

Eco Mark Product Category No.140

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

Certification Criteria

## G. Plastic containers and packaging using recycled plastic

Japan Environment Association

Eco Mark Office

### 1. Purpose of establishing criteria

Omitted

### 2. Applicable Scope

The criteria shall cover plastic containers and packaging that function to preserve the quality of content (such as extension of the quality preservation period). However, if the Eco Mark product category is also set on the content, such packaging is treated as an individual package of said content and thus not included in the applicable scope of this product category.

### 3. Terminology

Omitted

### 4. Certification Criteria and Certification Procedures

To show conformance to the criteria items, the Attached Certificates and related documents shall be submitted.

#### 4-1. Environmental Criteria and Certification Procedures

- (1) A percentage of weight of recycled plastics in containers and packaging shall be 25% or higher for post-consumer materials and 50% or higher for pre-consumer materials.

For laminated packaging materials, the weight percentage of recycled plastics in the weight of the container and packaging shall be 10% or higher.

Note 1) When a post-consumer material and a pre-consumer material are used concurrently, the standard content rate of the former shall apply. In that case, calculate weight of the pre-consumer material by multiplying it by 1/2.

Note 2) For laminated packaging materials, any material other than plastic (an

adhesive, printing ink, aluminum foil of a laminated packaging material, etc.) may be excluded from the weight calculation.

[Certification Procedure]

The Applicant shall submit a certificate on the weight of containers and packaging and weight ratio of recycled plastics, and a raw material certificate issued by a raw material supplier.

- (2) 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).

- (3) Substances regulated by “Voluntary Regulation on Printing Ink (NL regulations)” by the Japan Printing Ink Makers Association shall not be added to printing inks

used for the packaging and containers as a prescription constituent.

[Certification Procedure]

Conformance to the NL regulations shall be stated in the Attached Certificate.

- (4) Plastic materials used in the containers and packaging shall not be added plastics that contain halogen in polymer backbone as a prescription constituent.

[Certification Procedure]

For plastic materials, whether any halogen element is added or not in polymeric backbone shall be stated in the Attached Certificates

- (5) For containers and packaging for food, plastics additives such as the plasticizers, color materials, stabilizers, lubricants, etc. used in the plastic materials shall conform to the positive list system of food utensils, containers and packaging, etc. In case of using the plastic additives which are not listed in the positive list for the products which are not intended as containers for food, the plastic additives shall meet the requirements described in ISO 8124-3, etc.

[Certification Procedures]

The Applicant shall submit certificates that plasticizer, color materials, stabilizers, lubricants and other plastic additives used in the plastic materials conform to the Positive List system of food utensils, containers and packaging, etc. With respect to plastic additives not included in the Positive List, the results of tests to show the conformance to the requirements stipulated in ISO 8124-3, etc. shall be submitted.

- (6) For containers and packaging for food, 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]

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.

- (7) Adhesives to be used for containers and packaging shall conform to “voluntary regulations on adhesives for food package materials, etc.” (NL regulations) by the Japan Adhesive Industry Association.

[Certification Procedures]

Conformance to the NL regulations shall be stated in the Attached Certificate.

- (8) Containers and packaging for food shall meet the requirement described in “the Standards and criteria for Food and Food Additives, etc. (Ministry of Health and Welfare Notice No. 370, 1959)”.

Containers and packaging for anything other than food shall meet the requirement of harmful substances defined in the same standard criteria or ISO-8124-3, etc.

[Certification Procedures]

The Applicant shall submit test results certifying that the corresponding requirements are met.

#### **4-2. Quality Criteria and Certification Procedures <common>**

- (9) Quality of containers and packaging shall conform to the industrial voluntary standards or the manufacturer’s own standards.

[Certification Procedures]

A document to show the conformance to 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) Containers and packaging shall have a mechanism related to discharge control of wastes from recovery/recycling.
- (2) Plastic materials to be used in a container/package shall not be a disincentive for recycling after use.
- (3) The percentage of mixing for recycled plastic, etc. shall be indicated.

### **6. Product Classification, Indication and Others**

- (1) A product classification (application unit) shall be by a brand name.
- (2) When indicating the Eco Mark on the packaging or container, 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. The licensees of Eco Mark Utilization Contract who own the Eco Mark products shall also be allowed to use the indication and the certification number as before.

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: Version1.11)
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.