

ourcommitment rs-barcelona

At RS Barcelona we are committed to creating, designing and manufacturing in a sustainable manner, adopting an approach to sustainability that goes beyond environmental aspects to include people and their well-being.

We manufacture ethically, using high-quality, recyclable and reusable materials, creating timeless products designed to last and accompany you through the different stages of your changing life.

We are committed to local manufacturing and to the development of the social fabric that surrounds us. And we manufacture using environmentally-friendly processes that enable us to reduce the environmental impact of our activity to the minimum.

We do this in order to meet the challenge of changing the course of the planet —a challenge we must all face together—, improving it by living more sustainably.



Several international and national certifications systems exist for the oversight of the health, safety and environmental impact of manufacturing processes and raw materials. Accordingly, at RS Barcelona we define which ones are most suitable, depending on the applications and uses of each of our products.

1. Materials

Top-quality, long-lasting, sustainable and health-friendly materials.

The search for materials for the manufacture of our products is a constant challenge. Not only must we choose the best quality, the most hard-wearing and the most long-lasting materials, but also we must have full knowledge of their source, in order to ensure that they can be transformed and reused, and that they do not contain environmentally harmful chemical components. We meet this challenge in order to be able to guarantee that RS Barcelona's products are manufactured using materials that have no harmful effects on human health or on the environment at any point of their life cycle.

RS Barcelona's products do not contain any of the chemicals subject to the international prior informed consent (PIC) procedure set forth in Regulation (EU) No. 649/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 4 July 2012 (heavy metals, flame retardants, phthalates, halogenated polymers, chlorinated hydrocarbons) in amounts that exceed the designated limits. We do not use materials that contain any chemical components classified as carcinogenic, mutagenic, or toxic for reproduction (CMR substances) in any form that may represent an exposure hazard.

By working in close collaboration with our suppliers, we guarantee that our products comply with the REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals) regulation. If any supplier is unable to provide us with the said information, we use testing to ensure that our products comply with the applicable standards.



1.1. Wood

In order to guarantee that the wood we use in our products is sourced from sustainably managed and environmentally-friendly forests, we work exclusively with suppliers who hold FSC/FECP certification. Accordingly, we do not use wood sourced from illegal logging, from high conservation value forests (HCVF), from protected forest areas, from armed conflict zones, or from zones where human rights are violated. Moreover, we do not use any raw materials sourced from species on the CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) list.

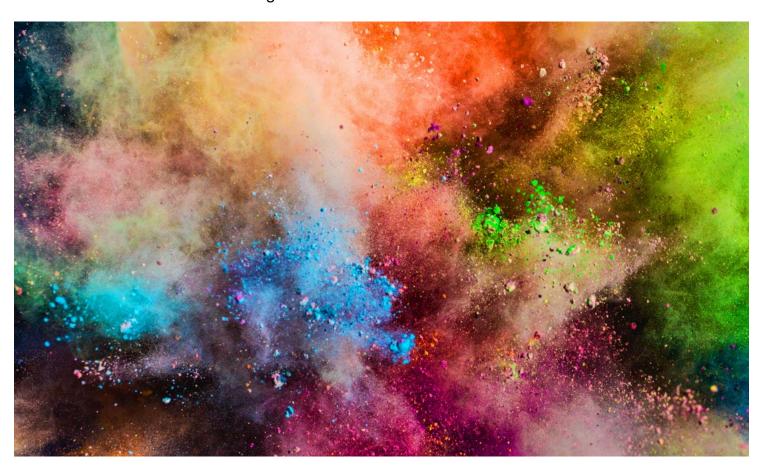
As such, we help to prevent situations that endanger the environment and sustainable development.

All the wood-based materials we use also comply with the E1 standard on formaldehyde emissions/concentration.



1.2. Paint

The manufacturers of the paints used in RS Barcelona's products —mainly polyester powder coating— hold the EU Ecolabel certificate, AENOR ISO 9001/2008 certification and ISO 14001/2004 environmental management certification.



1.3. HPL

HPL (High Pressure Laminate) is not harmful to human health or to the environment. No asbestos or heavy metals are used in its manufacturing process. No gases, fumes, solvents or liquid substances are released. Moreover, a large percentage of the raw materials used for its manufacture are easily reusable.

All the HPL boards we use comply with the EN 438 and ISO 4586 standards. The suppliers with whom we work hold the GREENGUARD Gold, LEED, Indoor Air Quality Gold (ANSI/BIFMA Furniture Emissions Standard (M7.1/X7.1-2011 R2016)) and EPD (Environmental Product Declaration) labels, along with ISO 14001 environmental management certification. The HPL used in our products also complies with the E1 standard on formaldehyde emissions/concentration.

In addition, the HPL boards we use in our products also have an antibacterial treatment that reduces health risks from cross-contamination, complying with ISO 22196:2011 (Measurement of bacterial activity on plastics and other non-porous surfaces). BioCote® with silver ions technology reduces the level of bacteria on the surface by up to 99%. This technology also ensures that it can be safely in contact with foodstuff, because it complies with the mandatory biocide regulations approved by the EFSA (European Food Safety Authority) and the FDA (Food and Drug Administration).

The kraft paperboard we use has FSC/PEPC certification.



1.4. Fabrics and upholstery

For our upholstered items, we only select fabrics that comply with the most demanding regulations for use in all sorts of settings, and we only work with suppliers who possess ISO14001 certification, which guarantees the proper environmental management of their products and processes.

The fabrics we use have GREENGUARD Gold certification, the goal of which is to protect the health and quality of life of people by reducing their exposure to air pollutants and by improving environmental conditions in indoor spaces.

Our fabrics also comply with the UL 2818 VOC emissions standard (UL 2818 - 2013 Gold Standard for Chemical Emissions for Building Materials, Finishes and Furnishings), guaranteeing the fulfilment of the strict concentration criteria [mass/m3] of TOVC, formaldehyde, total aldehydes, 4-Penylcyclohexene and individual VOCs defined in the GREENGUARD Gold certification. Moreover, our fabrics have passed the following regulatory tests for fire resistance, flame spread, heat emissions, fire reaction and smoke emission: AS/NZS 1530.3-1999 / AS/NZS 3837-1998 / DIN 4102-1B2 (1998) / California Technical Bulletin 117 (2013) - ASTM E1353-08a (2013) / EN13501-1).

They are also free of phthalates and hold environmental product declarations (EPD), in compliance with the EN15804 standard.



1.5. Cushions

The foam used for the manufacture of our cushions complies with British standard BS5852:1982 Part 2 [Schedule 1, part I of the Furniture and Furnishings (Fire Safety) Regulations 1988 (as amended in 1989, 1993 and 2010)], and has passed the corresponding flame and ignition retardant reaction tests.



2. Processes (Supply Chain)

Eco-friendly products manufactured in the European Community.

Our products are manufactured at our facilities in Viladecans (Barcelona), which means we are able to oversee and control all the processes involved, ensuring that they comply with the manufacturing and quality standards to which we are committed.

We create timeless products designed to last, because we believe that durability is one of the main commitments necessary to achieve a more sustainable world. The long life of a product entails the reduction of the use of raw materials and the reduction of its environmental impact. We all form part of this chain of actions and we can all act to become more sustainable.

Thanks to the durability and quality of our products, which we achieve by carefully selecting our raw materials and manufacturing processes, RS Barcelona's designs can be classified as eco-friendly.



2.1. Manufacturing. Surface treatments (Cataphoresis)

The suppliers we work with for the cataphoresis surface treatment of metal components are also committed to quality management, in terms of both materials and procedures. For this purpose, constant checks are carried out during each stage of the process, which complies with the ISO 9001 standard, ensuring the effective fulfilment of the strict manufacturing specifications of RS Barcelona's products.

Our suppliers, well aware of the sensitive nature of the materials used in these processes, are fully committed to the proper management of waste. They have purifying plants at their facilities, where all the resulting effluents are rendered completely innocuous.

Atmospheric emissions are constantly controlled in order to ensure maximum purification, using pyrolytic processes when required. The optimal environmental management carried out by our suppliers is endorsed by ISO 14001 certification.



2.2. Manufacturing. Energy management

In line with our commitment to maximising the energy efficiency of our brand, at RS Barcelona we have embarked on an ambitious project to update our facilities. These new facilities have been conceived, designed and built to obtain 60% of our energy from renewable sources and to keep working and implementing systems that allow us, in the mid-term, to be completely energy self-sufficient and sustainable.



2.3. Shipping and packaging

Our quality management and commitment to sustainability is not restricted to our materials and the manufacturing processes of our products. The packaging, shipping and delivery of the products to our end customers also form part of the cycle, which means that in these stages we must also make sure we reach the targets we have set ourselves.

With this in mind, we are constantly innovating and striving to optimise the packaging of our products in order to reduce transportation volumes as much as possible and to improve load ratios. Whenever possible, we minimise the use of plastic in our packaging and use halogen-free plastic.

We strive to avoid single-use plastic and we are implementing changes aimed at reducing the consumption of other materials. We actively promote the reduction of the use of printed paper, which is why we have eliminated the printed assembly instructions that we previously included in our product packaging, replacing them with QR codes, through which the user can view and download the instructions on a mobile device.

As regards the shipping and delivery of our products, we choose and work in close collaboration with logistics operators based close to our production centres, carefully planning optimised transportation routes that reduce the CO2 emissions generated by our daily activity.



3. Recyclability

RS Barcelona's products are designed to last. The use of high-quality raw materials and manufacturing processes makes our products suitable for long-lasting, intensive use. But our commitment does not end there. Once the customer has decided that the product has reached the end of its life, we want it to be able to have a second or third life, or as many as possible.

Our approach to product conception factors in strategies for a responsible end of use. Items can be easily dismantled into separate pieces, ensuring that most of them can be repaired, in order for the item to recover the use it had when originally purchased. This is how we foster reuse or donation to charitable organisations.

When this second use is no longer feasible, we ensure that the item can be dismantled into individual pieces, recycled to the greatest extent possible and turned into something else. Accordingly, our commitment is also to use recyclable raw materials.

Recyclable material is defined as that which may be effectively recovered, classified, processed and turned into raw material in order to be used in the manufacture of new products. In line with this definition, we can state that the recyclability of RS Barcelona's products is 98%*.

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^{*} Recyclable on a weight basis, in accordance with current waste disposal programmes. The recyclability calculation does not include packaging.

As such, the life cycle of our products does not end. Perhaps they will no longer be used as football tables, pool tables, chairs or tables, but thanks to responsible processes for the reuse and recycling of raw materials, these items may be turned into different products with other uses.

In order to obtain information and advice on the various options available in order to dispose of our products (repair and restoration, donation, recycling...), customers may write to us at the following email address: **customercare@rs-barcelona.com**



This is RS Barcelona's commitment: to design and manufacture intense living products sustainably, so that they last for however many lives you want them to, respecting the environment and people's health and wellbeing.