

**vertilux®**

**Product  
Stewardship**

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## PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

**Effective Date:** *this Privacy Policy was last modified on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2023.*

### What is Product Stewardship?

Product stewardship involves taking responsibility for the full life cycle of a product, including the development, design, creation, production, assembly, supply, use or re-use, recovery, recycling or disposal of the product. It is one of the ways that businesses can promote and support the principles of a circular economy and reduce the impact, or potential impact, of a product on the environment and human health.

Examples of good product stewardship are when:

- people recycle products, and their packaging
- companies design their products for easier recycling
- companies use more recycled materials and less resources to manufacture their products
- companies limit the hazardous materials their products contain.

The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water define it as 'Everyone who imports, designs, produces, sells, uses and disposes of products has a shared responsibility to reduce the environmental and human health and safety impacts of those products'.

### Principles for Product Stewardship Policy

The following principles are referred to guide the development of product stewardship policies and legislation.

#### 1. Producer Responsibility

- 1.1 All producers selling a PSP covered product are responsible for designing, managing, and financing a stewardship program that addresses the lifecycle impacts of their products including end-of-life management.
- 1.2 Producers have flexibility to meet these responsibilities by offering their own plan or participating in a plan with others.
- 1.3 In addressing end-of-life management, all stewardship programs must finance the collection, transportation, and responsible reuse, recycling or disposition of covered products. Stewardship programs must:
  - Cover the costs of new, historic and orphan covered products.
  - Provide convenient collection for consumers throughout the State.
- 1.4 Costs for product waste management are shifted from taxpayers and ratepayers to producers and users.
- 1.5 Programs are operated by producers with minimum government involvement.

## **2. Shared Responsibilities**

- 2.1 Retailers only sell PSP covered products from producers who are in compliance with stewardship requirements.
- 2.2 State and local governments work with producers and retailers on educating the public about the stewardship programs.
- 2.3 Consumers are responsible for using return systems set up by producers or their agents.

## **3. Governance**

- 3.1 Government sets goals and performance standards following consultation with stakeholders. All programs within a product category are accountable to the same goals and performance standards.
- 3.2 Government allows producers the flexibility to determine the most cost-effective means of achieving the goals and performance standards.
- 3.3 Government is responsible for ensuring a level playing field by enforcing requirements that all producers in a product category participate in a stewardship program as a condition for selling their product in the jurisdiction.
- 3.4 Product categories required to have stewardship programs are selected using the process and priorities set out in framework legislation.
- 3.5 Government is responsible for ensuring transparency and accountability of stewardship programs. Producers are accountable to both government and consumers for disclosing environmental outcomes.

## **4. Financing**

- 4.1 Producers finance their stewardship programs as a general cost of doing business, through cost internalization or by recovering costs through arrangements with their distributors and retailers. End of life fees are not allowed.

## **5. Environmental Protection**

- 5.1 Framework legislation should address environmental product design, including source reduction, recyclability and reducing toxicity of covered products.
- 5.2 Framework legislation requires that stewardship programs ensure that all products covered by the stewardship program are managed in an environmentally sound manner.
- 5.3 Stewardship programs must be consistent with other State sustainability legislation, including those that address greenhouse gas reduction and the waste management hierarchy.
- 5.4 Stewardship programs include reporting on the final disposition, (i.e., reuse, recycling, disposal) of products handled by the stewardship program, including any products or materials exported for processing.

**Vertilux Product Stewardship is committed to responsible product life cycle management and the core principles of product stewardship and manufacturer responsibility. Additionally, it supports the delivery of safe, compliant and sustainable window coverings and components that help our customers manage light and privacy in their internal environments.**

We recognize that in today's world making a commitment to environmental responsibility means more than reducing the environmental impacts of our finished products themselves. It also involves understanding and ensuring the effective management of health, safety and environmental risks during the discovery, development, manufacture, use and disposal of our products.

Given that materials in their various guises are an integral part of the indoor environment where people spend over 80% of their time, consequently they can significantly affect indoor air quality and give rise to a range of risks from potentially toxic emissions, to increasing our exposure to fire where flammability and the release of toxic gases during a fire can be a factor.

Vertilux is committed to ensuring that its blind systems, fabrics and components are safe for people and the environment - from the time we source raw materials through to our products' ultimate use in hundreds of applications. We have established a reputation for reliability in this area among employees, customers, industry, and health and safety officials based on our voluntary product stewardship standards and practices. Investment in these practices and undertaking life cycle assessments, enable high environmental ratings and reduces exposure to commercial risk and asset obsolescence by ensuring assets are 'future ready'.

With this goal in mind, we have been working to reduce the environment impacts of our operation and products since 1995, employing the best available technology and following procedures to ensure that these standards and practices meet or exceed product safety requirements everywhere we do business.

**At Vertilux, our Product Stewardship includes:**

- Ensuring that we comply with mandatory product legislation and regulations to meet required local, regional, national and business specific standards.
- Continual improvement of products to avoid potential problems before they become human or environmental hazards.
- Taking health, safety and environmental impacts into consideration when developing new products and applications.
- The inclusion of recyclability design concepts and environmentally efficient and sustainable manufacturing procedures.
- Sampling and testing material in our finished products to ascertain their composition, quality and safety.
- Hazard identification and risk assessment to maintain a safety culture.
- Investing in equipment and monitoring and encouraging safe workplace behaviours.
- Developing safety information for people who work with our products at every stage in the supply chain.
- Reducing the environmental footprint of our products and its packaging by specifying the use or recycled packaging.
- Voluntary adoption of the Restriction of Hazardous Substances (RoHS) standard.
- End-of-life Management for responsible reuse, recycle or disposition of products.

Vertilux offers premium Blind Systems and components that provide added value to its customers. Product Stewardship summaries are provided to the public via the Vertilux website and give more information about Vertilux Products. Vertilux strives to improve the products it sells by reducing any product risk associated with use, while maintaining value derived by the customer.

## Product Reviews

Vertilux regularly reviews its products for potential impact to the environment, health and safety. These reviews help identify adverse effects on human health and the environment from exposure during each stage of the product life cycle. All products are assessed for improvement opportunities at each stage of the product's life cycle as indicated below:

	Yes	No
Development of product concept	x	
Research and development	x	
Certification	x	
Manufacturing	x	
Marketing and promotion	x	
Storage, distribution and supply	x	
Use and service	x	
Disposal, reuse or recycling	x	

## About Us

Since 1977, Vertilux has been Australia's largest blind manufacturer and a market leader in the supply of commercial window furnishings for architectural and sustainable design. Manufacturing products that carry the hallmarks of quality, innovation, and excellence, breathing new life into window design.

Leading the way in blind system technologies, Vertilux's dedication to innovation has stood the test of time in refining and delivering bespoke solutions for window coverings. In doing so, we developed the world's first Spring Assist Roller Blind System. Patented by us in 1998, it is still the only system of its kind in the market today. We then developed another Australian first with our Multilink Roller Blind System in 2005, followed by our Fully Enclosed Kasset System in 2006, holding several patents for advanced blind configurations along the way.

Around this time, we also began developing our Greenvision® Fabric Collection, which was borne from our desire to avoid harmful substances that could be toxic or harmful to human health. Therefore, fabric ranges included had to satisfy minimal key environmental and health impacts, be PVC-free and low in Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), gases emitted into the air from these products or manufacturing processes.

In addition to achieving excellent eco ratings, it was mandatory that these fabric ranges also met the requirements as set out by the International Oeko-Tex 100 Certification. Demonstrating our commitment to a sustainable built environment, Vertilux became a member of the Green Building Council of Australia (GBCA), another first in the window coverings industry in 2007.

Greenvision® officially launched in 2008, along with our Environmental Statement, which included our popular Trevira CS fabrics which were the first permanently flame-retardant polyester fibres introduced in Australia that formed the basis for a new generation of functional textiles, noted for their excellent durability, resistance and high colour brilliance. Before that everything was predominately PVC coated fibreglass.

Our **Waste Not Want Not** initiative was introduced in 2010 when we actively began reducing our environmental impact, regulating supply chain management to reduce waste, engaging recycled packaging suppliers, and recycling reusable packaging from incoming raw materials.

Vertilux then became the first in Australia in the window coverings industry in 2012 to have our Blind

Fabrics assessed by independent, environmental organisation, Global GreenTag International one of the most scientifically advanced, independent product certification systems in the world for the green building industry, to validate how our products contribute credit points to projects under Green Star®, LEED® and WELL™ rated Building Standards, as well as aligning with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In 2015, plans to build a new Head Office began which was completed in 2017 with an insulated roof to reduce energy consumption. 400 Solar Panels were also installed on the roof to power our factory with renewable energy, significantly reducing our carbon footprint and part of our commitment to minimise social and environmental impacts.



Vertilux's technical innovation, resilience and ability to lead insightful design solutions for the build environment has created positive change for our planet and a sustainable future which has seen our newest eco fabric collection, the Ecolight Fabric Series emerge in 2021. The technical capabilities of this series combines sustainability and performance, delivering on our commitment to continuous improvement for responsible window coverings along with its unparalleled aesthetic qualities, providing excellent options for comfort, safety and long-lasting durability.

At Vertilux, we are passionate about delivering sustainable designs that optimise light, manage privacy and improve thermal control while instilling strict standards for responsible sourcing and manufacturing. Every blind is created to meet the highest standards of performance and functionality.

### **PVC Based Products**

Although PVC is the less desirable and sustainable option when compared to other fabric materials, there are areas in the market where PVC products are suited and demanded. End of life recycling options, where available are developing and incorporated where possible and we are continually working with available recycling and post-consumer waste programs.

As a manufacturer and supplier of window coverings on a project by project basis, we will contractually take back all PVC products for reprocessing into new product or recycled. In addition, Vertilux will continue to collaborate with industry stakeholders to ensure the best outcomes across PVC product supply and end of life options in Australia.

## REVIVE Take Back Program

Vertilux is currently developing a take back program to promote responsible management of PVC Products. Having been an advocate for reducing the environmental footprint and contributing to the sustainable development of society and the world throughout all areas of our business activities.

Vertilux actively promotes and markets messaging towards a greener environment, leaving a lighter footprint and our latest Ecolight fabric series to name a few, with sustainability remaining a core principle for us.



Global GreenTag's GreenRate certification is a Green Building Council of Australia, New Zealand and South Africa recognised product rating system designed to meet the requirements of the Green Star 'Sustainable Products' credits. All certified products are examined for 'Fit-for-Purpose' and confirmed for Building Code compliance. Based on full disclosure of ingredients, it looks in detail at Health and Ecotoxicity, Building/Production Synergy and Corporate Social Responsibility, underpinned by rigorous scientific and Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) processes.

The Tags: What do they mean?

The Level of Certification equates to a 'Sustainability Factor' in the Green Star rating tools' Sustainable Products credits.

GreenRate Level A = 100%

GreenRate Level B = 75%

GreenRate Level C = 50%

Green Star® is also recognised by:

- The Infrastructure Sustainability Rating tool in Australia and New Zealand
- Malaysian Government's MyHijau Program
- Singapore BCA's Green Mark International Program
- Urban Development Institute of Australia's EnviroDevelopment Program

Global GreenTag's newly introduced PHD Material Health transparency is a globally relevant tool particularly for the green building industry. Importantly, it is formally recognised by the WELL™ Building Standard in 5 core WELL features and is also compliant with LEED® Product Disclosure Credits. Currently, a Global GreenTag PHD has formal WELL™ Building Standard Equivalencies recognised globally for core product-related Features and the tool is also compliant with the LEED® program, used in 108 countries that has significantly upgraded its criteria for materials transparency and optimisation.

The GreenTag HealthRATE marks ranges from Bronze (indicating a product has achieved a Good Health-RATE) through to Silver (Very Good), Gold (Excellent) and Platinum (World Leading). End users and consumers with specific medical concerns now have on the back of our PHDs the detailed ingredient information they need, to get detailed individual advice from their medical practitioners about products they are looking to bring into their workplaces or homes.



## Our Continued Commitment

Our REVIVE take back program is designed to show Vertilux's continued commitment to closing the loop towards a sustainable future and gives rise to further marketing campaigns in the future.

Key channels for promotion will be via:

1. Website Refresh
2. Social Media
3. Marketing Collateral



## Reduction of Waste

Since 2010, Vertilux actively began a waste reduction strategy, working with Suppliers to identify more sustainable alternatives and materials as well as exploring opportunities to reduce their use. At which time, we also undertook reviews of production lines and administrative processes for unnecessary procedures and rework before encouraging internal stakeholders to reuse, recycle and undertake resource recovery within the business to reduce waste.

With the introduction of the **Waste Not Want Not** initiative, waste management and recycling became part of our working methods. Vertilux began ordering fabric in different size rolls to maximise use and reduce waste. All waste and associated scrap was managed through streamlined waste management procedures and partners to maximise recycling and minimise waste going to landfill. Vertilux also undertook the procurement of goods containing recycled content and office stationery. This was later formalised by way of our Environmental Policy released in 2013.



**vertilux®**  
wherever there's a window

**WASTENOT WANTNOT**

A small snippet of the Vertilux Roller Blind production facility at the Tullamarine premises.

Robert Cantarella | Production Supervisor  
Roller Blinds shows some of the areas that work towards the Vertilux **Waste Not Want Not** philosophy.

1. Euroscreen in varying widths: 1500mm, 2100mm, 2500mm and 2800mm stored on motorised roll storage.
2. Fabrics rolled out on cutting table.
3. Ultrasonic cutting of fabric that seal the edges as it cuts.
4. Robert confirming details of an order with a client.
5. Fabrics cut ready for manufacture of a roller blind order.



## Recycling of Packaging

Packaging material from incoming goods was recovered and separated in a dedicated area of the factory and then reused where possible. In the crate below, to protect blinds being despatched and stop them from moving around whilst in transit.



## End of life Management

In addressing end-of-life management, we collect, transport and aim for responsible reuse, recycling and or disposition of historic or orphan covered products. Working hand in hand with our national distribution network to provide convenient collection and transportation of these products.



**vertilux®**  
control your environment

**ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY**

Vertilux is a major supplier of blinds to the commercial market. As a key member of the blinds manufacturing industry in Australia, Vertilux recognises that it has a number of responsibilities to the environment, to the community and across the entire industry and supply chain. Our goal is to be the most sustainable blind manufacturer in the world.

What does Vertilux mean by sustainable blind manufacturing? The following points represent key guidelines Vertilux will use to ensure the production process is viable.

- Use less materials to produce more product.
- Lead through supply chain management.
- Manage the supply chain to reduce waste.
- Work from a position of knowledge across all aspects of operations.
- Lift the scale of Vertilux to positively influence the industry and Government.
- Be an industry leader in sustainability and environmental performance. Vertilux will eliminate practices and the use of products that emit harmful or toxic emissions including greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.
- Use the results from in-house strategies to provide a business case for the rest of the industry and positively influence the greater industry.
- Lead through research and design in blinds. This encompasses fabrics and differences in manufacturing through to new generations of blinds that offer tangible environmental benefits to the user and the world.
- Endeavour to use local solutions to procurement needs, where viable.
- To have internal energy efficiency and environmental responsibility as standard practice.
- There is no such thing as a waste stream. Just an opportunity to recycle and save cost. Vertilux will become a net waste burner.

Vertilux is not concerned with competition, that is a given. Vertilux intend to be the world leaders in sustainable blinds manufacturing. Vertilux will use the lessons learnt to achieve this position to influence their competitors to strive for a better performance.

green building council australia  
scoopcenter  
GREENVISION  
WASTENOT WANTNOT

## Sustainable Waste Management Recycling

Through sustainable waste management, Vertilux aims to lessen the amount of natural resources depleted, reuse substances taken from nature as much as possible and minimise waste, ensuring it is disposed in a manner that does not jeopardise the environment, human health or future generations. This includes any activity from prevention, reduction, recycling, recovery or disposal to the final treatment.

Employing a circular supply chain, Vertilux aims to offer as many opportunities and benefits not just to the economy but also to society and the environment. It involves collecting, grouping, treating, recycling, and providing a source of energy and resources when appropriately engaged.

Vertilux currently recycles aluminium, cardboard, packaging and fabric to minimise waste going to landfill.



## Material Re-use

Every time we throw away a product, we essentially also are losing all of the energy and resources that went into its production. Although recycling a product is sometimes an option, reuse and repair rank much higher than recycling in terms of having a stronger environmental impact. Following on from the maximisation of material recycling, the final focus for us was on material re-use to lengthen the lifespan of our products. These include but are not limited to Product Sampling, Prototyping and donating materials for arts and craft.



## Product Sampling

Vertilux's standard recovery procedures enable larger pieces of fabric and aluminium componentry to be reused for product sampling and prototypes which are initially stored awaiting conversion and then ultimately cut down for various sampling programs and/or individual fabric/sampling requests.



## Recycled Products

Introducing fabrics containing recycled content into our product offering by way of our Ecolight Fabric Series in 2021 was the final part of our Product Stewardship strategy. Fabric Ranges in this series included **Pre-Consumer Recycling**, residual industrial waste resulting from the manufacture of polyester fibres and filaments and **Post-Consumer Recycling**, consisting of 100% recycled PET bottles through different recycling processes.

A number of these Fabric Ranges in our Ecolight Fabric Series have been verified with the Global Recycle Standard (GRS), increasing transparency and assurance for recycled fibres.

The GRS is an international, voluntary, full product standard that sets requirements for third-party certification of recycled content, chain of custody, social and environmental practices and chemical restrictions. The GRS includes a higher (50%) minimum recycled content percentage and additional social and environmental requirements related to processing and chemical use.

The GRS is intended to meet the needs of companies looking to verify the recycled content of their products (both finished and intermediate) and to verify responsible social, environmental and chemical practices in their production. The objectives of the GRS are to define requirements to ensure accurate content claims and good working conditions, and that harmful environmental and chemical impacts are minimised. This includes companies in ginning, spinning, weaving and knitting, dyeing and printing and stitching in more than 50 countries.



vertilux®



**EcoLight**  
FABRIC SERIES

OUR LIGHTEST FOOTPRINT YET!



The Future of Fabric Innovation...

### Introducing our Ecolight Fabric Series

You've made a great choice in choosing our Ecolight Fabric Series!

Today's increased awareness of the health impacts of building products within the design and construction industry, has seen material transparency and toxic chemical avoidance emerge as crucial product selection factors. Specifying recycled materials is a more sustainable practice and reduces the demand for virgin materials. Not only is the material's life span extended and in turn, waste going to landfill reduced, but it can also be viewed as a key design feature of your project.

Since 1998, Trevira have continued their technological advancements. Their new Trevira CS eco brand is no different and unites the two properties of flame retardancy and sustainability. All the while maintaining Trevira's extraordinary high colour brilliance and fastness to light, making these fabrics incredibly hardwearing while retaining their aesthetic qualities for a long time, even with intensive use.

Under this new brand, Trevira offers products which have been manufactured through different recycling processes. The staple fibres used for the Staple yarn is 100% (Pre-Consumer) Recycled PET material from industrial waste and the Filament yarn consist of 50% Recycled PET content (Post-Consumer). The recycled chips, fibres, and filaments carry the GRS certificates (Global Recycled Standard) and RCS-NL (Recycled Claim Standard). Additionally, its Ceko-Text Standard 100 certification offers 'Confidence in Textiles,' ensuring that Trevira's fibers are tested to be free of harmful levels of more than 100 restricted chemicals.

Lastly, specifying fabrics in our EcoLight Fabric Series will assist your projects in meeting the following objectives:

- ✓ Building / Product Synergy
  - Increasing Efficiency of Building Systems
- ✓ Health & Ecotoxicity
  - Fit for Purpose Certified
- ✓ Performance & Sustainable Design
  - Responsible Materials
  - Contributes to Green Star Credits



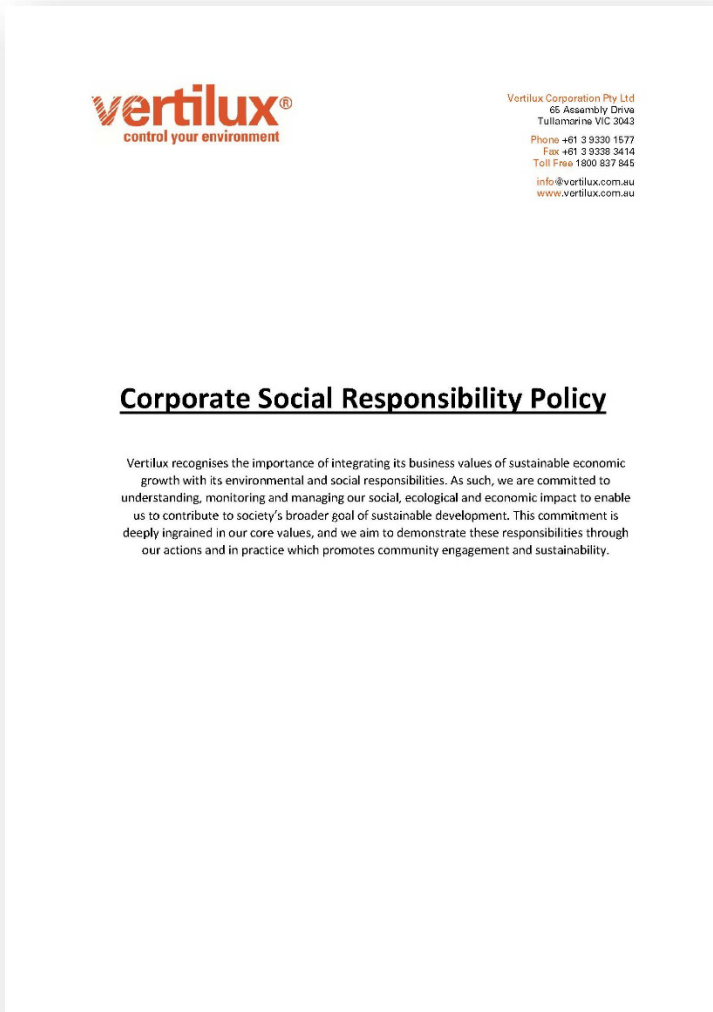
   

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## Corporate Social Responsibility

Vertilux recognises the importance of integrating its business values of sustainable economic growth with its environmental and social responsibilities. As such, we are committed to understanding, monitoring and managing our social, ecological and economic impact to enable us to contribute to society's broader goal of sustainable development. This commitment is deeply ingrained in our core values, and we aim to demonstrate these responsibilities through our actions and in practice which promotes community engagement and sustainability.

Our Corporate Social Responsibility Policy below was implemented in 2018.



## How to Contact Us

If you require more detailed information about our information handling practices or if you have any concerns about our handling of your personal information, please let us know by contacting us at:

Privacy Officer  
Vertilux  
22 Thomsons Road  
Kellor Park VIC 3042

We will endeavour to respond to your concerns as quickly as possible.

## Revision Summary

Version	Date	Revision Notes	Approved By
DRAFT	11.04.23	First Draft	D.Hessenberger
1.0	1.06.23	First Release including references	D.Hessenberger
2.0	11.07.23	Principles for PSP, PVC Products & REVIVE Program	D.Hessenberger

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