



Expo City Dubai RISE Guidelines for Sustainable Operations

External Document

Version 1

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1 Acronyms

Acronym/Abbreviation	Expansion
ABS	Acrylonitrile Butadiene Styrene
ASTM	American Society for Testing and Materials
ECD	Expo City Dubai
EVOH	Ethylene Vinyl Alcohol
F&B	Food & Beverage
FLEGT	UK Forest Law Enforcement, Governance, and Trade
FSC	Forest Stewardship Council
HDPE	High-density Polyethylene
ISO	International Organization for Standardisation
LDPE	Low-density Polyethylene
LLDPE	Linear Low-density Polyethylene
MF	Melamine Formaldehyde
PA	Polyamide
PBT	Polybutylene Terephthalate
PC	Polycarbonate
PEFC	Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification
PET	Polyethylene Terephthalate
PMMA	Polymethyl Methacrylate
PP	Polypropylene
PU	Polyurethane
PVC	Polyvinyl Chloride
PVDC	Polyvinylidene Chloride
RISE	Respect for the workforce, Impact on communities, Safety for all, Environmental stewardship
UAE	United Arab Emirates
UP	Unsaturated Polyester

2 Preface

This document acts as a guide to support the sustainable operations of Expo City Dubai (ECD). It is aimed to support suppliers to integrate sustainable practices into their products and services.

2.1 The Importance of Sustainability to Expo City Dubai

The purpose of the ECD RISE Guidelines is to maintain sustainable practices offered within the city. This document will be updated periodically to reflect the strategic direction of ECD's future commitments to Sustainability – including carbon neutrality by 2030.

The objectives of the ECD RISE Guidelines are to:

- Outline the requirements which suppliers and service providers need to fulfil to support ECD's sustainability ambitions
- Promote sustainability practices across ECD's supply chain
- Support domestic and international markets in promoting sustainable products and services, with the aim of encouraging responsible production and consumption behaviour
- Build on the success of Expo 2020's sustainability activities, and leverage learnings for continuous improvement
- Align with ECD's carbon neutrality commitments, and ultimately the UAE Net Zero 2050 strategic initiative

Section	Content
Section 3: Introducing the Expo City Dubai RISE Guidelines	Provides an overview of the importance of sustainability at Expo City Dubai, and the approach to using this document
Section 4: Packaging and Single-use Materials	Focuses on the approach to packaging and single-use materials, prioritising on sustainable options
Section 5: Food and Beverage	Provides the requirements for suppliers to minimise food waste and waste contamination
Section 6: Retail	Details the various requirements to consider sustainability across the manufacturing value chain
Section 7: Cleaning and Waste Management	Provides suppliers with requirements to consider for sustainable cleaning and waste management

3 Introducing the Expo City Dubai RISE Guidelines for Sustainable Operations

3.1 The Importance of Sustainability to Expo City Dubai

Expo 2020 Dubai was one of the most sustainable Expos in history. Its sustainability strategy reflected the core theme of 'Connecting Minds, Creating the Future', and it responded to the sub-themes of Opportunity, Mobility, and Sustainability. These set the scene for conserving resources, encouraging socially responsible behaviour, and safeguarding the environment. The ethos of these are carried forward to ECD.

As a consequence, sustainability is expressed throughout ECD's building and infrastructure designs, the use of renewable energy, and the showcasing of innovative technologies. Sustainability at ECD is a significant catalyst for positive change for the UAE and beyond.

In this context, it is important to maintain sustainable practices throughout the operation of the City. This is an area where suppliers will have the opportunity to play a crucial role in achieving their own sustainability aspirations, and, in turn, supporting ECD's high ambitions. This document will help suppliers understand and implement the operational sustainability requirements of ECD.

3.2 The Expo City Dubai RISE Approach

The ECD RISE Guidelines have been developed to cater to the strategic direction of sustainability at ECD, aligning with wider carbon neutrality commitments and ambitions.

RISE is an acronym which reflects the ethos of sustainability at ECD. It stands for:

- **Respect for the Workforce**
- **Impact on communities**
- **Safety for All**
- **Environmental Stewardship**

3.3 Scope of the Expo City Dubai RISE Guidelines

The ECD RISE Guidelines cover people, products, services, and places associated with the operation of ECD. This document applies to any supplier intending to provide products or services for ECD. It covers:

- Products that are to be sold or used within the ECD geographic boundary, or on ECD digital platforms, or carry ECD branding, such as retail goods, gifts, food and beverages, packaging, equipment
- Services that are to be sold or used within ECD, including but not limited to cleaning, catering, logistics, maintenance and event management

3.4 Benefits of Using the Expo City Dubai RISE Guidelines

Incorporating sustainability into ECD's operations requires good performance across the supply chain. Given the scale, the impacts will be far-reaching. As well as providing guidance to help numerous suppliers conform to ECD's sustainability requirements, the following benefits are expected:

- Reputation enhancement for suppliers who will be able to feel proud to be a supplier to an entity that has raised the bar for sustainable operations;
- A meaningful response to ECD's visitors who increasingly demand high levels of social and environmental responsibility;
- A stimulus to local and international markets to encourage the greater supply of ethical and sustainable goods and services;
- Positive messaging on complying with a sustainability guideline in-line to recognised international standards and eco-labels

3.5 Understanding Controls

Throughout this document, the criteria for compliance are detailed through Controls. Controls are 'must' statements that establish the compulsory requirements for all suppliers taking part in ECD. This is to ensure that the standards and aspirations are achieved for the benefit of all parties as a whole.

Each control is assigned a unique alphanumeric code. The first character of the code identifies the statement as a control (C). The numeric character identifies the sequential order of the control.

3.6 Compliance, Updates and Distribution

This document is managed by ECD's Sustainability Team. It is intended to be updated periodically to reflect ECD's evolving sustainability ambitions.

Compliance will be monitored and evaluated before and after suppliers enter into contracts with ECD.

Suppliers should ensure the latest revision of this document is distributed to their relevant supply chains and to appropriate staff within their organisations, including senior managers.

4 Packaging and Single-use Materials

Packaging refers to any material or container used to wrap or contain food or other products (for example bags, wrappers and boxes); single-use material refers to any material or item intended to be used only once prior to its disposal or recycling (for example a throw-away biscuit wrapper or a disposable coffee cup).

ECD is particularly concerned with the growing prevalence of single-use plastic waste in society and its negative impact on the environment. ECD has a target to divert 85% of waste away from landfill, with further plans to increase this ambition.

Suppliers of goods and services to ECD are expected to consider ways that they, and their supply-chains, can adopt strategies to reduce packaging and single-use materials prior to goods arriving to the city. Such strategies should be based on a good understanding of expected quantities of packaging and materials that will arise, and how ECD manages waste.

The requirements set out in this section are highly applicable to F&B and Retail suppliers, where packaging and single-use materials are typically used as part of the product offering.

C-1 Pre-packaging refers to any product that arrives to ECD already in its packaging from the manufacturer. For such items, the supplier must follow the table below, demonstrating that the pre-packaging is labelled recyclable:

Recyclable plastic	LDPE and LLDPE / HDPE / PP / PVC / PET / PA / ABS / PBT / PC / PMMA / EVOH / PVDC
Other recyclable materials	Paper / cardboard / aluminium foil / glass / aluminium and containers of other metals
<p>Avoid the following which may compromise recyclability:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • materials which do not carry a legitimate 'recyclable' symbol • thermoset and polystyrene plastics such as PU, MF, UP, which are challenging or impossible to recycle in the local market • mixing recyclable waste packaging with non-recyclable waste materials • heavily contaminating waste packaging with food or waste residues such as fats • paper or cardboard materials with excessive additives, coatings, non-paper labels, adhesive tape, non-water-based adhesives • plastics with coating and layers • black, dark and opaque coloured plastics 	

C-2 For water provision, the supplier must use non-plastic recyclable alternatives for bottled beverages - using glass, carton or aluminium instead.

C-3 The supplier must reduce unnecessary packaging. The main purpose of the packaging should only contain the item, any additional packaging for decorative purposes are to be avoided.

C-4 Post-packaging refers to any product that is packaged at ECD. The supplier must not use single-use plastic packaging for post-packaged products. As an alternative, biodegradable plastics are permitted on condition that:

- They are third-party certified as compostable against any of the following standard specifications: EN 13432 / ISO 14855 / ASTM D6400 / D5338 / D5511 / D6868 / D6691 / D6954
- Labels describing the biodegradable content are: attached to the packaging; provide unambiguous information about the proportion of biodegradable material used; and include clear information about relevant Certifications, standard specifications and the required disposal methods to be followed by the end consumer

¹ This means all fossil fuel-based plastics regardless of whether they are recyclable

² This means third-party certified 100% plant-based biodegradable plastics, excluding oxo-biodegradable plastics

C-5 The supplier must not use or supply balloons to ECD. Balloons in all forms are prohibited within ECD.

C-6 For paper-based packaging, the supplier must ensure that any paper-based packaging are:

- Made from recycled fibre or certified by FSC, or recognised equivalent
- Have high recyclability by avoiding excessive additives / coatings / use of non-paper labels, and by using minimal amounts of adhesive tape and non-water-based adhesives

C-7 The supplier must train all staff involved with ECD on handling, segregating and disposing of packaging waste. This can be done by providing records of recurring waste training and awareness raising sessions on ECD's waste management requirements and practices.

5 Food and Beverage

When providing food and beverage services at ECD, suppliers in this sector are expected to demonstrate high sustainability performance relating to their direct activities and those of their supply chains.

C-8 The supplier must take proactive measures to reduce food waste across their value chain. This could be in the form of efficient planning, or participating in food repurposing programmes.

C-9 The Suppliers must ensure that proper segregation is in place to separate any food waste from other waste streams, minimizing contamination to the highest possible extent.

C-10 Where food waste is inevitable, the supplier must coordinate with the relevant waste management contractor to send food waste for composting.

6 Retail

It is integral that products sold or distributed adhere to ECD Sustainability Policy. Suppliers acting in the capacity as licensees or retail providers are expected to integrate sustainability across their supply chains. This is applicable to all suppliers selling/distributing products with any ECD branding, selling products within the city and/or any ECD digital platform.

C-11 Products with wood

Products where 70% or more of the material components is made from wood must be legally sourced. This can be done by ensuring the wooden materials comply with a recognised timber legality or sustainability certification scheme such as Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC), UK Forest Law Enforcement, Governance, and Trade (FLEGT) or their equivalents.

C-12 Manufacturing

The supplier must ensure that their supply chains comply with sustainable manufacturing processes. This entails taking active measures to meet compliance in:

- Greenhouse gas reduction: reduce energy consumption within the supply-chain of the product manufacturing process
- Water consumption and pollution: reduce water consumption and water/air pollution within the supply-chain during the product manufacturing process
- Material consumption and waste: minimise material inputs into the manufacturing process, and waste arising from it

A method of demonstrating this can be in the form of providing relevant certifications to prove compliance in manufacturing and sourcing, such as Ecolabels, ISO 14001 and/or ISO 50001.

7 Cleaning and Waste Management

This section requires all suppliers of cleaning services appointed directly by ECD, or indirectly by vendors operating in ECD, to minimise as far as practicable environmental and health impacts of their cleaning processes, and use sustainable waste management practices.

C-13 The supplier must minimise the use of cleaning products and materials, and use only products and materials that meet recognised global environmental and health standards.

C-14 The supplier must apply water and energy efficient cleaning methods and equipment, and avoid effluent from cleaning running-off into the landscape.

C-15 The supplier must abide by ECD's waste management requirements for materials and waste segregation. This includes utilising correct colour-coded bin liners which promote sustainable waste management practices.

C-16 The supplier must ensure all staff are trained in front-of-house waste segregation on a regular basis. This includes effective identification of waste materials, and proper segregation before disposal. It is highly encouraged that staff are to be trained in their native language to minimise confusion.

C-17 The supplier must ensure all staff are trained in back-of-house waste segregation on a regular basis. This entails understanding how the back-of-house waste skips are operated and managed, and segregating disposals appropriately. It is highly encouraged that staff are to be trained in their native language to minimise confusion.