



Green Building Council of Australia Limited ABN 43 100 789 937

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15 August 2005

Michael Fitzsimons
Managing Director
Instyle Contract Textiles Pty Ltd
6-8 Ricketty Street
Mascot NSW 2020

Dear Mr Fitzsimons

RE: 2 August 2005 correspondence

The Green Building Council's Green Star rating tools do not exclude any products or materials and the Green Star – Office Interiors Material Calculators do not reference textiles instead address the environmental impact of fitout items flooring, chairs, workstations etc. Green Star – Office Interiors awards points to projects that demonstrate that the fitout items meet the Australian Environmental Labelling Association's standards. The Green Building Council encourages suppliers and manufacturers to obtain this independent environmental certification of their fitout items.

The Green Building Council encourages Instyle to work with fitout item suppliers to obtain the "Environmental Choice Label" certification under the Australian Environmental Labelling Association Inc's Australian Ecolabel Program - Australian Voluntary Environmental Labelling Standard for "Environmentally Innovative Products" (Standard No: AELA 8-2005). This standard is applicable to fitout items.

As more research is undertaken in the green building area, Green Star rating tools are updated to reflect new information, practices, tools and references. The Green Building Council conducts annual reviews of its Green Star rating tools and stakeholder feedback is sought to facilitate this review.

The Green Building supports Instyle to undertake a full life cycle comparison of wool based flooring versus pre-consumer and post-consumer recycled content flooring and would welcome this information as part of the annual review of its Green Star – Office Interiors rating tool. The Green Building Council would also support Instyle in seeking funding for this exercise as it is not aware of any precedent of this type of comparison in international research to date.

In response to your comment regarding the “importance of wool’s positive effect on indoor air quality,” please note that indoor air quality initiatives are addressed under the ‘Indoor Environment Quality’ category of the various Green Star rating tools. To date no credit exists for the installation of wool carpets to remove indoor air contaminants. The Green Building Council is however concerned about volatile organic compound levels in buildings and in response to this concern includes a credit to encourage and recognise tenancy fitouts that reduce the detrimental impact on occupant health from products that emit pollutants. Two points are available where all carpets are low-VOC (US Carpet and Rug Institute Green Label) or no carpet is installed.

The Green Building Council explicitly counter the inference made by you that there is a conflict of interest of that the Green Building Council empowers any Committee or Director to drive the Green Building Council for commercial interest. The Green Building Council strongly denies your suggestion that any of its decisions have been clouded by a conflict of interest.

Yours sincerely

Maria Atkinson
Executive Director