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EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Brussels, **XXX**
D045655/03
[...](2016) **XXX** draft

COMMISSION DECISION

of **XXX**

on establishing EU Ecolabel criteria for wood-, cork- and bamboo-based floor coverings

(Text with EEA relevance)

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of **XXX**

on establishing EU Ecolabel criteria for wood-, cork- and bamboo-based floor coverings

(Text with EEA relevance)

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EC) No 66/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2009 on the EU Ecolabel¹, and in particular Article 8(2) thereof,

After consulting the European Union Ecolabelling Board,

Whereas:

- (1) Under Regulation (EC) No 66/2010, the EU Ecolabel may be awarded to products which have a reduced environmental impact during their entire life cycle.
- (2) Regulation (EC) No 66/2010 provides that specific EU Ecolabel criteria are to be established for each product group.
- (3) Commission Decision 2010/18/EC² has established the ecological criteria and the related assessment and verification requirements for wooden floor coverings, which are valid until 31 December 2016.
- (4) For the purpose of better reflecting the range of wood-, cork- and bamboo-based floor coverings on the market and the state of the art for these products, and to take into account the innovation of the last few years, it is considered appropriate to modify the name and scope of the product group and to establish a revised set of EU Ecolabel criteria.
- (5) The revised EU Ecolabel criteria aim at using materials produced in a more sustainable way based on a life cycle analysis approach limiting the energy consumed and the use of hazardous compounds, the levels of hazardous residues, the contribution of the floor coverings to indoor air pollution and promoting durable and high-quality products. The revised criteria, along with the related assessment and verification requirements should be valid for six years from the date of notification of this Decision, taking into account the innovation cycle for this product group.
- (6) A code corresponding to the product group is an integral part of the EU Ecolabel registration numbers. In order for the competent bodies to be able to assign an EU

¹ Regulation (EC) No 66/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2009 on the EU Ecolabel (OJ L 27, 30.1.2010 p. 1).

² Commission Decision 2010/18/EC of 26 November 2009 on establishing the ecological criteria for the award of the Community Ecolabel for wooden floor coverings (OJ L 8, 13.1.2010, p. 32).

Ecolabel registration number to wood-, cork-, and bamboo-based floor coverings complying with the EU Ecolabel criteria, it is necessary to assign a code number to that product group.

- (7) Decision 2010/18/EC should therefore be repealed.
- (8) It is appropriate to allow a transitional period for producers whose products have been awarded the EU Ecolabel for wooden floor coverings on the basis of the ecological criteria set out in Decision 2010/18/EC, so that they have sufficient time to adapt their product to comply with the revised criteria requirements. Producers should also be allowed to submit applications based on the ecological criteria set out in Decision 2010/18/EC for a sufficient period of time.
- (9) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Committee established by Article 16 of Regulation (EC) No 66/2010,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The product group of "wood-, cork- and bamboo-based floor coverings" shall comprise indoor floor coverings, including wood floorings, laminate floorings, cork floor coverings and bamboo floorings which are made, for more than 80 % by weight of the final product, from wood, wood-based, cork, cork-based, bamboo and bamboo-based materials or fibres, not containing synthetic fibres in any of the composing layers.

It shall not comprise wall coverings, coverings for external use, coverings with a structural function or levelling compounds.

Article 2

For the purpose of this Decision, the following definitions shall apply:

- (1) "wood flooring" means an assembly of wood elements, pre-assembled boards or parquet panels which constitute the wearing surface of the floor;
- (2) "cork floor coverings" means floor coverings made of granulated cork mixed with a binder, and then cured, or several layers of cork, agglomerated or veneer, that can be pressed together with glue and are intended to be used with a coating;
- (3) "coating" means a preparation within the meaning of Article 2(8) of Directive 2004/42/CE of the European Parliament and of the Council³;
- (4) "bamboo floor coverings" means floor coverings made of bamboo in solid pieces or in agglomerates mixed with a binder;
- (5) "laminate flooring" means a rigid floor covering with a surface layer consisting of one or more thin sheets of a fibrous material (usually paper), impregnated with aminoplastic thermosetting resins (usually melamine), pressed or bonded on a substrate, normally finished with a backer;

³ Directive 2004/42/CE of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 April 2004 on the limitation of emissions of volatile organic compounds due to the use of organic solvents in certain paints and varnishes and vehicle refinishing products and amending Directive 1999/13/EC (OJ L 143, 30.04.2004, p. 87).

- (6) "semi volatile organic compound" (SVOC) means all organic compounds which, in a capillary column coated with 5 % phenyl-polysiloxane and 95 % methyl-polysiloxane are eluting with a retention range between n-hexadecane (excluded) and n-docosane (included);
- (7) "R value" means the sum of all R_i values where R_i value is the ratio C_i / LCI_i , where C_i is the chamber mass concentration of compound i, and LCI_i is the LCI (lowest concentration of interest) value of compound i defined under the European Collaborative Action on Urban Air, Indoor Environment and Human Exposure Reports⁴;
- (8) "substance" means a substance within the meaning of Article 3(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁵;
- (9) "mixture" means a mixture within the meaning of Article 3(2) of Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006;
- (10) "biocidal product" means a biocidal product within the meaning of Article 3(1)(a) of Regulation (EU) No 528/2012⁶;
- (11) "preservative" means any product falling under product-type 8 (Wood preservatives) as specified in Annex V to Regulation (EU) No 528/2012 including products used for the preservation of cork or bamboo;
- (12) "active substance" means an active substance within the meaning of Article 3(1)(c) of Regulation (EU) No 528/2012;
- (13) "recycled material" means material that has been reprocessed from recovered or reclaimed material by means of a manufacturing process and made into a final product or into a component for incorporation into a product, excluding waste wood, chips and fibres from logging and saw-milling operations, as defined in ISO 14021;
- (14) "wood-based material" means material fabricated from wood fibres, wood chips or wood by one of several different processes that may involve the use of elevated temperatures, pressures and binding resins or adhesives. Wood-based materials comprise: hardboard, fibreboard, medium and high density fibreboard, particleboard, oriented strand board (OSB), plywood, and panels in solid wood. It can be coated by a finishing during the manufacturing production of the floor covering;
- (15) "cork-based material" means material fabricated from cork fibres, cork chips or cork by one of several different processes that may involve the use of elevated temperatures, pressures and binding resins or adhesives;

⁴ http://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/bitstream/JRC83683/eca%20report%2029_final.pdf

⁵ Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2006 concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH), establishing a European Chemicals Agency, amending Directive 1999/45/EC and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) No 793/93 and Commission Regulation (EC) No 1488/94 as well as Council Directive 76/769/EEC and Commission Directives 91/155/EEC, 93/67/EEC, 93/105/EC and 2000/21/EC (OJ L 396, 30.12.2006, p. 1).

⁶ Regulation (EU) No 528/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 May 2012 concerning the making available on the market and use of biocidal products (OJ L167, 27.06.2012, p. 1).

- (16) "bamboo-based material" means material fabricated from bamboo fibres, bamboo chips or bamboo by one of several different processes that may involve the use of elevated temperatures, pressures and binding resins or adhesives;
- (17) "synthetic fibres" means all polymer fibres;
- (18) "renewable energy" means energy from renewable sources (RES) within the meaning of Article 2(a) of Directive 2009/28/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council⁷;
- (19) "guarantee of origin" means a guarantee of origin within the meaning of Article 2(j) of Directive 2009/28/EC.

Article 3

In order to be awarded the EU Ecolabel under Regulation (EC) No 66/2010, a product shall fall within the product group "wood-, cork- and bamboo-based floor coverings" as defined in Article 1 of this Decision and shall comply with the EU Ecolabel criteria as well as the related assessment and verification requirements set out in the Annex to this Decision.

Article 4

The EU Ecolabel criteria for the product group "wood-, cork- and bamboo-based floor coverings" and the related assessment and verification requirements shall be valid for six years from the date of notification of this Decision.

Article 5

For administrative purposes, the code number assigned to the product group "wood-, cork- and bamboo- based floor coverings" shall be "035".

Article 6

Decision 2010/18/EC is repealed.

Article 7

By derogation from Article 6, applications for the EU Ecolabel for products falling within the product group "wooden floor coverings" submitted within two months from the date of notification of this Decision may be submitted in accordance with the criteria set out in Decision 2010/18/EC or on the criteria set out in this Decision.

EU Ecolabel licences awarded in accordance with the criteria set out in Decision 2010/18/EC may be used for 12 months from the date of notification of this Decision.

⁷

Directive 2009/28/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2009 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources and amending and subsequently repealing Directives 2001/77/EC and 2003/30/EC (OJ L140, 5.6.2009, p. 16).

Article 8

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels,

For the Commission
Karmenu VELLA
Member of the Commission