

Eco Mark Product Category No.140

“Containers and Packaging for Food and Beverages, Cosmetics, Household Goods Version 1.16” Certification Criteria

C. Container for Sterile-Packed Cooked Rice

Japan Environment Association
Eco Mark Office

1. Purpose of establishing criteria

Omitted

2. Applicable Scope

Plastic containers and packages for sterile-packed cooked rice

3. Terminology

Omitted

4. Certification Criteria and Certification Procedures

With respect to Certification Procedures to criteria items, the Attached Certificates and related documents shall be submitted.

4-1. Environmental Common Criteria and Certification Procedures

(1) In one packing unit (a packing unit capable of storing at normal temperature for a long period (around 6 months)), weight of a container/package for 100 g of cooked rice shall be 5.0 g or less.

[Certification Procedures]

The Attached Certificate shall contain the number of packed products A (meals), weight of cooked rice per meal: B (g), total weight of tray/lid/deoxidizer (If an outer bag is to function to maintain a storage period, total weight of tray/lid/deoxidizer/outer bag): C (g), and weight of one packing unit per 100g of cooked rice ($C/B \times 100$).

(2) In the case of a product for multiple meals sold in an outer bag, weight of the outer bag for 100g of cooked rice shall be 1.0 g or less. Note, however, that this section shall not apply to an outer bag contained in one packing unit.

[Certification Procedures]

The Attached Certificate shall contain the number of packed products: A (meals), weight of outer bag D (g), and weight of an outer bag for 100g of cooked rice (D/A)

(3) In manufacturing the applying 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 materials 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 last five years from the date of application (whether there is any violation) must be reported. If there is any violation, it is necessary that proper remedies and preventive measures 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 manufacturer of the applying product or the manager of the relevant plant (entry or attachment of the list of names of the Environmental Laws, etc.) must be submitted.

In addition, it is necessary to report whether there is any violation during the last 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 (making a series of progress clear);
- b. Following materials (copies of recording documents, and so on) 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 entry of roles, etc.);
 - 3) Document 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).

(4) Substances regulated by "Self-imposed Controls on Printing Ink (NL regulations) by the Japan Printing Ink Makers Association shall not be added in the printing ink used for the product (labels, etc.) as a prescribed constituent.

[Certification Procedures]

Compliance with the NL regulations shall be indicated in the Attached Certificate.

(5) Plastic materials used in the package and container for one packaging unit shall not be added with plastics that contain halogen in polymer backbone as a prescribed constituent.

[Certification Procedures]

Whether any halogen element is added or not in polymer backbone shall be indicted in the Attached Certificate.

(6) Plastics additives such as the plasticizers, color materials, stabilizers, lubricants, etc. used in the plastic materials for one packaging unit shall conform to the positive list system of food utensils, containers and packaging, etc.

[Certification Procedures]

The Applicant shall submit certificates that plasticizer, color materials, stabilizers, lubricants and other plastic additives conform to the Positive List system of food utensils, containers and packaging, etc.

(7) If recycled plastic materials are used in food containers, the measures to ensure the safety shall be taken based on “Regarding “Guideline for the Use of Recycled Materials as Raw Materials for Synthetic Resins Used in the Manufacture of Food Utensils and Containers/Packaging”” (issued on March 28, 2024 as Food Safety Standards and Evaluation Division 0328 No.7 and Food Inspection and Safety Division 0328 No.7 under the joint names of chiefs of above both divisions of Pharmaceutical Safety and Environmental Health Bureau, the MHLW) of Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare.

[Certification Procedure] Certifier: Applicant

The written document shall be submitted which shows the ensuring the safety based on “Guideline for the Use of Recycled Materials as Raw Materials for Synthetic Resins Used in the Manufacture of Food Utensils and Containers/Packaging” of Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare.

(8) Adhesives used in the packaging and containers for one packaging unit shall

conform to “Voluntary Regulation on Adhesive for Food Packaging Materials (NL regulations)” by the Japan Adhesive Industry Association as Prescription constituents.

[Certification Procedures] Compliance with the Negative List regulations shall be indicated in the Attached Certificate.

(9) The containers and packaging in one packaging unit shall meet the requirement described in “the Standards and Criteria for Foods, Food Additives, etc. (Ministry of Health and Welfare Notice No. 370, 1959)”.

[Certification Procedures]

The Applicant shall submit test results to certifying that the products meet the corresponding requirements.

4-2. Quality Criteria and Certification Procedures

(10) Quality of containers shall conform to the industrial voluntary standards or the manufacturer’s own standards.

[Certification Procedures]

A certificate to show the compliance with the appropriate standards shall be submitted.

5. Considerations

In manufacturing products, it is desirable to consider the following, although they are not requirements for certification. The conformance to the individual criteria item shall be indicated in Attached Certificates.

- (1) Volume reduction of a tray for a container/package shall be possible at the time of disposal.
- (2) Plastic materials used for containers and packaging shall be composed of a single resin or otherwise shall not inhibit recycling after use.
- (3) For containers for food per one packing unit, recycled plastics or bio-based plastics, etc. shall be used and those percentage of mixing shall be indicated.

6. Product Classification, Indication and Others

- (1) A product classification (application unit) shall be by a brand name. It is also possible to apply at one time even if the weight of cooked rice or the number of

products in the package is different among each application unit. If the same product is sold as a single product for one-time meal and as a number of products packed in an outer package for multiple meals, both of them shall meet the requirements of the Certification Criteria.

- (2) When indicating the Eco Mark on the packaging, it should be indicated so as to clearly show that the product packaging or container is the Eco Mark certified products and also show that the product content has nothing to do with the Eco Mark
- (3) In principle, Eco Mark shall be indicated on the body of the container and packaging, etc.

Example)



エコマーク認定容器



Eco Mark Certified

(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/>)

October 1, 2013	Addition of Category C, D and E (Version 1.7)
June 1, 2015	Revised (Category A-D) Version1.8
June 1, 2016	Addition of Category G and H (Version 1.9)
September 16, 2016	Addition of Category F (Version1.10)
February 1, 2017	Revised (Category D 4-1-1(1) and 5, Category E 5, and Category H 3: Version.11)
April 1, 2019	Revised (6.(2)(3))
November 28, 2019	Revised (Category A, 4-2.(18) added Version1.12)
November 1, 2020	Revised (Version1.13), Extension of Expiration

December 15, 2022	Revised (Version1.14)
February 1, 2023	Revised (Version1.15, Category K added, I, J, etc. revised)
August 1, 2024	Revised (Version1.16, Category A-1:4-2(8), A-2:4-1(8), B:4-2(12), C:4-1(7), D:4-1-2(6), G, I and J:4-1(6)
June 30,2027	Expiration

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