

Guide for RONA SUPPLIERS

Selection of RONA ECO and ECO-RESPONSIBLE products

This guide is intended to help suppliers submit products that could qualify as RONA ECO or eco-responsible products to RONA merchandisers.

Life cycle: at the centre of sustainable development at RONA

RONA intends to be the leader in sustainable development for its industry in Canada. We want to work with our customers to help them adopt ecologically responsible practices. The RONA ECO product line we have created and products identified as eco-responsible in our stores help us motivate consumers to make smart choices for the environment. All products that represent an eco-responsible choice are identified in a rigorous manner based on the life cycle approach adopted by RONA.



Eco-responsible and RONA ECO products are selected in partnership with the International Industrial Chair in Life Cycle Assessment Methodology at the École Polytechnique de Montréal, a unit of the Interuniversity Research Centre for the Life Cycle of Products, Processes and Services (CIRAIG).

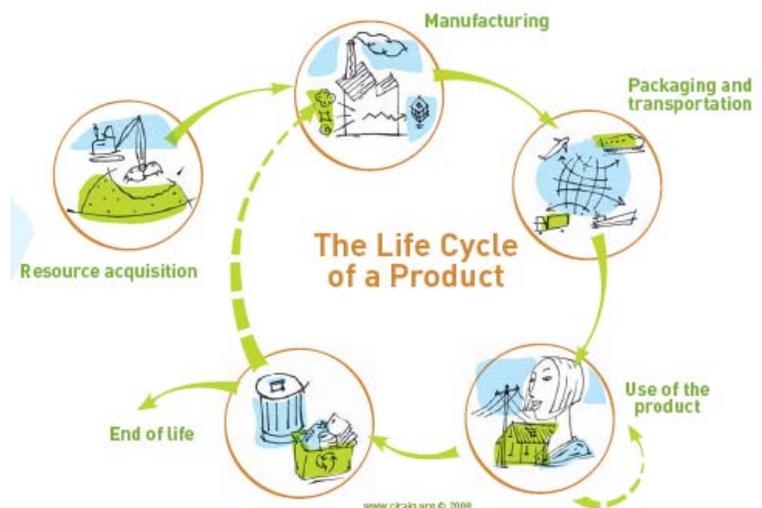
The life cycle of a product

Our approach, based on life cycle, has resulted in developing an environmental assessment method for the products we offer in our stores. This allows us to offer our customers innovative products that truly have ecologically responsible attributes.

A product's life cycle consists of five major phases:

1. Acquisition of raw materials
2. Manufacturing
3. Packaging and distribution
4. Product use
5. Final disposal

RONA's life cycle approach seeks to limit the impacts associated with each of these stages and also helps avoid solutions that merely shift a product's environmental problems from one life cycle phase to another.



Environmental performance indicators

Products are also assessed on the basis of four performance indicators that represent international scientific consensus and are key environmental issues:

1. Climate change
2. Ecosystems quality
3. Human health
4. Natural resources

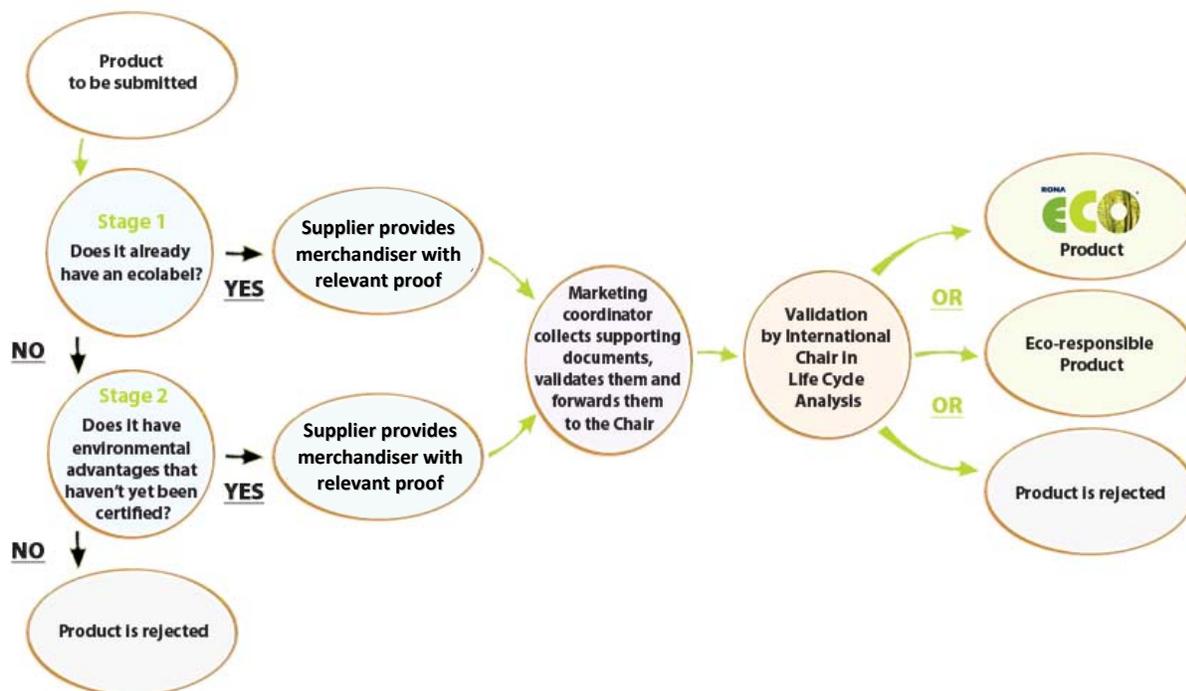
How products are assessed

The products we are looking for must have a lesser impact on the environment in one or more of their life cycle phases (for eco-responsible products), or else in every single phase of their entire life cycle (for RONA ECO products).

The following pages explain the key environmental features we're currently looking for. The International Chair in Life Cycle Assessment (the "Chair") is mandated on RONA's behalf to assess products submitted by merchandisers.

Identification and selection process for eco-responsible and RONA ECO products

This figure represents the selection process for eco-responsible and RONA ECO products. The pages that follow contain further details about the information suppliers must provide to RONA merchandisers.



Step 1 Submit products that are certified with an ecolabel

Suppliers are asked to submit to RONA merchandisers **ALL** products that are certified under one of the ecolabels below. Please provide RONA with relevant proof (a certificate or document indicating the type ecolabel, date of certification, etc.). This information will then be forwarded to the coordinator in the marketing department, who will communicate it to the Chair.

If products submitted bear other ecolabels than the ones below, submit these products and their supporting documents to RONA. New ecolabels may be added to the list while we continue to research new products.

Certified products are listed online at their respective ecolabel websites.

Recognized ecolabels		Logo
GENERAL ECOLABELS	ENVIRONMENTAL CHOICE (ECOLOGO) www.ecologo.org/en/certifiedgreenproducts/	
	GREEN SEAL www.greenseal.org/findaproduct/index.cfm	
ENERGY CONSERVATION	ENERGY STAR www.oeenrncan.gc.ca/energystar/english/consumers/products.cfm	
WATER CONSERVATION	WATER SENSE www.epa.gov/watersense/pp/index.htm	
FOREST MANAGEMENT	FSC www.certifiedwoodsearch.org/SearchProducts.aspx	
	CSA www.certifiedwoodsearch.org/SearchProducts.aspx	
	SFI www.certifiedwoodsearch.org/SearchProducts.aspx	
CLOTH/TEXTILES	EKO SUSTAINABLE TEXTILE* www.controlunion.com/certification/search/Search.aspx	

**Example of a new ecolabel that was not included on our initial list or featured in store displays. The "EKO Sustainable Textile" label guarantees that all fibres in the labelled textile product are of natural origin and were cultivated in an organic manner. Spinning, weaving, washing and other processing steps must likewise meet social and environmental criteria.*

Step 2

Product environmental advantages must be verified, whether they are certified by an ecolabel or not

If products submitted offer one or more of the environmental advantages listed below, you must submit information about the product and the necessary supporting documents to RONA merchandisers. Examples of products are shown for each environmental feature.

Desirable environmental features



1. Is your product less harmful to human health than a comparable conventional product?

Products that present fewer risks to user health contain little or no VOCs, formaldehydes, aldehydes, phthalates and fine particles (paints, varnishes, stains, glues, solvents, MDF, gypsum, insulators) or low-impact pesticides and fertilizers.

Documentation required: *Emission test results, name and concentration of substitute substance(s) or product spec sheet.*

2. Does your product contain over 25% recycled materials?

Examples: certain brooms, fencing products, garden furniture, garbage bags, flowerpots, insulation materials, wipers, paper products, etc.

Documentation required: *Product spec sheet, percentage of recycled material(s) and nature of recycled material(s) (post-consumer or post-industrial).*

3. Does your product help conserve water?

Products that reduce water flow above existing standards in effect (faucets, toilets, showers) and products that make it possible to use water more efficiently (micro-drip lawn sprinkler, rainwater collector, garden mulch).

Documentation required: *Product flow rate and specifications.*

4. Does your product help save energy?

Fluorescent bulbs or tubes, lamps using LEDs, timers, motion detectors, programmable thermostats, mechanical lawn mowers and products that reduce energy loss like high R value insulation or heat recovery units.

Documentation required: *Product spec sheet and relevant features (e.g., energy consumption or R value).*

Desirable environmental features



5. Does your product help reduce fuel consumption?

Electrical or manual products that are usually sold in a gasoline-powered version, like chain saws, mechanical and electric lawn mowers, electric edge cutters, electric hedge trimmers, electric or solar-powered BBQs, etc.

Documentation required: *Product spec sheet and relevant features.*

6. Does your product operate on a renewable form of energy?

Solar panels, wind turbines, high efficiency furnaces and other products that use sun, wind, geothermal energy, biomass and other renewable energy sources.

Documentation required: *Product spec sheet and relevant features.*

7. Is your product's packaging reduced to a minimum?

Products whose packaging is minimized (e.g., products sold in concentrated form, refillable containers or in bulk) or still functional after the product is unwrapped, or reusable or recoverable (packaging that consists of a single material or 2 or 3 materials easily separable for recycling).

Documentation required: *Net weight of product and of its packaging, type(s) of materials used in packaging (HDPE, cardboard, cotton, etc.).*

8. Does your product generate a minimum amount of waste?

Products that can be recharged (tools that operate with rechargeable batteries), reused (washable cloths), repaired (with spare parts readily available), or that have an exceptionally long useful life (products carrying a lifetime warranty) or are easily recyclable through segregated waste collection.

Documentation required: *Product spec sheet and relevant features.*

Desirable environmental features



9. Is your product made from waste material(s)?

Products that directly help prevent burying of waste in landfills, e.g. carpets made from rag cuttings, engineered wood, synthetic logs or asphalt shingles.

Documentation required: Provide a description of the origin of the raw materials and their proportion in the finished product.

10. Does your product have some other environmental advantage or attribute that isn't mentioned above?

If so, please provide:

- 1) A written document describing their products environmental advantages compared to conventional products of the same kind.
- 2) Evidence, studies and other relevant documents that would support and prove the statements (certification, test results, audits, life cycle assessment results, etc.)

11. In addition to one or more environmental advantages, do extraction and processing of the product's raw materials, as well as its manufacture, take place within a radius of 800 km from their place of delivery at RONA?

As an example, for the Boucherville distribution centre, 800 km encompasses any location in Quebec, or the distance to Sault-Ste-Marie, Ontario. Use Google Maps to determine distances for other RONA distribution centres.

Documentation required: Product spec sheet and a list of locations (including province or state) where the different stages of production take place.

The websites below include databases of products that offer environmental advantages that could be of interest as well as other useful data.

- www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca
- www.ecohabitation.com
- www.guidesperrier.com
- www.ethiquette.ca
- www.evo.com
- www.greenhomeguide.org
- www.usgbc.org (LEED)
- www.eco-buildingproducts.com

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