



Call for Comments

Agrément South Africa ecoASA Specification for Ceramics

Call for Comments opened	24 January 2023
Call for Comments closes	22 February 2023
ecoASA Specification	Ceramics

Introduction and Background

The National Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (NDPW&I), through its entity Agrément South Africa (ASA), set about an initiative to develop an eco-labelling system, whereby ceramic products sold within the South African marketplace will be evaluated and rated in terms of their environmental and social impact. ASA invites all Built Environment professionals with relevant technical expertise to comment on the draft ecolabelling specification for Ceramic Products.

ASA was established in terms of a Ministerial Delegation of Authority by the Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure in 1969 to facilitate the introduction, application and utilisation of satisfactory innovation and technology development in the construction industry. ASA's vision is to be a centre of excellence for non-standardised construction products and systems. The entity's mission is to enhance its position as an internationally acknowledged South African centre of excellence, specialising in technical assessment, certification, quality assurance and R&D to ensure fitness-for-purpose of non-standardised construction-related products and systems.

Through ASA, the DPWI has facilitated the establishment of the only government-endorsed South African national eco-labelling system, known as ecoASA Label. The scheme is intended for use in the construction sector by issuing ecolabels for building materials and products that are environmentally sensitive. The establishment of this ecolabelling system stems from the department's Green Building Policy which states that:

"DPWI will facilitate the establishment of an eco-labelling system for building materials and products and will ensure that requirements for the use of environmentally sensitive eco-labelled materials and products be incorporated into SANS 10400X and in particular into indoor environmental quality and comfort, and material resource conservation and efficiency."

Furthermore, the policy also states that:

“DPWI will develop guidelines and minimum standards for environmentally sensitive eco-labelled materials. These guidelines and minimum standards will be adopted by Departments of Public Works and incorporated into the relevant Standard Specifications for Construction Works of the Department of Public Works.”

ASA was chosen as the licensor of the government’s ecolabelling scheme for building materials and products. The mandate of ASA is to conduct evaluations on behalf of the Board of Agrément South Africa, which is responsible for ratifying all technical reports and Agrément certificates. The ecoASA Label scheme is an extension of the entity’s core business, where qualifying construction materials and products will be assessed using eco-labelling specifications conforming to the principles of SANS/ISO 14024, the international standard for voluntary third-party programmes for assessing product environmental preferability.

The ecoASA specification for Ceramic Products will be subjected to public consultation for a period of 30 days with the aim of soliciting technical inputs from the industry relating to product category selection and review, product environmental criteria and product function characteristics. Through this process, ASA aims to ensure that the specification is appropriate for local conditions and reflects South African norms and standards, where applicable.

Scope of the Criteria

The ecoASA specification for Ceramic Products identifies the quality, regulatory, social and environmental criteria that ceramic products sold within the South African market are expected to meet to be considered by ASA as “environmentally preferable”. The overall goal of this specification, in accordance with the Type I environmental labelling requirements and declaration precincts of ISO 14024, is to encourage communication of verifiable and accurate information that is not misleading on environmental aspects of these products; the demand for and supply of these products that cause less stress on the environment, thereby stimulating the potential for market-driven continuous environmental improvement.

Commenting Instructions

Kindly review the attached **ecoASA Specification for Ceramic Products** and complete the attached Public Comment Form. Section 1 of the form deals with participant details, and Section 2 deals with comments on the criteria. You may add more lines to Section 2 if required. The specification will be published for a period of 30 days.



Closing Date

Public Comment Forms may be emailed to Ms Zama Thusi at ZThusi@agrement.co.za by **16:00** on **22 February 2023**.

Enquiries

For any enquiries, please contact Mhloti Mahlaule at Tel: 063 792 8105 or email MMahlaule@agrement.co.za.