

KCMA

Making sure more than just our cabinets last.



Environmental Stewardship Certification Program

Help us take the lead in taking care of the environment.

Renewable wood products are the primary material for cabinetmaking. Cabinetmakers support practices that assure sustainable supplies of the primary resource utilized by them. As the developer of the industry performance standard for cabinets (ANSI/KCMA A161.1) 36 years ago, it is fitting that the Kitchen Cabinet Manufacturers Association (KCMA) has added environmental sustainability to its established program to measure and assure product durability. KCMA promotes sustainability and encourages industry suppliers to participate in recognized programs such as Sustainability Forestry Initiative, American Tree Farm, Forest Stewardship Program, and others. The association has developed a certification program, the Environmental Stewardship Program (ESP), to enable cabinet manufacturers to demonstrate their commitment

to sound environmental management and sustainable practices. Designed to encourage industry policies and practices that benefit both the environment and the well-being of society, ESP provides companies with tangible ways to support sustainability in the areas of air quality, resource management, environmental stewardship and community relations. Companies qualify for official ESP certification by accumulating 80 out of 105 possible points in these different categories.

All ESP-certified companies are awarded the ESP seal to display on their products. The ESP seal lets consumers, builders, architects, and others know they are supporting sustainability when they buy or specify ESP certified products. Whether preserving much needed resources or providing yet another reason to buy certified products, sustainability is good business.

ESP Certification Requirements

The certification criteria are reviewed on an annual basis by the KCMA, the Environmental Stewardship Committee and the Board of Directors. It has been strengthened four times since the program began in 2006.

Manufacturers must earn a points based on compliance with the following criteria to be awarded ESP certification:

- Manufacturers must demonstrate their commitment to protect the environment as evidenced by a written policy statement.
- The use of CARB ATCM compliant low-formaldehyde emitting panel products is mandatory and must constitute 100% of all particleboard, medium density fiberboard (MDF) and plywood used in the cabinets. These products also must be certified by CARB approved third-party certifiers to meet low formaldehyde emission standards
- 80% of particleboard and MDF used in the cabinets contain 100% recycled or recovered fiber content
- Chain of Custody (COC) Certification of the manufacturer through a recognized sustainable forestry program is encouraged
- Hardwoods, softwoods and plywoods purchased are certified through a recognized sustainable forestry program
- A documented energy conservation program is in place
- A written Environmental Management System is encouraged
- An active recycling program for process wastes is in place
- All federal, state and local environmental requirements are observed and manufacturer agrees to report to KCMA any violation.
- The manufacturer demonstrates community involvement and leadership through service or charitable organizations