



Certification scheme GreenCert – GreenScent – Beginner Level

GreenCert – Beginner Level – Circular economy

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1 Scope

This certification scheme specifies the procedure of how the competence of persons in the field of GreenCert – Beginner Level, is being certified by ECQA GmbH.

The certification organization ECQA GmbH is an Austrian company, which is 60% owned by the non-profit organization European Certification and Qualification Association (ECQA).

The object of certification is exclusively / solely the competence of natural persons.

The certification is largely based on the principles of the International Standard ISO/IEC 17024:2012-07 Conformity assessment - General requirements for bodies certifying persons.

2 Requirements for competence

2.1 Competence Profile

Individuals certified in accordance with this certification scheme are competent to independently plan and deliver GreenCert – Beginner Level as a service, using appropriate technical tools and applications.

2.2 Knowledge and skill requirements

The Circular Economy is a pivotal aspect of the European Green Deal, aiming to extend the lifecycle of resources through sustainable practices that minimize waste and maximize reuse. This approach necessitates a diverse set of competencies that bridge environmental, economic, and social disciplines. Key competencies within the Circular Economy include the ability to design for sustainability, which involves creating products and processes that are easier to recycle, repair, and reuse. Additionally, there's a need for expertise in supply chain management to ensure materials are sustainably sourced and efficiently used, as well as skills in waste management technologies that facilitate recycling and reprocessing. Professionals working in this area must also be proficient in regulatory and policy frameworks to comply with and influence environmental standards and practices. Economic modelling and market analysis are crucial for understanding and capitalizing on the economic benefits of circular strategies. Attitudes of innovation, collaboration, and resilience are essential. These attitudes encourage stakeholders across industries to engage in transformative practices, leading to more sustainable business models and consumption patterns. The shift towards a Circular Economy not only supports environmental goals but also fosters economic resilience and the creation of new job opportunities within a more sustainable economic framework.

Individuals performing GreenCert – Beginner Level Circular economy must demonstrate competencies as specified in Sections 2.2.1 through 2.2.5.

2.2.1 Unit 1 (Abbrev.U1)

- E1: Understanding the priorities of CE (EQF2)
- E2: Awareness of product life cycle (EQF2)
- E3: Approaching environmental benefits (EQF2)

- E4: Awareness of losses and waste (EQF2)

2.2.2 Unit 2 (Abbrev.U2)

- E1: Taking responsibility and reconciling tensions and dilemmas (EQF2)
- E2: Creating new values and fostering environmental motivation (EQF2)
- E3: Circular economy collaboration and users' engagement (EQF2)

2.2.3 Unit 3 (Abbrev. U3)

- E1: Understanding the positive effects on growth, jobs, and investment (EQF2)

2.2.4 Unit 4 (Abbrev. U4)

- E1: Circular economy storytelling (EQF1)
- E2: Regenerative mindset: do more good than just be less bad (EQF2)

2.2.5 Unit 5 (Abbrev. U5)

- E1: Design for recovery and multiple use cycles (EQF1)
- E2: Circular materials and manufacturing (EQF2)

3 Requirements for admission to the examination

Prerequisite for admission to the examination is

- None (although the completion of a recommended training is suggested)

4 Multiple-Choice Exam

The examination is done in writing as a multiple-choice test online. The exam consists of 12 questions, from a pool of more than 52 questions in total, from the five subject areas as per section 2.2.1 to 2.2.5.

The maximum duration of the written exam is set at 30min.

5 Evaluation Criteria

5.1 Multiple-Choice Exam

Each question is scored with a maximum of one point each. There are several answer options per question. For each the complete exam at least 50% of the total score must be achieved.

5.2 Overall assessment and examination repetition

To pass the overall examination, at least 50% must be achieved..

6 Issue and validity of certificates

The successful evaluation of the initial certification examination, according to section 5, is a prerequisite for the issuance of a certificate.

The certificates are valid for 3 years.

7 Recertification

7.1 Criteria for renewal of the certificate

To renew the certificate, the certificate holder must fulfil one of the following criteria:

7.1.1 The certificate holder must retake the exam.

7.1.2 The certificate holder must hand in a written report stating the use of the skills in a project/work environment proven by the school/university/company.

7.2 Issue of the certificate

After fulfilling all the criteria, according to 7.1, the certificate is renewed for 2 years.

7.3 Deadlines

Recertification must take place before the certificate expires. In exceptional cases, recertification may also take place after expiry of the certificate. In this case, the following conditions apply:

7.3.1 If the recertification takes place after the expiration of the validity of a certificate within a period of maximum 6 months, the recertification shall be carried out in accordance with the criteria and process specified in Section 7.1. Otherwise, an audit to the extent of the initial certification shall be performed in accordance with Section 5.

7.3.2 The validity of the certificate is always based on the date of initial certification. This means that the date of the initial certification is always taken as the starting point, regardless of the recertification date.