

ENHANCED GREEN LABELLING SCHEME (SGLS+) CERTIFICATION ACTION STRENGTHENS FIRE PREVENTIONS IN ALL PLANTATIONS CERTIFIED

Singapore, 19 September 2019: To date, Singapore Environment Council's (SEC) Singapore Enhanced Green Labelling Scheme for Pulp and Paper Products (SGLS+) has certified 10 Singapore-based companies since its launch in 2017, with another four more companies in the pipeline.

These companies underwent rigorous audits before receiving their SGLS+ certification. The qualifying companies are also subjected to further audits annually after certification so as to improve their fire and peatland management and to ensure that these processes are put in place. The SGLS+ provides a risk management profile to ensure that companies adopt the fire prevention and peatland management processes in addition to the robust fire management and prevention in place help ensure certified concessions are fire free during this period.

The SGLS+ provides a comprehensive and regular risk management surveillance on companies to ensure that they comply with rigorous requirements. SEC obtained the ISO17065 standard as a certification body which requires companies to uphold these high standards. Non-compliance at any time will result in suspension or revocation of their SGLS+ certification. Because of these high standards and readiness, certain companies were able to lend their assets to suppress fires beyond their concession boundaries. SEC acknowledges and appreciates the good work that these companies have instituted to meet the stringent requirements.

SGLS+ for pulp and paper currently certifies products from 10 companies which obtain their wood supply from more than 100 concessions. Of these, 81 concessions are in Indonesia, a total of 3.5 million hectares of concession land. The SGLS+ also provides thorough surveillance of the entire supply chain from the concessions to the mills and to the distribution of the products.

SEC encourages companies with plantations to come forward to be certified with SEC's SGLS+ scheme.

SEC recognizes and thanks the consumers who have chosen products from these SGLS+ compliant companies and for the continued patronage.

The last major regional haze that took place in 2015 came from underground peat fires. The World Bank Report stated that the daily emissions from Indonesian fires from October 2015 exceeded the emissions from the entire U.S economy, equivalent to 15.95 million tons of carbon emissions a day.

"We are comforted to know that the companies certified by SGLS+ are fire free. With the rigorous audits that we have been conducting over the past three years, it's safe to say that these companies are deriving the benefits from being compliant under our scheme. We hope that other companies will come forward to be certified with the SEC," said Mr Zechariah Chan, Chairman of the SGLS Committee.

**** END OF MEDIA RELEASE****

Notes to Editors

Key features of the Enhanced Singapore Green Labelling Scheme Criteria

Each company undergoes risk management surveillance and regular audits

- **Full disclosure of supply chain** – the entire supply chain of a manufacturer will now be assessed and audited. This includes forests and plantations, pulp and paper mills, converting plants as well as distributors and retail companies.
- **Fibre source** – all fibre is required to be sourced from legal sources and the use of wood and fibre from protected or high conservation value areas is banned. The use of recycled fibre is required to be maximized.
- **Zero-Burning Policy** – the company, owner or concessionaire in charge of the plantation is required to have a zero-burning policy.

- **Fire Management** – companies are now required to undertake a comprehensive range of fire prevention and preparation activities so they can quickly detect and suppress fires before they get out of control. This includes the identification and mapping of fire risks, a fire prevention budget, engaging the community to promote alternatives to fire as a land preparation tool, daily hotspot monitoring, and putting in place firefighting training and equipment.
- **Annual Audits** – SEC will undertake regular (min 4 times a year) surveillance audits of companies awarded the enhanced SGLS certification to ensure the criteria is continually met. They are assessed for risk mitigation.
- **Peatland Management** – proper peatland management is crucial to the prevention of haze. Peatland is a naturally water-saturated landscape and an efficient carbon sink. Uncontrolled draining of peat to plant pulpwood timber makes it susceptible to fire and releases the stored carbon. Companies are now required to protect the biodiversity of peatlands through proper assessment and especially water management.

List of 10 companies with pulp and paper products certified under the Enhanced Singapore Green Labelling Scheme

	Company	Product Type
1	Kimberly Clark	Hygiene paper
2	UPM (China) Co.,Ltd	Printing paper
3	Fuji Xerox Pte Ltd	Printing paper
4	Yeong Chaur Shing Paper Mill Sdn Bhd	Hygiene paper
5	Scanpap (Asia Pacific) Pte Ltd	Hygiene paper
6	Canon Paper	Printing paper
7	Sunlight Paper Products Pte Ltd	Hygiene paper; 100% recycled fibre
8	Asia Pacific International Resource Holdings (APRIL)	Printing paper;
9	Asia Pulp and Paper	Copier paper; hygiene paper

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ABOUT THE SINGAPORE ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL



**Singapore
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Council**

Established in 1995, the Singapore Environment Council (SEC) is an independently managed, non-profit and non-governmental organisation (NGO). As Singapore's first United Nations Environment Programme

(UNEP)-accredited environmental NGO, we influence thinking of sustainability issues and coordinate environmental efforts in the nation.

We are also an approved charity and offer tax exemption to donors. SEC continuously engages all sectors of the community by formulating and executing a range of holistic programmes, such as the Singapore Environmental Achievement Awards, Asian Environmental Journalism Awards, School Green Awards, Singapore Green Labelling Scheme, Project: Eco-Office, Project: Eco-Shop and Project: Eco-F&B. In addition, we build a pool of committed volunteers under our Earth Helpers programme. Our Training and Education arm provides the people, public and private sectors with the opportunity to develop awareness, knowledge, skills and tools in order to protect and improve our environment for a sustainable future.

Strong partnerships with corporations, government agencies and other NGOs are valued by us. These partnerships are vital for sustaining our programmes, leading to positive action and change. Over the years, SEC has given strength and direction to the environmental movement in Singapore.



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