



NGS ECHO Confirmation Of Manufacturer's Self-Declared Environmental Claims

About:

NGS ECHO SERVICE

Under ISO 14021, whilst it remains the manufacturer's responsibility to provide the evidence and make the declaration, it can be reassuring to have an independent 3rd party review the evidence and declaration and point out any omission or errors.

NGS's Brian Murphy is well placed to offer a comprehensive service:

- 38 years experience in the construction industry,
 - Architect by training, environmental specification consultant by choice
- 30 years in specification consultancy
 - Interrogating manufacturer's literature, advertising and websites
 - Rewriting literature turning guidance into instruction to include in contract specifications
 - Filtering out the marketing from the facts
- 14 years of environmental specialism
 - Has access to specialist environmental advisors, if required

Once the manufacturer has assembled their evidence of conformity, NGS provide an appropriate bespoke service to suit:

- Review the information
- Carryout an audit and/or gap analysis
- Visit factory to verify the evidence and reality match
- Indicate any deficiencies,
- Determine and promote solutions or alternative approaches.

ISO 14021 Environmental labels and declarations — Self-declared environmental claims (Type II environmental labeling)

Manufacturer's Self-Declaration

"The standard makes it clear that the primary responsibility to ensure a claim is accurate resides with the person making the claim.

Effectively, the person making a claim must have the information necessary to verify it before it is made.

Further, this information must be kept for a reasonable period, testing must use accepted test methods and the information must be disclosed to any person who wants it.

This information includes:

- *Identification of test method used*
- *Documentary evidence if claim cannot be verified by end-product testing*
- *Test results*
- *Name and address of independent party if used to evaluate claim"*

ISO 14021 SCOPE:

ISO 14021 is a guide to self-declaration not a guide to sustainability issues and limits itself to sample generic issues:

Compostable

Degradable

Designed for disassembly

Extended life product

Recovered energy

Recyclable

Recycled content

Pre-consumer material

Post-consumer material

Recycled material

Recovered [reclaimed] material

Reduced energy consumption

Reduced resource use

Reduced water consumption

Reusable

Refillable

Waste reduction

NGS PASS REPORT SCOPE:

NGS currently address 400 issues with a construction focus in its PASS Product Assessment Sustainability Screening Report service.

NGS ECHO Process:

Initial meeting

- Between NGS, applicable specialist advisors (see list below) and the manufacturer.
- Introduction to the company credential before looking at the product
- Introduction to product, materials, performance, its application and market sector/product group
- Identify any competency issues before considering environmental issues
- Identify and agree environmental advantages and disadvantages of products over average or normal products in the same group
- Determine the scope of a bespoke ECHO service selected from the following:

NGS LITAUDIT

- Literature audit
- Website content,
- Advertising review,
- Check for Green-Wash and inaccuracies or inadequacies
- Filtering or translation of marketing to facts and figures for specifications
- Proposal for alternative verifiable wording

Gap analysis: identify missing information, missing tests and accreditation, etc.

- Determine relevant assessments, tests, certification, accreditations, endorsements, labels and accolades applicable to the product group
- Identify where evidence is needed to substantiate statements

Review current evidence:

- Performance data,
- Test evidence data
- Assessment evidence
- Labels
- Accreditations
- Verifications
- Certification
- Endorsement
- Accolades

Additional evidence

- Manufacturer to initiate and carry out any agreed additional performance testing or evidence gathering
- Initiate additional specialist testing accreditations, etc.

Verification of claims against evidence

- Factory visit and audit:
- Open book investigations
- Check if evidence matches reality,
- Factory Production Control/ISO 9000 system review
- Environmental Management Systems EMAS/ISO 14001 review
- Materials checks
- Process checks
- Waste checks
- Emissions checks

Equivalency assessments:

- Identify where test evidence shows equivalency with assessment methods.
- Identify institutions or labels offering testing, assessment, accreditation services to fill the gaps

ISO 14021 Declaration

- Review the wording of self-declarations to avoid green-wash
- Propose alternative wording to make robust statements
- Development of template to a bespoke ISO 14021 declaration

Evidence and ongoing scrutiny

- Check and development of systems to maintain integrity of evidence for duration of reasonable period
- Determine the appropriate period for the retention of evidence for scrutiny
- Check or establish the method of making the evidence available to persons needing to see the evidence
- Offer NGS LIBRARY service on NGS website

NGS ECHO

- Preparation of statement, in support of claims, by Nat. Green Specification Ltd.
- Submission of statement to manufacturer.
- Promote other NGS Manufacturers Services that can enhance the product's presence in
The normal materials market
Green materials market

NGS ECHO Specialist advisors:

Brian Murphy:

Environmental Specification Consultancy

Green Methods of Construction specialist

Alan Best: REACH, Chemicals, Flooring,

Peter Ruifrok: REACH, Toxicity,

Cath Hassell: Water, Carbon Technologies

Paul Bourgeois: Renewable Energy

[Stacey Waring](#): Biodiversity, BRMs

John Bullock: Lighting

Dr. Andrew Norton: LCA Life Cycle Analysis, Bio Based materials

Prof. Callum Hill: EPD Environmental Product Declaration, Timber & Timber Products

NGS National Green Specification

Other Manufacturer Services available

PASS: Product Assessment Sustainability Screening

NGS PASS CIV: PASS for Civil Engineering & Infrastructure

NGS PASS SERVE: PASS for MEP Services

NGS PASS REPORT: verification against 400 criteria

NGS MASS Material Assessment Sustainability Screening

NGS BEST Building Element Sustainability Test

NGS BEACON Building Element Assembly Code Number

NGS LITAUDIT Literature, Website, Advertising audit, Green-wash check

NGS LITERATURE: Literature prepared by NGS promoting the environmental aspects of the product

NGS CAD: CAD files for literature or dissemination

NGS BIM CAD: BIM ready CAD file and depositing into BIM Libraries

NGS LIBRARY: manufacturers literature deposited into an online product library

NGS CPD: manufacturers CPD seminars added to a library of seminars

NGS ECHO Confirmation Of Manufacturer's Self-Declaration

NGS DoRR: Declaration of REACH Requirements

NGS PRODUCT DATA SHEET: Facts and figures stripped of any marketing, suitable for specifications

NGS PRODUCT PAGE: bringing all the manufacturer's product information in one place

NGS OUTLINE SPECIFICATION: clauses

NGS ROBUST SPECIFICATION: work section

CAP'EM LCA: Life Cycle Analysis

CAP'EM INDIVIDUAL IMPACTS: Embodied energy, Embodied Carbon, Sequestered Carbon, GHGP, ODP, etc.

CAP'EM MARGINAL ANALYSIS: Identifying high impact ingredients

CAP'EM DETOX: Product improvement using ToxList, LCA and Marginal analysis

CAP'EM EPD: Environmental Product Declaration

© [BrianSpecMan](#) aka Brian Murphy 17th August 2013 – 12th September 2013

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