

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Singapore Environment Council Takes Firm Stance Against Transboundary Haze, Requires Asia Pulp & Paper to Step Up Monitoring and Fire Management

Singapore, 19 October 2026 - In response to persistent hotspots and fire incidents, the Singapore Environment Council (SEC) has stepped up measures under the enhanced Singapore Green Labelling Scheme (SGLS+) to address transboundary haze pollution and uphold sustainable sourcing.

1. SEC takes a serious view of the damaging impact of the haze on the health of the people in Singapore as well as the region, and the environment.
2. The SEC has issued a Notice of Temporary Restrictions on SGLS+ Certification to Asia Pulp & Paper (APP) on 18 October 2026. Under this notice, APP is subjected to daily fire response reporting requirements and strict monitoring to ensure effective fire prevention and suppression, for the concession areas managed by PT Bumi Mekar Hijau, PT Bumi Andalas Permai, and PT Sebangun Bumi Andalas Wood Industries. The three entities are wood-fibre suppliers to APP and operate concessions in South Sumatra, Indonesia. These same entities were issued preventive measures notices under the Transboundary Haze Pollution Act by the Singapore National Environment Agency on 16 October 2026, along with four other non-SGLS+ entities.
3. SEC's SGLS+ certification for pulp and paper products was launched in 2017. Introduced after the severe regional haze episode on 2015, SGLS+ incorporated requirements to reduce fire risks on agroforestry plantations, including sustainable peatland management, robust fire prevention, and strict zero-burning compliance throughout the supply chain. Around 58 pulp and paper products, such as printing paper and hygiene paper, are certified under the SGLS+ certification.
4. If APP's additional reporting is unable to demonstrate that strengthened monitoring, fire prevention and suppression measures are implemented effectively, the SGLS+ certificate may subsequently be suspended. If so, the use of the SGLS+ logo on products associated with the certification would have to cease.
5. In addition, SEC is also requiring SGLS+ certified companies to check their supply chains and declare whether they source or purchase wood, paper, and pulp products from any of the seven entities served with the prevention measure notices.
6. The Singapore Green Label aims to empower consumers to make informed purchasing decisions and support more environmentally responsible products. Consumers make daily purchasing decisions that influence companies' environmental practices, and they can make a difference by choosing products carefully by looking for the Singapore Green Label where applicable.
7. For more information on the SGLS, please visit: <http://sgls.sec.org.sg/>.

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About Singapore Environment Council

The Singapore Environment Council (SEC) is a non-profit, non-governmental organisation that promotes environmental sustainability through standards setting, certification, and public engagement. As a UNEP-accredited organisation and Singapore's only member of the Global Ecolabelling Network, SEC works with partners across the public, private and people sectors to drive sustainable practices and build a greener future.

For more information, visit www.sec.org.sg.

About the Singapore Green Labelling Scheme (SGLS)

The Singapore Green Labelling Scheme (SGLS) is a leading environmental certification scheme administered by the Singapore Environment Council (SEC). Established in 1992, the scheme provides independent, third-party certification of products that meet established environmental standards, helping businesses demonstrate their environmental credentials and enabling consumers and organisations to make more informed purchasing decisions.

Aligned with ISO 14024 principles for Type I environmental labelling, SGLS promotes credible environmental claims, responsible production and consumption, and greater transparency in the marketplace.

Building on this foundation, the enhanced Singapore Green Labelling Scheme (SGLS+) seeks to strengthen environmental assessment and certification standards to address evolving sustainability priorities, support businesses in their sustainability journey, and advance Singapore's transition towards a more sustainable and circular economy.