

## KCMA ESP Standard

*Making sure more than just our cabinets last.*



**ALL PRODUCTS IMPACT THE ENVIRONMENT  
FOR ESP PROGRAM CRITERIA, VISIT [KCMA.ORG](http://KCMA.ORG)**

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Kitchen Cabinet Manufacturers Association

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### KCMA Environmental Stewardship Program (ESP) – KCMA ESP 01-20

Renewable/recycled wood products are the primary material for cabinetmaking. KCMA members promote sustainability and encourage industry suppliers to participate in recognized programs such as Sustainable Forestry Initiative, American Tree Farm, Forest Stewardship Council and others. The association has developed a unique certification program, the Environmental Stewardship Program (ESP), to enable cabinet manufacturers to demonstrate their commitment to sound environmental management and sustainable practice.

As the developer and certification administrator of the industry performance standard, ANSI/KCMA A161.1 Performance and Construction Standard for Kitchen & Vanity Cabinets for over 40 years, KCMA launched the ESP program in 2006. The ESP certification program is audited by ANSI, a 3rd party IAS accredited certification organization. The ESP certification program is referenced in the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) ANSI/ICC 700 National Green Building Standard™ as the benchmark in green cabinet standards.

KCMA ESP certification takes a holistic approach to environmental stewardship providing companies with tangible ways to support sustainability in the areas of air quality & pollution prevention, resource sustainability, waste minimization, environmental stewardship and community relations. Companies obtain KCMA ESP certification by earning at least 70 points towards certification. Participants must earn points in each of the five categories detailed above.

All ESP certified companies are awarded the green ESP seal to display on their products. The ESP seal lets consumers, builders, architects, and others know they are supporting sustainability when they buy or specify ESP certified products.

### Benefits

In addition to helping ensure the future of both the environment and the cabinet manufacturing industry, ESP certified manufacturers enjoy the following benefits of the Environmental Stewardship Program:

- The status and prestige of participating in a program setting new standards in sustainability
- Recognition on the [www.kcma.org](http://www.kcma.org) web site.
- Technical advice and assistance from KCMA staff to help keep companies in compliance, or in case of failure, assist in returning companies to compliance.
- Use of the Environmental Stewardship Program seal for display on cabinets as well as in advertising and promotional literature.

### How the Program Works

The Environmental Stewardship Certification Program is administered similar to the ANSI/KCMA A 161.1 performance standard for cabinets. Any manufacturer of pre-finished, factory assembled cabinets may participate. Companies that manufacture component parts may also participate in this program provided they can earn the required points under the same criteria as cabinet manufacturers.

Companies do not have to be KCMA members to participate. No testing is required, but documentation and certain records (all kept strictly confidential) will be necessary to verify compliance. Certification will be awarded on an annual basis and is based on compliance in five categories.

These categories contain 29 different criteria with a total of 240 possible points. The majority of criteria are worth 5 points each, a few are worth up to 20 points depending on the effort needed to meet the criteria's requirements. To be certified a manufacturer must score a minimum of 70 points. Participants will not be able to claim every item due to factors such as size, infrastructure, products used and location.

#### Mandatory Requirements

Manufacturers must have a firm commitment to environmental stewardship as evidenced by a written policy statement.

ESP participants agree to report to KCMA within 60 days of any local, state, or federal citation in excess of \$50,000 per violation. Final resolution of such citation could lead to termination from the program.

All particleboard, MDF and hardwood plywood that is manufactured or purchased must be claimed and 100% of each product must comply with the applicable TSCA Title VI formaldehyde emission limits or equivalent regulations pursuant to the Canadian Environmental Protection Act.

New applicants will need to furnish at least four months of supporting data for CPA ECC 4 or Benchmark CWSS compliance in Sections II A., B., and C. Renewal applications will need to submit the previous twelve months of supporting data.

## KCMA ESP Standard

Effective Date: 9/20/19

Date of Last Revision: 9/20/19

Mandatory Requirements: 1) All particleboard, MDF and hardwood plywood that is manufactured or purchased must be claimed and 100% of each product must comply with the applicable EPA TSCA Title VI or relevant Canadian Environmental Protection Act formaldehyde emission limits. 2) Manufacturer has a firm commitment to environmental quality as evidenced by a written policy statement.

I. Air Quality & Pollution Prevention	Points
A. 100% of laminated products produced prior to 3/22/2024 utilize an exempt resin system defined in TSCA Title VI (pursuant to §770.4)	5
B. Manufacturer has a documented energy conservation program	5
C. Manufacturer has met or exceeded source reduction and waste management goals in section 8 of the Toxic Release Inventory Form R or has listed source reduction activities in section 8.10.1 of Form R	5
D. Manufacturer has developed environmental product declarations (EPD) Not Certified 5 points, certified 15 points	Various

II. Resource Sustainability	Points
A. 80% or more of Particleboard meets the CPA ECC 4-19 or Benchmark CWSS Standard	10
B. 80% or more of MDF meets the CPA ECC 4-19 or Benchmark CWSS Standard	10
C. 80% or more of the hardwood plywood meets the Benchmark CWSS standard	10
D. Manufacturer or subset of manufacturer has received Chain of Custody (COC) certification through a recognized sustainable forestry program with at least one product line offering COC certified product or as an order option: Initial year - 10 points, subsequent years 5 points	Various
E. Annual manufacture or purchase of hardwood and softwood lumber are Chain-of-Custody certified through a recognized sustainable forestry program (See KCMA Sustainable Forestry Statement). 100% - 20 points, 90% = 18 points, 80% = 16 points, 70% = 14 points, 60% = 12 points, 50% = 10 points, 40% = 8 points, 30% = 6 points, 20% = 4 points, 10% = 2 points	Various
F. Annual manufacture or purchase of hardwood and softwood plywood are Chain-of-Custody certified through a recognized sustainable forestry program (See KCMA Sustainable Forestry Statement). 100% - 20 points, 90% = 18 points, 80% = 16 points, 70% = 14 points, 60% = 12 points, 50% = 10 points, 40% = 8 points, 30% = 6 points, 20% = 4 points, 10% = 2 points	Various
G. Annual manufacture or purchase of hardwood and softwood lumber are Certified Sourcing certified through a recognized sustainable forestry program (See KCMA Sustainable Forestry Statement). 100% - 10 points, 90% = 9 points, 80% = 8 points, 70% = 7 points, 60% = 6 points, 50% = 5 points, 40% = 4 points, 30% = 3 points, 20% = 2 points, 10% = 1 point	Various
H. Manufacturer utilizes a written training plan on an annual basis to educate their hardwood suppliers of their purchasing preference for certified hardwood lumber	5
I. 100% of laminated products purchased prior to 3/22/2024 utilize an exempt resin system defined in TSCA Title VI	5
J. Manufacturer has a documented wood trade compliance or due diligence policy	10
K. Manufacturer has a documented policy that voluntarily prohibits the use of wood species listed in Appendices I, II, or III of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)	5

III. Waste Minimization	Points
A. Manufacturer has a comprehensive recycling program for process wastes in at least three of the following product categories: Cardboard, Paper, Plastic, Wood, Solvents, Metal	10
B. Manufacturer has a program for tracking and reducing process wastes with documented goals and reports (state specific programs)	10
C. Manufacturer uses internal or external process by-products to generate alternate energy services, e.g. electricity, steam, or other	5
D. Manufacturer has a program for reclaiming any cabinets and either sending them for recycle, reuse, or repurpose	5

IV. Environmental Stewardship	Points
A. Manufacturer has an Environmental Management System (EMS) in place. Not certified by third party 5 pts Certified by third party 15 pts	Various
B. Manufacturer reviews environmental practices and policies of its key vendors and contractors	5
C. Manufacturer has a documented program which promotes the use of renewable/recycled materials or products	5
D. Manufacturer is enrolled in EPA SmartWay Transport Partnership as a registered partner	5
E. Manufacturer has a documented corporate social responsibility report (CSR) or environmental social governance report (ESG)	10
F. Manufacturer has an environmental sustainability strategic plan	5
G. Manufacturer has developed health product declarations (HPD) for its cabinetry products. Not Certified 5 points, third party certified 15 points	Various

V. Community Relations	Points
A. Manufacturer demonstrates community involvement and leadership through service or charitable organizations (Habitat for Humanity, Food Banks, Emergency Response Agencies, hospitals and similar organizations)	5
B. Manufacturer has had no non-compliance citations from any Federal, state or local environmental regulatory agency in the previous 12 months exceeding \$15,000 per citation	5
C. Manufacturer highlights environmental initiatives on their website and uses the KCMA ESP logo on their home page	5

ADDITIONAL MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS:

- 1) Manufacturer agrees to report to KCMA within 60 days of any local, state or Federal environmental citation in excess of \$50,000 per violation.

Final resolution of such citation could lead to termination from the program.

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