



Eco Mark News

The Eco Mark is a voluntary program ran by Japan Environment Association. Contract fees from licensing companies and application fees from applicants cover whole budget for our activities. In this "Eco Mark News", the information related to Eco Mark Program such as newly selected Eco Mark product category and proposals for certification criteria is provided on the basis of the "Guidelines for Eco Mark Program Implementation".

Published on January 15, 2007 **No.67**

Eco Mark News Headline

We Started to Publish "Eco Mark News Bulletin".

Announcement of Draft Certification Criteria and Acceptance of Public comments

- Eco Mark Product Category No.123 "Building Products (Materials) Version 2.0"
- Eco Mark Product Category No.124 "Glass Products Version 2.0"
- Eco Mark Product Category No.126 "Paints Version 2.0",
- Eco Mark Product Category No.137 "Building Products (Fixtures) Version 1.0"

We started to publish "Eco Mark News Bulletin" on our website in order to inform the companies with Eco Mark products of discussions and decisions in Eco Mark Committee for Establishing Category and Criteria more quickly. We will announce the publication of bulletin in the section of "WHAT'S NEW" on Eco Mark Office website. (Please see the page 4 for details.)

It was decided to announce the drafts certification criteria for above product categories and accept public comments in the 45th Eco Mark Committee for Establishing Category and Criteria. (Please see the page 3 for details.)

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[Announcement of Draft Certification Criteria]

- Eco Mark Product Category No.123 "Building Products (Materials) Version 2.0"
- Eco Mark Product Category No.124 "Glass Products Version 2.0"
- Eco Mark Product Category No.126 "Paints Version 2.0"
- Eco Mark Product Category No.123 "Building Products (Fixtures) Version 1.0"

[Small Partial Revision of Certification Criteria]

- Eco Mark Product Category No.136 "Reusable Products Version 1.0" (excerpts of the revised sections only)

* Certification criteria (drafts) are available on Eco Mark Office website. Please download the necessary data from the website. If you need the data in the form of printed matter, please contact Promotion Section, Eco Mark Office.

URL: <http://www.ecomark.jp/econews.html>

Committee Report/Decisions

Eco Mark Committee for Establishing Category and Criteria (45th Meeting)

The 45th Eco Mark Committee for Establishing Category and Criteria (EMCECC, Chairman: Prof. Takashi Gunjima, Doshisha Univ.) was held on December 21, 2006. The followings are the discussions and the decisions made in the meeting.

Discussions and Decisions

- 1) It was decided that drafts of 4 certification criteria shown in Table 1 are to be open to public for comments.
- 2) Draft of small partial revision of certification criteria is approved and revised on Dec. 21, 2006 as shown in Table 1.
- 3) It was decided to extend the validity period of certification criteria for some product categories as shown in Table 2.
- 4) It was decided to set up a working group or a study meeting for reviewing Eco Mark product category No.54 "Replaceable Ink Cartridges and Ribbon Cassettes" and its certification criteria.
- 5) Based on the fundamental concept to avoid the use of wood that was logged illegally, the policy to add an item to Eco Mark Criteria to confirm the legitimacy of wood and wooden products was approved. (Please read the article on the page 4 for details.)

Status of Certification Criteria (as of January 15, 2007)

Table 1 Announcement of Draft Certification Criteria and Small Partial Revision of Certification Criteria

	Category No.	Category	Period of open to public	Date of establishment etc.	Public comments
Announcement of Draft Certification Criteria	123	Building Products (Materials) Version 2.0	2007.1.15 - 2007.3.15	2007.5.1 (scheduled date)	Open
	124	Glass Products Version 2.0	2007.1.15 - 2007.3.15	2007.5.1 (scheduled date)	Open
	126	Paints Version 2.0	2007.1.15 - 2007.3.15	2007.5.1 (scheduled date)	Open
	137	Building Products (Fixtures) Version 1.0	2007.1.15 - 2007.3.15	2007.5.1 (scheduled date)	Open
Small Partial Revision of Certification Criteria	136	Reusable Products Version 1.0	-	2006.12.21	-

Table 2 Extention of Validity Period of Certification Criteria

Category No.	Category	Current expiration date	Expiration date after extension	Reason for extension of validity period
103	Clothes Version 2	2008.6.19	2009.3.31	Because of the difficulty in establishing new certification criteria by the day a year before current expiration date
104	Household Textile Products Version 2	2008.6.19	2009.3.31	
105	Textile Products for Industrial Use Version 2	2008.6.19	2009.3.31	
125	Garbage Disposer Version 1	2008.6.19	2009.3.31	

Announcement of Draft Certification Criteria

Eco Mark Product Category No.123 "Building Products (Materials) Version 2.0"

Eco Mark Product Category No.124 "Glass Products Version 2.0"

Eco Mark Product Category No.126 "Paints Version 2.0"

Eco Mark Product Category No.137 "Building Products (Fixtures) Version 1.0"

Eco Mark product category No.123 "Building Products (Materials) Version 2.0" and No.137 "Construction Product (Fixtures) Version 1.0"

We are going to establish Eco Mark product category No.123 "Building Products (Materials) Version 2.0" by reviewing the existing product category No.123 "Building Products Using Recycled Material" and expand the coverage of

this category considerably. Overall renewal work will be carried out in three phases and at this time we are going to announce eight of the drafts certification criteria (roofing, cast stones, wooden flooring, paper sliding doors/fusuma doors, paper for sliding doors/fusuma doors, boards, tatami mat and wallpapers) for the first phase. The rest of the drafts certification criteria will be announced successively as the second phase and the third phase.

The existing criteria specify the use of recycled materials mainly from the viewpoint of cyclical use of resources. At this time, however, we focused on cyclical use of resources, chemical substance management and/or prevention of global warming from various construction-related viewpoints to review and establish the criteria. Also the new criteria are reinforced on the items related to chemical substance management such as a countermeasure against sick house syndrome in addition to the use of recycled materials, which is a indicator of cyclical use of resources.

We also reviewed the environmental aspect of product category No.62 “Energy-saving Gas Leak Detectors”, which was established before the concept of product lifecycle was introduced, from the viewpoint of lifecycle in a comprehensive manner as a part of the first phase of product category No.137 “Construction Product (Fixtures) Version 1.0” and reinforced the criteria related to energy saving.

Eco Mark product category No.124 “Glass Products Version 2.0”

We expanded the application range and reviewed the content ratio of glass cullet, etc. while we continue to reserve the aspect of effective utilization of glass cullet, which was the original intention of certification criteria.

For this time we newly added transparent and brown bottles to “glass bottles” in particular, which was intended only for the bottles with other colors up to now. It is expected that Eco Mark certified glass bottles with high content ratio of glass cullet will be brought to the market in the future.

Eco Mark product category No.126 “Paints Version 2.0”

Following the concept of the existing certification criteria based on the prevention of air pollution and improvement of the residential environment, we are focusing on reducing volatile organic compound (VOC) which is also the main purpose of revised Clean Air Act (effective from May 2006).

On this occasion, automotive paint was newly added because it emits relatively larger quantity of VOC and it is expected that low VOC paint would be used more widely in the future.

These drafts certification criteria are open to public for comments from January 15 (Mon) to March 15 (Thu), 2007. Please refer to the following description for submitting comments.

Acceptance of Opinions on the Draft of Certification Criteria

Please write the following matters and send to the destination described below by mail, Fax or e-mail.

- Address, Name, Occupation, Telephone number, Fax number, e-mail address
- Name of the draft certification criteria for Eco Mark product category to give opinion
- Opinions on the above draft certification criteria

*When you send by mail or Fax, please write these matters on A4 size paper.

*When you attach a file to e-mail, please use MS-Word or Excel format.

Due date of submission: March 15 (Thu), 2007

*Postmark on the above date is effective for mail. Please send e-mail by 17:00.

Destination: Criteria Section, Eco Mark Office, Japan Environment Association

Address: DaVinci KAMIYACHO 2F, 1-11-9 Azabudai, Minato-ku, Tokyo 106-0041

Fax: +81-3-5114-1257 e-mail: ecomark@japan.email.ne.jp

Contact: Criteria Section, Eco Mark Office (TEL 03-5114-1255)

*Please understand that we do not accept your opinions by telephone.

Information

We Started to Publish “Eco Mark News Bulletin” and Halted Sending “Annex”

Eco Mark Office conveys discussions, decisions, etc. in Eco Mark Committee for Establishing Category and Criteria (EMCECC) by Eco Mark News (printed matter).

We started to publish “Eco Mark News Bulletin” (<http://www.ecomark.jp/econews.html>) and post it on our website from 44th EMCECC (held on October 19) in order to inform the companies with Eco Mark products of discussions and decisions in EMCECC more quickly. “Eco Mark News Bulletin” is posted on the website on the next day of a meeting as a general rule. We will announce the publication of bulletin in the section of “WHAT’S NEW” on the website. Next EMCECC will be held on February 9 (Fri), 2007.

Eco Mark Office will improve the website by taking advantage of internet such as providing information promptly.

Along with the improvements of our website including the start of “Eco Mark News Bulletin”, we decided to halt sending “Annexes” describing the draft certification criteria, etc., which were enclosed with Eco Mark News.

We would like to ask you to download the necessary data when needed from Eco Mark Office website, which reflects up-to-date information, and we appreciate your understanding and cooperation. If you need the printed version of “Annexes”, please contact the section described below.

* “Eco Mark News Bulletin” <http://www.ecomark.jp/econews.html>

* Contact: Promotion Section, Eco Mark Office TEL 03-5114-1255

Securing the Legitimacy of Wood/Wooden Products for Eco Mark

Eco Mark approved the government procurement based on the countermeasures against illegal logging and decided to work on securing the illegitimacy of wood/wooden products. Specifically, we will carry out the measures in the following manner;

1) Relevant product category

Product categories that include wood/wooden products (excluding thinned wood, wasted wood, wood came from construction site and wood for lower-level utilization).

2) Commencing time (scheduled)

It is planned that we are going to start adding the item to secure the illegitimacy sequentially from fiscal 2007 (April 2007) to the criteria of product categories in which wood and wooden products are included. At the beginning, we will review 6 product categories; No.106 “Paper for Communication”, No.107 “Printing Paper”, No.112 “Stationery/Office Supplies”, No.113 “Packaging Paper”, No.114 “Paper Packaging Materials” and No.130 “Furniture”.

3) Other

The method of verification is in accordance with the guideline issued by Forestry Agency. Specific criteria items and the verification format will be deliberated by working group of each product category and it is planned to announce the result around the time between the end of February and the beginning of March 2007.

Information on Eco Mark Products

Three Companies with Eco Mark Certified Products Acquired Cross-jurisdictional Certification for the Treatment of “End-of-Life Fire Extinguisher”

Three companies which have Eco Mark certified products; Hatsuta Seisakusho Co.,Ltd., Yamato Protec Corporation and Morita Corporation acquired the cross-jurisdictional certification for “end-of-life fire extinguisher” under “the cross-jurisdictional certification system”^{*} for municipal solid waste based on Waste Management and Public Cleaning Law on September 2006. (Domestic sales share of fire extinguisher for these 3 companies is around 70%.)

Approximately 4 million fire extinguishers are sold per year in Japan. Meanwhile, there are many cases that consumers continue keeping the fire extinguishers after their expiration date at home because they don't know how to dispose products or other reasons. And most of fire-extinguishing fluid/powder from the discarded fire extinguishers was used to be disposed as landfill waste, etc.

With this situation in mind, we established Eco Mark product category No.127 “Fire Extinguisher Version 1” in November 2003 and introduced the certification criteria items such as establishment of a collection system, implementation of appropriate recycling, use of recycled materials for fire-extinguishing fluid/powder (40% or more), etc. Currently, there are total of 34 products from 9 companies, including 3 companies mentioned above, have been certified by Eco Mark in this product category.

Hatsuta Seisakusho Co.,Ltd introduced a rental system “ECOSS Zero-emi Service” in 2005 aiming at zero emission of fire extinguisher. They also developed “HATSUTA Eco-cycle System” in September 2006 and started collecting and recycling of the end-of life fire extinguishers nationwide.

Yamato Protec Corporation has been working on sorting and recycling fire-extinguishing fluid/powder, containers (iron), bulbs, etc. (aluminum) and hoses/plastics. They also developed a collection system for the end-of-life fire extinguishers by establishing “YP Recycle Net” with their distributors.

Morita Corporation has made efforts to develop fertilizer using recycled fire-extinguishing fluid/powder as well as established a collection system for the end-of-life products through networks of “Circle Morita Eco Registered Retailer” with the cooperation of about 1,000 distributors.

Upon the acquisition of the cross-jurisdictional certification regarding waste treatment by above-mentioned 3 companies, it is expected that collection and recycling of “end-of-life fire extinguisher” will be promoted further. Some other manufacturers affiliated with Japan Fire Extinguisher Manufacturers Association are also preparing the applications for the cross-jurisdictional certification.

*What is “the cross-jurisdictional certification system” ?

Basically it requires an approval from a municipal government for waste treatment business. However, in case of disposal of end-of life products or such, it is expected to promote a correct method of disposal and recycling by approving manufacturers, etc. who manufacture, process and sell corresponding products to take responsibility of treatment of their products cross-jurisdictionally. “The cross-jurisdictional system” is a exceptional system that doesn't require the approval from every municipal government for waste treatment business from such point of view.

*Certification of cross-jurisdictional treatment for end-of-life fire extinguisher (Ministry of the Environment)

<http://www.env.go.jp/press/press.php?serial=7471>

*Hatsuta Seisakusho Co.,Ltd. <http://www.hatsuta.co.jp/>

*Yamato Protec Corporation <http://www.yamatoprotec.co.jp/>

*Morita Corporation <http://www.morita119.com/>

Topics

Eco Mark Office Ran an Exhibition Booth at “Eco-Products 2006” Jointly with Other Organizations

As efforts against environmental problems including global warming are becoming major issue, there is an urgent need to promote development and distribution of environment-friendly products (eco products) by companies and purchase of those products by consumers.

Considering such background, “Eco-Products Exhibition” started in 1999 and has been held every year as one of the largest comprehensive events regarding environment aiming at promotion of eco-products and expansion of business opportunities. The 8th exhibition, “Eco-Products 2006” was held from December 14 to 16, 2006. About 570 companies/organizations had exhibition booths and the number of visitors was 152,966.

Eco Mark Office ran an exhibition booth in “Environment information section for ‘selecting products’” jointly



Eco Mark Office Booth

with Ecoleaf (JEMAI), GPN (Green Purchasing Network) and NACS (Nippon Association of Consumer Specialists). Our exhibition promoted visitors' understanding of environmental information in terms of product lifecycle by answering quiz. At Eco Mark booth in the section, we also introduced the environmental features of Eco Mark products in an easy-to-understand manner by using panels, etc.

We saw a large number of visitors at exhibition booth of companies and organizations, symposiums, seminars, and so on, which showed high interest in environment-conscious products/services. Eco Mark will continue making efforts to enhance such momentum through various activities and promote Eco Mark products more widely.

Related Information

"Tokai Area Three Prefectures and One City Green Purchasing Campaign" is Now Underway

"Tokai Area Three Prefectures and One City Green Purchasing Campaign" is underway from January 14 to February 14, 2007. This campaign is organized by Campaign Executive Committee (Mie Prefecture, Gifu Prefecture, Aichi Prefecture, Nagoya City and Japan Chain Stores Association Chubu Affiliate) and co-sponsored by Japan Environment Association Eco Mark Office, 3R Promoting Forum and Japan Organics Recycling Association.

This is the 5th campaign, which aims at promoting green purchasing among consumers under the theme of environmental-friendly shopping, such as purchasing refillable products and bringing own shopping bags. The enlightenment activity is carried out by setting up campaign sections and through enlightenment posters, in-store announcement, etc. at about 2,700 stores of department stores, supermarkets, convenience stores, drug stores and/or co-op stores in the region.

There is also a new program for promoting green purchasing through diffusion of eco label. In this program, consumers who bought Eco Mark products can apply for a lottery and they may win book cards by sending a postcard with the name of the products they purchased.

It is expected that such a program to promote purchasing Eco Mark products in the wide area including some prefectures/cities will encourage consumers' consciousness about Eco Mark and purchase of certified products.

URL: http://www.ecomark.jp/pdf/event05_tokai.pdf

Eco Mark will Participate in a Symposium Held by Kashiwa City as a Panelist

Kashiwa City, Chiba Prefecture is proactively promoting "Recycle based on regional material cycle", in which they recycle plastic containers and packaging (plastic garbage) sorted and disposed by citizens in the area of former Kashiwa City before municipal merger in order to utilize resources.

A symposium titled "Future of plastic recycle in Kashiwa City" will be held to commemorate Eco Mark certification of "Kashiwa City specified garbage bags for household use", which use recycled plastics (as reported in Eco Mark News No.66). We hope that many of you will join this symposium.

*If you wish to join the symposium, please contact the section noted below.

Title: Symposium commemorating Eco Mark certification "Future of plastic recycle in Kashiwa City"

Date and Time: January 20 (Sat), 2007 14:00-16:00 (scheduled)

Venue: Kashiwa City Central Public Hall (Auditorium)

Contact: Clean Promotion Section, Environment Division, Kashiwa City TEL 04-7167-1139