



Green Industries Eco-Labeling Program

Technical Guidance Document
All you need to know about Abu Dhabi
Green Industries Eco-labelling Program

Green Industries Labelling Program

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Green Industries Labelling Program

What is the Green Industries Label?

The terms “sustainability” and “corporate social responsibility” have become significantly more important over the last few years. Facilities and public in general are more aware of the effects of climate change and Environmental impacts. The number of facilities that are actively trying to become more eco-friendly is rising, that is not surprising considering the positive impact it has on the environment and the facilities themselves.

The Green Industries Labelling Program is a voluntary program that recognizes facilities that implement eco-friendly operations. It is an environmental performance assessment program by which the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD) grants facilities with eco-friendly operations the rights to use the Green Industries Label to market their facilities and products.



What is the Goal of Implementing the Program?

The Green Industries Labeling Program aims to help the public identify industrial facilities that have environment-friendly operations and practices which meet certain eco-criteria specified by the scheme and seeks to encourage the level of eco-consumerism in Abu Dhabi as well as to identify the growing demand for greener manufacturing in the market. The program has three core objectives:



Protecting the Environment - Environmental conservation and protection is a primary objective. The GILP aims to influence consumer decisions and encourage the implementation of eco-friendly operations in production and provision of services. In this regard, GILP serves as a market-based instrument is intended to bring about environmental improvement.



Encouraging Innovation - The GILP offers a market incentive to environmentally innovative and progressive facilities. By implementing processes and operations that reduce stress on the environment, the facilities can establish or reinforce a market position and positive corporate image among consumers, and possibly encourage other facilities to do the same. The GILP criteria are set to reward only the top environmental performers in a sector. As the program gradually improves, the standards will be raised to encourage facilities and service providers to keep pace with new and emerging performance improvement opportunities and market shifts.



Building Consumer Awareness - The GILP aims to enhance consumer awareness of environmental issues and of the implications of their choices. The label will provide reliable information on the environmental impacts of facilities, and that may be all that is required to promote environmentally beneficial actions.



What are the Labeling Criteria?

The GLIP maintains stringent technical criteria based on good ecological science to assure consumers that they can trust the label. The criteria assess facilities under four major categories:

1. Demand Side Management (DSM)

Establishment and implementation of systems to manage and reduce energy, water and resource use. Resource depletion, inaccessibility of resources (in some cases) and increasing international competition for natural resources has increased the importance of proper management of resources. Many facilities carry out voluntary measures to manage resources. They range from simply simple actions such as environmental education and conservation projects to developing systems to ensure reduction of resource consumption such as the use of renewable energy resources, installation of reuse and recycling systems and implementation of environmental monitoring systems. Excellence in DSM will include evidence of systems for monitoring and measuring performance based on a comprehensive strategy, strong commitments from senior management and integration of approaches to optimise resource use either in terms of design or operation.

2. Pollution Reduction

Reduced emissions positively impact the quality of local community's air, water, and land resources, making surrounding areas safer and healthier. Pollution reduction measures can be applied by any facility regardless of type or size. This can be accomplished through increasing operational efficiencies, reducing risk, and effectively meeting environmental responsibilities. These measures can have significant benefits to facilities including:

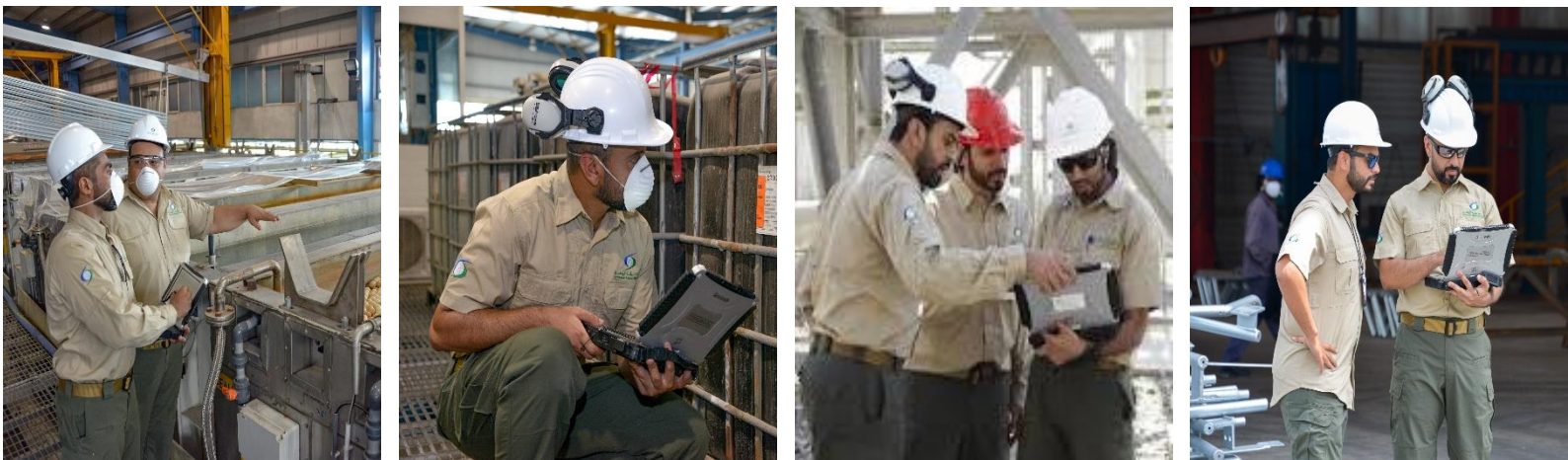
- a. Improved regulatory compliance and reduced regulation
- b. Reduced waste generation and improve waste storage, treatment, and disposal
- c. Reduced present and future liability costs
- d. Reduced raw material consumption/ material costs
- e. Improved process efficiency, expanded production, and improved company profits

Excellence in Pollution Reduction will include evidence of systems for identifying sources of pollution and mitigation measures for their reduction or elimination, as well as a program to determine the effectiveness of reduction protocols and commitment from management to further reduce pollution.

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3. Compliance

Environmental compliance refers conforming to applicable federal and local environmental laws, regulations, standards and other requirements such as environmental permits. Environmental compliance inspections and environmental monitoring reports are tools implemented to measure facility compliance. In recent years, environmental concerns have led to a significant increase in the number and scope of compliance imperatives across all global regulatory environments. Dedication to ensuring the facility is in full compliance with all environmental standards and regulations is essential. Excellence in Compliance will include the policies and strategies to ensure all processes and activities within the facility achieve compliance with Federal and Abu Dhabi standards and regulations, as well as, implementing internal audit and review procedures to maintain these standards.



4. Innovation

Environmental innovation is a process that contributes to the creation of new production and technologies with the aim of reducing environmental risks, like pollution and negative consequences of resource exploitation. Promoting innovation facilities to see a way to meet the environmental goals more cheaply and effectively, and it creates winners - creating new markets, business opportunities and exports. Excellence in innovation will include evidence of the adoption of management practices to develop initiatives that reduce environmental impact, invest in research and development as well as encourage creativity from staff.

Who Can Apply?

All industrial facilities that have a valid environmental permit are eligible to apply to the Green Industries Label Program regardless of facility size or type of operations. Facilities must meet the scheme set criteria to obtain label. The environmental criteria for each product group are revised every few years – and existing Green Industries label holders have to apply when new, revised criteria come into force.

How Can You Apply for the Green Industries Label?

The Green Industries Label is managed by the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD). Inspection and checks are also performed by the Agency. Sometimes this can be in cooperation with government bodies. Only after a facility has met with the required criteria can a label be awarded. This is followed up by annual checks and an evaluation of all the data collected. The application procedure includes the following:

1. Submission of Green Industries Label Application

Applications can be submitted through the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD) website (www.ead.gov.ae). Applicants will be directed to the Green Industries Label Application login page. After completing the login process, the applicants will answer a series of yes/no questions corresponding the labeling program assessment criteria. All required evidence documents need to be uploaded to the system to complete the application process. Once submitted, the applicant will receive a notification that the application has been submitted successfully.

2. Screening Process (10 working days)

The application and all supporting documents are screened by the technical review committee at the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD). If additional information is required, the applicant will receive an email to submit the information before the technical assessment process takes place. All additional information will be submitted through email.

3. Technical Assessment Process (30 working days)

The technical review committee evaluates the application and reviews all relevant documents submitted and gives a score to each criterion. The final application score is calculated and if the score meets the label threshold, a notification is sent to the inspection team to schedule performing a facility audit. In case of failure to meet the threshold score, a report of weak point application is generated and sent to the applicant to make necessary changes.

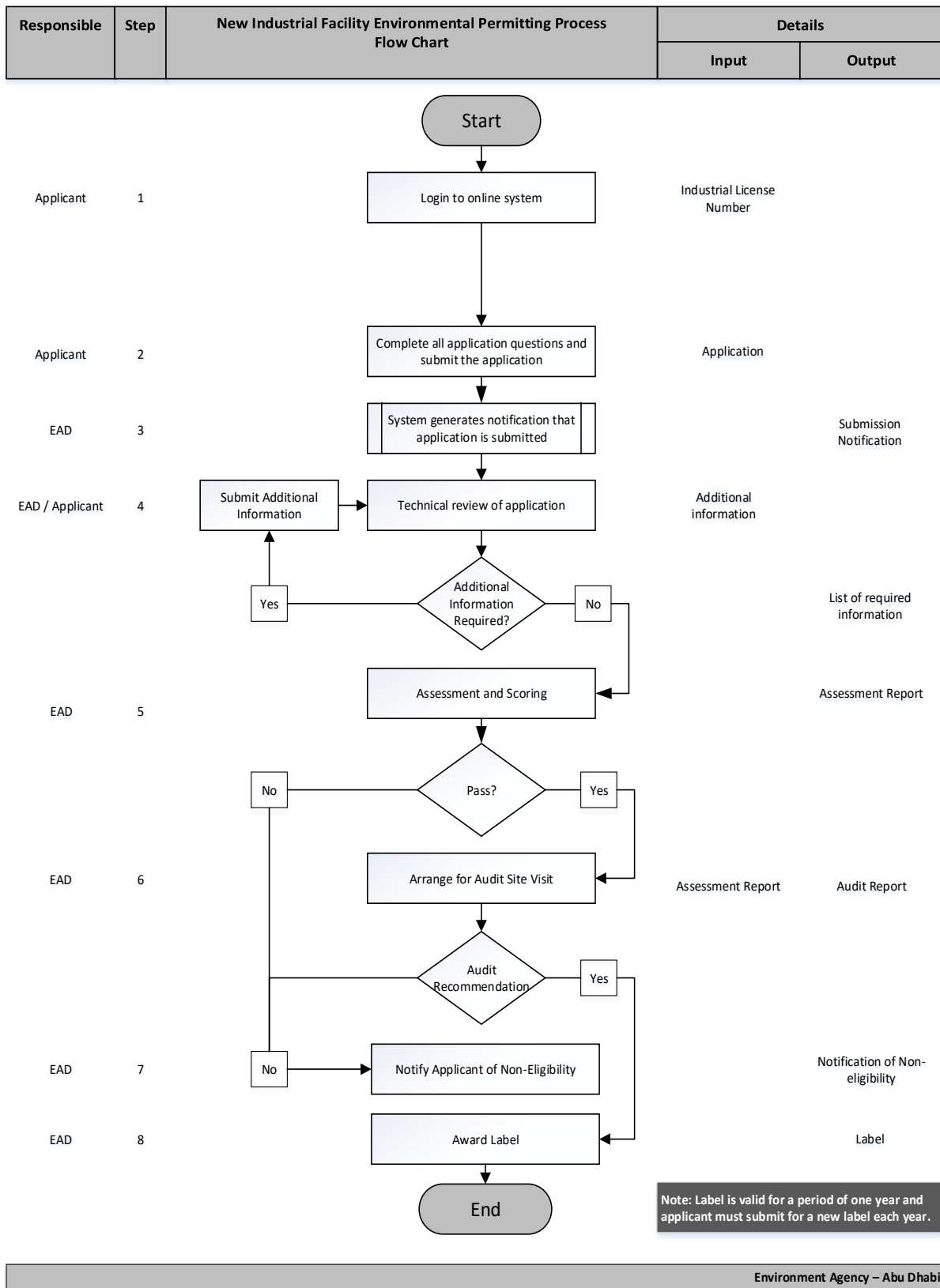
4. Facility Audit (15 working days)

The Green Label Audit team conducts a facility audit to ensure the validity of submitted information. The Audit lead will generate a report with recommendation to either proceed to the next phase of the assessment process or provide a non-conformity report to the applicant.

5. Issue Label (5 days)

The technical review committee will review the audit report recommendations and either issue the label or issue a notification that the application was not successful.

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Applying for the Green Industries Label is entirely voluntary. It is encouraging facilities to implement greener operations and helping consumers to identify them.

Awarding the Green Industries Label

- If your application is successful, the applicant will be given a Green Industries Certificate number.
- The applicant will receive the branding guideline for the use of Green Industries label.
- As a label holder you can display the logo on your sign boards and stationery and use it in advertisements, provided that the compliance to label branding guidelines.
- The facility name will be included in the list of Green Industries Label Holders posted on the Environment Agency Website (www.ead.gov.ae).

Maintaining the Label

- Application of label renewal must be submitted at least 60 working days before expiry of the label. Renewal of the label will go through the same application and assessment process as a new label.
- If new or revised program criteria exist, the label holder will need to comply with the new criteria upon renewal of the label.
- Monitoring of Green Industries Label awarded facilities is required to ensure continued compliance with the program criteria. Inspection visits may be carried out and additional documentation for compliance assessment may be requested.
- The Green Industries label can be suspended or withdrawn in case of breach of any applicable environmental laws and regulations.

Terms and Conditions

- The Green Industries Label must only be used by facilities who meet the requirements and successfully pass the process..
- The Green Industries Label must only be used as per the guidance issued in the Branding Guidelines.
- The right to use the Green Industries Label shall not extend to the use of the Label as a component of a trademark.
- The operator may utilize the Green Industries Label only after receipt of the official confirmation.
- The award of the Green Industries Label shall be without prejudice to environmental or other regulatory requirements of Abu Dhabi or Federal law applicable to the various life stages of the product.
- EAD has the right to revoke the Green Industries Label at any time due to breach of requirements.
- The Facility owner/operator agrees that EAD has the right to withdraw use of the Green Industries Label from the Facility. The Facility agrees to withdraw or rectify to the satisfaction of EAD misleading or incorrect references to its Green Industries Label upon notification by EAD and agrees not to use its Green Industries Label in any way that would disparage EAD or bring EAD into disrepute.