



# GENICES: An Overview

## The Global Ecolabelling Network's Internationally Coordinated Ecolabelling System

The GENICES process is a framework for evaluating and auditing the programmes operated by GEN members to enhance mutual trust and recognition within GEN, and to provide assurance that the programmes are in fact operating reputable life cycle-based Type 1 ecolabelling programmes in accordance with ISO 14024:2018.

### 4 Guiding Principles of GENICES

1. GENICES is to provide a mechanism for enhanced cooperation and collaboration on product certification, criteria development and review.
2. GENICES participation is voluntary and open to current Full GEN members and a requirement for Associate members seeking transition to Full membership.
3. A formal methodology is to be used for common criteria development, review and adoption.
4. The GENICES is to remain intact for an indefinite period of time but continue to evolve. GEN recommends reassessment every 5 years.

### The GENICES Peer Review Process

The review involves an application review and onsite audit to examine programme operations and interview key staff, performed by experienced auditors selected by the GEN Board. The auditors prepare a draft site audit report, which the applicant can respond to, with comments or suggested corrective actions and recommendations. If the auditors suggest corrective actions, completion may be contingent upon the applicant planning and implementing any necessary measures according to a mutually acceptable timeline. After completion of the peer review process, the applicant will be awarded a GENICES certificate at the next GEN Annual General Meeting (AGM) and sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) expressing willingness to negotiate joint specific activities based on the mutual recognition of GEN member programmes. Members must repeat the process every five years.

### Key Aspects of Life Cycle-Based Ecolabelling Programmes Addressed in GENICES:

1. Selection of Product Categories
2. Criteria Development
3. Consultation
4. Compliance and Verification
5. Transparency
6. Accessibility
7. Reporting and Publication
8. Avoidance of Conflict of Interest
9. Costs and Fees
10. Confidentiality
11. Mutual Recognition
12. International Trade Aspects
13. Impartiality
14. Qualifications of Staff and Auditors
15. Quality Management System

Full details of the GENICES process can be found in the *Members Guide to GENICES* [here](#).