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Sustainability requirements for office and non-domestic furniture for indoor use

Gap analysis for revision from version 2017 to version 2022

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1 Introduction

The FEMB Standard and the whole CASDS are revised according to CAS 2.6. Practical experience, changes in legislation, change requests and further proposals are considered.

This document points out the most important changes and decisions.

2 General and structure of Standard and CAS

2.1 Main sections: content and titles

The standard consists of eight sections, four of which contain the criteria for certification. Some content has been moved: Air emissions are now in the section "Energy and atmosphere", Hazardous waste is in the Material section together with the other criteria for waste management.

The actual title of section 7 is "Human and Ecosystem Health". Content is management of chemicals in products, in production and their emission into environment. Section is renamed to " Management of chemicals".

2.2 Ratio of onsite and offsite audit time

In TDN 05 Audit Time, section 1 the ratio of onsite and offsite audit time has been changed bei 10 percent points from 30% to 40% for maximum offsite audit time.

2.3 Scope of Surveillance audit

According to the relevant ISO 17065 and 17067 this CAS is a product certification scheme with elements of scheme type 1a and partly 6. Because of type 6 the surveillance of services and processes is required, the exact extent of surveillance is not defined. For type 1a surveillance is not mandatory. In CAS 4.4 Onsite Evaluation the surveillance audit is now exempted from onsite auditing under certain conditions, see also draft version of TDN 05 Audit time.

2.4 Introduction of decision rules for laboratories

A decision rule is introduced based on ILAC-G8:09/2019.

Accreditation bodies are requested with current application to state whether they continue to demand measurement uncertainties for all credits with numerical values after introduction of the decision rule. Measurement uncertainty values will be waived when hAB explicitly agrees to allowing only the decision rule "simple acceptance" (also called shared risk approach). If not so, the uncertainty values will remain.

3 Editorial changes

- Introduction of a text for verification and for the available points at all credits.
- Some credits that pose increasing demands in one category are named with "basic", "intermediate" and "advanced". This is changed because it is confusing. Certification levels do not rely on a certain credit level.
- Several credits have a different scope than gate-to-gate. Advice is added in the text when the scope is not gate-to-gate.
- Prerequisites only demanding compliance to EU legislation are deleted. Compliance to all relevant legislation is required by the Standard anyway. Some credits demanding compliance to EU legislation remain because these requirements are deemed indispensable even when applying the Standard outside the EU.
- Gaining points by renewing appropriate evidence and documentation is added to all relevant credits. This supports maintaining an already achieved level of conformance.
- The total amount of points is changed from 94 to 100. Transition between the two point systems is uncritical because the Level certificates refer to the three levels of conformance (1,2,3) and not to points. New credits receive points, at a few credits the allocated points are changed.

4 New or changed content

4.1 New prerequisite: Design for remanufacturing

New content: Products shall have in general the option to be remanufactured.

4.2 New credit: Activities for life cycle extension of products

A specific credit for circular economy activities including remanufacture extends the scope of circular activities already initiated by take-back and leasing and matches the growing expectations of procurers. The former credit for extended supply of spare parts is integrated here.

4.3 Credit Buy back, take back, leasing

The credit is renamed Product-as-a-Service with generally the same content.

4.4 Credit Carbon footprint and Greenhouse Gas

In the standard Greenhouse Gas can contribute up to six points and thus integrates the carbon footprint into the standard. Scope of credits is clearly defined, points are allocated to organisation.

4.5 Credit VOC emission from the finished product

Testing methods are updated and adapted to available testing chambers etc. after input from certification bodies and test laboratory. Requirements mirror upcoming legislative demands.

4.6 Credit Waste management

From old prerequisite a new credit was formulated, now including hazardous waste criterion moved from section 7.

4.7 Credit Water management

The scope of these credits is the final manufacturing facility. Water supply from own sources is newly introduced.

4.8 Credit Air emission

New point allocation for an inventory of air emissions. Credit was aligned to ANSI/BIFMA e3 where possible.

4.9 Products with paper components

Paper or cardboard is now also considered as material for certifiable products, e.g. partitions that contain an inner component made of paper.

4.10 Endocrine disruptors

Endocrine disruptors are still not classified by legislation and will not be considered in the standard.

4.11 Surface coating of wood, plastic or metal parts - Prerequisite on chemicals

The prerequisite is aligned with actual EU GPP criteria and practical demands from the market.