

# Hong Kong Green Label Scheme

## Product Environmental Criteria for Pencil (GL-004-002)



### BACKGROUND

The Hong Kong Green Label Scheme (HKGLS) is an independent and voluntary scheme, which aims to identify products that are, based on life cycle analysis consideration, more environmentally preferable than other similar products with the same function. The Scheme is organized by the Green Council (GC) with contributions from the HKGLS Advisory Committee and a number of supporting organizations.

The prime objectives of HKGLS are:

- For Consumers: assist in making purchases of products that are less harmful to the environment;
- For Industry: stimulate development and production of environmentally preferable alternatives.

This specification sets out the requirements that pencil will be required to meet in order to be licensed to use the HKGLS label. The requirements include environmental criteria and related product characteristics. The specification also defines the testing and other means to be used to verify conformance with the environmental criteria and product characteristics.

### POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

The environmental impact of pencil is related to heavy metals and the use of materials. The release of heavy metals may have toxic effects on humans and the environment. The use of packaging contributes to an increase in consumption of resources. In the case of wooden pencil, production of wooden pencil may exploit the use of natural forest.

### LABEL OBJECTIVE

The aim of the environmental criteria developed for pencil is to:

- Reduce the toxicity of the materials used and hence the potential health risk posed to the users.
- Minimize resource consumption and waste production by reducing the amount of primary packaging and promoting its re-usability and/or recyclability.

### PRODUCT DEFINITION

This document and all product environmental criteria therein apply to wooden pencils, colored pencils and mechanical or automatic pencils.

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**PRODUCT CRITERIA**

The table below sets out the environmental criteria for the product category of Pencil (GL-004-003) under the HKGLS.

Product Environmental Criteria	Verification Method(s)*
1. The material used on the product shall not contain antimony, arsenic, barium, cadmium, selenium, mercury, lead and chromium VI.	✓ Review of laboratory test report(s). <sup>1</sup>
2. In case of wood to be used in the production of pencils, wood type and its place of origin and the type of forest from which the wood was taken shall be specified.	✓ Review of supporting information.  A <i>declaration</i> of compliance shall be provided together with relevant supporting information.
3. General packaging requirements : (Refer to criteria for packaging materials : GL-Packaging)	✓ Inspection of product samples; AND ✓ Review of supporting information; AND ✓ Interview with relevant persone

\*Analytical testing should be accredited and performed by laboratories that meet the requirement laid out in the IEC/ISO 17025 or EN45001 standards or any equivalent systems e.g. HOKLAS, CNAS. Under special situation and with the approval from GC, test can be performed by in-house method by the accredited laboratory or manufacturer.

Note:

1. **Test Method:**

**Heavy Metal:** Atomic absorption spectrochemical analysis, ICP emission spectrochemical analysis.