Association for the Control of Emissions in Products for Flooring Installation, Adhesives and Building Materials (GEV)

ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

Version of 07.08.2026

§ 1 Name and registered office

(1) The association – hereinafter referred to as "GEV" for short – is named "Gemeinschaft Emissionskontrollierte Verlegewerkstoffe, Klebstoffe und Bauprodukte e.V." (Association for the Control of Emissions in Products for Flooring Installation, Adhesives and Building Materials).

(2) The GEV has its head office in Düsseldorf and is a registered association.

§ 2 Purpose of the Association

(1) As a non-profit association, the GEV safeguards and promotes the general economic and ideational interests of all manufacturers of chemical flooring installation products, building materials and adhesives in the areas of consumer protection, environmental protection, and occupational safety.

(2) The GEV informs professional product users and private consumers about the objectives of the association and about initiatives and actions taken for the promotion of consumer protection, environmental protection, and occupational safety.

(3) To this end, the GEV implements appropriate measures for the control, classification and labeling of chemical flooring installation products, building materials and adhesives with regard to their material emissions.

(4) The GEV also seeks and promotes cooperations with other organizations pursuing the same objectives.

(5) To achieve its objectives, the GEV maintains contact with the relevant authorities and engages in public relations work.

(6) The funds of the association may only be used for statutory purposes. The members of the association do not receive any payments from the funds of the GEV.

(7) No person may benefit from expenditures that are not related to the purpose of the association, or through disproportionately high remunerations.

§ 3 Membership

(1) Ordinary membership of the GEV (see § 8 (8) is restricted to the manufacturers of flooring installation products, building materials and adhesives.

(2) Supporting membership is possible for producers of raw materials used for the manufacture of flooring installation products, building materials and adhesives as well as for relevant institutes and associations.

(3) Applications for membership must be addressed in writing to the Managing Director's Office (see § 11). The GEV Board decides on the acceptance of applications for membership (§ 9 (6 e). In the event of rejection, an appeal can be submitted to the General Assembly of the GEV for making the final decision (§ 8 (1 i).

§ 4 Members’ rights and duties

(1) The members of the GEV commit themselves to comply with the Articles of Association as well as with all provisions stipulated by the bodies authorized by these Articles of Association.

(2) All members are obliged to promote the objectives of the association and to support the GEV in the fulfillment of its legal and statutory tasks.

(3) To achieve its objectives, the GEV can establish Trademark Rules, which are binding on all members.

§ 5 Membership fees

Membership fees must be paid in due time and in accordance with the resolutions of the General Assembly (§ 8 (1 d).

§ 6 Termination of membership

(1) Membership can be terminated:

a) by resignation

b) by expulsion

c) by the member’s declaration of bankruptcy

d) by loss of the qualifications for membership (see § 3 (1, 2).

(2) Resignation must be declared in writing to the GEV’s Managing Director’s Office. The period of notice is six months before the end of the business year.

(3) Members can be expelled if they do not comply with the duties under the Articles of Association or under the Trademark Rules, or if they grossly violate the interests of the GEV. The Board decides on whether or not to expel a member. An appeal against the Board’s decision can be filed within two weeks after notification and must be addressed in writing to the Managing Director’s Office. The appeal, if filed in due form, has a suspensive effect. The final decision on the appeal is taken by the General Assembly. The member concerned must be heard in the expulsion proceedings.

In the event of violations of the terms of use under trademark law, the provisions of § 9 of the Trademark Rules shall apply.

(4) Termination of membership does not release members from outstanding obligations and does not give them a claim to the GEV’s funds.

§ 7 Statutory bodies

The constituent bodies of the GEV include

a) the General Assembly (§ 8)

b) the Board (§ 9)

c) the Technical Council (§ 10)

d) the Managing Director’s Office (§ 11).

§ 8 The General Assembly

(1) The General Assembly decides on all fundamental issues of the GEV, insofar as they have not been assigned to other bodies in accordance with these Articles of Association. In particular, it is responsible for:

a) electing the five members of the Board in accordance with § 9 (1),

b) electing the Chairperson and the Vice Chairperson of the Board,

c) electing the Technical Council in accordance with § 10 (1),

d) setting the amount and payment terms of the membership fees (§ 5),

e) giving approval for the actions taken by the Board and the Managing Director,

f) electing the auditor,

g) dissolving the GEV,

h) handling appeals against Board decisions concerning applications for membership (see § 9 (6 e))

i)) handling appeals against Board decisions on expulsions according to § 6 (3),

j) handling objections against decisions of the Technical Council according to § 10 (3),

k) electing an honorary member.

(2) On request, elections will be held by secret ballot.

(3) The ordinary General Assembly takes place at least once every two years.

(4) Extraordinary General Assemblies can be called by decision of the Board or at the request of at least one fifth of the members.

(5) The General Assembly constitutes a quorum if it was convened in accordance with the Articles of Association. Paragraph 11 remains unaffected.

(6) Invitations to the General Assembly must be made in writing and include the agenda. They must be sent at least two weeks before the date of the meeting.

(7) Items not covered by the agenda can only be decided if the majority of members present or represented by proxy do not object.

(8) Each full member has one vote in the General Assembly (§ 3 (1)).

(9) A member can be represented by another member based on a written power of attorney. One member can cast a maximum of 3 votes. A represented member shall be deemed to be present.

(10) The resolutions of the General Assembly are adopted with a simple majority of votes present or represented. In the event of a tie, the Chairperson of the Board shall have the casting vote.

(11) Resolutions concerning amendments to the Articles of Association or the dissolution of the GEV require the approval of three quarters of the members present.

(12) Any items that are subject to decision by the General Assembly can also be voted on in writing or in electronic form by decision of the Board.

(13) At every General Assembly, minutes must be taken and signed by the Chairperson of the meeting.

§ 9 The Board

(1) The Board consists of:

- 5 representatives to be elected by the General Assembly of the GEV,
- the Chairperson of the Technical Council,
- a representative of the Managing Director's Office,
- a maximum of 2 persons to be co-opted by the GEV Board for a period of 2 years.

(2) The members of the Board are elected in the ordinary General Assembly by simple majority for a period of 2 years. The names of nominated candidates must be sent to the Managing Director's Office 3 weeks before the election date.

(3) The Board shall conduct the business of the GEV. The Chairperson and the Vice Chairperson (§ 8 (1 b)) shall constitute the Board according to § 26 of the BGB (German Civil Code). Each of these Board members has sole power of representation.

(4) The Board's Chairperson chairs the General Assemblies and Board meetings. If he or she is unable to attend, the Vice Chairperson takes over with all rights and duties.

(5) The Board decides on all actions to be taken against violations of the Articles of Association (§ 13), as far as they have been assigned to the Board according to these Articles and according to the Trademark Rules. Before deciding to impose sanctions on a member, the member concerned shall be granted a hearing by the Board.

(6) In addition, the Board is responsible in particular for:

a) preparing the agenda for the General Assembly,

b) adopting the annual financial statement and presenting it to the General Assembly together with the auditor's report,

c) establishing the budget,

d) recruiting, dismissing and supervising the Managing Director's Office (§ 11),

e) deciding on membership applications (§ 3 (3)). In this regard, the Board shall decide, without discrimination and in accordance with the application for membership, whether an applicant, as a manufacturer of building products, shall become an ordinary member with voting rights or a supporting member. An application for membership may be rejected only for the reasons specified in the Articles of Association. The Board may provide guidance on compliance with the Trademark Rules.

(7) The resolutions of the Board are adopted with a simple majority of the votes cast. Postal voting is permitted if a physical meeting of the Board is not possible and if there is no objection to individual items being dealt with in writing.

(8) The Board is obliged to implement the resolutions of the General Assembly. It has to submit proposals that are suitable for promoting the statutory purposes of the GEV.

(9) The Board decides on trademark issues as well as the on the enactment and amendment of the Trademark Rules.

(10) In urgent cases, the Board may also pass resolutions on matters which, according to § 8, are subject to the decision of the General Assembly. These resolutions require the approval of the next General Assembly.

(11) The Board shall establish a body of experts to address all matters related to public relations. This Public Relations Committee will consist of no more than 13 members and will elect its chairperson by a majority vote. The Board may co-opt the chairperson to serve on the Board.

§ 10 The Technical Council

(1) Every two years, the General Assembly elects the members of the Technical Council. The Technical Council consists of a maximum of 15 members and may, by majority vote, co-opt up to two additional members from member companies. It also includes at least two external experts.

(2) The Technical Council elects a chairperson from among its members, who leads the work of the Technical Council and represents it to the outside world.

(3) The Technical Council makes decisions on all important technical issues.

(4) To address specific issues, the Technical Council can call in experts to take part in its meetings.

(5) The Technical Council establishes a Council of Experts to give advice on topics related to laboratory techniques, chemistry, analytical technology and chemical regulations, as well as on the GEV classification criteria to be used for volatile and semi-volatile organic substances. The Expert Council contributes to the development of requirements associated with awarding the EMICODE label. The testing laboratories of the appointed experts must be accredited according to ISO 17025 to ensure the impartiality of the experts.

(6) During the consultations on changes to EMICODE requirements, any comments and suggestions from stakeholders must be addressed. The outcome of the decision must be communicated to the stakeholder along with the rationale. If the proposal is rejected, the stakeholder must be offered the opportunity to participate in a technical talk with experts aimed at reaching a consensus.

§ 11 The Managing Director’s Office

(1) Management of the GEV association is in the hands of one or more Managing Directors, who are appointed and dismissed by the Board.

(2) When appointing more than one Managing Director, the Board can appoint a Chief Managing Director.

(3) The Managing Directors are obliged to follow the instructions of the Board and to implement the resolutions of the General Assembly.

(4) The Managing Directors are representatives within the meaning of § 30 BGB (German Civil Code), not only concerning the tasks assigned to them in accordance with § 11 (3), but also in all matters relating to the administration of the office.

(5) Liabilities can only be incurred by them up to the total amount of the GEV’s funds.

(6) The Managing Directors are authorized to represent the GEV in a lawsuit. They assert the legal rights of the association against member companies and third parties. They may only initiate legal proceedings in consultation with the Board.

(7) The Managing Directors are obliged to conduct all business in a strictly impartial manner. They must keep in confidence any business and trade secrets of individual members which come to their knowledge in the course of their duties.

§ 12 The GEV trademark

The GEV shall establish Trademark Rules governing the use of its trademarks.

§ 13 Sanction provisions

(1) In the event that a member violates one of the duties arising from these Articles of Association and their subordinate regulations, the offending member shall bear all inspection costs and legal fees associated with the violation.

(2) If a member violates the GEV's Articles of Association, the Board can decide to expel the member from the association in accordance with § 6 (3).

§ 9 of the Trademark Rules remains unaffected.

§ 14 Disposal of funds upon dissolution of the association

If the GEV association is dissolved, or if its tax-privileged purpose does no longer exist, the funds shall be transferred to a public corporation or another tax-privileged corporation for the purpose of promoting consumer protection, environmental protection and occupational safety.

Articles of Association pursuant to the Board's resolution under § 9 (10) dated August 7, 2026