Eco Label Criteria

for

Rubber & Rubber Based Products

National Cleaner Production Centre, Sri Lanka

Introduction

1. The Certification Scheme for Eco Labeling of Products/Services of the National Cleaner Production Centre, Sri Lanka (NCPC-SL) is based on the requirements laid down in the ISO 14024:2018 Environmental labels and declarations - Type 1 environmental labeling – Principles and procedures.
2. ISO 14024 specifies the requirements for eco-labeling certification. The Eco Labelling criteria /s of NCPC SL satisfy the ISO 14024 requirements as required by the eco-labelling certification schemes. Here are the key requirements fulfilled accordingly;

   Scope: The eco-labeling certification scheme covers specific product categories/services with a significant impact on the environment.

   Product Criteria: Clear and transparent environmental criteria have been established for products/ services to be eligible for the eco-label. These criteria have been based on scientific evidence and consider the entire product life cycle.

   Independent Third-Party Verification: NCPC SL conducts independent third-party verification of compliance with the eco-labeling criteria.

   Impartiality: The certification process is impartial and free from any conflicts of interest that could undermine its credibility.

   Transparency: The eco-labeling scheme has provided transparent information about the certification process, criteria, and verification procedures.

   Continuous Improvement: The scheme encourages continuous improvement in the environmental performance of certified products /services.

   Stakeholder Involvement: Stakeholders, including businesses, NGOs, consumers, and government representatives, have been involved in the development and revision of the eco-labeling criteria.

   Non-Discrimination: The certification scheme has not discriminated against products or services from different sources based on factors unrelated to environmental performance.

   Compliance Monitoring: Regular monitoring and surveillance of certified products or services has been conducted to ensure ongoing compliance with eco-labeling criteria.

   Public Access to Information: Information about the eco-labeling scheme, certified products, and their environmental criteria shall be accessible to the public.

   Environmental Labeling and Advertising: The use of the eco-label in advertising or labeling has been controlled and subject to the certification scheme's rules.

   Review and Revision: The certification scheme should undergo periodic review and revision to ensure its relevance and effectiveness.

3. This document sets out specific managerial and technical criteria for raw material extraction, transportation, manufacturing, dispatch of rubber products for sale, etc. Terminologies and aspects related to the concepts of sustainability management are covered during the involved processes. The aspects related to sustainability management described in this document can include environmental impacts, energy, and water security or socio-economic development, or any combination thereof.

4. The certification of Eco Labeling of rubber products is implemented through a set program operated over a specified period as agreed with relevant parties. The NCPC-SL functions as the scheme owner of this certification scheme. This document includes environmental criteria, function characteristics, and legal requirements related to rubber products.

5. This specific product environmental criteria document has been prepared by the Expert Committee on Eco Labeling appointed by the NCPC-SL and authorized for adoption by the Governing Council of NCPC-SL. The rubber products manufacturers who are seeking eco-labeling certification are required to meet the following requirements.
   i. The product and processing conditions shall comply with the requirements given in the below NCPC-SL guidelines;

   and

   ii. The product and processing shall comply with relevant regulations mentioned in this document and enforced in the country, as applicable;

   and

   iii. The product should conform to the relevant national, regional, and internationally recognized standards

6. This document supplements the below guidelines and provides guidance for the certification of rubber products for both Assessors and Producers who are preparing for certification. Each criterion mentioned herein is categorized depending on the significance of its impact on the product environmental criterion or product function characteristic being discussed, e.g. energy, water, material, environment, or socio-development, as follows.

   Mandatory requirements (M) – Related to the legal requirements for product functional characteristics

   Critical requirements (C) – Significant to product environmental criteria

   Non-critical requirements (NC) – Not so significant to product environmental criteria when compared to critical requirements

7. This document should also be read in conjunction with the Rules and Procedures of NCPC-SL as applicable to the Eco Labeling Certification scheme.
8. This document will be periodically reviewed and updated based on the experience gained and the developments that have taken place in technology and the use of energy, water, material and the environment. The term '**shall**' is used in this document to indicate those provisions which are mandatory. The term '**must**' is used to indicate the guidance which, although not mandatory, is provided by NCPC-SL as a recognized means of meeting the requirements of the standard. The term '**should**' is used to indicate recommendations for implementation.
9. The client should submit the relevant pieces of evidence for conformity verification for the last calendar year.

References

In the preparation of this criteria document, the following documents were referred.

- ISO 14020 – Environmental labels and declarations - General principles
- ISO 14024 – Environmental labels and declarations- Type 1 environmental labeling– Principles and procedures
- Guidelines for Providing Product Sustainability Information, UN Environment Programme,2017
- Bulletin of the Rubber Research Institute of Sri Lanka. (1197) 35. 42-48
- ISO 2004:2010 Natural rubber latex concentrate — Centrifuged or creamed, ammonia preserved types — Specifications

Terms and definitions

For the purpose of this document, the terms and definitions given in the referred standards and the following shall apply.

- **Conformity:** Fulfillment of a requirement
- **Note:** Conformance and compliance are synonymously used for conformity but deprecated.
- **Verification:** Confirmation through the provision of objective evidence that specified requirements have been fulfilled.
- **Organization:** The Applicant organization is hereinafter referred to as an organization.
- **Natural rubber latex concentrate:** Natural rubber latex containing ammonia and/or other preservatives, which has been subjected to some
- **Type HA natural rubber latex concentrate:** Centrifuged latex preserved after concentration with ammonia only, with an alkalinity of at least 0,60 % (by mass) calculated with respect to the latex
- **Type LA natural rubber latex concentrate:** Centrifuged latex preserved after concentration with ammonia together with other preservatives, with an alkalinity of not more than 0,29 % (by mass) calculated with respect to the latex
- **Type XA natural rubber latex concentrate:** Centrifuged latex preserved after concentration with ammonia together with other preservatives, with an alkalinity between 0,30 % and 0,59 % (by mass) calculated with respect to the latex
- **Creamed type HA natural rubber latex concentrate:** Creamed latex preserved after concentration with ammonia only, with an alkalinity of at least 0,55 % (by mass) calculated with respect to the latex
- **Creamed type LA natural rubber latex concentrate:** Creamed latex preserved after concentration with ammonia together with one or more additional preservatives, with an alkalinity of not more than 0,35 % (by mass) calculated with respect to the latex

Abbreviations

EMS: Environmental Management System
EPL: Environmental Protection License
PLA: Poly Lactic Acid
IPM: Integrated Pest Management

Eco Label Certification Requirements

Certification Criteria Requirements	Weighting Factor
a) Stock records of fertilizers should be maintained up to date. Conformity Verification ➢ Fertilizer stock records	NC
b) Fertilizers and pesticides must not be stored in the same compartment. If it is not possible, fertilizers and pesticides shall be separated physically and labeled. Conformity Verification ➢ A maintenance plan for fertilizer storage (Mainly chemical fertilizers)	C
c) Fertilizers must not come in direct contact with the floor and must be kept in a covered, clean, and dry area to prevent water source contamination. Conformity Verification ➢ Site inspection	C
d) The chemical fertilizers and fertilizer mixtures utilized in the plantation must be recommended for rubber plantations by the Rubber Research Institute of Sri Lanka (Tables 01, 02 and 03 in annexure 01) Conformity Verification ➢ Fertilizer recommendation plan ➢ Fertilizer application records	C
e) Organic manures like compost, paddy straws, and green manures should be used. (Table 04 in annexure 01) Conformity Verification ➢ Records or logs indicating the application of organic manure within the area ➢ On-Site verification (Composting area, and storing facility etc.)	NC
f) Application of lime/dolomite together with urea fertilizer must be avoided. Conformity Verification ➢ Fertilizer application records and onsite-verification	C
g) The fertilizer must contain balanced and appropriate levels of nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), potassium (K), and micronutrients without exceeding safe thresholds of heavy metals such as cadmium (Cd), lead (Pb), and mercury (Hg). Conformity Verifications ➢ Fertilizer composition records (MSDS) ➢ Product specifications ➢ Third-party test reports from the accredited laboratory verifying the composition of the fertilizer	C
a) An Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plan must be prepared and implemented covering the rubber plantation or states, and the achieved results are communicated to the top management.	C

Conformity Verification ➢ Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plan, records on pest management, pesticide, biological and physical application, and pest monitoring records ➢ Site verification ➢ Meeting minutes/presentations (To verify communication with top management)	
b) Pesticides must be applied according to the guidelines provided by RRI Ex: Fungicides should be applied during early morning, on dry days. It is a very dry period make sure to apply a bucket of water to the plant at the roots before chemical is applied. Conformity Verification ➢ Fertilizer Application records ➢ Incidents Monitoring registry	C
c) All crop protection products (pesticides and pest control chemicals) should be stored safely and securely and should meet regulatory requirements for safety and environmental protection. Conformity Verification ➢ Site inspection for proper storage facilities and adherence to safety protocols (The facility with less risk to the environment and human health in case of fire, spillage, flooding, or other emergency). ➢ Records of pesticide stocks (up to date records)	C
d) The pesticide/pest control chemicals must be used as per the recommended crop-pest combinations Conformity Verification ➢ Records on applied pesticides/pest control chemicals	C
e) The pesticides/pest control chemicals must be selected on a rotational basis to prevent the development of resistance. Conformity Verification ➢ Records on a rotational basis application	C
f) An appropriate optimum pesticide application equipment and techniques for the crop and pesticide type must be selected to minimize pesticide drift, runoff, and contamination of water bodies, soil, and air. Conformity Verification ➢ Site verification	C
g) Appropriate measures must be taken to dispose of empty chemical containers in an environmentally friendly manner and should not be reused for any purpose. Conformity Verification ➢ Disposal procedures ➢ Relevant agreements with disposal party ➢ Site visit – Empty can storage area	C
a) The plantation must adhere to all the relevant laws and regulations concerning the withdrawal of surface or groundwater for agricultural, domestic, or processing purposes. Conformity verification ➢ Compilation of the legal requirements	NC

b) Steps must be taken to prevent contamination of water resources from fertilizer, pesticide application, and other farming activities. Conformity verification ➢ Water quality test reports of groundwater and surface water resources from the accredited laboratory	C
a) Measures must be implemented to enhance the soil structure by making it resistant to detachment and increasing its capacity to absorb surface water. Conformity Verification ➢ Record on land preparation ➢ Site inspection to assess the implementation of measures such as contour planting and embarking.	NC
b) Techniques should be implemented to shield the soil surface from the impact of heavy rainfall to reduce erosion. Conformity Verification ➢ Site inspection to observe the installation of protective measures such as ground covers, Cover crops, terracing	NC
c) Measures should be implemented to decelerate the speed of water runoff and provide safe methods for the disposal of excess runoff. Conformity Verification ➢ Site inspection of drainage systems, including the natural drain lines and constructed drains.	NC
a) A waste management plan must be developed and implemented which includes: o A system for identifying and segregating different types of waste generated within the plantation, including organic, recyclable, and non-recyclable waste. o Designated storage areas should be established for different types of waste with appropriate containers and labeling. o The waste collected should be directed to facilitate reuse, recycling, or composting. o Records should be maintained on waste management activities to ensure internal policies and regulatory requirements. Note: Applicable for factory not for residence area of the people Conformity Verification ➢ Site inspection on the implementation of the waste management plan. ➢ Records relevant to the waste management plan. ➢ Agreement with hazardous/non-hazardous waste recycler or disposal party	C
a) Rubber plantations and latex collection centers must not be established in areas of high conservation value, such as primary forests, wetlands, or other protected areas. Conformity verification: ➢ Documentation of land-use plans, ensuring no encroachment on protected or sensitive habitats. ➢ Proof of compliance with national regulations governing land use and biodiversity conservation (e.g., Forest Department or Central Environmental Authority permits).	C

b) Where possible, rubber plantations should incorporate agroforestry or mixed cropping systems to promote biodiversity and reduce the ecological impact of monocultures. Conformity verification: ➢ Documentation of agroforestry practices or other biodiversity-friendly land-use strategies. ➢ Reports on the diversity of tree and plant species within rubber plantations.	NC
a) Rubber plantations must ensure fair labor practices, including compliance with national labor laws, providing decent wages, and protecting workers' rights, including non-discrimination, freedom of association, and no forced or child labor. Conformity verification: ➢ Contracts or employment agreements demonstrating compliance with national labor laws. ➢ Records of wage payments, ensuring compliance with minimum wage regulations. ➢ Documentation of non-discrimination policies and procedures. ➢ Records of grievances	M
b) The plantation must promote gender equality by providing equal employment opportunities and ensuring that women are treated fairly in terms of wages, training, and advancement opportunities. Conformity verification: ➢ Employment records demonstrating gender diversity in hiring and promotion. ➢ Documentation of gender equality policies and procedures. ➢ Reports on training and development opportunities provided to female workers. ➢ Records on wage equality between male and female employees.	C
a) Legal Requirements: Legal Approval shall be obtained from the relevant local authority to operate the latex collection Centre in the area Conformity verification ➢ Valid License obtained from the relevant authority	M
b) Chemical Management: The latex collection center must implement a chemical management plan to ensure the safe storage, handling, and disposal of all chemicals used in the latex collection process, including cleaning agents, coagulants, or preservatives. Conformity verification ➢ Chemical Management plan ➢ Chemical Inventory ➢ Site verification ➢ Interview workers	C
c) Waste Management: A comprehensive waste management system must be in place to address all forms of waste generated at the latex collection center, including chemical waste and wastewater, with minimal environmental impact. Conformity Verification ➢ Records of safe collection, storage, and disposal of chemical waste. ➢ Site verification	C

d) Transportation: Appropriate measures must be taken to reduce the GHG emissions during latex transportation Conformity verification ➢ Emission test reports of the vehicles used in rubber transportation ➢ Transport Management plan (Documentation detailing optimized routes between the plantation and the processing unit. This documentation should include maps, distance calculations, and fuel consumption estimates for each route)	NC
a) The rubber processing unit shall obtain and implement the Environmental Protection License (EPL) Conformity verification ➢ Valid Environmental Protection License (EPL) obtained by the rubber processing unit	M
b) The rubber processing unit shall comply with relevant national legislations and Regulations for the rubber industry in Sri Lanka. Conformity verification ➢ A complete compilation ➢ Evidence of compliance including permits and certificates ➢ Licences and permits issued under the Rubber Thefts Prevention Ordinance, 1908 ➢ Rubber control act & other relevant licenses	M
a) Effective Environmental Management Systems (EMS) should be implemented to systematically identify, assess, and manage the environmental impacts, main compliance obligations, risks and opportunities. Conformity verification ➢ Valid ISO 14001 EMS Certificate ➢ Records of environmental management policies, procedures, and programs. ➢ Any other relevant environmental/private certificates Ex: sustainable certifications for plantations – Certificate Issued by RRI, FSC Certificate, COC certificate	NC
b) The rubber processing unit must develop a comprehensive Environmental Management Roadmap to address the potential environmental challenges and opportunities. Conformity verification ➢ Documents of the Environmental Management Roadmap of the Rubber Processing Unit. ➢ Evidence of the management approval of the road map (Top Management's commitment) ➢ Evidence on stakeholder engagement including employees, regulators, and local communities.	NC
a) **Supply chain verification:** Each raw material supplier must be evaluated or raw material should be purchased from eco label certified supplier. Conformity verification ➢ Supplier Evaluation reports	NC
b) An efficient inventory management system (Ex: ERP) must be available adopted to ensure that the raw materials are ordered and utilized only as needed, to minimize the waste and storage costs.	C

Conformity verification ➢ Documents related to receiving, usage, and replenishment of raw materials	
c) Storage facility must be in good hygienic condition and whether the volume of the bunded area is adequate to contain the stored material Conformity verification ➢ Site verification to check; - Are surface tanks and usage areas hard surfaced and bunded? - Are they regularly cleaned and inspected and tested for leakages? ➢ labelling and documentation process for all consignments of dangerous goods ➢ Cleaning checklist	C
a) Effective chemical management practices, including storage, usage, and disposal must be implemented and upheld throughout all the stages of the process. Conformity verification ➢ Documents of responsible chemical management (Standards, Procedures, plan…etc) ➢ Chemical Inventory ➢ Site visit to ensure proper storage facilities, labeling, segregation, containment, and proper discharge of chemicals. ➢ Latest Safety Data Sheets (SDS) ➢ Storage area should not expose to direct sunlight or heat	C
b) The recommended concentration & volume of acid required for the latex coagulation process must be used not exceeding significantly Conformity Verification ➢ Acid usage records	C
a) The rubber processing unit should implement an effective energy management system (EnMS) consisting of policies, procedures, and energy management programs aimed at optimizing energy usage and energy efficiency. Conformity verification ➢ Submission of a valid Energy Management System (EnMS) certificate or a certification demonstrating compliance with a recognized standard such as the ISO 50001 ➢ Records of Energy Management Policy, procedures, and energy management programs implemented within the organization	NC
b) Infrastructure must be established to quantify the Electricity and fuel consumption for the industrial processes and other purposes in the rubber processing unit must be maintained. Conformity verification ➢ Electricity sub-metering facilities	C
c) Regular monitoring and analysis of the energy and fuel consumption data must be done to identify trends, anomalies, and opportunities for energy conservation. Eg: Electrical energy consumption per unit of production output (kWh / Piece, kWh / kg, kWh / T, kWh / MT)	C

Conformity verification ➢ Daily and monthly records of electricity and fuel consumption ➢ Records and reports on areas of identified trends, anomalies, and opportunities for energy conservation	
d) The rubber processing unit must address the identified trends, anomalies, and opportunities for energy conservation and take measures to reduce energy consumption and improve energy efficiency. Conformity verification ➢ Reports on measures taken to reduce energy consumption and improve energy efficiencies in the areas identified. ➢ Onsite verifications ➢ Financial reports/saving records	NC
e) The rubber processing unit must establish baselines or benchmarks for electricity, thermal energy use and it should be monitored continuously. Conformity verification ➢ Details of benchmarks (Industry or Company)	NC
f) The rubber processing unit should aim to reduce its electricity consumption by annually compared to the defined benchmark. [Reduction in specific electricity consumption ≥ 3% (1 mark), Reduction in specific electricity consumption ≥ 5% (2 marks), Reduction in specific electricity consumption ≥ 10% (3 marks)] Conformity verification ➢ Detailed data on annual production, annual electricity consumption, and specific electricity consumption for the past three years	NC
g) If not implemented ISO standard, the rubber processing unit must implement an energy balance/energy assessment/audit, internally or externally to evaluate the overall energy consumption within the facility. Conformity verification ➢ Energy Audit/assessment/analysis report ➢ Records on tracking and reporting programs including all relevant energy sources of the organization, consumption trends, and efficiency improvement initiatives implemented by the organization.	NC
h) The rubber processing unit must establish clear and achievable targets for reducing energy consumption and improving its efficiency across its operations. Conformity verification ➢ Documents on established targets for energy consumption reduction and efficiency ➢ Records on regular monitoring and assessment of progress towards the set targets ➢ Records on the implementation of corrective actions and continuous improvement initiatives	C
i) The rubber processing unit should aim to reduce its specific thermal energy consumption by a minimum of 3% annually compared to the previous year's consumption. The baseline year for comparison purposes must be clearly defined.	NC

[Reduction in specific thermal energy consumption ≥ 3% (1 mark), Reduction in specific thermal energy consumption ≥ 5% (2 marks), Reduction in specific thermal energy consumption ≥ 10% (3 marks)] Conformity verification ➢ Detailed data on annual production, annual thermal energy consumption, and specific thermal energy consumption for the past three years	
j) Sustainably sourced firewood must be used for thermal energy production. Conformity verification ➢ Certified sustainable fire source (SLSI certified) ➢ Site inspection (To check forest wood or not) ➢ Self-declaration from the supplier ➢ License from forest dep. For firewood – use for boiler	C
k) The organization should substitute nonrenewable energy sources (Onsite & off site) with renewable energy sources (Eg: biomass, solar power, hydro powered, etc) Conformity verification ➢ Details of installation of onsite and offsite renewable power generating sources including the technology, installed capacity and location with photographs of installations ➢ Details of total power/energy consumption in the manufacturing facility and renewable power produced in kWhs	NC
l) A Method must be introduced and implemented to make sure that the Energy-saving efforts have been effective and communicate the progress to the relevant authorizes (eg: top management) Conformity verification ➢ Progress report ➢ Management review meeting minutes, etc	C
a) The rubber processing unit should calculate, record, and maintain the Carbon footprint of the organization or the product. Conformity verification ➢ A transparent and verifiable method for calculating the carbon footprint. ➢ The calculation method should adhere to recognized standards like ISO standards. ➢ The documents on calculating methods should be available for review to ensure transparency and accuracy.	NC
b) The rubber processing unit should establish clear and achievable targets for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Conformity verification ➢ Documents on established targets for GHG emission reduction ➢ Records on regular monitoring and assessment of progress towards the set targets ➢ The records on implementation of corrective actions and continuous improvement initiatives	NC

c) The rubber processing unit should implement carbon offsetting measures to compensate for unavoidable GHG emissions. Conformity verification ➢ Documentation showing the percentage of total GHG emissions offset ➢ Records of carbon offsetting projects, including certification by recognized standards (e.g., Verified Carbon Standard, Gold Standard) ➢ Sri Lanakan carbon crediting scheme (SLCCS)	NC
d) The rubber processing unit should adopt Science-Based Targets (SBTi) to guide their emissions reduction strategy, ensuring alignment with global climate goals. Conformity verification ➢ Documentation demonstrating participation in the Science-Based Targets Initiative (SBTi) and alignment of emission reduction targets with the initiative's criteria. ➢ Evidence of validation or approval of emission reduction targets by the SBTi. ➢ Periodic reports showing progress toward achieving SBTi targets, including updates on any revisions or enhancements based on the latest scientific findings.	NC
a) Infrastructure must be maintained to quantify the water usage for industrial processes and domestic purposes Conformity verification ➢ Water supply metering and submetering facilities established in the organization ➢ Water consumption records are maintained on a daily/monthly basis [Units: m3 / liters, m3 /Kg, m3 /T, m3 /PCs of product manufactured or per employee water consumption] ➢ Records and reports on identified areas of high consumption or leaks	C
b) The rubber processing unit must implement a water balance/water assessment/audit, internally or externally to evaluate the overall water intake versus usage within the facility. Conformity verification ➢ Review of the water assessment/analysis reports conducted by internal or external auditors ➢ Records on tracking and reporting programs including all relevant water sources of the organization, and consumption trends, implemented by the organization.	C
c) The rubber processing unit must adopt and implement water conservation techniques and technologies to reduce the water consumption and improve water efficiency. The adaptation of these measures should be evident in the production process. Conformity verification ➢ Site inspection to assess the implementation of water conservation techniques and technologies ➢ Records of improvements (Water savings and any other improvements) from implemented water conservation techniques and Technologies (Ex: Amount of recycled water…etc)	C

d) The rubber processing unit should incorporate a rainwater harvesting system to supplement the water supply. Conformity verification ➢ Site inspection to assess the functionality and operation of the rainwater harvesting system (Ony for general purposes not for production). ➢ Installed capacity of the tank vs. consumption data ➢ The volumes of rainwater collected per month and annually ➢ Consumption records of harvested rainwater	NC
e) The rubber processing unit should calculate, record, and maintain the water footprint of the organization and/or product level. Conformity verification ➢ Transparent and verifiable calculation method for determining the organizational and/or product water footprint.	NC
f) The water-saving efforts, and how they have been effective in water consumption and efficiency, the progress made must be communicated to the top management Conformity verification ➢ Progress reports, impact/water assessment reports, management review meeting minutes, and any other supplementary evidence.	C
a) The rubber processing unit must maintain a system to track hazardous and non-hazardous waste streams generated within the facility (Ex: Sludge, packaging material,…..etc) Conformity verification ➢ A scheduled waste management license issued by the CEA ➢ Agreement with waste collectors	M
b) Hazardous and non-hazardous waste must be collected and stored separately in designated areas to avoid contaminations with the environment Conformity verification ➢ Onsite verification	C
c) Targets must be set to reduce the quantity of waste generated per year, by setting a base year Conformity verifications ➢ Documents on waste quantities produced, and how the set targets were achieved (data for at least two years must be submitted).	C
d) The rubber processing unit must divert 75% of the non-hazardous wastes away from the landfills, incinerators, and open dumping Conformity verification ➢ Records on annual waste production ➢ Records of waste disposal methods & quantities ➢ Reports on solid waste management, including how the waste was diverted away from landfills, incinerators, and, open dumping ➢ Any certificate (Ex: Zero waste to landfill)	C

e) The rubber waste should be directed for innovative avenues for repurposing rubber waste. Conformity verification ➢ Documents on research and development initiatives ➢ Documents verifying partnerships or collaborations with research institutions or industry experts to explore and implement innovative solutions	NC
a) The rubber processing unit must conduct regular analysis of wastewater composition to identify the main sources such as skim, latex, and washing residues, and assess the presence of non-rubber substances and the processing chemicals. Conformity verification ➢ Test reports by accredited laboratory (Table 01 in Annexure 02) ➢ On-site verification ➢ Records on regular waste water quantity	C
b) The wastewater discharged into the environment shall be within the limits stipulated by the Central Environmental Authority (CEA) or BOI regulations Conformity verification ➢ Wastewater-treated lab reports which are issued by CEA-registered/accredited laboratory	M
c) Untreated wastewater must not be discharged into nearby streams, paddy fields or other sensitive ecosystems (prevent wastewater from mixing with stormwater in the storm drain systems) Conformity verification ➢ Onsite verification ➢ Plan of waste water treatment plant	C
d) Environmentally friendly biological treatment processes, such as high-rate anaerobic/aerobic systems or treatments developed by the Rubber Research Institute/ recognized institute should be implemented, if no toxic substances are present in the wastewater. Conformity verification ➢ Records/reports/procedures on such investments ➢ Onsite verification	NC
e) A baseline for the volume of water discharged per unit of product should be defined by the rubber processing unit Conformity verification ➢ Developed benchmark ➢ Records of wastewater generated and disposed	NC
f) Measures must be practiced to reduce to waste water generation from the factory Ex: Use dry cleaning methods wherever practicable for solids, (e.g. vacuum extraction, wipe down equipment that is accessible) rather than washing and rinsing them	NC

Conformity verification ➢ Details of innovative methods ➢ Records of reused or recycled water (Closed loop)	
a) Indoor air quality: Emissions to air shall not exceed the CEA stipulated limits to make it ensure the factory atmosphere is safe for its occupants Conformity verification ➢ Indoor air quality monitoring reports, measured by accredited third parties	C
b) The rubber manufacturing facility must maintain noise levels below the threshold limits set by national or international noise regulations, particularly in areas surrounding the factory and within worker environments. Conformity Verification ➢ A noise management plan that details the use of noise-reducing equipment, soundproof barriers, and restricted operating hours for noisy machinery. ➢ Noise level monitoring reports, measured by accredited third parties, ensuring compliance with acceptable limits such as OSHA or ISO 1996-1 standards. ➢ Verification through on-site checks to confirm the provision of hearing protection devices and designated quiet zones within the factory, particularly for workers exposed to high noise levels.	C
c) The rubber processing unit must have implemented an Occupational Health and Safety management system in accordance with ISO 45001:2018, guidelines or any other relevant standards. Conformity verification ➢ Valid certification of ISO 45001:2018 or any other relevant standard	NC
d) All employees must receive adequate training on health and safety procedures relevant to their roles. Conformity verification ➢ Records of employee training sessions and photograph/video pieces ➢ Employee awareness will be assessed by interviews. ➢ Site verification to check use PPEs	C
e) Emergency preparedness plan and a fire safety management plan must be effectively implemented within the facility. Conformity verification ➢ Emergency preparedness plan ➢ Fire safety management plan ➢ Accident Registry	C
f) All employees who handling with chemicals and hazardous waste must be trained. Conformity verifications ➢ Records/evidences of training sessions ➢ Onsite verification ➢ Available Safety Data Sheets (SDS) to relevant workers ➢ Interview workers	C

g) The employees handling the equipment must be adequately trained and be competent in using the equipment Conformity verification ➢ Evidence (photographs, videos) on employee training and awareness in handling equipment and machinery. ➢ Interviewing of workers to assess their knowledge in machinery handling.	C
h) The guidelines and protocols established for chemical handling must be communicated to the relevant workers. Conformity verification ➢ Records, photographs, attendance sheets of awareness sessions to workers on safety handling of chemicals. ➢ On-site interviews with the workers to check on their level of understanding of such protocols. ➢ Display of Safety guidelines in languages for workers to understand (at least sections directly related to operational worker safety and storage requirements, such as first aid, hazard, and flammability information)	C
a) The rubber processing unit must have a well-established GMP in place or policies, procedures, quality planning, quality control, quality assurance, and continuous improvement initiatives should be implemented within the organization. Conformity verification ➢ Documents of policies, procedures, quality planning, quality control, quality assurance, objectives ➢ GMP	NC
b) Quality of RSS rubber must be maintained Quality Parameters: Sheet should free from: (i)dirt (ii) bubbles (iii)mould (iv) dust (v) tackiness (vi) reeper marks Sheet should have (i) a uniform appearance (ii) uniform thickness (iii) uniform color Conformity Verification ➢ Visual observations ➢ Records of final products ➢ SLS/ISO Standard ➢ Specifications from RRI Handbook	C
c) Specifications for crepe rubber must be maintained (Table 02 in Annexure 02) Conformity Verification ➢ Visual observation ➢ Records of final products	C

d) Specifications for sole crepe rubber must be maintained Grades - Smooth Pebbly Ribbed Standard two sizes - 36x13 (Narrow) 39x18 (Broad) Thickness - 3mm – 12mm Color - White (Standard) Golden Honey / Color Required by the buyer. Comments: Should have the correct thickness and length, and be free of dirt or any specs. Conformity Verification ➢ Records of final products	C
e) The latex concentrate/ centrifuge latex must conform to the requirements in ISO 2004-2017(E) standard (Table 03 in Annexure 02) Conformity Verification ➢ Records of test results (Concentrated latex must be thoroughly tested at every stage of production and before shipment) ➢ ISO 2004-2017 standard requirements	C
a) Packaging materials used should be recyclable, biodegradable or made from sustainable sources Conformity verification ➢ Records of the types and quantities of packaging materials used ➢ Declaration from packaging material supplier	NC
b) Manufacturers should provide relevant environment-related information (Eg: Recycle material content of the product, disposable method…etc) on the label/packaging of the product Conformity verification ➢ Observations on the product label	C
c) The packaging should include clear messages encouraging the buyers to send back the packaging material to the company for reusing or recycling purposes. Conformity verification ➢ Evidence of packaging indicating messages encouraging buyers to resend packing materials ➢ Records on packaging material volumes received back from the buyers	NC
d) An operational system should be placed to track and link the finished products to the corresponding production batch.	NC

Conformity verification ➢ Traceability records should be maintained linking the products to the production batch.	
a) The organization should reduce the environmental impacts related to the transportation Conformity verification ➢ The records on oil/fuel consumption for transportation are maintained ➢ Emission test reports of the vehicles ➢ Evidence for green practices such as two-mode transportation etc. Or If the inbound and outbound transportation is carried out by a third party, appropriate measures should be taken **to reduce associated environmental impacts with the involvement of the relevant party (Eg: conditions through agreements)** Conformity verification ➢ Copy of Signed Agreement ➢ Details of the projects implemented and the efforts taken to minimize dust emission/material spillage reduction due to transportation. ➢ Details of the safety precautions taken during transportation, photographic evidences.	C
b) A real-time digital tracking/monitoring system (GPS) should be installed and maintained for product distribution management Conformity Verification ➢ Onsite verification of the digital tracking/monitoring system of the organization	NC
a) The organization should take any action to reduce the environmental impacts during the user consumption phase Conformity verification ➢ Records of the information/materials communicated to the users	NC
b) Appropriate initiatives/measures should be taken toward reducing the impact of the product's end-of life phase Conformity verification ➢ Description and proof of initiatives taken to reduce impacts from end of life phase of the product	NC
a) Worker Rights and Fair Wages Rubber processing units must ensure that all workers receive fair wages, work in safe conditions, and have their rights protected in line with national and international labor standards. Conformity verification ➢ Employment records showing compliance with wage and hour laws, ensuring fair compensation. ➢ Documentation of worker contracts and adherence to national and international labor rights conventions (e.g., ILO standards). ➢ Reports on working conditions and regular audits of labor practices. ➢ Evidence of grievance mechanisms for addressing worker concerns.	M

Stage IV: Rubber Based Products Manufacturing	
Phase 24: Product Design for Sustainability	
a) The organization must have a process to consider the environmental impacts of the life cycle of the product into the designing stages to minimize associated impacts Conformity verification ➢ Strategies adopted at design & Manufacturing Process/Operations to improve environmental performance of the product ➢ Resource allocation for improving the design of the product & manufacturing of the product ➢ Implemented measures and addressed environmental Impacts ➢ R & D plans, test reports, etc ➢ LCA reports	C
b) The organization should have adopted proactive environmental management tools/ methodologies for the above process of Product design for sustainability Conformity verification ➢ Report or records on product design and development process (Ex: Eco designing)	NC
Phase 25: Legal Requirements	
c) The rubber processing unit shall obtain and implement the Environmental Protection License (EPL) Conformity verification ➢ Valid Environmental Protection License (EPL) obtained by the rubber processing unit	M
d) Rubber manufacturing factories must ensure that their products comply with the environmental, safety, and quality regulations of the buyer countries to facilitate market access and meet international standards. Compliance includes adherence to specific product-related laws, chemical restrictions, and sustainability criteria imposed by the importing countries. Conformity Verification ➢ Accredited third party certifications ➢ Compilation of relevant international standards	C
e) The rubber processing unit shall comply with relevant national legislations and Regulations for the rubber industry in Sri Lanka. Conformity verification ➢ A complete compilation ➢ Evidence of compliance including permits and certificates	M
Phase 26: General Requirements	
a) Effective Environmental Management Systems (EMS) should be implemented to systematically identify, assess, and manage the environmental impacts, main compliance obligations, risks and opportunities. Conformity verification ➢ Valid ISO 14001 EMS Certificate	NC

➢ Records of environmental management policies, procedures, and programs. ➢ Any other relevant environmental/private certificates Ex: sustainable certifications for plantations – Certificate Issued by RRI, FSC Certificate, COC certificate	
b) The rubber processing unit must develop a comprehensive Environmental Management Roadmap to address the potential environmental challenges and opportunities. Conformity verification ➢ Documents of the Environmental Management Roadmap of the Rubber Processing Unit. ➢ Evidence of the management approval of the road map (Top Management's commitment) ➢ Evidence on stakeholder engagement including employees, regulators, and local communities.	NC
Phase 27: Raw Material Acquisition (Latex & Other materials; Packaging materials, Yarn……etc)	
a) **Supply chain verification:** Each raw material supplier should be evaluated or raw material should be purchased from eco label certified supplier. Conformity verification ➢ Supplier Evaluation reports	NC
b) The rubber products manufacturing factory must prioritize the use of biodegradable, compostable, or innovative green materials such as biosilica, bioaccelerators, or bio-based rubber compounds. Conformity verification ➢ Documentation or certifications demonstrating that the materials used (e.g., biosilica, bioaccelerators) meet internationally recognized standards for biodegradability or compostability	NC
c) An efficient inventory management system (Ex: ERP) must be available adopted to ensure that the raw materials are ordered and utilized only as needed, to minimize the waste and storage costs. Conformity verification ➢ Documents related to receiving, usage, and replenishment of raw materials	C
d) Storage facility must be in good/ hygienic condition and whether the volume of the bunded area is adequate to contain the stored material Conformity verification ➢ Site verification to check; a. Are surface tanks and usage areas hard surfaced and bunded? b. Are they regularly cleaned and inspected and tested for leakages? c. Are alarms installed to detect leaks from storage areas ➢ labelling and documentation process for all consignments of dangerous goods ➢ Cleaning checklist	C

Phase 28: Responsible Chemical Management	
a) Effective chemical management practices, including storage, usage, and disposal must be implemented and upheld throughout all the stages of the process. Ex: ○ Store chemicals in a dedicated, enclosed and secure facility with a roof and a paved/concrete floor. ○ Store according to compatibility as outlined in Material Data Sheets ○ Label chemicals with appropriate, internationally recognised, diamond shaped hazard symbol ○ Chemicals with different hazard symbols should not be stored together - clear guidance on the compatibility of different chemicals can be obtained from the Materials Safety Data Sheets ○ Expiry dates and disposal methods Conformity verification ➢ Chemical Inventory ➢ Site visit to ensure proper storage facilities (secondary spill containment (bunds etc.) for bulk storage tanks), labeling, segregation, containment, and proper discharge of chemicals. ➢ Safety Data Sheets (SDS)	C
b) Up-to-date inventory must be maintained including all chemical substances present or likely to be present which could be hazardous to health or the environment Conformity verification ➢ Records of inventory management system	C
c) Upgrade abatement technology to minimise exposure to toxic substances, such as enclosure of equipment, appropriate ventilation with filters, gas balancing systems should be installed Conformity verification ➢ Site verification ➢ Records of new initiatives	NC
d) Organization must done regularly inspect and integrity test all bulk containment and infrastructure on site to prevent leakage and product loss Conformity Verification ➢ Records of regularly inspection	C
Phase 29: Energy Consumption & Conservation	
a) The rubber processing unit should implement an effective energy management system (EnMS) consisting of policies, procedures, and energy management programs aimed at optimizing energy usage and energy efficiency. Conformity verification ➢ Submission of a valid Energy Management System (EnMS) certificate or a certification demonstrating compliance with a recognized standard such as the ISO 50001	NC

➢ Records of Energy Management Policy, procedures, and energy management programs implemented within the organization	
b) Infrastructure must be established to quantify the Electricity and fuel consumption for the industrial processes and other purposes in the rubber processing unit must be maintained. Conformity verification ➢ Electricity sub-metering facilities	C
c) Regular monitoring and analysis of the energy and fuel consumption data must be done to identify trends, anomalies, and opportunities for energy conservation. Eg: Electrical energy consumption per unit of production output (KWh / Piece, KWh / kg, KWh / T, KWh / MT) Conformity verification ➢ Daily and monthly records of electricity and fuel consumption ➢ Records and reports on areas of identified trends, anomalies, and opportunities for energy conservation	C
d) The rubber processing unit must address the identified trends, anomalies, and opportunities for energy conservation and take measures to reduce energy consumption and improve energy efficiency. Conformity verification ➢ Reports on measures taken to reduce energy consumption and improve energy efficiencies in the areas identified. ➢ Onsite verifications ➢ Financial reports/saving records	NC
e) The rubber processing unit must establish baselines or benchmarks for electricity, thermal energy use and it should be monitored continuously. Conformity verification ➢ Details of benchmarks (Company or Industry)	NC
f) The rubber processing unit should aim to reduce its electricity consumption by annually compared to the defined benchmark. [Reduction in specific electricity consumption ≥ 3% (1 mark), Reduction in specific electricity consumption ≥ 5% (2 marks), Reduction in specific electricity consumption ≥ 10% (3 marks)] Conformity verification ➢ Detailed data on annual production, annual electricity consumption, and specific electricity consumption for the past three years	NC
g) If not implemented ISO standard, the rubber processing unit must implement an energy balance/energy assessment/audit, internally or externally to evaluate the overall energy consumption within the facility. Conformity verification ➢ Energy Audit/assessment/analysis report	NC

➢ Records on tracking and reporting programs including all relevant energy sources of the organization, consumption trends, and efficiency improvement initiatives implemented by the organization.	
h) The rubber processing unit must establish clear and achievable targets for reducing energy consumption and improving its efficiency across its operations. Conformity verification ➢ Documents on established targets for energy consumption reduction and efficiency ➢ Records on regular monitoring and assessment of progress towards the set targets ➢ Records on the implementation of corrective actions and continuous improvement initiatives	C
i) The rubber processing unit should aim to reduce its specific thermal energy consumption by a minimum of 3% annually compared to the previous year's consumption. The baseline year for comparison purposes must be clearly defined. [Reduction in specific thermal energy consumption ≥ 3% (1 mark), Reduction in specific thermal energy consumption ≥ 5% (2 marks), Reduction in specific thermal energy consumption ≥ 10% (3 marks)] Conformity verification ➢ Detailed data on annual production, annual thermal energy consumption, and specific thermal energy consumption for the past three years	NC
j) The organization should substitute nonrenewable energy sources/ low carbon fuel sources (Onsite & off site) with renewable energy sources (Eg: solar power, hydro powered, biomass etc) Conformity verification ➢ Details of installation of onsite and offsite renewable power generating sources including the technology, installed capacity and location with photographs of installations ➢ Details of total power/energy consumption in the manufacturing facility and renewable power produced in kWhs	NC
k) Sustainably sourced firewood must be used for thermal energy production. Conformity verification ➢ Certified sustainable fire source (SLSI certified) ➢ Site inspection (To check forest wood or not) ➢ Self-declaration from the supplier ➢ License from forest dep. For firewood – use for boiler	C
l) Measurers should be implemented to recover heat and energy from processes for use elsewhere on the site or to supply heat and power off site Conformity verification ➢ Details of heat recovery mechanisam	NC
m) A Method must be introduced and implemented to make sure that the Energy-saving efforts have been effective and communicate the progress to the relevant authorizes (eg: top management)	C

Conformity verification ➢ Progress report ➢ Management review meeting minutes, etc	
Phase 30: GHG Emission Management	
a) The rubber processing unit should calculate, record, and maintain the Carbon footprint of the organization or the product. Conformity verification ➢ A transparent and verifiable method for calculating the carbon footprint. ➢ The calculation method should adhere to recognized standards like ISO standards. ➢ The documents on calculating methods should be available for review to ensure transparency and accuracy.	NC
b) The rubber processing unit should establish clear and achievable targets for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Conformity verification ➢ Documents on established targets for GHG emission reduction ➢ Records on regular monitoring and assessment of progress towards the set targets ➢ The records on implementation of corrective actions and continuous improvement initiatives	NC
c) The rubber processing unit should implement carbon offsetting measures to compensate for unavoidable GHG emissions. Conformity verification ➢ Documentation showing the percentage of total GHG emissions offset ➢ Records of carbon offsetting projects, including certification by recognized standards (e.g., Verified Carbon Standard, Gold Standard) ➢ Sri Lanakan carbon crediting scheme (SLCCS)	NC
d) The rubber processing unit should adopt Science-Based Targets (SBTi) to guide their emissions reduction strategy, ensuring alignment with global climate goals. Conformity verification ➢ Documentation demonstrating participation in the Science-Based Targets Initiative (SBTi) and alignment of emission reduction targets with the initiative's criteria. ➢ Evidence of validation or approval of emission reduction targets by the SBTi. ➢ Periodic reports showing progress toward achieving SBTi targets, including updates on any revisions or enhancements based on the latest scientific findings.	NC
Phase 31: Water Consumption & Conservation	
a) Infrastructure must be maintained to quantify the water usage for industrial processes and domestic purposes Conformity verification ➢ Water supply metering and submetering facilities established in the organization ➢ Water consumption records are maintained on a daily/monthly basis [Units: m3 / liters, m3 /Kg, m3 /T, m3 /PCs of product manufactured or per employee water consumption] ➢ Records and reports on identified areas of high consumption or leaks	C

b) The rubber processing unit must implement a water balance/water assessment/audit, internally or externally to evaluate the overall water intake versus usage within the facility. Conformity verification ➢ Review of the water assessment/analysis reports conducted by internal or external auditors ➢ Records on tracking and reporting programs including all relevant water sources of the organization, and consumption trends, implemented by the organization.	C
c) The rubber processing unit must adopt and implement water conservation techniques and technologies to reduce the water consumption and improve water efficiency. The adaptation of these measures should be evident in the production process. Conformity verification ➢ Site inspection to assess the implementation of water conservation techniques and technologies ➢ Records of improvements (Water savings and any other improvements) from implemented water conservation techniques and Technologies (Ex: Amont of recycled water…etc)	C
d) The rubber processing unit should incorporate a rainwater harvesting system to supplement the water supply. At least 5% of the total annual water consumption should be from the implemented rainwater harvesting system. Conformity verification ➢ Site inspection to assess the functionality and operation of the rainwater harvesting system. ➢ Installed capacity of the tank vs. consumption data ➢ The volumes of rainwater collected per month and annually	NC
e) The rubber processing unit should calculate, record, and maintain the water footprint of the organization and/or product level. Conformity verification ➢ Transparent and verifiable calculation method for determining the organizational and/or product water footprint.	NC
f) The water-saving efforts, and how they have been effective in water consumption and efficiency, the progress made must be communicated to the top management Conformity verification ➢ Progress reports, impact/water assessment reports, management review meeting minutes, and any other supplementary evidence.	C
Phase 32: Solid Waste Management	
a) The rubber processing unit must maintain a system to track hazardous and non-hazardous waste streams generated within the facility (Ex: Sludge, packaging material, LED/CFL bubs/e-waste Product rejects/Buffing dust…..etc) Conformity verification ➢ A scheduled waste management license issued by the CEA ➢ Agreement with waste collectors	M

b) Hazardous and non-hazardous waste must be collected and stored separately in designated areas to avoid contaminations with the environment Conformity verification ➢ Onsite verification	C
c) Targets must be set to reduce the quantity of waste generated per year, by setting a base year Conformity verifications ➢ Documents on waste quantities produced, and how the set targets were achieved (data for at least two years must be submitted).	C
d) The rubber processing unit must divert 75% of the non-hazardous wastes away from the landfills, incinerators, and open dumping Conformity verification ➢ Records on annual waste production ➢ Records of waste disposal methods & quantities ➢ Reports on solid waste management, including how the waste was diverted away from landfills, incinerators, and, open dumping ➢ Any valid certificate (Ex: Zero waste to landfill)	C
e) Waste streams (including different types of scrap rubber) should be segregated to increase recycling and reuse opportunities Conformity Verification ➢ Site verifications ➢ Evidences of segregation of waste streams (including different types of scrap rubber) ➢ Records of recover and re-use raw materials and waste rubber quantities	NC
f) A waste management plan should be developed and implemented covering all aspects of waste treatment on site. Wherever possible, priority should be given to reduction of wastes generated, and recovery and re-use of raw materials Conformity Verification ➢ Documented waste management plan ➢ Records of waste management practices	NC
g) Measures should be taken to recondition and reuse solvents (distillation on site or off site) and catalysts Conformity Verification ➢ Records/quantities of recondition and reuse solvents (distillation on site or off site) and catalysts	NC
h) The rubber waste and other manufacturing waste should be directed for innovative avenues for repurposing rubber waste, such as rubberized concrete etc. Conformity verification ➢ Documents on research and development initiatives ➢ Documents verifying partnerships or collaborations with research institutions or industry experts to explore and implement innovative solutions	NC

Phase 33: Waste Water Management	
a) The rubber processing unit must conduct regular analysis of wastewater composition to identify the main sources such as skim, latex, and washing residues, and assess the presence of non-rubber substances and the processing chemicals. Conformity verification ➢ Test reports by accredited laboratory (Table 01 in Annexure 02) ➢ On-site verification ➢ Records on regular waste water quantity	C
b) The wastewater discharged into the environment shall be within the limits stipulated by the Central Environmental Authority (CEA) Conformity verification ➢ Wastewater-treated lab reports which are issued by CEA-registered/accredited laboratory	M
c) Untreated wastewater must not be discharged into nearby streams, paddy fields or other sensitive ecosystems (prevent wastewater from mixing with stormwater in the storm drain systems) Conformity verification ➢ Onsite verification ➢ Plan of waste water treatment plant	C
d) Environmentally friendly biological treatment processes, such as high-rate anaerobic/aerobic systems or treatments developed by the Rubber Research Institute/recognized institute should be implemented, if no toxic substances are present in the wastewater. Conformity verification ➢ Records/reports/procedures on such investments ➢ Onsite verification	NC
e) A baseline for the volume of water discharged per unit of product should be defined by the rubber processing unit Conformity verification ➢ Developed benchmark ➢ Records of wastewater generated and disposed	NC
f) Measures must be practiced to reduce to waste water generation from the factory Ex: Use dry cleaning methods wherever practicable for solids, (e.g. vacuum extraction, wipe down equipment that is accessible) rather than washing and rinsing them Conformity verification ➢ Details of innovative methods ➢ Records of reused or recycled water (Closed loop)	NC

Phase 34: Air Pollution Management	
a) Measures should be taken to minimise fugitive releases of gaseous substances at the design stage by the specification of high quality equipment and materials of construction which minimise leakage e.g. appropriate corrosive resistant materials Conformity verification ➢ Details of design of equipment (From manufacturer)	NC
b) Upgrade VOC abatement technology should be installed to minimise the release of emissions EX: thermal or catalytic oxidisers, bio scrubbers or reactors, turbines, reciprocating engines or boilers Conformity verification ➢ Site verification ➢ Details of installed technologies and their progress reports	NC
Phase 35: Health & Safety	
a) Indoor air quality: Emissions to air shall not exceed the CEA stipulated limits to make it ensure the factory atmosphere is safe for its occupants and mark out dedicated areas with signage where there are elevated levels of emissions Conformity verification ➢ Air quality test Reports by accredited laboratory/organization ➢ Site verification	C
b) The rubber manufacturing facility must implement effective dust control measures to minimize the release of particulate matter into the environment through proper maintenance of machines and initiatives (e.g. isolated storage, separate process areas, enclosures, closed systems) Conformity Verification ➢ Inspect the facility to verify the implementation of dust suppression systems such as air filtration, vacuum systems ➢ A dust management plan that outlines control measures, including filtration systems, enclosed processes, and regular cleaning schedules.	C
c) The rubber manufacturing facility must maintain noise levels below the threshold limits set by national or international noise regulations, particularly in areas surrounding the factory and within worker environments. Conformity Verification ➢ A noise management plan that details the use of noise-reducing equipment, soundproof barriers, and restricted operating hours for noisy machinery. ➢ Noise level monitoring reports, measured by accredited third parties, ensuring compliance with acceptable limits such as OSHA or ISO 1996-1 standards. ➢ Verification through on-site checks to confirm the provision of hearing protection devices and designated quiet zones within the factory, particularly for workers exposed to high noise levels.	C
d) The rubber processing unit must have implemented an Occupational Health and Safety management system in accordance with ISO 45001:2018, guidelines or any other relevant standards. Conformity verification ➢ Valid certification of ISO 45001:2018 or any other relevant standard	NC

e) All employees must receive adequate training on health and safety procedures relevant to their roles. Conformity verification ➢ Records of employee training sessions and photograph/video pieces ➢ Employee awareness will be assessed by interviews. ➢ Site verification to check use PPEs	C
f) Emergency preparedness plan and a fire safety management plan must be effectively implemented within the facility. Conformity verification ➢ Emergency preparedness plan ➢ Fire safety management plan ➢ Accident Registry	C
g) All employees who handling with chemicals and hazardous waste must be trained. Conformity verifications ➢ Records/evidences of training sessions ➢ Onsite verification ➢ Available Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) to relevant workers ➢ Interview workers	C
h) The employees handling the equipment must be adequately trained and be competent in using the equipment Conformity verification ➢ Evidence (photographs, videos) on employee training and awareness in handling equipment and machinery. ➢ Interviewing of workers to assess their knowledge in machinery handling.	C
i) The guidelines and protocols established for chemical handling must be communicated to the relevant workers. Conformity verification ➢ Records, photographs, attendance sheets of awareness sessions to workers on safety handling of chemicals. ➢ On-site interviews with the workers to check on their level of understanding of such protocols. ➢ Display of Safety guidelines in languages for workers to understand (at least sections directly related to operational worker safety and storage requirements, such as first aid, hazard, and flammability information)	C
j) Measurers must be taken to avoid potential sources of ignition including banning smoking in and around facilities Conformity Verification ➢ Documents of identification of potential risk areas ➢ Site verification	C
Phase 35: Product Quality	
a) The rubber processing unit must have a well-established Quality Management System (QMS) in place or policies, procedures, quality planning, quality control, quality assurance, and continuous improvement initiatives should be implemented within the organization.	C

Conformity verification ➢ Valid ISO 9001 QMS certificate ➢ Documents of policies, procedures, quality planning, quality control, quality assurance/Quality objectives ➢ GMP	
Phase 36: Packaging & Labelling	
a) Packaging materials used should be recyclable, biodegradable or made from sustainable sources Conformity verification ➢ Records of the types of packaging materials used ➢ Declaration from packaging material supplier	NC
b) Unnecessary (over packaging) must be avoided Conformity verification ➢ Records of quantities of packaging materials used	NC
c) Product packages/Labels shall be legibly printed with all the required information specified in the Consumer Affairs Authority Act, No. 09 Of 2003/other international standards Conformity verification ➢ Onsite verification of finished products/packages	M
d) Manufacturers should provide relevant environment-related information (Eg: Recycle material content of the product, disposable method…etc) on the label/packaging of the product Conformity verification ➢ Observations on the product label	C
e) The packaging should include clear messages encouraging the buyers to send back the packaging material to the company for reusing or recycling purposes. Conformity verification ➢ Evidence of packaging indicating messages encouraging buyers to resend packing materials ➢ Records on packaging material volumes received back from the buyers	NC
f) An operational system should be placed to track and link the finished products to the corresponding production batch. Conformity verification ➢ Traceability records should be maintained linking the products to the production batch.	NC

Phase 37: End Product Distribution	
a) The organization should reduce the environmental impacts related to the transportation Conformity verification ➢ The records on oil/fuel consumption for transportation are maintained ➢ Emission test reports of the vehicles ➢ Evidence for green practices such as two-mode transportation etc. Or If the inbound and outbound transportation is carried out by a third party, appropriate measures should be taken **to reduce associated environmental impacts with the involvement of the relevant party (Eg: conditions through agreements)** Conformity verification ➢ Copy of Signed Agreement ➢ Details of the projects implemented and the efforts taken to minimize dust emission/material spillage reduction due to transportation. ➢ Details of the safety precautions taken during transportation, photographic evidences.	C
c) A real-time digital tracking/monitoring system (GPS) should be installed and maintained for product distribution management Conformity Verification ➢ Onsite verification of the digital tracking/monitoring system of the organization	NC
Phase 38: End-of-life phase	
a) The organization should take any action to reduce the environmental impacts during the user consumption phase Conformity verification ➢ Records of the information/materials communicated to the users	NC
b) Appropriate initiatives/measures should be taken toward reducing the impact of the product's end-of life phase Conformity verification ➢ Description and proof of initiatives taken to reduce impacts from end of life phase of the product	NC
Phase 39: Social Responsibility	
a) Worker Rights and Fair Wages Rubber manufacturing units must ensure that all workers receive fair wages, work in safe conditions, and have their rights protected in line with national and international labor standards. Conformity verification ➢ Employment records showing compliance with wage and hour laws, ensuring fair compensation. ➢ Documentation of worker contracts and adherence to national and international labor rights conventions (e.g., ILO standards). ➢ Reports on working conditions and regular audits of labor practices. ➢ Evidence of grievance mechanisms for addressing worker concerns.	M

Annexure 01 – Plantation Management

Table 01: *Chemical fertilizers recommended for rubber plantations*

Fertilizer	Abbreviation	N %	P_2O_5 %	K2O %	MgO %
Urea	U	46			
Sulfate of Ammonia	SA	21			
Di ammonium Phosphate	DAP	18	46		
Imported Rock Phosphate	IRP		28.5		
Eppawala Rock Phosphate	ERP		30		
High grade ERP	HERP		38.5		
Muriate of Potash	MOP			60	
Sulphate of Potash	SOP			48	
Dolomite	DOL				20
Kieserite	KIES				24
Commercial Epsom Salt	CES				16

(Reference: Advisory Circular No: 2016/04 – Fertilizer for rubber, published by RRISL)

Table 02. *Fertilizer mixtures recommended for different rubber growing soils*

Soil series	District/Region	Fertilizer mixture	
		Nursery plants (young budding)	Field plants
Group I *Parambe*	Parambe series in Kegalle, Kurunegalaand Kandy	R/YB 13:17:6:3	R/U 15:15:7 R/SA 9:12:4:2
Group II *Matale*	Matale	R/YB 13:16:16	R/U 12:14:14 R/SA 9:11:11
Group III *Homagama, Boralu, Deniya, Agalawatta, Ratnapura*	Kalutara, Ratnapura,Galle, Avissawella	R/YB 9:11:11:4	R/U 12:14:14 R/SA 7:9:9:3
Group IV	Badulla, Moneragala, Ampara, Vavuniya	R/YB 9:11:11:4	R/SA 7:9:9:3

(Reference: Advisory Circular No: 2016/04 – Fertilizer for rubber, published by RRISL)

Table 03. *Composition of fertilizer mixtures recommended for rubber*

Mixture	SA	Urea	DAP	ERP/ IRP[a]	MOP	SOP	KIE	CES	Total
R/YB 13:17:6:3	31	-	38	-	-	13	-	18	100
R/YB 13:16:16	32	-	35	-	-	33	-	-	100
R/YB 9:11:11:4	23	-	25	-	-	23	-	29	100
R/U 15:15:7	-	33	-	55	12	-	-	-	100
R/U 12:14:14	-	26	-	50	24	-	-	-	100
R/SA 9:12:4:2	43	-	-	42	7	-	8	-	100
R/SA 9:11:11	43	-	-	39	18	-	-	-	100
R/SA 7:9:9:3	36	-	-	33	15	-	16	-	100

[a] HERP when IRP is not available.

(Reference: Advisory Circular No: 2016/04 – Fertilizer for rubber, published by RRISL)

Table 04. *Guidelines for organic manure applications in rubber plantations*

Age years	Quantity (kg/plant)		
	Paddy straw/ green manure	Compost/cow dung/poultry (layer) litter	Poultry manure[a]
Planting hole[a]	-	3	2
1st	2	2	1
2nd	3	3	2
3rd	4	4	3
4th	4	4	3
5th onwards	5	5	4

[a] planting hole applications of poultry manure should be done at least 3-4weeks prior to planting

Annexure 02

Table 01: *Tolerance Limits for Waste from Rubber Factories Being Discharged Into Inland Surface Waters*

	Parameters	Units Type of limit	Tolerance Limit Value Type I* Factories	 Type II** Factories
1	pH value at ambient temperature	-	6.5 to 8.5	6.5 to 8.5
2	Total suspended solids	mg/1, max.	100	100
3	Total Solids	mg/1, max.	1500	1000
4	Biochemical Oxygen Demand, BOD_5 in five days at 20^0C or BOD in three days at 27^0C	mg/1, max.	60	50
5	Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD)	mg/1, max.	400	400
6	Total Nitrogen (as N)	mg/1, max.	300	60
7	Ammonical Nitrogen (as N)Sulphides (as S)	mg/1, max.	300	40
8		mg/1, max.	2.0	2.0

(Reference: National Environmental Act No. 47 of 1980 (as amended))

* *Type I Factories* – Latex Concentrate

** *Type II Factories* – Standard Lanka Rubber ; Crepe Rubber and Ribbed Smoked Sheets

Note I : All efforts should be made to remove unplesant odour and colour as far as practicable.

Note 2 : These values are based on dilution of effluents by at least 8 volumes of clean receiving water. If the dilutionis below 8 times, the permissible limits are multiplied by the 1/8 of the actual dilution.

Table 02. Average raw rubber specifications for crepe rubber

Property	Specifications
Dirt content% (w/w)	0.020 (max.)
Volatile matter content% (w/w)	0.5 (max.)
Ash content% (w/w)	0.20 (max.)
Initial plasticity number (Wallace units)	30 (min.)
Plasticity Retention Index (PRI)	60 (min.)
Nitrogen content% (w/w)	0.35 (max.)
Mooney viscosity ML 1 + 4 @ 100 °C	75-85
Lovibond colour	1.5 (max.)

(Reference: Handbook _Volume 02 published by RRISL)

Table 03: Requirements for the latex concentrate

Characteristic	Type HA	Type LA	Type XA [c]	Type HA creamed	Type LA creamed	Method of test
Total solids content, min., % (by mass)	61,0 or as agreed between the two parties			65,0	65,0	ISO 124
Dry rubber content, min., % (by mass)	60	60	60	64,0	64,0	ISO 126
Non-rubber solids, max. [a], % (by mass)	1,7	1,7	1,7	1,7	1,7	-
Alkalinity (as NH3), calculated with respect to the latex concentrate, % (by mass)	0,60 min.	0,29 max.	0,30 to 0,59	0,55 min.	0,35 max.	ISO 125
Mechanical stability, min. [b], seconds	650	650	650	650	650	ISO 35
Coagulum content, max., % (by mass)	0,03	0,03	0,03	0,03	0,03	ISO 706
Copper content, max., mg/kg of total solids	8	8	8	8	8	ISO 8053
Manganese content, max., mg/kg of total solids	8	8	8	8	8	ISO 7780
Sludge content, max., % (by mass)	0,10	0,10	0,10	0,10	0,10	ISO 2005
Volatile fatty acid (VFA) number, max.	0,06 or as agreed between the two parties					ISO 506
KOH number, max.	0,70 or as agreed between the two parties					ISO 127

[a] The difference between the total solids content and the dry rubber content.

[b] The mechanical stability time normally stabilizes within 21 days.

[c] XA is equivalent to medium ammonia (MA) latex.

(Reference: Handbook of Rubber: Volume 2- Rubber research Institute of Sri Lanka)

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USERS

Stage	Type of Requirement			Total Mark Allocation
	Mandatory (M)	Critical (C)	Noncritical (NC)	
I - Plantation	01	16	07	101
II Collecting Centre	01	02	01	13
III Latex Processing Unit	05	31	28	239
IV Rubber Manufacturing	06	31	36	263

At least 70% of the total marks allocation for the criteria shall be scored by the applicant for being successful in the Eco Labeling certification process.

Marks Allocation	
Critical requirements - 5	
Fully implemented	5
Partially implemented	3
Not implemented	0
Non-critical requirements - 3	
Fully implemented	3
Partially implemented	2
Not implemented	0

Mandatory Requirements

When the adequacy audit of the organization's application is conducted, there shall be no non-compliance related to the mandatory requirements, and if any nonconformity is reported during the adequacy audit stage or the certificate audit, a major nonconformity will be raised, and that shall be corrected within two months of the certification Audit.

Critical Requirements

If any violation of critical requirements is found during the verification visit, a minor nonconformity will be raised, and suitable corrective action shall be taken within two months.

Non-critical Requirements

If any non-compliance of non-critical requirements is found during the certification Audit, it will be considered as an observation for the improvement. The effectiveness of the corrective actions taken for the observations raised will be audited in the next surveillance audit.

Note: Until the non-conformities are addressed, the marks should not be released to the governing council, and the certificate should not be granted