

# APCO Performance Summary

Company Name: VERTEX PHARMACEUTICALS (AUSTRALIA) PTY. LTD.

Trading As: VERTEX PHARMACEUTICALS (AUSTRALIA) PTY. LTD.

ABN: 34160157157

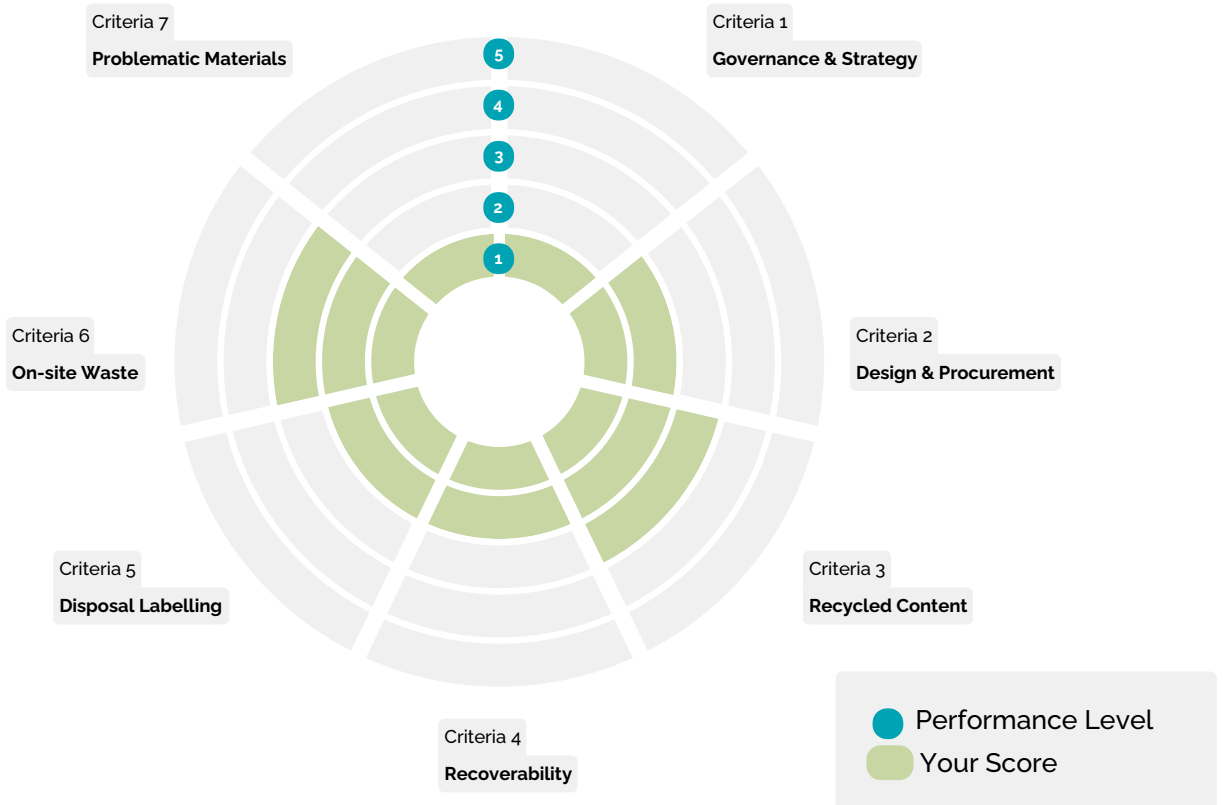
**Overall Performance 31% - Good Progress**

The score above and chart below indicate your organisation's overall performance in the 2025 APCO Annual Report. With your chosen reporting period of January, 2024 - December, 2024, you have achieved a **Good Progress** overall performance level.

1 Getting Started 2 Good Progress 3 Advanced 4 Leading 5 Beyond Best Practice

## Criteria Performance Levels

The chart below indicates your organisation's performance against each of the Packaging Sustainability Framework criteria in the 2025 APCO Annual Report. Each band represents a performance level with the green indicating your level of performance for each.



### Contact

A: Suite 1402, Level 14, 55 Clarence Street, Sydney, NSW, 2000  
E: [apco@apco.org.au](mailto:apco@apco.org.au)

## About APCO Annual Reporting

### Understanding APCO Annual Reporting performance levels:

- 1 Getting Started:** You are at the start of your packaging sustainability journey.
- 2 Good Progress:** You have made some first steps on your packaging sustainability journey.
- 3 Advanced:** You have taken tangible action on your packaging sustainability journey.
- 4 Leading:** You have made significant progress on your packaging sustainability journey.
- 5 Beyond Best Practice:** You have received the highest performance level and have made significant progress on your packaging sustainability journey.

### Packaging Sustainability Framework criteria

Criteria 1: <b>Governance &amp; Strategy</b>	This criteria considers actions to integrate packaging sustainability into business strategies.
Criteria 2: <b>Design &amp; Procurement</b>	This criteria considers actions taken to ensure that sustainability principles are considered in the design or procurement of both new and existing packaging through use of the Sustainable Packaging Guidelines (SPGs).
Criteria 3: <b>Recycled Content</b>	This criteria considers actions taken to increase or optimise the amount of recycled material used by your organisation.
Criteria 4: <b>Recoverability</b>	This criteria considers actions taken to improve the recovery of packaging at end-of-life and increase use of reusable packaging.
Criteria 5: <b>Disposal Labelling</b>	This criteria considers the extent to which packaging has been labelled to help consumers determine what to do with packaging at end-of-life.
Criteria 6: <b>On-site Waste</b>	This criteria considers progress in increasing the amount of on-site solid waste being diverted from landfill.
Criteria 7: <b>Problematic Materials</b>	This criteria considers the extent to which organisations are actively phasing out problematic and unnecessary single-use plastic packaging and preventing/reducing litter.

## APCO Annual Report Criteria Performance &amp; Responses

Provided below are your organisation's responses to the questions within the APCO Annual Report as well as a performance level for each criteria.

Criteria 1:

**Governance & Strategy:** 1 Getting Started

1 Getting Started

2 Good Progress

3 Advanced

4 Leading

5 Beyond Best Practice

Does your organisation have a documented strategy that includes goals (objectives) and targets for packaging sustainability that addresses the Sustainable Packaging Guidelines (SPGs) or equivalent?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Does your organisation's strategy include a commitment to achieving the 2025 National Packaging Targets?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Is this strategy integrated within your business processes and has it been approved by an executive or board of directors?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you regularly communicate and promote packaging sustainability objectives and targets within your organisation?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Do you regularly engage or communicate with external stakeholders (suppliers, final consumers, community groups etc.) about the environmental impacts of your packaging?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Do you actively participate in any other initiatives to promote packaging sustainability outside of your organisation?

☒ Yes ☐ No

## Supporting Evidence

Vertex is a global biotechnology company that invests in scientific innovation to create transformative medicines for people with serious diseases and conditions. The company has approved therapies for cystic fibrosis, sickle cell disease, transfusion-dependent beta thalassemia and acute pain, and it continues to advance clinical and research programs in these areas. Vertex also has a robust clinical pipeline of

*Your full response can be found towards the end of this document.*

Criteria 2:

**Design & Procurement:** 2 Good Progress

1 Getting Started

2 Good Progress

3 Advanced

4 Leading

5 Beyond Best Practice

How many of your 14 SKUs have had their packaging reviewed against the Sustainable Packaging Guidelines (or equivalent) in the last 5 years?

0

Please indicate the accuracy of this response.

High

Do you require your suppliers to use the Sustainable Packaging Guidelines (SPGs) or equivalent for your packaging?

☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A

Please tell us about any positive outcomes from your packaging reviews.

n/a

Do you believe applying the SPGs delivers business value to your organisation?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Which of the following Sustainable Packaging Principles have been considered in reviews of your organisation's packaging against the Sustainable Packaging Guidelines (SPGs)?

Design for recovery

☐ Yes ☒ No

Optimise material efficiency

☐ Yes ☒ No

Design to reduce product waste

☐ Yes ☒ No

Eliminate hazardous materials

☐ Yes ☒ No

Use of renewable materials

☐ Yes ☒ No

Use recycled materials

☐ Yes ☒ No

Design to minimise litter

☐ Yes ☒ No

Design for transport efficiency

☐ Yes ☒ No

Design for accessibility

☐ Yes ☒ No

Provide consumer information on environmental sustainability

☐ Yes ☒ No

How many of the 14 SKUs have packaging that has been optimised for material efficiency in the last 5 years?

5

Please indicate the accuracy of this response.

High

If yes, please tell us about any material savings you have made.

Material efficiency has been optimized and hazardous materials eliminated at initial design.

### Supporting Evidence

Vertex believes that we do comply with many SPGs, including optimizing material efficiency and eliminating hazardous materials. Packaging requirements are very clearly defined for pharmaceutical products and Vertex designs utilizing sustainable options. Further, the Pharmaceutical Industry is heavily regulated and changes to packaging, especially primary and secondary packaging are difficult to initiate, particularly given the primary consideration is for the protection of the product in order to deliver safe and effective medicine

*Your full response can be found towards the end of this document.*

Criteria 3:

**Recycled Content:** 3 Advanced

1 Getting Started

2 Good Progress

3 Advanced

4 Leading

5 Beyond Best Practice

Do you have a policy or procedure to buy products and/or packaging made from recycled materials?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Which of the following products that you either purchase or sell contain recycled materials?

- ☐ Primary packaging that you use to sell your products
- ☐ Secondary packaging that you use to sell your products
- ☒ Tertiary Packaging that you use to sell your packaging
- ☐ Your products
- ☒ Other items which you purchase  
(e.g. office stationary & supplies, building materials such a bollards etc.)
- ☐ None of the above

How many 14 SKUs has at least some packaging that is made from recycled material?

0

Please indicate the accuracy of this response.

High

If you do not currently use recycled materials in any of your packaging, please indicate why:

- ☐ Cannot find a supplier who provides recycled materials
- ☒ We cannot use recycled materials in contact with our product
- ☐ Cost is prohibitive
- ☐ Other (please specify)

Please specify

The primary consideration with packaging of pharmaceutical products is for the protection of the product in order to deliver safe and effective medicines to patients. As such, we cannot have recycled materials coming into contact with our medicines.

Shippers used to transport the product into Australia contain at least 80% recycled material.

- ☐ None of the above

Supporting Evidence

Criteria 4:

**Recoverability:** 2 Good Progress

1 Getting Started

2 Good Progress

3 Advanced

4 Leading

5 Beyond Best Practice

How many of your 14 SKUs have all packaging components that are recoverable (i.e. recyclable or compostable) at end-of-life?

6

Please indicate the accuracy of this response.

High

How many of your 14 SKUs have separable components with mixed recoverability at end-of-life? (e.g. a jar that is recyclable with a lid that is not recyclable)

8

Please indicate the accuracy of this response.

High

How many of your 14 SKUs have been assessed in the Packaging Recyclability Evaluation Portal (PREP)?

0

If you use compostable packaging, please indicate the type(s) of compostable certification (if any):

- ☐ Certified home compostable (AS5810)?
- ☐ Certified industrial compostable (AS4736)?
- ☐ Certified compostable to another certification (i.e. not AS5810 or AS4736)?
- ☐ Compostable (not certified)?
- ☒ None of the above

How many of your 14 SKUs are not recoverable at end-of-life and must go to landfill? (i.e. not recyclable or compostable)

0

Have you investigated if there are any opportunities to use reusable packaging?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, how many of your 14 SKUs have packaging for which all components are reusable?

Please give an indication on the accuracy of this response.

Which of the following reusable business to business items did your organisation utilise during the previous 12 month period?

- ☒ Pallets
- ☐ Crates
- ☐ Drums
- ☐ Intermediate Bulk Containers (IBCs)
- ☐ Other (please specify)

Please specify

- ☐ None of the above

Tick all that apply - Was this reused:

Internally (between your organisation's sites & facilities)?

Externally (with other organisations such as suppliers or customers)?

Pallets	<input type="radio"/> Internal	<input checked="" type="radio"/> External
Crates	<input type="radio"/> Internal	<input type="radio"/> External
Drums	<input type="radio"/> Internal	<input type="radio"/> External
Intermediate Bulk Containers (IBCs)	<input type="radio"/> Internal	<input type="radio"/> External
Other (specified above)	<input type="radio"/> Internal	<input type="radio"/> External

Does your organisation participate in any of the following closed-loop recovery programs/alternative collection systems for your packaging?

- ☐ Big Bag Recovery
- ☐ Terracycle
- ☒ Container Deposit Scheme (CDS)
- ☐ DrumMUSTER
- ☐ Other (please specify)

Please specify

- ☐ N/A (All our packaging is recovered through mainstream recovery systems)
- ☐ None of the above

### Supporting Evidence

Container Deposit Scheme - site has installed a bin to collect containers that are eligible for the Container Deposit Scheme. Employees can take the content of the bin home to return once the bin is full.



Criteria 5:

**Disposal Labelling:** 2 Good Progress

1 Getting Started

2 Good Progress

3 Advanced

4 Leading

5 Beyond Best Practice

How many of your 14 SKUs have labelling on-pack to inform the consumer of how to correctly dispose of the packaging?

0

Please indicate the accuracy of this response.

High

Which of the following labels does your company presently use?

- ☐ Australasian Recycling Label
- ☐ Mobius Loop/Recycling symbol
- ☐ Tidy man
- ☐ Written instructions
- ☐ Other (please specify)

Please specify

- ☒ None of the above

Supporting Evidence

Criteria 6:

**On-site Waste:** 3 Advanced

1 Getting Started    2 Good Progress    3 Advanced    4 Leading    5 Beyond Best Practice

Tick which of the following packaging materials you have on-site recycling programs for:

- ☒ Paper/cardboard
- ☒ Soft plastics
- ☒ Rigid plastics
- ☒ Timber
- ☐ Textiles
- ☒ Glass
- ☒ Metals
- ☒ Other (please specify)

Please specify

Batteries, blister packs, stationery, beauty products and bottle tops.

- ☐ All materials have recycling programs
- ☐ None of the above

Over the reporting period, how much of the waste your organisation generated on-site was diverted from landfill (was recycled, composted, reused or sent for energy recovery)?

20%

Please indicate the accuracy of this response.

Medium

Which of the following facilities are included in the above waste data?

- ☒ Offices
- ☐ Warehouses
- ☐ Stores

- ☐ Manufacturing Facilities
- ☐ Other (please specify)

Please specify

- ☐ None of the above

Supporting Evidence

Criteria 7:

**Problematic Materials:** 1 Getting Started

1 Getting Started

2 Good Progress

3 Advanced

4 Leading

5 Beyond Best Practice

Over the reporting period, which of the following activities did you undertake to help reduce the impact of litter?

- ☒ Conduct regular clean ups
- ☒ Participate in Business Clean Up Day
- ☐ Sponsor a clean up day
- ☒ Undertook a litter education campaign
- ☐ Other (please specify)

Please specify

- ☐ None of the above

Please indicate which of the following problematic, unnecessary and single-use plastic packaging formats or materials your organisation has used over the last five years.

- ☐ Lightweight plastic shopping bags
- ☐ Fragmentable (e.g. oxo-degradable) plastics
- ☐ Expanded polystyrene (EPS) packaging for food and beverage service or retail fresh produce
- ☐ EPS loose fill packaging
- ☐ Moulded EPS packaging for white/brown goods or electronics
- ☒ Rigid polyvinyl chloride (PVC) packaging
- ☐ Rigid polystyrene (PS) packaging
- ☐ Opaque polyethylene terephthalate (PET) bottles
- ☐ Rigid plastic packaging with carbon black
- ☐ None of the above

Please indicate which of the following problematic, unnecessary or single-use plastic packaging formats or materials your organisation is actively working to phase out?

- ☐ Lightweight plastic shopping bags
- ☐ Fragmentable (e.g. oxo-degradable) plastics
- ☐ Expanded polystyrene (EPS) packaging for food and beverage service or retail fresh produce
- ☐ EPS loose fill packaging
- ☐ Moulded EPS packaging for white/brown goods or electronics
- ☐ Rigid polyvinyl chloride (PVC) packaging
- ☐ Rigid polystyrene (PS) packaging
- ☐ Opaque polyethylene terephthalate (PET) bottles
- ☐ Rigid plastic packaging with carbon black
- ☒ None of the above

Have you successfully phased out any of the above packaging formats or materials in the last 5 years?

- ☐ Lightweight plastic shopping bags
- ☐ Fragmentable (e.g. oxo-degradable) plastics
- ☐ Expanded polystyrene (EPS) packaging for food and beverage service or retail fresh produce
- ☐ EPS loose fill packaging
- ☐ Moulded EPS packaging for white/brown goods or electronics
- ☐ Rigid polyvinyl chloride (PVC) packaging
- ☐ Rigid polystyrene (PS) packaging

- ☐ Opaque polyethylene terephthalate (PET) bottles
- ☐ Rigid plastic packaging with carbon black
- ☒ None of the above

#### Supporting Evidence

#### Additional Information

- ☒ No additional information

Please use the space below to provide your feedback on your experience with this Annual Report

Describe initiatives, processes or practices that you have implemented during your chosen reporting period that have improved packaging sustainability

Describe any opportunities or constraints that affected performance within your chosen reporting period

Please use the space below to provide examples or case studies of exemplary packaging sustainability conducted by your organisation. The information provided in the boxes may be used directly in your public facing Annual Report and Action Plan. Submitted case studies might be used by APCO in the future to support other Members in achieving packaging sustainability.

### Full Open Responses

#### Criteria 1 - Supporting Evidence

Vertex is a global biotechnology company that invests in scientific innovation to create transformative medicines for people with serious diseases and conditions. The company has approved therapies for cystic fibrosis, sickle cell disease, transfusion-dependent beta thalassemia and acute pain, and it continues to advance clinical and research programs in these areas. Vertex also has a robust clinical pipeline of investigational therapies across a range of modalities in other serious diseases where it has deep insight into causal human biology.

Vertex's approach to sustainable packaging is aligned with the 10 Sustainable Packaging Principles that make up the SPGs. At the outset of a new product development, the Vertex Packaging team focuses on a core mission delivering safe and effective medicine to patients. This entails choosing materials that protect the medicine most critically from moisture and provides the opportunity to convey its critical information such as instructions for use, all in compliance with regulatory requirements. Further, these materials must be child resistant and senior friendly, and suitable for ease of daily use.

The Packaging team takes great care up front to optimize the packaging system to ensure its long term viability in the market and that includes designing-in sustainable options wherever possible (i.e. choosing paperboard over plastic options). Components are right-sized to avoid excess material, and many are recyclable - namely, paperboard cartons and corrugated shipping containers.

Vertex participates in the Institute of Packaging Professionals (IoPP) Sustainability Committee, bringing insights from this membership into the organization.

Vertex is proud to have applied these efforts across the entire CF portfolio, contributing to packaging sustainability in the countries where we operate, including Australia. Membership of APCO further informs our approach and strategy to sustainable packaging in Australia.

#### Criteria 2 - Supporting Evidence

Vertex believes that we do comply with many SPGs, including optimizing material efficiency and eliminating hazardous materials. Packaging requirements are very clearly defined for pharmaceutical products and

Vertex designs utilizing sustainable options. Further, the Pharmaceutical Industry is heavily regulated and changes to packaging, especially primary and secondary packaging are difficult to initiate, particularly given the primary consideration is for the protection of the product in order to deliver safe and effective medicine to patients. Five out of 14 SKUs were optimized at launch for material efficiency within the last five year, with the nine remaining SKUs being optimized prior to then.