

M1 Emission Classification, General rules

These obligatory General rules describe the principles of the M1 Emission Classification for building materials, furniture and upholstered chairs.

1. M1 Emission Classification

The M1 Emission Classification is primarily intended for building materials, furniture and fixtures used in residential spaces and office premises. The classification activity is based on the document [Classification of Indoor Environment 2018](#), and current classification criteria and principles.

The M1 Emission Classification is owned by Building Information Foundation RTS and operated by its subsidiary Rakennustieto Oy who, among other things, issues the Classification Certificates. The principal committee for Indoor Climate (PT 41), appointed by the Director General of the Building Information Foundation RTS, maintains and develops classifications related to indoor climate such as the Classification of Indoor Environment and the M1 Emission Classification, promotes and supervises their use, and advances construction aimed at achieving good indoor climate.

Applications for classification and matters related to classification decisions are handled confidentially by a separate, impartial classification committee working group appointed by Rakennustieto Oy. The working group is composed of emission classification experts appointed by Rakennustieto Oy, and the secretary of the working group is a representative of Rakennustieto Oy.

2. Definitions

2.1 M1 Emission Classification

M1 Emission Classification is a fixed-term classification decision granted by Rakennustieto Oy, stating that the Classified Product complies with the requirements in force for the M1 Emission Classification in accordance with the approved testing methods and classification criteria.

2.2 Holder of the Classification

Holder of the Classification is a company or other legal entity to which Rakennustieto Oy has granted the M1 Emission Classification, and which is responsible for the compliance of the Classified Products, the proper use of the Classification Mark, and adherence to these rules.

2.3 Classified Product

A Classified Product is a product or product designation that has been granted the M1 Emission Classification and is specified in the M1 Classification Certificate and in the list of Classified Products maintained by Rakennustieto.

2.4 Classification Mark

The Classification Mark is the M1 Emission Classification Mark (M1), owned and registered by the Building Information Foundation RTS, used to indicate that the product meets the requirements set for the M1 Emission Classification.

2.5 Classification Certificate

Classification Certificate is a document issued by Rakennustieto Oy, specifying the Holder of the Classification, the Classified Products, the period of validity of the M1 Emission Classification, and other conditions of the classification.

3. Applying for M1 Emission Classification

Applications for M1 Emission Classification are submitted to Rakennustieto Oy using an online application form designed for the purpose. The application process is described in detail on [the M1 Emission Classification's website](#). In addition to the product information, the applications shall include a product data sheet or brochure, instructions for use, material safety data sheet (applicable only to chemical products), and a test report. At the time of submitting the application, the test report shall not be more than one (1) year old. Applications for classification of a product group ([see section 9](#)) shall in addition include required formulation and/or composition specifics. The applicant may, if necessary, be asked to provide supplementary information for their application. By applying for the M1 Emission Classification, the applicant commits to the General rules. All classification applications are evaluated in accordance with the current testing requirements and the classification criteria set for the products.

3.1 Confidentiality of application documents

Rakennustieto Oy and the classification committee process all documents and information relating to applications confidentially. Rakennustieto Oy has the right to use and publish the classification data in all of its services, including the M1 Classification Certificate, the information contained therein, and other essential product identification data such as the GTIN/product code, as presented [in section 13](#). The Holder of the Classification has the option to refuse the transfer of the data to Rakennustieto Oy's services. Notifications shall be submitted in writing.

Personal data are processed in connection with this process in accordance with Rakennustieto Oy's valid [privacy statement](#).

3.2 Different application types

In addition to the new classification application described in [section 3](#), the classification process also involves other types of applications. All application types and the documentation needed for each are described in detail on [the M1 Emission Classification's website](#).

4. Right to use the Classification Mark and the validity of the right to use

The Holder of the Classification has the right to market the Classified Product as M1 Emission-Classified, to label the Classified Product with the Classification Mark, and to use the Classification Mark in the marketing of Classified Products. The use of the Classification Marks is instructed in detail in [section 5](#).

The right to use the Classification Mark is valid for three (3) years from the granting of the M1 Emission Classification. If the composition of the product and method of manufacturing have not changed, the M1 Emission Classification can be continued once with a continuation application for another three (3) years without retesting. Continuation without retesting can be approved only if the testing methods and the classification criteria or principles have not changed fundamentally since the original testing and approval. The minimum retesting frequency is six (6) years upon renewal of the classification. If, for reasons beyond the manufacturer's control, the required retesting cannot be completed in time for the renewal application, the classification committee may, based on the manufacturer's request, grant a temporary extension to the classification, following case-by-case consideration.

5. Use of Classification Mark

5.1 Product labelling

In online content, as well as on product labels, packaging, brochures, product data sheets, and user instructions, the M1 Emission Classification granted to the product is indicated with the M1 Classification Mark. Transferable stickers of the Classification Mark may not be produced, and the mark must always be part of the printed material. The Classification Mark must be used as it is. It may not be altered, combined with other images or elements, nor may any text or other visual modifications be added on top of it or in connection with it. In the marketing of M1-Classified Products, a valid Classification Mark (Figure 1) shall be used; the mark is a registered trademark of the Building Information Foundation RTS. If needed, the previous classification mark (Figure 2) may be used during the transition period until the end of year 2026. Several language versions of both the Classification Mark and the Classification Certificate are available.



Figure 1. Valid M1 Emission Classification mark (in English), introduced on 1 October 2023.



Figure 2. M1 Emission Classification mark (in English), decommissioned on 1 October 2023

In addition, the product description must highlight the restrictions related to the use of the product and its intended use, as well as factors resulting in increased emissions, such as:

- applications, suitability
- substrate requirements (e.g. humidity and temperature)
- preliminary treatments
- operational safety
- packaging
- transportation
- storage (e.g. storage conditions and packaging method)
- instructions for use and installation
- cleaning instructions (e.g. detergent pH requirements)
- environmental protection and waste management

5.2 Product marketing

The Classification Mark can be used for marketing of the M1 Emission-Classified product alone. Only the products and product names marked on the M1 Classification Certificate are classified. The Classification Mark or any reference to the M1 Emission Classification must not be used in such a way that it refers to the company as a whole or to products which have not been granted the M1 Emission Classification. Marketing must not be liable to create a misleading impression of the scope of the classification.

5.3 Misuse of the Classification Mark

The Classification Mark shall not be misused. The Classification Mark may only be used where the product has a valid M1 Emission Classification, and solely in relation to those products for which the M1 Emission Classification has been granted and which are identified in the Classification Certificate. Misuse of the Classification Mark includes, but is not limited to, the use of the Classification Mark:

- 1) without a valid Classification Mark, or in connection with products other than Classified Products;
- 2) after the expiry of the validity of the M1 Emission Classification; and/or
- 3) in a manner that implies compliance with criteria other than those demonstrated by the M1 Classification Mark, for example by using the Classification Mark as a general indication of quality or sustainability of the Classification Holder or any other company or entity.

Misuse of the Classification Mark is liable to mislead purchasers or users of the product — whether businesses or consumers — and to result in an unfair advantage for the party misusing the Classification Mark based on the reputation of the trademark. Misuse of the Classification Mark may cause harm to Rakennustieto Oy, including by weakening the distinctiveness of the M1 trademark or damaging the reputation of Rakennustieto Oy or the M1 trademark. Misuse of the Classification Mark may result in civil and/or criminal liability for the party responsible for such misuse.

If Rakennustieto Oy discovers or receives information about misuse of the Classification Mark, it has the right to take measures to rectify the misuse.

Rakennustieto Oy shall contact the Holder of the Classification or another company or entity and issue a written notice specifying the identified misuse and the grounds thereof and shall set a time limit of one (1) month for the implementation of corrective actions.

If the misuse has not been remedied within the time limit set after the notice, Rakennustieto Oy shall issue a written warning to the Holder of the Classification. From the date of notification of the warning, a period of one (1) month shall commence during which the Holder of the Classification must implement the required corrective actions. If the corrective actions have not been completed within the specified time, Rakennustieto Oy shall withdraw the M1 Emission Classification granted for the product and the right to use the Classification Mark, and shall, where necessary, remove the classification information from its services.

Rakennustieto Oy may charge the Holder of the Classification a contractual penalty for misuse and/or unauthorized use of the Classification Mark. The amount of the contractual penalty shall be four thousand (4,000) euros. In addition, Rakennustieto Oy and the Building Information Foundation RTS shall have the right to claim damages for unauthorized use of the trademark and/or trademark infringement, including costs related to the investigation of the matter. Rakennustieto Oy and the Building Information Foundation RTS shall also have the right to take necessary legal action, including referring the matter to the Market Court.

Furthermore, Rakennustieto Oy shall have the right to inform the market, through its own or external channels, that the products in question do not hold a valid M1 Emission Classification.

6. Quality assurance and obligation to notify of changes

The quality control and assurance of M1 Emission-Classified Products is the responsibility of the Holder of the Classification. The Holder of the Classification is responsible for ensuring that the Classified Product has an approved quality assurance system. The Holder of the Classification is required to notify Rakennustieto Oy in advance of changes concerning the product's manufacturing methods, composition, etc., if the changes affect the properties for which the classification criteria apply to.

7. Responsibility for Classified Product

The Holder of the Classification is solely responsible for ensuring that the product meets the requirements set for it. Rakennustietosäätiö RTS sr or Rakennustieto Oy are not responsible for the Classified Product or for the properties declared for the product by the Holder of the Classification.

8. Termination or revoking of the right to use the Classification Mark

Both Rakennustieto Oy and the Holder of the Classification can terminate the M1 Emission Classification and right to use the Classification Mark to expire three (3) months after the termination. Rakennustieto Oy can cancel the right to use the M1 Emission Classification and the Classification Mark without a notice period to end immediately in cases of misuse or if it becomes evident that the requirements forming the basis for granting the classification are no longer met. If Rakennustieto Oy has a legitimate reason to suspect that the Classified

Product does not meet the requirements set for it, the Holder of the Classification must prove that the requirements are met with new test results in accordance with [section 10](#).

9. Product grouping

If the products to be classified are very similar in terms of use as well as physical and chemical properties, they can be classified as a product group. The classification committee decides on product grouping based on detailed composition and property information before the testing phase. Product grouping requires that sufficiently comprehensive compositional information is provided for the classification committee. When forming the product group, the classification committee decides which product or products shall be tested as product group representative. The product groups and products to be tested are re-evaluated in the classification committee upon renewal of the M1 Emission Classification. The product grouping process is described and instructed in more detail on [the M1 Emission Classification's website](#).

10. Product testing

The granting of an M1 Emission Classification requires product testing by an approved testing laboratory. Laboratory tests must be renewed at least every six (6) years when applying for a renewal of the M1 Emission Classification. The need for retesting caused by changes in the product and/or its manufacturing process described in [section 6](#) is assessed by the classification committee on a case-by-case basis.

10.1 Sampling

The collection, packaging, and delivery of the product sample to the testing laboratory shall be carried out in accordance with the valid [testing protocol](#) and the instructions given by the testing laboratory. Sampling is documented with a sampling report, which is attached to the testing report.

10.2 Testing laboratory

Emission testing and analyses shall be carried out by a qualified and impartial laboratory approved by the classification committee. The list of approved laboratories can be found on the [M1 Emission Classification's website](#).

10.3 Testing methods

Preparation of test specimens, collection of emission samples, as well as the analyses and measurements shall be carried out in accordance with the valid [testing protocol](#). The test report shall include the information determined by the testing protocol.

The products are tested for the following properties:

- total emission of volatile organic compounds (total volatile organic compounds, TVOC)
- emissions of individual volatile organic compounds (VOCs) according to the valid [EU-LCI list](#)
- formaldehyde (HCOH) emission
- ammonia (NH₃) emission

- emissions of volatile carcinogenic compounds according to Annex VI of Regulation (EC) No. 1272/2008
- acceptability of odour

More detailed classification criteria for emission classes with limit values are described on the [M1 Emission Classification's website](#).

11. Fees

11.1 Classification fee and other fees related to the M1 Emission Classification

The applicant shall pay Rakennustieto Oy the valid classification fee for the M1 Emission Classification and any other fees related to the granting of the classification. The up-to-date list of fees confirmed by Rakennustieto Oy can be found on the [M1 Emission Classification's website](#).

11.2 Testing fees and expenses

The applicant is responsible for all costs arising from the tests required for the classification application. The applicant shall pay the testing fees and expenses regardless of the test results. The applicant pays the testing costs, determined by the testing laboratory, directly to the testing laboratory.

12. Complaint procedure

If the applicant wants to appeal the decision regarding the denial of the M1 Emission Classification and the right to use the Classification Mark, the applicant shall submit a written appeal to Rakennustieto Oy within 14 days of receiving the decision.

13. List of Classified Products and Rakennustieto Oy's Services

Rakennustieto Oy maintains and publishes a list of M1 Emission Classified Products and the Holders of the Classification. Rakennustieto Oy has the right to use and publish the classification data in all of its services, including the M1 Classification Certificate, the information contained therein, and other essential product identification data, such as the GTIN/product code.

14. Control sampling of Classified Products

The quality of M1 Emission-Classified products is controlled by a spot test procedure. The classification committee selects the products to be tested annually by random selection procedure. Rakennustieto Oy pays the testing costs of the products selected for the spot test. The test results of the spot test remain in the possession of Rakennustieto Oy but are also communicated to the Holder of the Classification. The evaluation of the results of the spot test takes place confidentially in the classification committee.

If the requirements of the classification are not met in the spot test, the Holder of the Classification has the opportunity to demonstrate the product's conformity by testing the product again at their own expense within three (3) months of receiving the failed test result. Otherwise, the product's M1 Emission Classification and the right to use the Classification Mark will be revoked.

15. Confirming and changing of the General rules

These General rules have been confirmed by Rakennustieto Oy on 8.5.2026. Rakennustieto Oy can change these General rules if necessary. The up-to-date version of the rules is always available at [M1 Emission Classification's website](#).

16. References

Classification of Indoor Environment 2018: Target values, design guidance and product requirements

M1 Emission Classification's website, available at:
<https://ymparisto.rakennustieto.fi/en/emission-classification-of-building-materials>

Testing protocol *M1 Emission Classification of Building Materials: Protocol for Chemical and Sensory Testing of Building Materials*, available at:
<https://ymparisto.rakennustieto.fi/en/emission-classification-of-building-materials>

EU-LCI list *Agreed EU-LCI values*, available at: https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/sectors/construction/eu-lci-subgroup_en

Rakennustieto Oy, 17.6.2026