

Eco Mark Product Category No.113

“Packaging Paper Version3.5” Certification Criteria

—Applicable Scope—

Base paper of packaging paper, packaging bag, envelopes, etc. which are covered in Eco Mark Product Category No.112 “Stationery/Office Supplies Version2”

Established: May 1, 2009
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Japan Environment Association
Eco Mark Office

NOTE: This document is a translation of the criteria written in Japanese. In the event of dispute, the original document should be taken as authoritative.

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1. Purpose of Establishing Certification Criteria

Annual production of packaging paper in Japan totaled some 0.99 million tons in 2007, staying consistent in recent years. Under the Eco Mark Program, packaging paper is included in the scope of this Product Category No. 113 “Packaging Paper” to promote use of waste paper mainly.

The scam of falsely reporting the percentage of waste paper pulp (in the problem which started with New Year greeting postcards made from recycled paper, it was found that for office paper or communication paper, etc. included in Eco Mark Product Categories, the waste paper pulp was falsely mixed at the rate lower than the standard waste paper pulp percentage of the Eco Mark), which was revealed in January 2008, developed into the major social problem. It confused a number of people including printers or consumers who had promoted separate collection of waste papers, etc. In order to regain trust in the Eco Mark as third party authentication, and cope with the scam of the percentage of waste paper pulp, the Japan Environment Association conducted site visits to paper manufacturing plants and sampling analysis, etc., and released results thereof. At the same time, on the basis of the review made by “the Exploratory Committee on Measures to Prevent Recurrence of Deception of Eco Mark Environment”, which was established to take actions to strengthen the Eco Mark System and its operation, the Association revised Certification Criteria Version2 in an attempt to build the inquiry and confirmation system of production sites by exercising complete control and specifying manufacturing plants/plant control managers, etc., thus enhancing the certification screening. In this review of the Certification Criteria Version3, it made a study to regain trust of consumers, etc. in the Eco Mark and recycled paper and not to discourage their efforts to recycle waste paper, clarified the definition of the percentage of waste paper pulp, etc., and newly drew up requirements for handling of waste sheets and the mixture rate, so that any similar problem can be prevented.

In this product category, as a review of Certification Criteria of No.107 “Printing Paper Version 2”, use of waste paper is continuously promoted, and information paper that is environment conscious in aspects of raw material, manufacturing, recycling, disposal, etc. is featured.

2. Applicable Scope

Base paper of packaging paper, packaging bag, envelopes, etc. which are covered in Eco Mark Product Category No.112 “Stationery/Office Supplies Version2”

3. Terminology

Packaging paper	A general term for paper used to wrap goods in order to protect them
Uncoated paper	Office paper with no white pigmentation applied to its surfaces.
Light-weight coated paper	Office paper with less than 12g of white pigmentation per square meter applied to both surfaces.
Coated paper	Office paper with 15g-40g of white pigmentation per square meter applied to both surfaces to enhance printability.
Waste paper	Collected post-consumer waste paper and pre-consumer waste paper.
Post-consumer waste paper	Used paper generated from stores, offices and households and containing those to be used as a raw material for paper by paper manufacturers (including those that are shipped as articles and returned after passing through the distribution chain).
Pre-consumer waste paper	Paper generated from the working process following the paper making process of base paper, and used as a raw material by paper manufacturers. However, the following shall not be treated as waste paper: paper which is generated if processing is performed in a factory or workplace that uses paper as a raw material, such as paper processing factories, paper products factories, or printing and bookbinding plants of a paper manufacturer (including an associated company such as a subsidiary, affiliated company, etc. of said paper manufacturer) or if said paper manufacturer has other contractor to conduct processing through commissioning of the product before its shipment, and which is used by said paper manufacturer as a raw material for paper without being shipped as articles. (If paper leaves said paper manufacturer, etc. and is distributed by way of a third party, it shall be treated as waste paper, excluding a case in which waste sheet is intentionally treated as waste paper.)
Waste paper pulp	Pulp obtained by deflaking or deflaking/deinking waste paper, paper board, or cutting scraps of paper or paper board
Percentage of waste paper pulp	Weight percentage of waste paper pulp in the total pulp contained in the product. Indicated as (waste paper pulp)/(virgin pulp + waste paper pulp) x 100 (%). Pulp containing 10% moisture is used to measure the weight. In addition, waste sheets shall not be included in the denominator and numerator, respectively, of the calculating formula of waste paper pulp combination rate.
Waste sheet	Waste paper shall fall under any of the following: - Those generated in the paper making process, and directly returned to the paper making process to be used as a raw material (so-called “circulating waste sheet”. Wet broke and dry broke) - Those stored in a paper making factory or operator and used as a raw material (so-called “stocked waste sheets”) - Those stipulated by the conditional clause in the definition of the pre-consumer waste paper described above.
Base paper	General name of paper serving as base material subject to bag-

	making, painting, impregnating process, etc.
Paper Manufacturer	“PAPER (142)” listed in the Medium Category of the Japan Standard Industrial Classification (The Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications Public Notice No. 175 of March 23, 2009), and “Paper (1421)”, “Paperboard (1422)”, “Machine-made Japanese style paper (1423)” and “Hand-made Japanese style paper (1424)” in the Small Category.
Subsidiary, affiliate company, and associated company	Those defined in each section of Article 8 of “Ordinance on Terminology, Forms and Preparation Methods of Financial Statements, etc.” based on the stipulation of Article 193 of the Financial Instruments and Exchange Act (Act No. 25 of 1948).
Brightness	ISO whiteness degree (diffuse blue reflectance) defined in JIS P8148 or degree of whiteness of pulp or paper according to the Hunter method defined by JAPAN TAPPI (Japan Technical Association of the Pulp and Paper Industry). In addition, a controlled standard value refers to a value specified in a written technical standard (quality standard), etc. and controlled in a manufacturing plant.
Fluorescent whitening agent	An agent that fluoresces under UV light and visually enhances the whiteness of paper.
Prescription constituents	Components intentionally added with the purpose of providing specific characteristics to the product. Impurities that inevitably enter during the manufacturing process are excluded.
Prohibited materials	Those materials defined as prohibited materials in the “Waste paper Quality Standard” established by the Paper Recycling Promotion Center (Incorporated Foundation)
Basis weight	The value described as grams per square meter of a single sheet of paper and board (JISP0001:Paper, board and pulp – Vocabulary) The controlled standard value refers to a value specified in a written technical standard (quality standard), etc. and controlled in a manufacturing plant.
Thinned wood, etc.	Thinned wood or bamboo
Forest Certification System	Mechanism for a third party organization to evaluate/certify a forest management level of a forest operator based on the standard defined by an independent forest certification organization. (From “Guideline for Verification on Legality and Sustainability of Wood and Products” of Forest Agency (February 15, 2006)
Credit System	System that assumes certified forest wood/thinned wood, etc. are equally used in individual products, based on used amounts of certified forest wood/thinned wood, etc. and other raw materials that were used in entire products manufactured for a certain period of time, irrespective of whether they are actually mixed in the individual products (From “Basic Policy for the Promotion of Procurement of Eco-Friendly Goods and Services”, February 2014).

4. Certification Criteria and Certification Procedure

4-1. Environmental Criteria and Certification Procedure

(1) For the base paper for wrapping paper and for envelopes, the percentage of the waste paper pulp, the forest certified wood pulp certified by the third party and thinned wood pulp shall be at least 40%.

For the base paper for paper bags, the percentage of the waste paper pulp, the forest certified wood pulp certified by the third party and thinned wood pulp shall be at least 30%.

The content rate of the forest-certified woods pulp may be certified according to the credit method. In addition, if the mass ratio of each pulp can be proven, the ratio may be the total including the ratio of waste paper pulp.

[Certification Procedure]

A paper quality certificate issued by a paper manufacturer who manufactures base paper, which indicates the percentage of waste paper pulp (a specific minimum numerical value to be guaranteed), and includes items 1) and 2) below, shall be submitted.

- 1) Thorough management at a manufacturing plant (by specifying the percentage of waste paper pulp of Eco Mark products in a written technical standard (quality standard), etc.)
- 2) Clear indication of names of those who are in charge of manufacturing or quality control of Eco Mark products at a manufacturing plant (hereinafter referred to as a person in charge of Eco Mark products)

In addition, “Checklist for Verification System of Percentage of Waste Paper Pulp” (April 2, 2008: Japan Paper Association) or a document, etc. in accordance therewith and related to result of an internal audit on the percentage of waste paper pulp of a paper manufacturer, and a sample (10 sheets of A-4 paper) shall be submitted.

In addition, the paper quality certificate and the document, etc. related to result of an internal audit on the percentage of waste paper pulp shall be submitted every year after a use contract is concluded.

For the product using pulp manufactured with the forest-certified woods, a certificate of the forest certified paper issued by the paper manufacturer and a certificate to prove that the product has the third-party forest certification shall be submitted.

For the product using pulp manufactured with thinned woods, etc., a certificate of the content rate of thinned wood pulp issued by the paper manufacturer shall be submitted.

(2) In order to control energy consumption during manufacturing, efforts shall be made to reduce waste sheets and prevent overuse of waste sheets.

[Certification Procedure]

A report on the percentage of usage of waste sheet in an Eco Mark product (mean per one representative lot) to be issued by a paper manufacturer who manufacture base paper shall be submitted.

In addition, the report on the percentage of usage of waste sheet shall be submitted every year after a use contract is concluded.

- (3) When virgin pulp (excluding virgin pulp manufactured from thinned wood, and those manufactured from recycled resources such as lower grade timber and mill ends, etc. generated from plywood and sawmills) is used, the timber used for material wood must be harvested in legal manner consistent with procedures in the forest laws of timber producing countries.

[Certification Procedure]

A certificate shall be submitted to prove that the timber whose legality has been verified* in accordance with “Guideline for Verification on Legality and Sustainability of Wood and Wood Products” of Forestry Agency has been in custody to be separated by the applicant or the paper manufacturer and is supplied to the applied products. At the same time, the applicant or the paper manufacturer who issues the above certificate shall submit any of the following certificates:

- 1) Certificate that the applicant or the paper manufacturer has been assessed and authenticated by the CoC (Chain of Custody) Certification System;
- 2) Certificate of the authorized company (that guarantees the association member’s adequate way of supplying wood and wood products verified with legality, etc.); and
- 3) Code of management practice which stipulates the way of custody to manage wood and wood products verified with legality (the method in the case that the timber verified with legality only is handled. The same applies to hereunder), retention of certificates for a predetermined period, etc.

In the event that Item 2) or 3) above is chosen and the certificate is submitted, the applicant or the paper manufacturer who issues the above-mentioned certificates shall publicly announce through its Web site the code of management practice prescribed by the association concerned in the case of Item 2) and shall prescribe and publicly announce through its Web site the code of management practice concerning the scheme to assess and guarantee the system for separative management, document management for retention of certificates for a predetermined period, etc. in the case of Item 3).

*Confirm the certificate issued by the related company closest in commercial process, which at least verifies that wood and wood products they supply are with legality and under separative custody management

- (4) The coating amount shall be 30 g/m² or less on both sides. However, the maximum amount per side shall be 17g/ m².

[Certification Procedure]

Certificates on the volume of coating issued by paper manufacturers shall be submitted. The certificates shall include the specific volumes of coating for single- and dual-sided specifications.

- (5) Addition of fluorescent whitening agents as prescription constituents shall be minimized.

[Certification Procedure]

Certificates issued by the paper manufacturer indicating whether fluorescent whitening agents are used shall be submitted. If used, the amount of the agent used shall be included in the certificate

- (6) Azo colorants (dyes and pigments) which may generate one or more amines of Table 1 in the decomposition of one or more azo radicals by reduction shall not be used. If used, one or more amines listed in Table 1 shall not be detected in 30 mg per kg or more of the product.

Table1 Amines that shall not be generated as a result of the decomposition of azo radicals

	Chemical substance	CAS RN.
1	4-aminodiphenyl	92-67-1
2	benzidine	92-87-5
3	4-chloro-0-toluidine	95-69-2
4	2-naphthylamine	91-59-8
5	0-aminoazotoluene	97-56-3
6	2-amino-4-nitrotoluene	99-55-8
7	p-chloroaniline	106-47-8
8	2,4-diaminoanisole	615-05-4
9	4,4'diaminophenylmethane	101-77-9
10	3,3'dichlorobenzidine	91-94-1
11	3,3'dimethoxybenzidine	119-90-4
12	3,3'dimethylbenzidine	119-93-7
13	3,3'dimethyl-4,4'diaminodiphenylmethane	838-88-0
14	p-cresidine	120-71-8
15	4,4'methylene-bis-(2-chloroaniline)	101-14-4
16	4,4'oxydianiline	101-80-4
17	4,4'thiodianiline	139-65-1
18	0-toluidine	95-53-4
19	2,4-toluilenediamine	95-80-7
20	2,4,5-trimethylaniline	137-17-7
21	0-anisidine	90-04-0
22	4-amino- azobenzene	60-09-3

[Certification Procedure]

Certificates issued by the paper manufacturer indicating whether the concerned substances are used shall be submitted. If used, one of the three certificates 1) to 3) below issued by the paper manufacturer to certify that no amines in Table 1 have been detected exceeding 30 mg per kg of the product shall be submitted.

- 1) Certificates specifying that no colorants exceeding 30 mg per kg of the product are contained.
- 2) Certificates specifying that no amines in Table 1 have been detected exceeding 30 mg per kg of the product after considering every such risk in theory.
- 3) Certificates specifying that no amines in Table 1 exceeding 30 mg per kg of the product have been detected by an analysis method prescribed in the list of public testing methods based on Article 35 of the German law on foods and daily supplies.

- (7) Chlorine gas bleaching shall not be conducted for virgin pulp used in the applied product.

[Certification Procedure]

Certificates issued by the paper manufacturer shall be submitted.

- (8) In manufacturing the applied product, related environmental laws and regulations and pollution control agreement (hereinafter referred to as the “Environmental Laws, etc.”) must be followed with respect to air pollution, water contamination, noise, offensive odor, and emission of hazardous substances in the area where the plant performing the final manufacturing process is located.

In addition, the state of compliance with the Environmental Laws, etc. for the past five years from the date of application (whether there is any violation) must be reported. If there is any violation, proper remedies and preventive measures shall have been already taken, and the related Environmental Laws, etc. must thereafter be followed appropriately.

[Certification Procedure]

With respect to the compliance with the Environmental Laws, etc. in the area where the plant performing the final manufacturing process is located, a certificate issued by the representative of the business of manufacturing the applied product or the relevant plant manager (entry or attachment of a list of names of the Environmental Laws, etc.) must be submitted.

In addition, the applicants shall report whether there is any violation in the past five years, including a violation subject to administrative punishment or administrative guidance, and if there is, the following documents in a and b must be submitted:

- a. With respect to the fact of violation, guidance documents from administrative agencies (including order of correction and warning) and copies of written answers (including those reporting causes and results of correction) to such documents (clearly indicating a series of communication);
- b. Following materials (copies of recording documents, etc.) concerning the management system for compliance with the Environmental Laws, etc. in 1)-5):
 - 1) List of the Environmental Laws, etc. related to the area where the plant is located;
 - 2) Implementation system (organizational chart with roles, etc.);
 - 3) Bylaws stipulating retention of recording documents;
 - 4) Recurrence prevention measures (future preventive measures);
 - 5) State of implementation based on recurrence prevention measures (result of checking of the state of compliance, including the result of onsite inspection).

In addition, if the Act on Confirmation, etc. of Release Amounts of Specific Chemical Substances in the Environment and Promotion of Improvements to the Management Thereof is applicable to a plant manufacturing products and substances covered thereby (Class 1 designated chemical substance) are used more than the prescribed amount the reporting responsibility of which is defined by the law, a certificate stating the amount of emission and transfer of each substance to be issued by Manager of the plant manufacturing the product shall be submitted.

- (9) The product shall contain no prohibited materials defined by the Paper Recycling Promotion Center.

[Certification Procedure]

Details shall be indicated in the Attached Certificate

- (10) The product packaging shall be designed to facilitate recycling and shall impart a reduced environmental burden when incinerated.

[Certification Procedure]

Details shall be indicated in the Attached Certificate

- (11) The percentage of waste paper pulp (a minimum numerical value to be guaranteed) shall be indicated on a product package.

[Certification Procedure]

A display plan draft showing the percentage of waste paper pulp on the package shall be submitted.

4-2. Quality Criteria and Certification Procedure

- (12) For quality, appropriate quality criteria such as the Japanese Industrial Standards JIS P 3401, etc. shall be met. In addition, the basis weight shall be controlled within $\pm 5\%$ of a controlled standard value of each product lot during production.

[Certification Procedure]

Result of a test based on quality standards (including dimensions) such as Japanese Industrial Standards, etc. or a copy of JIS certified plant shall be submitted. A controlled standard value of basis weight shall also be submitted. In addition, a controlled standard value of basis weight shall be submitted.

5. Considerations

In the process of manufacturing products, it is desirable to consider the following items, although they are not requirements for certification. The response to each item shall be indicated in the Attached Certificate

- (1) Quantitative environmental information on greenhouse gas emissions throughout the life cycle of the applied product, from the procurement of the raw materials to the disposal and recycling, shall be disclosed, which is calculated by converting into carbon dioxide equivalents based on the global warming potential (when applying for multiple types at once, calculation by a representative type is acceptable). It shall be possible to explain that the quantitative environmental information has been calculated in accordance with the Carbon Footprint (ISO 14067), Life Cycle Assessment (ISO 14040 and ISO 14044), or "Carbon Footprint Guidelines" prepared by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry and the Ministry of the Environment. The medium for disclosing the quantitative environmental information (URL of the calculation report, etc.) shall be disclosed as part of product information on the Eco Mark website.

6. Product Classification, Indication and Others

- (1) Product classification shall be made by product type (the base paper for wrapping paper, for paper bags, for envelopes), manufacturing plant and product name. The product is not classified by size, base weight and packing lot.
- (2) In principle, Eco Mark shown as below shall be indicated on the product. Regarding licensee of Eco Mark Utilization Contract who already own Eco Mark products, the indication of the logo and certification number that have been used is also acceptable.



(Note for the indication)

- *For indicating the logo, Eco Mark certification number (eight-digit number) or the name of the licensee using the logo shall be appeared.
- * Such expression as “Eco Mark product” can be used following the 2.(2) of the Guide to Eco Mark Usage.
“Eco Mark product”, “#Eco Mark”, “www.ecomark.jp”, “Eco Mark Certificate”
- * In accordance with “Environmental Labeling Guidelines” of the Ministry of the Environment of Japan, etc., the environmental claims of certified products may be indicated in association with Eco Mark.
(<https://www.env.go.jp/policy/hozen/green/ecolabel/guideline/>)
- * The Guide to Eco Mark Usage shall be followed for any cases not listed above.
(<https://www.ecomark.jp/office/guideline/guide/>)

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The Certification Criteria for the Product Category will be revised when necessary.