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 Green IT software will be required to meet in order to be licensed to use the HKGLS label. The requirements include environmental criteria and product characteristics. The specification also defines the testing and other means to be used to verify conformance with the criteria and product characteristics.

POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Green computing or green IT strives to achieve economic viability and improved system performance and use in order to reduce resource consumption (particularly the use of electricity, paper, peripheral devices, computer interfaces, etc) and lower carbon emissions subsequently. With increasing recognition that man-made greenhouse gas emissions are a major contributing factor to global warming, a variety of computer software has been developing for the sake of the environment and thereby assisting in building a green society and economy.

LABEL OBJECTIVE

The aim of the environmental criteria developed for computer software is to:

- Maximize energy efficiency and reduce the consumption of natural resources;

- Reduce the use of environmentally harmful substances;

- Promote improved durability and recyclability; and

- Minimize waste through systematic management approaches.

PRODUCT DEFINITION

This standard is applicable to the full range of Green IT software products on the market that are used to achieve the saving and/or effective utilization in any kinds of tangible and intangible resources so as to reduce the environmental load.

PRODUCT ENVIRONMENTAL CRITERIA

The table below sets out the product environmental criteria for Green IT software products (GL-006-004) under the HKGLS.

Product Criteria	Verification Method(s)*
General Information of Product 1 The products' user manual and / or product instruction shall be available in electronic version. 2 The product developer / supplier shall provide recurrent training on its product application in any kinds of means (e.g. website, video, webinar, etc.).	✓ Inspection of product samples; AND ✓ Review of supporting information[A] ✓ Interview of relevant personnel
Reduction of Environmental Loads 3 The product shall exhibit an environmental improvement or have innate properties that demonstrates the capability of reducing environmental load(s) through its intended application(s) by comparing the figures before its use [B]. 4 For product that requires user's behavior changes so as to achieve the purpose of reduction, it shall be capable of generating report(s) on the environmental performance of the associated system for the user to achieve a continual improvement on a sustainable basis.	✓ Inspection of product samples; AND ✓ Review of supporting information[A]
Fitness of Purpose 5 The product shall meet or exceed the applicable and / or accepted standards in its target market for its intended application.	✓ Inspection of product samples; AND ✓ Review of supporting information;[A]

Product Criteria	Verification Method(s)*

Packaging requirements
 	
6   If the product will be delivered to the clients / customers with packaging, it shall meet the following requirements:
 	
Packaging materials (e.g. cases, carton boxes, etc.) shall be kept within 70g per 15g of the product (e.g. CD-ROM), or product can be downloadable from the Internet.
 	
   6.1   Packaging materials shall not contain chlorine-based plastics (if any)
 	
   6.2   Plastic resin identification code shall be put on the packaging.
 	
   6.3   Recycled paper (with at least 20% recycled content) shall be used for paper packaging.
 	
   6.4   The packaging materials shall be recyclable.
 	
      6.4.1 The paper packaging shall not be covered with synthetic resin film or sheet, synthetic fabrics & non-woven fabrics, and non-water-soluble laminated film & coating
 	
      6.4.2 Synthetic resin packaging shall be 1 type of polymer (homopolymer or copolymer) or recyclable composite material (polymer alloy). Moreover, in case it is not easy to separate attached label, mark or sticker, it shall be the same material with the part where it is attached or not cause any problems when recycling.
	✓ Inspection of product samples; AND
	
	✓ Review of supporting information

*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:

A) Applicant shall provide all the documents, which provide sufficient evident to demonstrate its performance on environmental load reduction. Documents may include testing reports from an independent organization, case studies from installations demonstration, and certificates. A written statement on compliance, signed by the Chief Executive Officer or other authorised representative of the applicant company shall also be provided

B) Environmental load reduction include by not limited to following:

- Energy consumption
- Air pollutant
- Water pollutant
- Municipal solid waste
- Toxic and hazardous substances
- Greenhouse gases
- Biodiversity