STEEL SUSTAINABILITY AUSTRALIA (SSA)

CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS v1.3

AUSTRALIAN STEEL INSTITUTE

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Document Approval and Revision

Version	Document name	Date	Changes	Author	Reviewer
1.0	SSA Certification Program Technical Requirements	19/01/2023	For use	Thinkstep-anz	ASI (JB)
1.1	SSA Certification Program Technical Requirements	31/08/2023	Changes to Credit 2.2 EPD criteria, re-ordering and rewording of Credit 4.1 criteria for clarity, additional tools provided for Credit 4.1 additional wording added/edited for most Credits to provide clarity for audit assessment	ASI (JB)	ASI (PK,PC)
1.2	SSA Certification Program Technical Requirements	13/03/2024	Explanation of steel mill verification to Credit 4.1 and other minor changes	ASI (JB)	ASI (MC)
1.3	SSA Certification Program Technical Requirements	05/08/2024	Revised Credit 3.1 Paints and Coatings and Credit 4.1B Decarbonisation Requirements (ii). Replaced OH&S with WHS and other minor changes.	ASI (MC)	ASI (PK, PC)

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About this document

This document outlines the technical requirements ("Credits") and underpinning Principles of achieving compliance under each level of the Steel Sustainability Australia (SSA) certification program.

Implementation of, and compliance to the Program Principles are assessed through several Credits (or requirements) under each Principle. Each Credit outlines the requirements for compliance, guidance notes and supporting tools or information.

This document should be reviewed, in conjunction with the *SSA Certification Program Rules*, on applying for SSA certification to inform your decision on selecting a certification level and to support you in preparing for your audit to achieve SSA certification.

If you have any questions on the contents in this document, please contact:

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The Steel Sustainability Australia (SSA) Certification Program

The Steel Sustainability Australia (SSA) certification program meets the Australian Steel Institute's (ASI) Constitution object to promote and advocate for the "safe, productive and more sustainable steel manufacturing and design industry".

Its objective is to support the responsible and sustainable manufacturing and processing of steel and steel products in the Australian market. It is a holistic program and demonstrates the Australian steel industry's capacity to respond to the market's demand for more sustainable construction products.

To achieve this objective, the SSA certification program aims to:

- Supersede the ASI Environment Sustainability Charter (ESC) with an up-to-date best practice sustainability standard for steel manufacturing and processing, aligned to GBCA's Responsible Products Framework
- To independently assess sustainability performance in the manufacturing and processing of steel across the entire steel supply chain
- Provide specifiers, engineers, builders, and end users with the means to identify sustainable steel suppliers through transparent and consistent measurement of environmental, social and health impacts of steel products across the entire steel supply chain
- Identify principles which characterise the sustainable steel manufacturing and processing operations of steel products using responsible and ethical supply chain
- Define four pathways (levels of performance) for SSA Members to implement the principles in their operations
- Support the steel industry with a program that meets industry expectations of sustainability requirements in their manufacturing and processing of steel
- Encourage the broad participation of the steel industry in the SSA program to raise sustainable credentials

The Principles

The Steel Sustainability Australia (SSA) certification requires the highest governance standards and best practices in corporate governance systems. The ASI has modelled its SSA Program on the principles of the Green Building Council of Australia (GBCA) Responsible Products Framework (RPF) to reward operating companies that have lower environmental impact, are transparent, respect human rights, and are taking action to reduce carbon emissions and pursue circular solutions.

Principle 1. Governance

SSA certified companies conduct business transparently, with integrity and in compliance with relevant legislation. SSA certified companies should adhere to a strict code of conduct which prioritises fairness, equality, and transparency in all business practices. They should also be operating with robust environmental, and health and safety management systems in place.

SSA certified companies communicate openly with their stakeholders and enable stakeholders to engage effectively with them.

The objective of this principle is to provide a foundation, ensuring that all necessary systems and processes are in place so that SSA members can meet the requirements of this standard.

Principle 2. Responsible

SSA certified companies manufacture/supply steel products in a responsible manner, with impacts and contents being transparently disclosed and meeting high standards.

The impacts and contents of responsible products are transparently disclosed and meet high standards. Responsible products are those for which a science-based evaluation of environmental impacts is available, and independent assessments of carbon emissions. . Manufacturers, producers and suppliers of responsible products have documented environmental management systems in place to manage the environmental impacts from the production of the product.

The objective of this principle is that impacts and contents of SSA steel are transparently disclosed and meet high standards.

Principle 3. Healthy

SSA certified companies manufacture/supply steel products which contribute to healthy and socially constructive outcomes.

Healthy products are low or non-toxic and drive valuable social outcomes. These products reduce exposure to volatile organic compounds (VOCs), both during manufacture and once installed in a built asset. Manufacturers and producers of healthy products have

documented Workplace Health and Safety (WHS) management systems and procurement processes in place to restrict workers' exposure to physical, chemical and biological hazards, during manufacture or sourcing.

Companies should be taking clear steps to address modern slavery in the supply chain (where it exists) and should be working to create equitable conditions for anyone involved in the sourcing and manufacturing of the products.

The objective of this principle is that SSA steel is low or non-toxic and drives valuable social outcomes.

Principle 4. Positive

SSA certified companies manufacture/supply steel products which contribute to a positive, lower-impact future.

The steel feedstock used meets a set of ESG requirements to ensure that it is responsibly sourced.

Manufacturers and producers of positive products can demonstrate responsible extraction of resources and low material extraction impacts. Production of positive products results in reduced impacts to air, water, and land (from manufacturing activities) and sourcing or manufacturing does not impact areas with a high ecological value. Positive products demonstrate continual reductions in their impacts.
Outcomes that are better for the planet are central to this principle, which values carbon emission reductions, a low carbon trajectory, and ideally, carbon neutrality.

The objective of this principle is to avoid significant environmental impact from the manufacturing processes of SSA certified companies and to deliver climate positive outcomes.

Principle 5. Circular

SSA certified companies manufacture and supply steel products which are moving towards being part of a circular economy. Manufacturers and producers of circular products are reducing the impacts of their business on the natural environment by reducing the need for raw materials, and reducing waste by implementing strategies that encourage recycling, reuse, and re-selling of materials. Outcomes that are good for natural systems and that decrease pollution are central to this principle, which values reduced impacts to nature, reduced need for raw material extraction, and reduced waste generation. The objective of this principle is to avoid significant environmental impact from the manufacturing processes of SSA certified companies and to deliver circular outcomes.

SSA Scope of Certification

SSA Certified Steel Facilities or Suppliers

The SSA certification program certifies any steel manufacturing facility, including distributors, fabricators, roll formers, and reinforcing processors (downstream from raw steel manufacturing mills), in the sustainable sourcing, distribution, manufacturing, fabrication and processing of finished steel products. Certification is achieved by assessing compliance against best practice environmental, social and governance (ESG) indicators (Credits) aligned to the Principles stated above. Fabricators, roll formers, and reinforcing processors that are certified to meet SSA requirements are referred to as “SSA Certified Steel Facilities or Suppliers”.

Any downstream steel manufacturing facility supplying steel in the Australian market can apply for SSA certification online at: www.steelsustainability.com.au/join/#account-check

SSA Verified Steel Manufacturing Mill Suppliers

To ensure SSA Certified Steel Facilities or Suppliers are sourcing responsible steel feedstock, the SSA program verifies any upstream raw steel manufacturing mill against best practice ESG indicators in the responsible manufacturing of semi-finished steel products. Raw steel manufacturing mills that are verified to meet SSA requirements are referred to as “SSA Verified Steel Manufacturing Mill Suppliers”.

Any raw steel manufacturing mill supplying semi-finished steel to downstream steel manufacturers in the Australian market can apply for SSA verification online at: www.steelsustainability.com.au

SSA Certification Levels

The SSA certification program provides a tiered pathway for operating companies to achieve certification, enabling a gradual transition to increasing levels of sustainability performance over time.
Steel suppliers seeking SSA *certification* can choose to comply to the criteria under one of the four certification pathways listed (L1, L2A, L2B or L3).
Steel producers or manufacturing mills seeking SSA *verification* must comply to the criteria under SSA Credit 4.1 A-E.

Table 1 – Certification framework for Steel Sustainability Australia (SSA) Certification Program

Principle	Credit	L1	L2A	L2B	L3
Governance	1.1 Business Integrity	✓	✓	✓	✓
	1.2 Management Systems	✓	✓	✓	✓
	1.3 Stakeholder Engagement	✓	✓	✓	✓
Responsible	2.1 Environmental Management	✓	✓	✓	✓
	2.2 Environmental Product Declaration		✓		✓
	2.3 Health Impacts Disclosure			✓	✓
Healthy	3.1 Paints and Coatings		✓	✓	✓
	3.2 OH&S Management	✓	✓	✓	✓
	3.3 Procurement OH&S Assessment			✓	✓
	3.4 Modern Slavery			✓	✓
Positive	4.1 Steel Supply Sourcing	✓	✓	✓	✓
	4.2 Carbon Emissions Reduction				✓
Circular	5.1 Resource Management		✓	✓	✓

Compliance with all indicated criteria is mandatory for certification at the level sought.

The SSA certification levels have been developed to meet the sustainability objectives of the ASI, and the GBCA's Responsible Products Framework (RPF). The RPF is a set of criteria developed by the GBCA to reward responsible products. The Green Star Buildings rating tool (and all future Green Star rating tools) apply RPF criteria which permit up to 25% of the rating tool points to be awarded to products that have lower environmental impact, are transparent, respect human rights, reduce carbon emissions, and are preparing for a circular economy. Products that have achieved certification under a Recognised Initiative under the RPF will be awarded a Responsible Products Value (RPV). More information about the Responsible Products Framework can be found on the GBCA website.

Level 1: The first level is the simplest form of certification, with compliance requirements limited to the one section that relates to existing ESC content – Environmental Management plus the general Governance requirements for all certifications and the use of responsibly sourced steel. Level 1 is approved by the GBCA as equivalent to compliance under the ESC, which will be superseded by the more comprehensive SSA certification pathway. Level 1 certification does not meet the RPV benchmarks for a 'Good Practice product' or 'Best Practice product' under the RPF. However, may be used in combination with other certifications to help build upon a products RPV.

Level 2: The second level of SSA certification covers more holistic content, aligned with the sustainability objectives of the ASI and GBCA's Responsible Products Framework Level 2 certification achieves the minimum RPV required for a 'Good Practice product' recognition under the RPF and Green Star rating tools.

Two options are provided for reaching Level 2 certification. Pathway 2A includes the use of a product-specific EPD, from either the Applicant or the steel manufacturer. Pathway 2B includes additional requirements so that an EPD is not necessary to achieve compliance.

Level 3: The level is an aspirational level of SSA certification, achieving industry leadership, or best practice in steel Level 3 includes all criteria from pathways 2A and 2B plus one more, 'Carbon emissions reduction' to enable the highest level of recognition by the GBCA.

Level 3 certification achieves the minimum RPV required for 'Best Practice product' recognition under the RPF and the Green Star rating tools.

The RPVs are subject to change. The current RPV obtained for each level of SSA certification is published on the SSA website: steelsustainability.com.au

Alternative compliance pathways

The criteria are a combination of GBCA RPF criteria, and the sustainability objectives set by the ASI. However, SSA Applicants may propose an alternative pathway to compliance where they are able to meet the intent of a credit but not the specific wording. Where this option is sought, the applicant must provide written justification to the ASI explaining how the proposed alternative pathway fully meets the intent of every aspect of the existing credit. Where the ASI agrees with the proposal, the ASI will instruct the auditor to assess the applicant against the alternative pathway instead of the standard credit wording.
As the SSA matures, alternative pathways may be approved and formalised in revised versions of the SSA certification program. The ASI may use any alternative pathway for other applicants or revisions without compensation to the original applicant.

Revision to the Technical Requirements

The technical requirements in the document have been developed in consultation with GBCA, thinkstep-anz and steel industry members. The technical requirements may be revised after approval from GBCA, based on further feedback and consultation with SSA Applicants and Clients, and the SSA auditing body appointed by the ASI in accordance with the SSA Consensus Decision Making Policy (SSA-POL-003 – Consensus Decision Making Policy).

SSA Clients will be advised upon any revisions to the technical requirements, and any certifications prior to the revision will not be affected.

To provide feedback on the SSA Technical Requirements, please contact us in writing at sss@steel.org.au.

Principle 1: Governance

Credit 1.1 Business Integrity

Credit 1.1 is mandatory for all certification levels.

Code of Conduct

The Applicant promotes ethical and responsible decision-making and complies with all relevant policy, laws, regulations, and codes of best business practice.

The Applicant's ethics and operating principles are formalised in a written Code of Conduct addressing the following matters:

- Inclusion and Diversity
- Conflicts of interest
- Anti-bribery and corruption
- Whistleblower mechanism
- Confidentiality
- Engaging with communities

Management and employees must be aware of and trained in the Code of Conduct.

Supporting Tools:

SSA Credit 1.1 - Code of Conduct Template (optional)

Guidance:

A Code of Conduct is a set of rules or standards of conduct for employees of an organisation to follow, including the relationship between employees and with their customers. They can guard against misconduct and opportunistic behaviour, while fostering long term changes to business culture.

Applicants must provide policies covering the 6 matters, or alternatively use the SSA supplied template to develop a complying Code of Conduct for their organisation. Records of communication and training of employees in the Code of Conduct must be provided.

If there is an external or internal complaint about breaches of the Code of Conduct, evidence that the Applicant has addressed the complaint must be provided.

Credit 1.2 Management Systems

Credit 1.2 is mandatory for all certification levels.

A. Business Governance

The Applicant ensures that the company operates with good operational governance.

The Applicant has a business management system that:

- Documents policies, procedures, and processes to support the implementation of accountable business practices.
- Establishes roles and responsibilities for policy implementation.
- Communicates its policies and procedures to its workers using methods and channels that are easily accessible to them.
- Assigns accountability for policy implementation to senior management.
- Provides processes for document control.

B. Safety Management System

The Applicant ensures that health, safety, and wellbeing are of the highest priority.

The Applicant has a documented WHS management system that:

- Assigns WHS accountability to senior management and documents WHS reporting procedures.
- Adheres to relevant national and jurisdictional safety legal frameworks.
- Aligns with a recognised national or international WHS management system standard such as ISO 45001:2018, recognised guidelines and codes of practice.
- Implements procedures and processes for working safely and reducing exposure to chemicals of concern.

Supporting Tools:

- ISO 9001 Quality Management Systems
- ISO 45001:2018 - Occupational health and safety management systems.
- Comcare guidance on developing an WHS management system: https://www.comcare.gov.au/safe-healthy-work/healthy-workplace/whs-system
- Approved WHS Codes of Practice can be found here: https://www.comcare.gov.au/scheme-legislation/whs-act/codes-of-practice
- WHS guidance for Small to Medium Enterprises (Safe Work Australia): https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/safety-topic/industry-and-business/small-business

Guidance:

A policy is a formal statement of intent and direction, approved by the SSA certified company's senior management.

Accreditation to ISO 9001 Quality Management Systems is deemed to comply with 1.2A.

Accreditation to ISO 45001:2018 Occupational health and safety management systems is deemed to comply to 1.2B, or if the safety management system is aligned with the main principles of the Standard namely;

- A WHS policy is in place
- A system is in place to identify, assess and control all reasonable hazards to health and safety to employees and records of this are kept
- A system is in place for continual improvement of WHS performance
- Employees are aware of and trained in the above
  Evidence required for chemical of concern should include a survey/list of Hazardous Chemicals, their SDS and procedures for handling of the hazardous chemicals.

Credit 1.3 Stakeholder Engagement

Credit 1.3 is mandatory for all certification levels.

Stakeholder Communication

The Applicant values two-way communication with relevant stakeholders and provides suitable opportunities for communication.

The Applicant implements a communications strategy and process to:

- inform stakeholders about the Steel Sustainability Australia program
- engage with relevant stakeholders on issues relating to its performance against the Steel Sustainability Australia certification program
- provide opportunities for stakeholders to engage on issues which matter to them
- invite feedback on company performance or other aspects of operation

Supporting Tools:

Credit 1.3 - SSA Stakeholder Engagement Template (optional) – *access provided on paid application.*

Guidance:

Applicants can choose to complete the SSA template provided or provide evidence in another form. Either way, Applicants are to determine who their relevant stakeholders are, including suppliers, customers, employees and identify these and provide evidence of communication in any form including but not limited to emails, memos, website content, meeting minutes.
Applicants are welcome to use the SSA information material (brochure and presentation) provided in the Resources section on the SSA website to assist in communications. Applicants must engage with internal staff and suppliers on SSA as minimum.

Principle 2: Responsible

Credit 2.1 Environmental Management System

Credit 2.1 is mandatory for all certification levels.

Environmental Management System

The Applicant has an environmental management system in place to manage the environmental impacts from the manufacturing of the product.

The environmental management system includes effective documented procedures which:

- identify the Applicant's environmental risks and adverse impacts (including management provisions to prevent and mitigate these impacts)
- incorporate key performance indicators for the main environmental risks and impact areas
- measure performance against key performance indicators and implement corrective action
- incorporate a process to continuously and materially improve operations and reduce environmental impacts

Environmental management system standards or guidelines include but are not limited to:

EITHER ISO 14001 certification, OR an EMS which is deemed to comply with the above SSA criteria at an annual audit.

Guidance:

Guidance for small to medium size enterprises on environmental management, legal obligations and support to help reduce your business's environmental impact can be accessed on the Australian Government Business Support website: https://business.gov.au/risk-management/environmental-impact/manage-your-environmental-impact

Credit 2.2 Environmental Product Declaration

Credit 2.2 is mandatory for certification levels 2A and 3.

Environmental Product Declaration

The Applicant can provide a product-specific environmental product declaration/s (EPDs) for the steel product/s they manufacture, on request. EPDs must be provided for at least the minimum threshold value (MTV) - 70% - of the finished steel product/s manufactured.

The product-specific EPD/s provided must:

- Comply with EN 15804
- Include all required environmental impact categories, including disclosure of carbon emissions
- Specifically apply to the product/s supplied
- Cover at least the MTV (by weight) of the finished steel product**/s** manufactured

The **minimum threshold value (MTV)** is a set value, as agreed between ASI and the GBCA, to represent a portion of the finished steel product/s manufactured and supplied by the Applicant. **The MTV is a currently set at 70% and will increase over time.** Where option 2 is used, all material inputs ('steel feedstock') used to manufacture the finished steel product/s are to be declared as well as their portion by weight (tonnes).

Where quantitative life cycle environmental impacts of a specific product are required in the criteria, the program accepts three options:

1. a verified product specific Environmental Product Declaration published by the Applicant, in accordance with EN 15804 Sustainability of construction works – Environmental product declarations – Core rules for the product category of construction products.

2. a steel feedstock supplier's verified, published Environmental Product Declaration (compliant with EN 15804) provided by the downstream producer on the basis that the Global Warming Potential (GWP) contributed by the downstream producer is <10% of the total feedstock impact, and therefore is no greater than the +/- 10% normal variance in EPD impact data.
    a. data representing the Applicant's annual energy use shall also be provided, including both renewable and non-renewable electricity and on-site fuel use such as natural gas, LPG, etc.

    Exemption: Applicants that manufacture custom, made to order steel products, rather than a defined steel product range, are exempt from verifying their contribution of additional manufacturing GWP

3. a third party verified Life Cycle Assessment which complies with the methodology included in EN 15804 (but is not associated with a published EPD)

Supporting Tools:

SSA EPD Template (mandatory for option 2, unless exempt) – *access provided on paid application.*

SSA Steel Supply Sourcing Form (mandatory) – *access provided on paid application.*

SSA Credit 2.2 & 4.1 - Supplier Declaration of Conformity (mandatory when claiming SSA certification on a given project (Green Star project or other project specifying SSA certification) – *access provided on paid application.*

EPD International: https://www.environdec.com/library
EPD Australasia: https://epd-australasia.com/epd-search/

Guidance:

Applicants must be able to provide a verified product-specific EPD/s (or third party verified Life Cycle Assessment) either published by their own company covering the steel product/s they manufacture (option 1) OR published by their steel feedstock supplier/s covering the steel feedstock products (option 2) on the condition that at least 70% (by weight) of the steel feedstock materials used to manufacture the Applicants steel product/s are covered, and the Applicant's GWP is within 10% variance of the supplier EPD/s. The SSA EPD template and SSA Steel Supply Sourcing must be completed in full to verify these two conditions.

Credit 2.3 Health Impacts Declaration

Credit 2.3 is mandatory for Levels 2B and 3.

Health Impacts Declaration

The Applicant has published a Health Impacts Declaration(s) for the steel products manufactured

A Health Impacts Declaration(s) is provided to:

- provide a full disclosure of any potential physical and chemical health impacts
- explain the hazards and mitigating actions in everyday language
- ensure that required safeguards are clearly explained

Supporting Tools:

SSA Credit 2.3 - Health Impacts Declaration (mandatory) – *access provided on paid application.*

Guidance:

Applicants must use the **SSA Credit 2.3 - Health Impacts Declaration**.

The **Health Impacts Declaration(s)** must include**:**

- Relevant lifecycle phases – transport, installation, use maintenance, end of life
- Physical and chemical health impacts
- Normal SDS content related to health impacts
- Expansion of hazard and risk phase implications to explain the health impacts clearly for users
- Required safeguards for health and wellbeing during life cycle of product from point of sale through to end of life

The Health Impacts Declaration must be publicly available on the Applicants website and the content must be written at an accessible level by all who need to understand the safety precautions related to using the product. It must address all known hazards, both those included in the SDS (if one exists) and any other known physical and chemical hazards.

Principle 3: Healthy

Credit 3.1 Paints and Coatings

Credit 3.1 is mandatory for Levels 2A, 2B, and 3.

Paints and coatings

Any paints and coatings applied to steel products assessed under SSA certification are applied in a way that is safe for workers and occupants of buildings.

The following specifications are required when applying paints and coatings:

1. All paints and coatings applied to steel products, applied both on-site and off-site, must be applied in accordance with the paint manufacturer specifications, including WHS requirements and drying time of paint.
2. Paints and coatings applied on steel at a building site, where the building occupant is not exposed to painted elements will be exempt from requirements as per GBCA's FAQ-00332.
3. Paints and coatings applied on steel at a building site, in regularly occupied areas must meet the VOC requirements as per the Exposure to Toxins credit in the Green Star submission guidelines.
4. Galvanised coatings applied to steel products are exempt from Credit 3.1.

Supporting Tools:

SSA Credit 3.1 - Letter of Assurance (mandatory if the steel is not painted on a building site; or if the paint is applied to steel in an area where the building occupant is not exposed to the painted elements (e.g external to the building, inside walls); or if galvanized coatings are applied to the steel) - *access provided on paid application*
GBCA FAQ-00332 - https://www.gbca.org.au/faqs.asp?action=details&faqId=332
GBCA Green Star Buildings v1 Exposure to Toxins Credit (refer to Total VOC limits table) – *access provided on paid application.*

Guidance:

Applicants must be able to provide evidence of the paint that was applied to the steel product and provide evidence their workplace procedure for applying paint aligns with the paint manufacturers specifications.

Credit 3.2 WHS Management

Credit 3.2 is mandatory for all certification levels.

Manufacturing WHS Management

Workers are protected from physical, chemical, and biological risks of harm.

The Applicant's WHS Management System contains the following:

- Identify any potential physical, chemical, and biological hazards to personnel during manufacture.
- Assess hazards and risks and implement controls to eliminate risks to health and safety so far as is reasonably practicable.
- Provide personnel with the skills and knowledge to identify hazards within the workplace, conduct risk assessments of those hazards and implement appropriate control measures to remedy them.
- Audit compliance to safety management system.

Guidance:

WHS risks/hazards include but are not limited to:

- physical (slips, trips and falls; abrasions, burns, strains and sprains; manual handling injuries; and inhalation of dust or fibres),
- chemical (toxic, corrosive, carcinogenic, mutagenic and reprotoxic substances), and
- biological (viruses, bacteria, protozoa and other microorganisms as well as animals, plants and animal or plant products that can create a hazard to human health).

Accreditation to ISO 45001 Occupational Health and Safety Management System is deemed to comply

Credit 3.3 Procurement WHS Assessment

Credit 3.3 is mandatory for Levels 2B and 3.

Procurement WHS Assessment
Applicants seek assurance that their suppliers used in the manufacturing or processing of steel are appropriately managing WHS risks. The Applicant's procurement system contains the following: • Selection of suppliers with active safety management practices • Identification of major physical, chemical, and biological risks to supplier's personnel • Obtain evidence of supplier's management of identified risks • Coverage of relevant life cycle phases – transport, installation, use, maintenance, end of life
Supporting Tools: **SSA Credit 3.3 - Procurement WHS Template** (mandatory, unless can provide evidence in other format) - *access provided on paid application.*
Guidance: Applicants may use their own to format to provide evidence of compliance, or the SSA supplied template. Applicants are required to account for at least 95% of the suppliers used in the manufacturing or processing of steel, calculated as a percentage of total spend over an allocated period (refer to the SSA Audit Guidance for guidance on time period).

Credit 3.4 Modern Slavery

Credit 3.4 is mandatory for Levels 2B and 3.

Modern Slavery

Applicants do not engage in modern slavery and seek assurance that it is not present in its supply chain. Where modern slavery is found in the supply chain, there is an implemented plan to remove it.

The Applicant must:

- Conduct a risk assessment and release a modern slavery statement in accordance with the relevant Australian Federal Legislation (Modern Slavery Act 2018). The statement must describe all risks of modern slavery in the supply chain and must document any cases where it has been found.
    - This requirement applies to all businesses, regardless of legal obligations.
- The statement must describe how any identified risks will be addressed, and where instances have been found, how they will be eliminated. This information must be publicly available on the Applicant's website, and on the Australian Government's Online Register for Modern Slavery Statements.
- All actions being taken to eliminate modern slavery in the supply chain must have a documented and publicly available target. Detail must be provided outlining how the target will be met.

Supporting Tools:

Modern Slavery Act 2018: https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2018A00153

Online Register for Modern Slavery Statements: https://modernslaveryregister.gov.au/

Resources for managing Modern Slavery risks (Federal Govt), including supplier questionnaires : https://modernslaveryregister.gov.au/resources/

Modern Slavery education and learning resources (School Supply Chain of Sustainability): https://www.supplychainschool.org.au/learn/topics/modern-slavery/

Guidance:

The following documentation should be provided:

- A risk assessment and modern slavery statement in accordance with the Modern Slavery Act 2018.
- Evidence demonstrating that the statement is publicly available on the Applicant website and in the Online Register.

The risk assessment and statement must account for all materials being sourced from direct suppliers, including international suppliers.

Principle 4: Positive

Credit 4.1 Steel Supply Sourcing

Credit 4.1 is mandatory for all certification levels.

Steel Supply Sourcing

The Applicant sources steel feedstock from manufacturers that meet best practice responsible manufacturing requirements.
The Applicant must:

- Maintain records to demonstrate that the steel feedstock for the steel products assessed, is sourced from *SSA verified steel manufacturing suppliers* which have been verified to meet best practice requirements for responsible steel manufacturing (refer to Credit 4.1. A – E)
- Maintain records to demonstrate the steel feedstock sourced has a product-specific environmental product declaration(s) (compliant to 2.2 Environmental Product Declaration) for at least 50% (by weight) of the finished steel product(s) assessed.

Grace period on Credit 4.1: In the first year of SSA certification, the Applicant may enact a grace period of one year for suppliers, to allow the supply chain to transition to requirements A – E. After one year of certification (by the time of the next annual re-certification audit), the Applicant may enact the grace period for a second and final 12 month period. This extension of the grace period only applies to Applicants conducting their re-certification audit in the calendar year of 2024, after which the grace period ceases, and full compliance is required.
To enact the grace period, the Applicant must:

- For each non-verified SSA steel feedstock manufacturing supplier, provide evidence of communicating through the steel supply chain in the form of the SSA declarations provided, the requirement for the steel manufacturer to comply with Credit 4.1 A-E within 12 months.

Supporting Tools:
SSA Steel Supply Sourcing Form (mandatory) – *access provided on paid application.*
SSA verified manufacturing supplier list and certificates:
steelsustainability.com.au/resources/verified-ssa-steel-suppliers
SSA Supplier/Distributor Declaration (mandatory when enacting the grace period for a supplier) - *access provided on paid application.*
SSA Steel Manufacturer Declaration (mandatory when enacting the grace period for a supplier) - *access provided on paid application.*
SSA Credit 2.2 & 4.1 - Supplier Declaration of Conformity (mandatory when claiming SSA certification on a given project (Green Star project or other project specifying SSA certification) – *access provided on paid application.*
EPD International: https://www.environdec.com/library
EPD Australasia: https://epd-australasia.com/epd-search/

Credit 4.1 Requirements for Steel Feedstock Manufacturing Suppliers

Steel manufacturers seeking to be verified to meeting these requirements are to contact SSA on ssa@steel.org.au. Verified SSA steel manufacturing suppliers are verified to meet these requirements by an annual desktop audit conducted by an SSA appointed auditor, and will be issued a certificate downloadable from the SSA website.

A. Environmental Product Declaration

A product-specific environmental product declaration (EPD) can be provided which:

- Complies with EN 15804
- Includes all required environmental impact categories, including disclosure of carbon emissions
- Specifically applies to the product supplied

OR:

- Instead of an EPD, the product carbon footprint may be reported using an alternative method, provided it is third party verified to be compliant to ISO 14067
- Evidence must be provided of the third party verified carbon footprint

B. Decarbonisation Requirements

Items i-iii are mandatory.

The manufacturer must:

i. Provide a publicly disclosed target for decarbonising the manufacturing and supply chain by 2050.
   - Evidence of this commitment must be available on a public website.

ii. Have a current membership to the World Steel Association's Sustainability Charter and/or Climate Action Data Collection Programme.
   - Evidence must be provided of current membership via a link to the worldsteel website OR by providing a certificate for the relevant period.

iii. Provide evidence of an active decarbonisation program. The manufacturer has a public commitment to reduce the emissions intensity in their steel manufacturing, and has a publicly disclosed strategy for how this will be achieved.
   - The commitment and decarbonisation strategies must be publicly available via a link to a public website, or public corporate document.

Guidance:

- Decarbonisation targets must include scope 1 and scope 2 emissions.
- A long term plan may be included to include scope 3 emissions in decarbonisation targets by 2050.
- The manufacturer/s supplying the steel to the Applicant is required to report publicly against the decarbonisation target annually.

Supporting Tools:

- World Steel Association Climate Action Data Collection Programme: https://worldsteel.org/climate-action/climate-action-data-collection/
- World Steel Association Sustainability Charter: https://worldsteel.org/steel-topics/sustainability/our-recognitions/sustainability-charter/

C. Environmental Management

The manufacturer must:

- Provide a current certificate demonstrating ISO 14001: Environmental management systems certification for steelmaker site.

D. Water use reduction

The water consumed by the steel feedstock's manufacturing has been reduced on a year-on-year basis when averaged over 5 years, OR a program is in place to increase the amount of recycled or reused water used.

The manufacturer must submit a record of their water use to:

- Provide evidence that the water consumption intensity from the manufacturing of the product has been decreasing over the past five years on average.
  OR
- Provide evidence that initiatives are in place to recycle or reuse significant volumes of water.

Guidance:

A reduction in water consumption can be demonstrated by:

- Providing 5 years' worth of water use data per tonne of steel.
- Document year on year improvements with an average reduction of at least 1% p.a. Auditor discretion may be applied.

Evidence of water recycling or reuse programs may include but is not limited to:

- Documented evidence of approved project plans, schematic drawings, photos, regarding initiatives specifically designed to recycle or reuse water in manufacturing operations
- Contracts or agreements between the manufacturer and water authorities on recycling or reusing water in manufacturing operations

E. Responsible Sourcing

There are three possible pathways to demonstrating compliance with this requirement:

1. Manufacturer must provide evidence of current certification to ResponsibleSteel™ steel standard;
   OR

2. Manufacturer must provide evidence of current certification to GECA STEEL & STEEL PRODUCTS (SSPV1.0I-2019);
   OR
3. Manufacturer must:
   i. Achieve Credit 3.4 Modern Slavery, AND
   ii. Provide evidence of a company-wide Responsible Sourcing policy or documented strategy that addresses potential environmental, social and governance related impacts in the sourcing of their products or services, AND
   iii. Provide evidence of a company-wide Code of Conduct policy or documented strategy that sets expectations of ethical standards and behaviours from employees and suppliers

Supporting Tools:

ResponsibleSteel™ steel standard: https://www.responsiblesteel.org/standard/

GECA Steel & Steel Products (Sspv1.0i-2019): https://geca.eco/standards/steel-and-steel-products-sspv-sspv1-0i-2019/

Credit 4.2 Carbon Emissions Reduction

Credit 4.2 is mandatory for Level 3.

Carbon emissions reduction

The carbon emissions generated by the Applicant's manufacturing processes have been reduced on a year-on-year basis when averaged over at least 5 years.

The Applicant must:

- Provide a minimum of 5 years' worth of energy use (renewable and non-renewable) data for the Applicant. The template will calculate the carbon emissions on an intensity basis for the product (tonne CO_2-equiv./tonne steel).
- Provide evidence demonstrating that the carbon emissions generated from the manufacturing processes have been decreasing by at least 0.5% per year, for the past 5 years on average, targeting a minimum of 2% for the 5 years.
- Demonstrate that a program is in place to continuously monitor and reduce carbon emissions generated through the manufacturing process.

Supporting Tools:

SSA Carbon Emissions Reduction Disclosure template (mandatory) – *access provided on paid application.*

Guidance:

Reportable energy data can be any energy consumed for manufacturing processes, including the optional inclusion of energy consumed for transportation to site. Records must be accessible to verify a representative sample of the energy data provided in the template.

Principle 5: Circular

Credit 5.1 Resource Management

Credit 5.1 is mandatory for Levels 2A, 2B, and 3.

Resource Management
The Applicant is measuring waste generated through the manufacturing process and can demonstrate that at least 80% of waste is reused, recycled, or sold The Applicant must provide: • Accurate reporting of all waste being removed from the site, including steel scrap, waste directed to landfill, and other recycling/reuse streams. • A waste management plan is in place to find ways to avoid, reduce, reuse, recycle waste.

Supporting Tools:

SSA Credit 5.1 - Waste Use and Reduction Form (mandatory)

Guidance:

Enter all waste generated from the site over a 12 month period into the SSA Credit 5.1 – Waste Use and Reduction Form. Provide r**ecords to verify** a sample of the **waste data** included on the form (e.g invoices from waste management contractors)**.** Provide evidence of the company's waste tracking system (e.g spreadsheet, internal report). Data on the SSA form, waste tracking system and invoices must reconcile.

A waste management plan is the company's strategy and related procedures to identify, measure and reduce waste streams. It must include methodsto avoid, reduce, reuse, and/or recycle waste generated through the manufacturing process.