transparently disclosed and meet high standards. Responsible products are those for which a science-based evaluation of environmental impacts is available, and independent assessments of carbon emissions.

Manufacturers, producers and suppliers of responsible products have documented environmental management systems in place to manage the environmental impacts of the production of the product.

The objective of this principle is that the impacts and contents of steel sourced by SSC certified members are transparently disclosed and meet high standards.

3.1.3. Principle 3. Healthy

SSC RPV certified companies manufacture/supply steel products that contribute to healthy and socially constructive outcomes.

Healthy products are low or non-toxic and drive valuable social outcomes. These products reduce exposure to volatile organic compounds (VOCs), both during manufacture and once installed in a built asset. Manufacturers and producers of healthy products have documented OH&S management systems and procurement processes in place to restrict workers' exposure to physical, chemical and biological hazards, during manufacture or sourcing.

Companies should be taking clear steps to address modern slavery in the supply chain (where it exists) and should be working to create equitable conditions for anyone involved in the sourcing and manufacturing of the products.

The objective of this principle is that the steel used by SSC certified companies is low or non-toxic and drives valuable social outcomes.

3.1.4. Principle 4. Positive

SSC RPV certified companies manufacture or supply steel products which contribute to a positive, lower-impact future.

The steel feedstock used meets a set of ESG requirements to ensure that it is responsibly sourced.

Manufacturers and producers of positive products can demonstrate responsible extraction of resources and low material extraction impacts. Production of positive products results in reduced impacts to air, water, and land (from manufacturing activities) and sourcing or manufacturing does not impact areas with a high ecological value. Positive products demonstrate continual reductions in their impacts.

Outcomes that are better for the planet are central to this principle, which values carbon emission reductions, a low carbon trajectory, and ideally, carbon neutrality.

The objective of this principle is to avoid significant environmental impact from the manufacturing processes of SSC certified companies and to deliver climate-positive outcomes.

3.1.5. Principle 5. Circular

SSC RPV certified companies manufacture, and supply or source steel products which are moving towards being part of a circular economy. Manufacturers and producers of products in a circular economy are reducing the impacts of their business on the natural environment by reducing the need for mined raw materials; and reducing waste by implementing strategies that encourage recycling, reuse, and re-selling of materials.

Outcomes that are good for natural systems and that decrease pollution are central to this principle, which values reduced impacts on nature, reduced need for raw material extraction, and reduced waste generation.

The objective of this principle is to avoid significant environmental impact from the manufacturing processes of SSC certified companies and to deliver circular outcomes.

4. Certification Technical Requirements

4.1. Which Certification do I need?

Responsible Products Certification is for businesses, particularly steel distributors and fabricators, that are being asked, or expect to be asked, by their customers for RPV credits towards Green Star certified buildings. SSC members that supply steel into the market increasingly report that they are being asked for evidence of environmental certifications, particularly supporting client Green Star compliance.

Note: If an applicant is seeking certification under GBC's previous design and built guidelines, a minimum certification at the new system's 'Bronze' is required.

4.2. Certification Levels

		Responsible Product Value Certification			
		RP Bronze	RP Silver (EPD)	RP Silver (No EPD)	RP Gold
Governance					
1.1	Business Integrity	■	■	■	■
1.2a	Management Systems: Governance	■	■	■	■
1.2b	Management Systems: Safety Management	■	■	■	■
1.3	Stakeholder Engagement	■	■	■	■
Responsible					
2.1	Environmental Management System	■	■	■	■
2.2	Environmental Product Declaration (EPD)		■		■
2.3	Health Impacts Declaration			■	■
Healthy					
3.1	Paints and Coatings		■	■	■
3.2	Manufacturing OH&S Management	■	■	■	■
3.3	Procurement OH&S Assessment			■	■
3.4	Modern Slavery			■	■
Positive					
4.1	Steel Supply Sourcing	■	■	■	■
4.2	Carbon Emissions Reduction (Mfg)				■
Circular					
5.1	Resource Management		■	■	■
	Responsible Products Values (RPVs)	**4**	**11**	**11**	**18**

4.3. Alternative Pathways

The audit criteria are GBC specified RPP requirements.

However, applicants may propose an alternative pathway to compliance where they are able to meet the intent of a credit but not the specific wording.

Where this option is sought, the applicant must provide written justification explaining why the specified evidence pathway is problematic and how the proposed alternative pathway fully meets the intent of every aspect of the existing credit.

Where the alternative pathway meets the scheme rules, the application will be assessed against the alternative pathway instead of the standard wording for the credit.

As the Responsible Products Programme matures, alternative pathways may be approved and formalised in revised versions of the certification Programme.

The SSC may use compliant alternative pathways for other applicants or revisions without compensation to the original applicant.

4.4. Revision to the Technical Requirements

The technical requirements in the document have been developed in consultation with ASI, GBCA, thinkstep-anz, and members of the SSC. The technical requirements may be revised, after approval from GBC, based on further feedback and consultation with SSC Applicants and Clients, and the auditing body appointed by the SSC in accordance with the SSC Consensus Decision Making Policy.

SSC members will be advised of any revisions to the technical requirements, and any certifications prior to the revision will not be affected.

GBCA and SSC reserve the right to raise compliance and evidential threshold levels as the regime matures and as new technologies and innovations enter the market.

To provide feedback on the SSC Technical Requirements, please contact us in writing at audit@sustainablesteel.org.nz

Preparing Your Audit Submission

The following pages provide guidance to preparing evidence for your audit.

Principle 1: Governance

Credit 1.1 Business Integrity

Code of Conduct:

The Applicant promotes ethical and responsible decision-making and complies with all relevant policies, laws, regulations, and codes of best business practice.

Guidance:
A Code of Conduct is a set of rules or standards of conduct for employees of an organisation to follow, including the relationship between employees and with their customers. They can guard against misconduct and opportunistic behaviour, while fostering long-term changes to business culture.

Records of communication and training of employees in the Code of Conduct must be provided. If there is an external or internal complaint about breaches of the Code of Conduct, evidence that the Applicant has addressed the complaint must be provided.

Supporting Tools:
SSC Code of Conduct template (optional)

Evidence Requirements

The applicant to provide evidence of current certification to ISO:9001

OR

The Applicant's ethics and operating principles are formalised in a written Code of Conduct addressing the following matters:

- Inclusion and Diversity
- Conflicts of interest
- Anti-bribery and corruption
- Whistleblower mechanism
- Confidentiality
- Engaging with communities

Management and employees must be aware of and trained in the Code of Conduct, and the policy should be periodically reviewed.

Credit 1.2 Management Systems

A. Business Governance

The Applicant ensures that the company operates with good operational governance.

Guidance:

Accreditation to ISO 9001 Quality Management Systems is deemed to comply with 1.2A.

Guidance for establishing business governance systems is available at https://www.business.govt.nz/business-performance/governance/laying-the-groundwork-for-good-governance/.

https://www.govn365.com/ [Aligns with ISO 37000:2002]

Guidance resource available in the SSC audit site resource in library

Evidence Requirements

The applicant to provide evidence of current certification to ISO:9001

OR

The Applicant has a business management system that:

- Documents policies, procedures, and processes to support the implementation of accountable business practices.
- Establishes roles and responsibilities for policy implementation.
- Communicates its policies and procedures to its workers using methods and channels that are easily accessible to them.
- Assigns accountability for policy implementation to senior management.
- Provides processes for document control.

B. Safety Management System

The Applicant ensures that the wellbeing, safety and health of employees, contractors, and visitors are of the highest priority

Guidance:

A policy is a formal statement of intent and direction, approved by the applicant company's senior management.

Supporting Tools:

- ISO 45001:2018 - Occupational health and safety management systems.
- Worksafe guidance for businesses: https://www.worksafe.govt.nz/managing-health-and-safety/businesses/

Evidence Requirements

The applicant to provide evidence of current certification to ISO:45001:2018

OR

Current Site Safe Site Wise certification

OR

The applicant is a member of the Accident Compensation Corporation (ACC) Accredited Employer Programme.

OR

The Applicant has a documented OH&S management system that is aligned with the main principles of the Standard, including:

- Assigns OH&S accountability to senior management and documents OH&S reporting procedures.
- Adheres to relevant national and jurisdictional safety legal frameworks.
- A system is in place to identify, assess and control all reasonable hazards to the health and safety of employees and records of this are kept
- Has procedures and processes for working safely and reducing exposure to chemicals of concern.
- Has procedures and processes to provide mental health support services to all staff.
- A system is in place for continual improvement of OH&S performance
- Evidence required for chemicals of concern should include a survey/list of Hazardous Chemicals, their SDS and procedures for handling the hazardous chemicals.
- Employees are aware of and trained in the above

Stakeholder Communication

The Applicant values two-way communication with relevant stakeholders and provides suitable opportunities for communication.

Guidance:

Applicants can choose to complete the SSC template provided or provide evidence in another form. Either way, Applicants are to determine who their relevant stakeholders are, including suppliers, customers, and employees and identify these and provide evidence of communication in any form including but not limited to emails, memos, website content, or meeting minutes. Applicants are welcome to use SSC material available on the SSC audit site to support stakeholder engagement.

Supporting Tools:

SSC Stakeholder Communications template (optional)

Evidence Requirements

The Applicant implements a communications strategy and process to:

- Identify and document key stakeholders and the matters they may be interested in
- inform stakeholders about the Sustainable Steel Council Programme
- engage with relevant stakeholders on issues relating to its performance against the Sustainable Steel Council certification Programme
- provide opportunities for stakeholders to engage on issues which matter to them
- invite feedback on company performance or other aspects of operation

Principle 2: Responsible

Credit 2.1 Environmental Management System

Environmental Management System

The Applicant has an environmental management system in place to manage the environmental impacts from the manufacturing of the product.

Guidance:

Guidance for small to medium-sized enterprises on environmental management, legal obligations and support to help reduce your business's environmental impact can be accessed on the New Zealand Government Business Support website: https://www.business.govt.nz/getting-started/business-planning-tools-and-tips/how-to-be-environmentally-sustainable/

Evidence Requirements

The environmental management system includes effective documented procedures that:

- identify the Applicant's environmental risks and adverse impacts (including management provisions to prevent and mitigate these impacts)
- incorporate key performance indicators for the main environmental risks and impact areas
- measure performance against key performance indicators and implement corrective action
- incorporate a process to continuously and materially improve operations and reduce environmental impacts
- Where the Applicant company is valued at over $10 million (revenue) annually and has over 50 staff the Environmental Management system must be certified to a recognised standard such as ISO 14001:2016 Environmental management systems, BS 7750, European Community's EMAS or the EPA Environmental Management Systems Guidelines.

  OR

  For all other applicants, current Toitu Enviromark Gold or Diamond Enviromark Certifications

Credit 2.2 Environmental Product Declaration

The Applicant can provide a product-specific environmental product declaration/s (EPD) for the steel product/s they manufacture, on request. EPDs must be provided for at least the minimum threshold value (MTV) - 70% - of the finished steel product/s manufactured.

Exemption: *Applicants that manufacture custom, made-to-order steel products, rather than a defined steel product range, are exempt from verifying their contribution of additional manufacturing GWP (Global Warming Potential)*

Guidance:

It is expected that the applicant is sourcing the majority of its steel from suppliers that are verified by SSC or ASI or hold SSC certification. If so, evidence of the supplier's certification is deemed to satisfy the evidence criteria for Credit 2.2

The applicant is deemed to comply if 70% or more of the applicant's steel is sourced from SSC Green Star certified suppliers, or suppliers verified on the SSC or ASI web portal.

OR

Applicants must be able to provide a verified product-specific EPD/s (or third-party verified Life Cycle Assessment) either published by their own company covering the steel product/s they manufacture (option 1) OR published by their steel product supplier/s covering the steel products (option 2) on the condition that at least 70% (by weight) of the steel feedstock materials used to manufacture the Applicants steel product/s are covered, and the Applicant's GWP is within 10% variance of the supplier EPD/s. The SSC Steel Supply Sourcing and EPD template (where applicable) must be completed in full to verify these two conditions.

Supporting Tools:

- SSC EPD template (mandatory for option 2, unless exempt)
- SSC Steel Supply Sourcing form (mandatory)
- EPD International: https://www.environdec.com/library
- EPD Australasia: https://epd-australasia.com/epd-search/

Evidence Requirements

Applicants to provide evidence that at least 70% of steel purchases (excluding fixings) are sourced from suppliers that are currently certified to Responsible Products Gold or Silver level where the silver certification included EPDs, and/or sourced from SSC or ASI verified steel suppliers.

AND

The product-specific EPD/s provided must:

- Comply with EN 15804
- Include all required environmental impact categories, including disclosure of carbon emissions
- Specifically, apply to the product/s supplied
- Cover at least the MTV (by weight) of the finished steel product/s manufactured

The **minimum threshold value (MTV)** is a set value, as agreed between ASI, SSC and the GBCA, to represent a portion of the finished steel product/s manufactured and supplied by the Applicant. **The MTV is currently (2024) set at 70% and will increase over time**. Where option 2 (below) is used, all material inputs ('steel feedstock') used to manufacture the finished steel product/s are to be declared as well as their portion by weight (tonnes).

Where quantitative life cycle environmental impacts of a specific product are required in the criteria, the Programme accepts three options:

1. a verified product specific Environmental Product Declaration published by the Applicant, in accordance with EN 15804 Sustainability of construction works – Environmental product declarations – Core rules for the product category of construction products.
2. a steel feedstock suppliers verified, published Environmental Product Declaration (compliant with EN 15804) provided by the downstream producer on the basis that the Global Warming Impact (GWP) contributed by the downstream producer is <10% of the total feedstock impact, and therefore is no greater than the +/- 10% normal variance in EPD impact data.
    a. data representing the Applicant's annual energy use shall also be provided, including both renewable and non-renewable electricity and on-site fuel use such as natural gas, LPG, etc.
3. a third party verified Life Cycle Assessment which complies with the methodology included in EN 15804 (but is not associated with a published EPD)

Credit 2.3 Health Impacts Declaration

Health Impacts Declaration

The Applicant has published a Health Impacts Declaration(s) for the steel products Manufactured.

A Health Impacts Declaration(s) is provided to:

☐ provide a full disclosure of any potential physical and chemical health impacts

☐ explain the hazards and mitigating actions in everyday language

☐ ensure that required safeguards are clearly explained

Supporting Tools:

- SSC Health Impacts Declaration template (mandatory)

Guidance:

Applicants must use the SSA Credit 2.3 - Health Impacts Declaration.

The Health Impacts Declaration(s) must include:

☐ Relevant lifecycle phases – transport, installation, use maintenance, end of life

☐ Physical and chemical health impacts

☐ Normal SDS content related to health impacts

☐ Expansion of hazard and risk implications clearly explaining health impacts for users

☐ Required safeguards for health and wellbeing during life cycle of product from point of sale through to end of life

The Health Impacts Declaration must be publicly available on the Applicants website and the content must be written at an accessible level by all who need to understand the safety precautions related to using the product. It must address all known hazards, both those included in the SDS (if one exists) and any other known physical and chemical hazards.

Applicants must use the SSC supplied template or alternative complying certification.

Evidence Requirements

The Health Impacts Declaration(s) must include:

- Relevant lifecycle phases – transport, installation, use, maintenance, end of life
- Physical and chemical health impacts
- Normal SDS (Safety Data Sheet) content related to health impacts
- Expansion of hazard and risk phase implications to explain the health impacts clearly for users
- Required safeguards for health and wellbeing during life cycle of product from point of sale through to end of life

The Health Impacts Declaration must be publicly available on the Applicant's website and the content must be written at an accessible level by all who need to understand the safety precautions related to using the product. It must address all known hazards, both those included in the SDS (if one exists) and any other known physical and chemical hazards.

Principle 3: Healthy

Credit 3.1 Paints and Coatings

Any paints and coatings applied to steel products, by the applicant or its subcontractors, assessed under SSC certification are applied in a way that is safe for workers and occupants of buildings.

Guidance:

Applicants must be able to provide evidence that any paint that was applied, by the applicant or its subcontractors has low VOC.

For clarity – this credit cannot be achieved if the applicant applies high VOC paint or coating regardless of who specified the paint or coating.

Supporting Tools:

- NZGBC Green Star Buildings v1 Exposure to Toxins Credit (refer to Total VOC limits table)
- GBCA FAQ-00332 - https://www.gbca.org.au/faqs.asp?action=details&faqId=332
- SSC Letter of Assurance (mandatory if no coatings applied) Template provided

Evidence Requirements

The following specifications are required when applying paints and coatings:

1. All paints and coatings applied to steel products, applied both on-site and off-site, must be applied in accordance with the paint manufacturer specifications, including WHS requirements and drying time of paint.
2. Paints and coatings applied on steel at a building site, where the building occupant is not exposed to painted elements will be exempt from requirements
3. Paints and coatings applied by the applicant on steel at a building site, or applied by subcontractors under its control, in regularly occupied areas must be applied according to the manufacturer's directions.
4. Galvanised coatings applied to steel products are exempt from Credit 3.1.

OR

Mandatory Letter of Assurance if no coatings applied - use SSC Template.

Credit 3.2 Manufacturing OH&S Assessment

Workers are protected from physical, chemical, and biological risks of harm.

Guidance:

Health and wellbeing risks/hazards include but are not limited to:

- physical (noise, slips, trips and falls; abrasions, burns, strains and sprains; manual handling injuries; and inhalation of fumes, dust or fibres),
- chemical (toxic, corrosive, carcinogenic, mutagenic and reprotoxic substances), and
- biological (viruses, bacteria, protozoa and other microorganisms as well as animals, plants and animal or plant products that can create a hazard to human health).

Responsible Products Certification - Evidence Requirements

Evidence of current accreditation to ISO 45001 Occupational Health and Safety Management System

OR

Current Site Safe SiteWise is deemed to comply.

OR

Evidence of membership of NZ Accident Compensation Commission (ACC) Accredited Employers Programme.

OR

The Applicant's OH&S Management System:

- Identifies any potential physical, chemical, and biological hazards to personnel during manufacture.
- Assesses hazards and risks and implements controls to eliminate risks to health and safety so far as is reasonably practicable.
- Provides personnel with the skills and knowledge to identify hazards within the workplace, conduct risk assessments of those hazards and implement appropriate control measures to remedy them.
- Specifies and requires use of appropriate personal protection equipment (PPE)
- Audits compliance to the safety management system.

Credit 3.3 Procurement OH&S Assessment

Applicants seek assurance that their suppliers used in the manufacturing or processing of steel are appropriately managing OH&S risks.

Guidance:

Applicants may use their own format to provide evidence of compliance, or the SSC supplied template. Applicants are required to account for at least 95% of the suppliers used in the manufacturing or processing of steel, calculated as a percentage of total spend over an allocated period.

Supporting Tools:

- Procurement OH&S guidance template *(mandatory, unless evidence can be provided in other formats)*

Green Star Certification - Evidence Requirements

The Applicant's procurement system contains the following:

- → Selection of suppliers with active safety management practices
- → Identification of major physical, chemical, and biological risks to supplier's personnel
- → Obtain evidence of the supplier's management of identified risks
- → Coverage of relevant life cycle phases – transport, installation, use, maintenance, end-of-life

Credit 3.4 Modern Slavery

Applicants do not engage in modern slavery and seek assurance that it is not present in its supply chain. Where modern slavery is found in the supply chain, there is an implemented plan to remove it.

Guidance:

The New Zealand Government recently defined modern slavery as: "severe exploitation that a person cannot leave due to threats, violence or deception". It includes "forced labour, debt bondage, lower than minimum wage, forced marriage, slavery, and human trafficking." It also uses a definition of worker exploitation as "non-minor breaches of employment standards in New Zealand".

Supporting Tools:

https://www.mbie.govt.nz/have-your-say/modern-slavery

https://www.pwc.co.nz/services/sustainability-climate-and-nature/modern-slavery.html

Resources for managing Modern Slavery risks (Federal Govt), including supplier questionnaires: https://modernslaveryregister.gov.au/resources/

Modern Slavery education and learning resources (School Supply Chain of Sustainability): https://www.supplychainschool.org.au/learn/topics/modern-slavery/

Evidence Requirements

Applicants to provide evidence that at least 70% of steel purchases (excluding fixings) are sourced from suppliers that are currently certified to the ASI or SSC Responsible products Gold or Silver level and/or sourced from SSC or ASI verified steel suppliers.

AND

The following documentation should be provided:

- → A risk assessment and modern slavery statement.
- → Evidence demonstrating that the statement is publicly available on the Applicant website.
- → The risk assessment and statement must account for 90% of all materials being sourced from direct suppliers, including international suppliers based on an assessment of risk.

The Applicant must:

- Conduct a risk assessment and release a modern slavery statement. The statement must describe all risks of modern slavery in the supply chain and must document any cases where it has been found.
- The statement must describe how any identified risks will be addressed, and where instances have been found, how they will be eliminated. This information must be publicly available on the Applicant's website.
- All actions being taken to eliminate modern slavery in the supply chain must have a documented and publicly available target, which is reviewed yearly. Detail must be provided outlining how the target will be met.

Principle 4: Positive

Credit 4.1 Steel Supply Sourcing

Steel Supply Sourcing

The Applicant sources steel from manufacturers that meet best practice responsible manufacturing requirements.

Guidance:

Grace period for Credit 4.1: In the first year of certification, the Applicant may enact a grace period of one year to enable the supply chain to transition to requirements A – E. After one year (by the time of the next audit), full compliance is required.

To enact the grace period, the Applicant must:

For each non-verified SSC steel manufacturing supplier, provide evidence of communicating, through the steel supply chain in the form of the SSC declarations provided, the requirement for the steel manufacturer to comply with Credit 4.1 A-E (below) within 12 months.

An SSC Steel Supply Sourcing Template is provided to support this requirement

Supporting Tools:

- SSC Steel Supply Sourcing Form (mandatory).
- SSC Verified Manufacturing Supplier list and certificates: steelsustainability.com.au/resources/verified-ssa-steel-suppliers SSA
- Supplier/Distributor Declaration (mandatory when enacting the grace period for a supplier)
- SSC Steel Manufacturer Declaration (mandatory when enacting the grace period for a supplier)
- EPD International: https://www.environdec.com/library
- EPD Australasia: https://epd-australasia.com/epd-search/

Evidence Requirements

EITHER

Applicants to provide evidence that at least 70% of steel purchases (excluding fixings) are sourced from suppliers that are currently certified to the ASI or SSC Responsible Products Gold or Silver level and/or sourced from SSC or ASI verified steel suppliers.

OR

The Applicant must:

→ Maintain records to demonstrate that the steel feedstock for the steel products assessed, is sourced from SSC or SSA verified steel manufacturing suppliers which

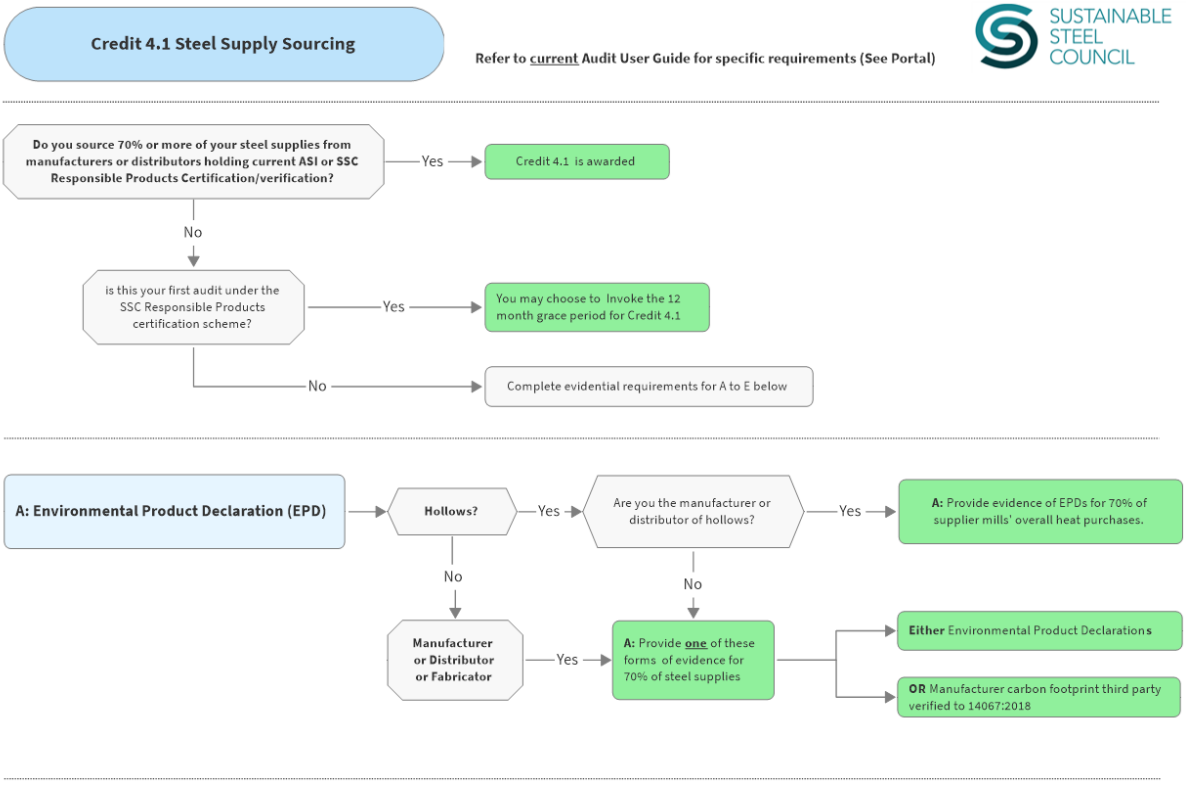
have been verified to meet best practice requirements for responsible steel manufacturing (refer to Credit 4.1. A – E)

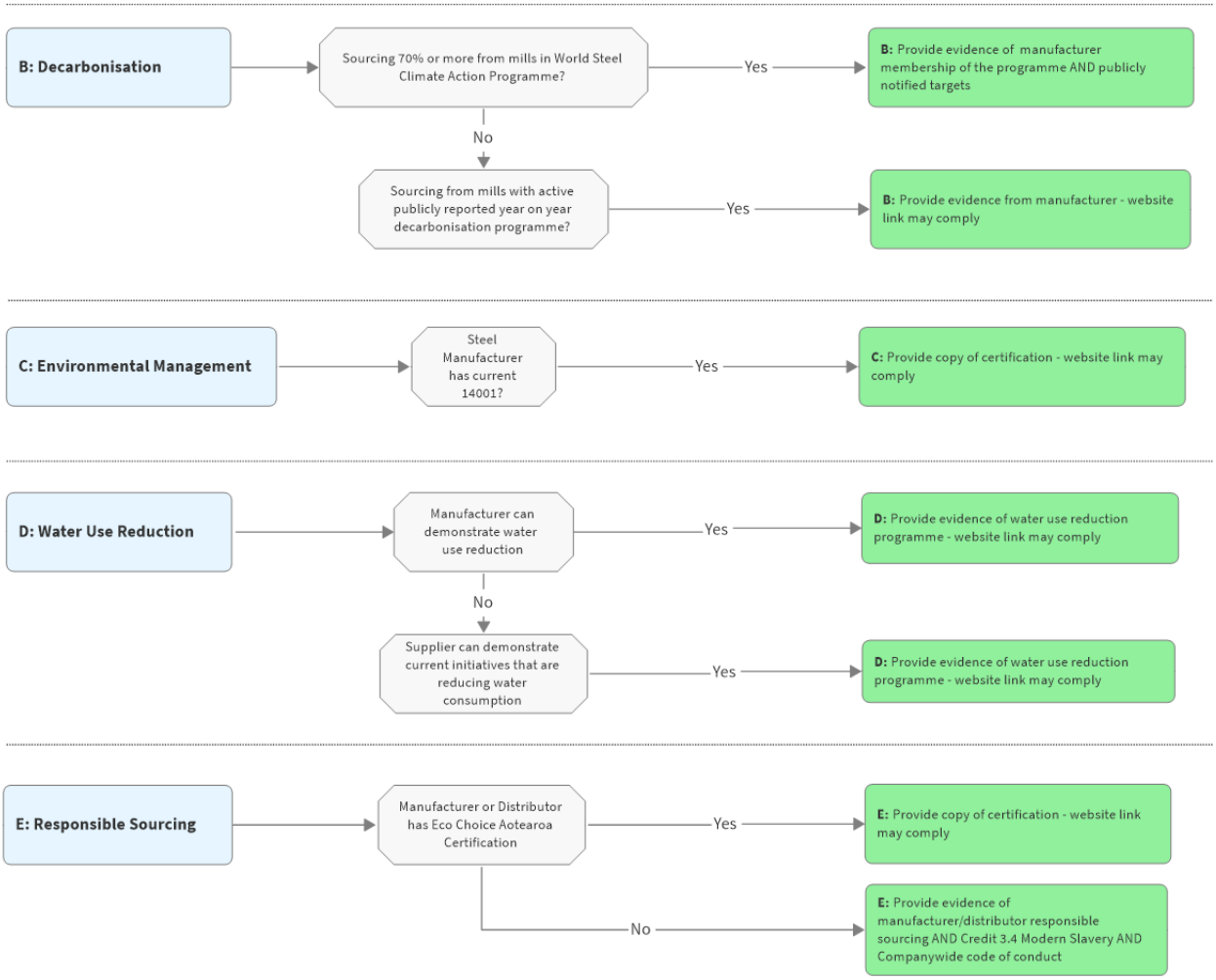
- Maintain records to demonstrate the steel feedstock sourced has a product-specific environmental product declaration(s) (compliant to 2.2 Environmental Product Declaration) for at least 50% (by weight) of the finished steel product(s) assessed.

Requirements for Steel Feedstock Manufacturing Suppliers

Steel manufacturers seeking to be verified to meet these requirements are to contact SSC at audit@sustainablesteel.org.nz. Verified steel manufacturing suppliers are verified to meet these requirements by an annual desktop audit conducted by an SSC appointed auditor and will be issued a certificate downloadable from the SSC and or ASI website.

Overview for 4.1





A. Environmental Product Declaration

A product-specific environmental product declaration (EPD) can be provided which:

- Complies with EN 15804
- Includes all required environmental impact categories, including disclosure of carbon emissions
- Specifically, is required for the product supplied

OR

- Instead of an EPD, the product's carbon footprint may be reported using an alternative method, provided it is third-party verified to be compliant to [1] ISO 14067:2018
- Evidence must be provided of the third-party verified carbon footprint

B. Decarbonisation Requirements

Items i-iii are mandatory.

The manufacturer/s supplying the steel to the Applicant must:

i. Provide a publicly disclosed target for decarbonising the manufacturing and supply chain by 2050.

- → Evidence of this commitment must be available on a public website.

ii. Provide evidence of an active decarbonisation Programme. The manufacturer has a public commitment to reduce the emissions intensity in their steel manufacturing and has a publicly disclosed strategy for how this will be achieved.

- → The commitment and decarbonisation strategies must be publicly available via a link to a public website, or public corporate document.

iii. Have a current membership for the World Steel Association's Climate Action Programme (WSA CAP).

- → Evidence must be provided of current membership via a link to the World Steel Association website OR by providing a certificate for the relevant period.

Guidance:

- → Decarbonisation targets must include scope 1 and scope 2 emissions.
- → A long-term plan may be included to include scope 3 emissions in decarbonisation targets by 2050.
- → The manufacturer/s supplying the steel to the Applicant is required to report publicly against the decarbonisation target annually.

Supporting Tools:

- → World Steel Association Climate Action Data Collection Programme:
- → https://worldsteel.org/climate-action/climate-action-data-collection/
- → World Steel Association Sustainability Charter: https://worldsteel.org/steeltopics/
- → sustainability/our-recognitions/sustainability-charter/

C. Environmental Management

The manufacturer/s supplying the steel to the Applicant must:

- → Provide a current certificate demonstrating ISO 14001: Environmental management systems certification for steelmaker site.

D. Water use reduction

The water consumed by the steel feedstock's manufacturing has been reduced on a year-on-year basis when averaged over 5 years, OR a Programme is in place to increase the amount of recycled or reused water used.

The manufacturer must submit a record of their water use to:

- → Provide evidence that the water consumption intensity from the manufacturing of the product has been decreasing over the past five years on average.

OR

- → Provide evidence that initiatives are in place to recycle or reuse significant volumes of water.

Guidance:

A reduction in water consumption can be demonstrated by:

- Providing 5 years' worth of water use data per tonne of steel.
- Document year-on-year improvements with an average reduction of at least 1% p.a. Auditor discretion may be applied.

Evidence of water recycling or reuse Programmes may include but is not limited to:

- Documented evidence of approved project plans, schematic drawings, or photos, regarding initiatives specifically designed to recycle or reuse water in manufacturing operations
- Contracts or agreements between the manufacturer and water authorities on recycling or reusing water in manufacturing operations

E. Responsible Sourcing

There are three possible pathways to demonstrating compliance with this requirement:

1. Manufacturer/s supplying the steel to the Applicant must provide evidence of current certification to ResponsibleSteel™ steel standard.

OR

2. Manufacturer must provide evidence of current certification to Eco Choice Aotearoa (EC-41-15 or EC-57-23).

OR

3. Manufacturer/s supplying the steel to the Applicant must:

   i. Achieve Credit 3.4 Modern Slavery, AND

   ii. Provide evidence of a company-wide Responsible Sourcing policy or documented strategy that addresses potential environmental, social and governance related impacts in the sourcing of their products or services, AND

   iii. Provide evidence of a company-wide Code of Conduct policy or documented strategy that sets expectations of ethical standards and behaviours from employees and suppliers

Supporting Tools:

- ResponsibleSteel™ steel standard: https://www.responsiblesteel.org/standard/
- GECA Steel & Steel Products (Sspv1.0i-2019): https://geca.eco/standards/steel-and-steelproducts-sspv-sspv1-0i-2019/

Credit 4.2 Carbon Emissions Reduction

Carbon Emissions Reduction

The carbon emissions generated by the Applicant's manufacturing processes have been reduced on a year-on-year basis when averaged over at least 3 years.

Guidance:

Note: this credit only is required for CO_2 generated by the applicant's own activities or activities under the applicant's direct control including subcontractors.

Reportable energy data can be any energy consumed for manufacturing or fabrication processes, including the optional inclusion of energy consumed for transportation to and from the site. Records must be provided to verify a representative sample of the energy data provided in the template.

Supporting Tools:

- SSC Carbon Emissions Reduction Disclosure template (mandatory)

Evidence Requirements

The Applicant must:

- Provide a minimum of 3 years' worth of energy use (renewable and non-renewable) data for the Applicant. The template will calculate the carbon emissions on an intensity basis for the product (tonne CO2-equiv./tonne steel).
- Provide evidence demonstrating that the carbon emissions generated from the manufacturing or fabrication processes have been decreasing by at least 0.5% per year, for the past 3 years on average, targeting a minimum of 2% for the 3 years.
- Demonstrate that a Programme is in place to continuously monitor and reduce carbon emissions generated through the manufacturing process.

Principle 5: Circular

Credit 5.1 Resource Management

Resource Management

The Applicant is measuring waste generated through the manufacturing process and can demonstrate that at least 80% of waste is reused, recycled, or sold

Guidance:

The template is to be completed with 12 months' worth of waste data including any waste generated through manufacturing processes at the facility. Records must be provided to verify a representative sample of the waste data provided in the template. A waste management plan is a documented strategy and related procedures for identifying, measuring and reducing waste streams. The documented waste management plan provided can be in any format but must document ways to avoid, reduce, reuse, and/or recycle waste generated through the manufacturing process.

Supporting Tools:

- SSC Waste Use and Reduction template (mandatory)

Evidence Requirements

The Applicant must provide:

- Accurate reporting of all waste being removed from the site, including steel scrap, waste directed to landfill, and other recycling/reuse streams.
- A waste management plan is in place to find ways to avoid, reduce, reuse, and recycle waste.