



Global-Mark P/L

Management Document G-89

Title: **Eco-Label Certification Program**

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This Document Is External





Document Information and Revision History

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Revision History

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1	1/11/2012	Herve Michoux	Original Release
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1 Why Do We Have This Document?

This document describes the Certification Program offered by Global-Mark Pty Ltd to Clients seeking independent audit, verification and third party certification of the environmental attributes of their products.

The program is open to any product manufacturer or service provider.

This document is subject to change without notice. The latest version is on our web site: www.global-mark.com.au.



2 Definitions:

Interested party: anyone who is significantly affected by the implementation of a particular standard. Note: for practical reasons, individuals may be grouped as interested parties. Where possible, interested parties are National, rather than State or Regional organisations or groups. Example interested parties: consumers, community groups, employers, regulators, governments, major purchasers, professional associations, unions, manufacturers, research and testing bodies.

Standard: The criteria for assessment of the environmental impact of a product or service are specified for a given generic product category. These environmental criteria are developed by an independent authority and they set the environmental impact standard that a product, in a given product category, must meet to be certified as environmentally preferable.

Global-Mark will only adopt standards that meet the following conditions:

- A national or international published standard, issued by a national or international standard writing body, industry group, consumer group or equivalent based on LCA principles.
- A specification published, and which is readily accessible by members of the public (code of practice, industry code, industry standard or guide etc).
- A standard must have been developed using a consultative, consensus based and transparent process, so that no dominating interest can influence the content of a standard.
- A standard must be based on a credible and competent scientifically robust LCA study.

Notes:

- *Certification to a standard can only be considered if the standard meets the above guidelines, and has been written to provide a certification framework (i.e. contains performance, monitoring, marking and/or testing guidelines)*
- *It is not Global-Mark's role to establish Standards. Global Mark may develop a Standard Complement to make an existing Standard capable of being used in a certification context. Standard Complements are available to the public*
- *Global-Mark will only certify to one standard per product category.*

Standard Committee: a committee representing major interested parties, with no single interest predominating in the product category, which collectively has the technical ability and is established to develop a new standard or revise an existing standard.

Environmental preferability; is a quantified measure of environmental aspects and impacts determined as a result of a demonstrable life cycle assessment study, followed by the development of a standard for that product category (compiled under the supervision of a standards committee representative of key stakeholders). Products that achieve an environmental impact score less than the score that 50% of functionally similar products in the market would score would be considered environmentally preferable.

Life Cycle Assessment (LCA): conducted in accordance with the requirements defined in ISO14041 Environmental management - Life cycle assessment - Goal and scope definition and inventory analysis. Global-Mark will only accept Standards based on scientifically based LCA.

Product category: a category based on the GEN Categories published Global Eco-Labeling Network. It is the aim of the program to ensure that products are grouped in functionally equivalent categories and to have categories sufficiently wide to encompass the range of variations and options available to the market. Global-Mark reserves the right to review, update categories or create new product categories.

Product criteria report: This is a generic life cycle assessment study of cradle to grave environmental impacts for a representative sample of the product range available to the Australian market, within a product category. The product criteria report may also consider and recognise specific geographic (e.g. climatic, seismic) or other implications of the products' creation, distribution, use, lifetime and disposal, reuse or recycling.

Products and services: Global-Mark's program has the ability to assess and provide Eco-Labeling certification to both manufactured products and the provision of services. For the purpose of this document and the Global-Mark certification program the term "product" can also be replaced by the term "service". A product or service may also cover a range of products and services, on the condition that the range remains sufficiently similar in design, manufacturing and distribution processes to be considered reasonably functionally equivalent.

Reference documents for LCA: Methods and Guidelines Reports established and published by local or internationally recognised organisations

3 Overview: demonstrates your products environmental credentials

3.1 Goal of labels and declarations (based on ISO 14020: 2000 Environmental labels and declarations - General principles)

'Through communication of verifiable and accurate information, that is not misleading, on environmental aspects of products and services, to encourage the demand for and supply of those products and services that cause less stress on the environment, thereby stimulating the potential for market-driven continuous environmental improvement'.

3.2 Types of Eco-Labels

Under the ISO identification system, there are a number of Eco-Labeling certification processes:

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- Type I (ISO14024)
 - Voluntary, Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) based, that award a label that indicates the overall environmental preferability of a product or service based on life-cycle considerations
- Type II (ISO14021)
 - Informative self-declared claims of environmental merit
- Type III (ISO14025)
 - Voluntary program that provides quantified environmental data of a product set by a qualified third party, based on LCA and verified by a third party.

Global-Mark offers Type I Certification.

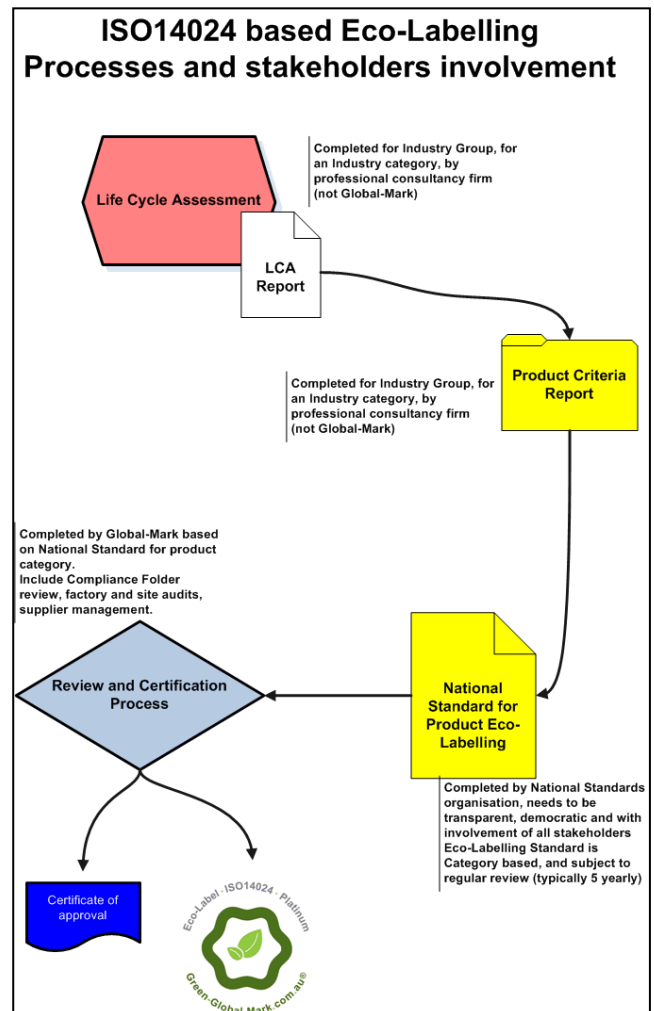
3.3 Life cycle assessment (LCA) to ISO14041

The Green-Global-Mark is a certification program based on ISO14024. This is a multi-criteria basis for assessing and comparing the environmental impacts of given products. Fundamentally this comparison can only be achieved by defining the “generic impacts”, and comparing a product against the generic baseline. On this basis, many products will be below the baseline and not eligible for certification.

An essential part of the certification program is the publication (not by Global-Mark) of a credible and comprehensive LCA for the product category under consideration. The purpose of this LCA is to identify the key parameters that distinguish environmentally preferable products from other products in the category. The LCA provides the benchmark performance criteria and requirements which demonstrate environmentally preferable performance. These Product Criteria Reports will need to be refined from time to time to ensure that the standards continue to reward environmentally preferable products and services.

Scientifically based LCA's are the only way to provide a reliable basis for assessing and promoting environment preferability. Consumer protection organisation and Trade Practices Acts may seek to challenge “green” claims and our certification program is based on a scientific, transparent process and provides a solid platform to demonstrate environmental claims.

The following chart presents the overview of the process, and the roles of the various parties involved.



3.4 Eco-Label rating: Silver, Gold, Platinum

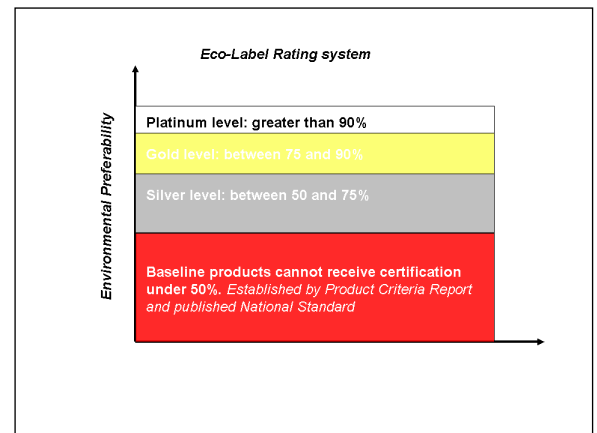
The eco-label rating of products and services is based on the following:

From the Environmental Standard for the product category, a range of environmental impact scores for the available variants of the product or service will be determined. To be eligible for Global-Mark's Eco Labelling program the product or service must at a minimum meet the requirements for environmental preferability.

The Green-Global-Mark Certification criteria are as follows:

- Silver: product achieve greater than 50 to 75% score
- Gold: product achieving greater than 75 to 90% score
- Platinum: product achieving greater than 90% score

Product may change category, based on process, design or resources improvements.



3.5 Environmental Product Declarations (EPD's)

The process for EPD's is essentially the same, except that the outcomes do not include an ecolabel, but a Global-Mark endorsed EPD, which can be used by architects, consultants or as an input into design tools / software.

The EPD process does not include weighting.

The EPD will be presented and expressed using the NSDO environmental impact categories and units, reporting on the inventory of key parameters causing the most impact and for a functional unit, which is also defined and documented in the EPD.

4 The need for Re-Certification and on-going Post Certification Reviews

Certification denotes that at the point of assessment, a product was found to comply with the set performance criteria detailed in the product standard.

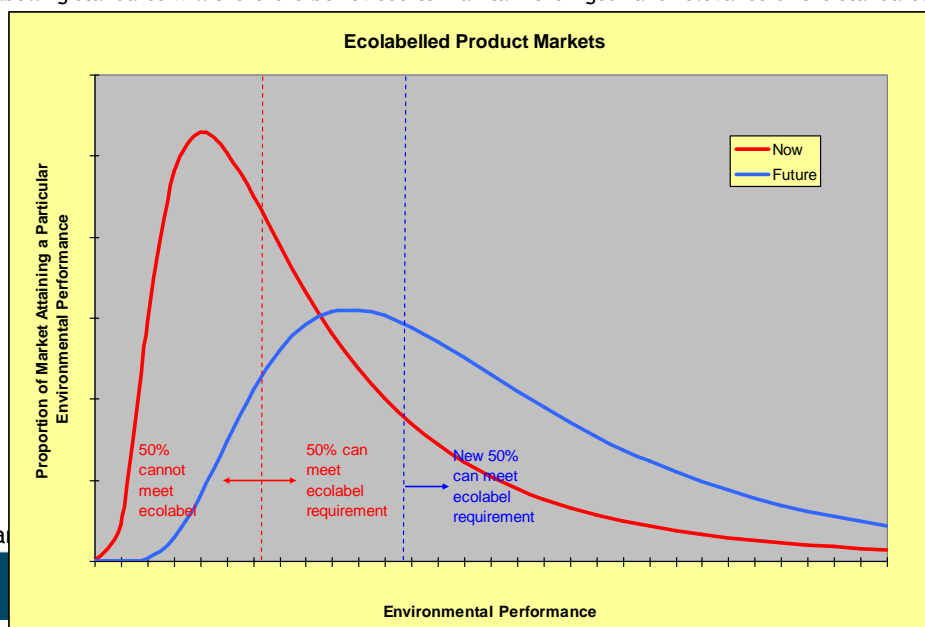
It is important that:

- The baseline (50% Eco-Label rating) is established:
 - independently from the certification, usually based on the findings of the NSDO Product Criteria Baseline Assessment (PCBA) or Product Criteria Report
 - taking into account all commonly available product variants within the product category
 - Independently from the organisation delivery certification or completing the LCA.

Furthermore, over time:

- Innovation in industry is likely to reduce the environmental impacts of products and services available to the markets,
- Climate mitigation is expected to become of greater concern
- Resource availability may reduce,
- Pollution tolerance may reduce as toxicants accumulate in the environment, and
- Community expectations and perception of acceptable environmental preferability may also become more demanding. This would be reflected in changes to the weightings assigned to each of the environmental performance measures.

The Eco-Labeling standards will therefore be revised to maintain the rigour and relevance of the standards - benchmarks may be





made more stringent and products that do not improve their performance, to keep pace with these changes, may be found to no longer meet the requirements of an eco-label range or no longer be able to meet the certification requirements.

The chart shows schematically the likely evolution of requirements and numbers of compliant products able to achieve the eco-label located on an environmental performance (preferability) scale.

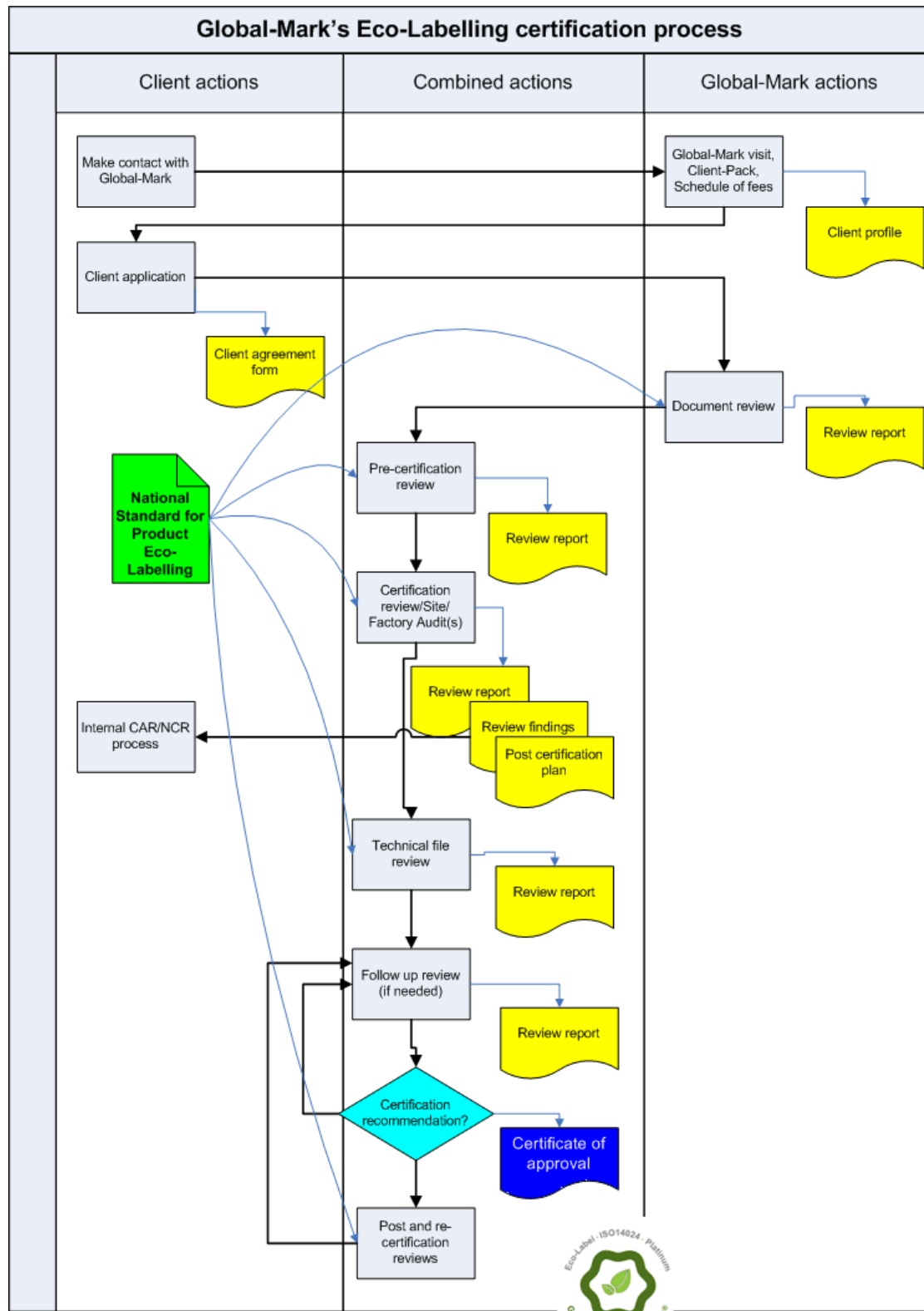
Our program involves, as a minimum:

- Yearly Post Certification reviews
- Five Yearly Re-Certification review (complete re-assessment of the product)



4.1 Process of Certification:

The following chart represents the certification process and the roles and responsibilities of each party:





Specific Program Conditions

Certificate Holder: it is a requirement of the program that the Certificate Holder be an organisation who has direct control of the product to the point of delivery (although the assessment may extend throughout the products' life cycle).

Revision of Eco-Labeling Standards: each Certificate Holder is given 12 months from the date of review of an Eco-Labeling Standard to demonstrate compliance with any new requirements arising from the revision of any eco-labeling standards.

Eco-Label Ratings:

Ratings are granted for a 3 year period and subject to on-going evaluation and review.

Products not achieving the required eco-labeling performance requirements: these products cannot receive certification until such time as the product, process or other parameters have been improved, re-modelled and found to comply with the standard. Global-Mark will keep confidential and not publish the status of any applicant product.

5 In Simple Terms “You will be surprised how cost-effective this is”

Whilst Eco-Labeling is becoming an increasing consideration to buyers or specifiers, there are several programs developed to inform their choice.

The Green Global Mark program, aims to provide rigour in its application of LCA and the development of the most credible, transparent Eco-Labeling Standards supported by comprehensive engagement and advice from stakeholders. Eco-labeling standards will be fully researched and published to demonstrate the rigour, objectivity and transparency of our processes. The program is one of the few internationally accepted eco-labeling tools which fully comply with the relevant ISO methodologies.

As part of the certification process, the key factors influencing your products life cycle (from “cradle to grave”) will be assessed. This may include:

- What you can control directly (production processes, transport and logistic, waste handling, reuse or recycling and disposal, recovery of post-consumer returned materials etc.
- What cannot be directly controlled directly: installation, use, cleaning and maintenance
- Feedstock material and product sourcing - energy, water, wastes reused from other sectors etc
- Regional conditions (availability of water, source of electricity etc)

Whilst certification is not mandatory (as yet), the LCA and assessment process provides an important quantification and realisation of environmental impacts, and therefore opportunities for improvements.

By using the models and baselines established as part of the LCA research and certification processes, Clients can easily assess activities and/or material which would have the greatest environment improvement impacts: this is the starting point for continuous to improvement and to further develop environmentally preferable products. We expect our clients to benefit significantly from the feedback from our reviews and assessment to incorporate into their plans for a cycle of innovation and continuous improvement.

Program Summary Card	
Issue	Program Rules/Comments
Standards	ISO14024 and Eco-Labeling Standard
Any other relevant documentation	ISO14041 for LCA
Target Audience	Any organisation
Global-Mark output document	Certificate of Approval
Other Global-Mark output document	Certification Schedule listing products and range
Certificate Validity Period	5 years
Certification Mark that can be used by the Client	Green-Global-Mark Silver, Gold or Platinum
Can this mark be used on product?	Yes
Periodicity of Post-Certification Reviews?	12 monthly
Periodicity of Re-certification Review	5 years
Steps to and Post-certification	
Application	✓
Document Review	✓
Pre-certification Review	✓ (optional)
Certification Review (site/factory audits)	✓
Technical File Review	✓
Follow-up Review	✓
Post-certification Review	✓ (12 monthly)

6 Companion documents to help understand this program

In order to fully understand this program, we recommend that you access and be aware of the following documents:

- G-00: Welcome Pack
- MSP-00: Introduction to our Management Systems
- MSP-01: Nomenclature and Definitions
- MSP-24: Appeals



7 Schedule of fees

Activity	Fee in Australian Dollar and Excl. GST (for Aus-NZ based Clients)	Comment
Application fee	\$1500	Per site, per product type
Document review & Technical file review Certification review fee	Charged on the basis of \$2000 per auditor day	Plus 1 day for planning and reporting Durations are dependent on the size and complexity of the company, product or process
Post-certification yearly fee	\$2000 per year per site (payable at certification, and thereafter on the anniversary of certification)	Plus auditing time, on the basis of \$2000 per auditor day. Plus ½ to 1 day for planning and reporting
Variations to scope of certification, or follow-up reviews fees	Charged on the basis of \$250 per hour	Minimum 3 hours for Australian based Clients, 1.5 days for others.
On-going Certification royalties	Nil	Global-Mark does not charge any royalty or licensing fees

Conditions

- Fees are in Australian Dollars, and GST is payable for Australian based clients. Fees are subject to annual review.
- This document should be read in conjunction with the Welcome Pack, available on our web site: www.global-mark.com.au, which presents the full terms and conditions, certification rules and process, certification programs, and rules governing certification marks.
- Travel costs and expenses: travel costs and expenses to and from the city where each team member or client manager is based will be charged at economy rates, unless directly organized by the client. It is our aim to minimize travel expenses by forward planning, and whenever possible sharing travel with other clients.
- Travel time: Global-Mark does not charge for travel time.
- Variations to scope of certification, or follow-up review fees if needed will be charged on the basis of \$250 per hour plus GST (minimum 3 hours for Australian based clients, 1.5 days for others)
- The accreditation levy is charged per year per certificate. Currently set at \$110 per year, per program.
- Hard copy certificate fee (per Certificate): \$40 plus GST. An electronic copy of your Certificate of Approval will be issued at no cost. This fee relates to printed copies.
- This document can be used as a Tax Invoice when making and paying an Application Fee (mentioned above). Global-Mark Pty Ltd ABN is: 55 108 087 654



Client Agreement Form and Application to Eco-Label Program

Your Company Undertakings

This is to confirm that our Company:

- Wishes to apply for Certification with Global-Mark Pty Ltd.
- Has read and agrees to comply with the procedures, processes, Terms and Conditions presented in Global-Mark's document: Welcome Pack (document G-00).
- Agrees to pay its bills within 14 days from receipt of an invoice in line with the above-mentioned Schedule of Fees, or Fee Proposal.
- Agrees not to bring Global-Mark into disrepute and to continue to comply with the requirement of the standard to which it seeks or has certification and to provide Global-Mark full access to records, people, processes and systems.
- Commits to being truthful and transparent in its relationship with Global-Mark, and will advise Global-Mark should any circumstance arise which may affect compliance to the standard to which it seeks or has gained certification.

We are aware that the above-mentioned documents are available at www.global-mark.com.au and are subject to change by Global-Mark.

We have read, understood and agree with the Fee Proposal or Schedule of Fees

Your Company Details

Are you a current Global-Mark Client?	Yes	No	Please circle which applies
Registered Company Name:			
Trading Name of your Company:			
Company Registration Number (ABN or ACN)			
Certification Standard(s)			
Product(s) seeking Certification			
Site/Factory (s) where the product is manufactured			

Your Company People

Key Technical Contact Person			
Name:		Position:	
Telephone:		Email:	
Financial Contact Person		As above? Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	
Name:		Position:	
Telephone:		Email:	

Declaration and Signature

I am authorised by the Company applying for Certification to sign this form, and to commit the Company to the Terms and Conditions of this Agreement with Global-Mark Pty Ltd.

Signature: _____ Name of Signatory: _____ Date: _____

PLEASE FAX TO: +61 +2 9886 0200 or CustomerService@global-mark.com.au