

# Eco Mark Product Category No. 501

## “Retail Stores Version 2.3”

### Certification Criteria

#### - Applicable Scope-

Retail stores classified as “Division I - Wholesale and Retail Trade, Major group 56-60,” of Japan Standard Industrial Classification (Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications)

Established: March 1, 2019

Last revised: August 1, 2024

Expiration date: February 28, 2031

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.

## Eco Mark Product Category No.501 “Retail Stores Version2.3” Certification Criteria

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### 1. Purpose of Establishing Criteria

Omitted.

### 2. Applicable scope

Retail stores classified as “Division I - Wholesale and Retail Trade, Major group 56-60,” of Japan Standard Industrial Classification (Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications)

### 3. Terminology

For the terms used herein, their concepts, etc. are provided in footnotes and the Interpretation.

### 4. Certification Criteria and Certification Procedure

The certification criteria consist of **mandatory items** that must be met and **optional items** that may be selected according to the store's actions, for each of the 6 evaluation categories specified in Table 1. The requirements for certification are listed in Table 1. For each evaluation category, “Other” may be selected up to three to apply unique environmental initiatives. The examination committee decides whether the initiative applied under “Other” is equivalent to or better than other items.

Table 1 Evaluation categories and points (p)

No.	Evaluation category	Mandatory item	Optional item (maximum points)
1	Sale of eco-friendly products	2 item	9items(11 p)
2	Environmental communication	1 item	9items( 9 p)
3	Waste reduction and recycling	1 item	9items(12 p)
4	Energy and water saving	1 item	9items(12 p)
5	Efficient distribution	—	10items(10 p)
6	Eco-friendly store operation	1 item	9items( 9 p)
Total		6 items	55items(63 p)
Requirement for certification (selling food and beverages)		Mandatory 6p + Optional 26p (at minimum)	
(not selling food and beverages)		Mandatory 6p + Optional 21p (at minimum)	

[Certification procedure common to each item]

- In order to prove conformance to respective criteria items, submit the attached certificate as well as materials, photographs and/or explanatory documents that can certify conformance to the criteria, with reference to the interpretation.
- For application of multiple stores at one time, in principle, only the criteria item that all applying stores meet can be selected. If there is a special reason why any stores cannot meet the criteria for unavoidable reasons, information or documents explaining the reasons thereof shall be submitted.
- On-site inspection (including online inspection) will be conducted during the certification examination to verify the implementation status. For application of multiple stores at one time, the inspection will be conducted on the administrative section that spearheads common initiatives (headquarters, etc.), as well as a representative store among those named in the application.
- Conformance or non-conformance to criteria items shall be evaluated as follows, in principle.
  - The degree of an initiative such as quantity or frequency is irrelevant. However, conditions specified in the certification criteria or the interpretation must be followed.
  - An evaluation will be made as to any initiatives already put into practice. If it is impossible to grasp the performance because the store is newly opened, a specific plan (materials, documents, etc. that support effectiveness) shall be submitted and an evaluation shall be made on the condition that the achievement of the plan is reported on a later date.
  - A decision will be made as to whether the applicant takes the initiative. (Initiatives addressed by a different operator such as a franchisee or a tenant are out of the scope of evaluation.)
- If the store under application has a tenant(s), it is required that criteria items (21) Waste control, (31) Energy control and (51) Compliance to the law must be met by the store itself and all tenants, in principle. If this cannot be confirmed with a tenant for an unavoidable reason, information, documents, etc. explaining the reason thereof shall be submitted.

#### 4-1. Sale of eco-friendly products



[mandatory item]

- (1) Environmentally friendly products\* are sold.

environmentally friendly products: products using recycled materials, plant-based plastics, organic cotton, etc., ecolabelling products and food such as Eco Mark, forest certification, organic agricultural products (organic JAS mark), etc.

- (61) Either effort of “Ingenious ways to provide” or “Product ingenuity” of “Rational Use of Products using specified plastics” shall be conducted when providing a plastic product that falls under products using specified plastics (12 items)"stipulated in the Act on Promotion of Resource Recycling Related to Plastics.

Item  
Added  
on July  
1, 2022

[optional item]

- (2) Cooperation to bring a reusable shopping bag or to ask a simple packaging is encouraged [1p]

- (3) Sales are being conducted by promoting the use of environmental friendly containers and packaging, saving their weight or simplifying them. [1p]

- (4) If Eco Mark certified products are sold, the number of products handled by category (commodities and household articles, stationery and office supplies, etc. excluding services) must meet the table below.

[1p  
~3p]

Number of Eco Mark certified products sold	Point to be added (by category)
1 item	1p
2 or more items	2p

Note) Points are added by category, but only up to 3 points are obtainable in (4).

Category > [https://www.ecomark.jp/search/genre\\_search.php](https://www.ecomark.jp/search/genre_search.php)

- (5) The applicant develops and/or markets environmental friendly products such as Eco Mark certified products. [1p]

- (6) A sustainable procurement policy (which is quantitative) for agricultural products, livestock products, fishery products and palm oil products sold in the store has been developed and the initiative for the policy has commenced. [1p]\*

- (7) Cooperation is being extended to an initiative contributing to a reduction in environmental load across the entire food chain, such as [1p]\*

easing delivery deadlines to reduce food loss (review of one-third rules, etc.)

(8) - (10) Other ※ (1 point per 1 activity, maximum 3 items ) [1p each]

\*Points given if conformance is attained as the company

※ Other referential keywords: promotion of local production for local consumption, expansion of ambient temperatures sales such as beverages, voluntary ban on excessive demonstration of electric appliances, a policy of prohibiting the use of disposable plastic containers and packaging, publication of refusal rate and reduction amount of plastic shopping bags, sale of used or recycled products, etc.

## 4-2. Environmental communication



[mandatory item]

- (11) Information that details the environmental activities the store is working on, is transmitted through notices and website.

[optional item]

- |  |           |
|--|-----------|
| (12) The significance and purchase advantages of environmental friendly products are communicated in an understandable manner in a special corner or at the POP.   | [1p]      |
| (13) The applicant participates / cooperates in local volunteer activities, such as cleanup activities.  | [1p]*     |
| (14) Smoking is prohibited all day long in the store property  | [1p]      |
| (15) Environmental education opportunities are provided such as agricultural experience and a tour to a recycling facility.  | [1p]*     |
| (16) The use of transportation means of low environmental load is being promoted, such as by providing a port for bicycle-sharing and a plug-in station. (For application of multiple stores, it is acceptable if any one of the stores is working on such an initiative.) | [1p]      |
| (17) A habitat is developed to provide a resting place for wildlife, such as roof-top greening and/or biotope development. (For application of multiple stores, it is acceptable if any one of the stores is working on such an initiative.)                               | [1p]      |
| (18) –(20) Other ※(1 point per 1 activity, maximum 3 items )   | [1p each] |

\*Points given if conformance is attained as the company

※ Other referential keywords : Partnership or cooperation with a food bank or children's food service, fund-raising or environmental protection activities, exhibition at a local environmental fair, sharing of information or awareness on environmental issues with other companies (use of a store association))

## 4-3. Waste reduction and recycling



## Waste reduction

[mandatory item]

- (21) The generation of waste and the types of waste generated from the store(s) are understood. (The applicant understands the generation status including those of franchisees and tenants.)

[optional item]

- (22) General waste from business activities is properly disposed under written contract with a disposal operator. [1p]
- (23) Containers, packaging and used products (small electric appliances, used clothes, etc.) are collected at the shopfront and recycled in compliance with the laws, ordinances, etc. [1p]
- (24) Information indicating the amount and recycling status of containers, packaging and resources collected is provided through notices. [1p]
- (25) Repair requests are received for products sold at the store. [1p]
- (26) The status of food waste generation is evaluated by comparison to the previous year and on the basis of original unit and, furthermore, specific goals and plans have been established to reduce food waste. [1p]\*

An operator who qualifies as a food retailer under the Food Recycling Law has achieved the goal for food waste reduction shown in the table below. or [2p]\*

Category of business	Waste generation per sales
Grocery stores (Various food retail)	44.9 kg/mil. yen
Meat stores, except poultry and egg	40.0 kg/mil. yen
Confectioneries and bakeries	76.1 kg/ mil. yen
Convenience stores	44.1 kg/ mil. yen

- (27) The recycling rate of recyclable food waste under the Food Recycling Law exceeds the standard rate set in the previous year for each operator (If it is 80% or more, maintenance and enhancement). [1p]\*

The recycling rate goal for food retail shown in the table below has been satisfied. or

Recycling rate	Point
60% or more	2p
80% or more	3p

- (28) –(30)Other \* (1 point per 1 activity, maximum 3 items) [1p each]

\* Points given if conformance is attained as the company

- ※ Other referential keywords : The amount of waste weighed every day by each store, demand forecasting utilizing big data, certification of a recycling business plan (food recycling/loop establishment), education on dissemination for promotion of small electric appliance recycling, recycling of POP materials, etc.



#### 4-4. Energy and water saving



[mandatory item]

- (31) Energy consumption at the store (electricity, gas, water, etc.) is grasped.  
(The applicant understands the generation status including those of franchisees and tenants.)

[optional item]

- (32) Daily energy- / water-saving measures, such as switch on/off rules, are clearly indicated via posters, manuals, etc. [1p]
- (33) Heat source, lighting equipment and air-conditioners, etc. are regularly cleaned and inspected to maintain operating efficiency. [1p]
- (34) Efforts to raise the environmental awareness by visualizing changes in energy consumption / cost with graphs, etc. are made. [1p]
- (35) Energy-saving equipment has been introduced when purchasing or replacing with new equipment used in the store. Or, there is a specific introduction plan (timing, quantity, type, etc.) [1p per each category below (max3p.)] ~3p]

Category	Example of energy-saving equipment	point
Lighting	LED, human sensing sensor, etc.	1p
air-conditioner	Air-conditioners, etc.* that excel in energy-saving performance, etc.	1p
fridge, freezer	Refrigerators, freezers, fridge-freezers, showcases, etc. (including fluorocarbon-free type) that excel in energy-saving performance*	1p

Note) A product for which the energy-saving standard achievement rate is not less than 100% under the current Act on the Rational Use of Energy or a product introduced in the manufacturer's latest brochure, etc. as conforming to the Act on Promotion of Procurement of Eco-Friendly Goods and Services by the State and Other Entities.

- (36) Water-saving equipment has been introduced, such as water-saving disc and water-saving type hydrants and toilets. Or, there is a specific introduction plan (timing, quantity, type, etc.) [1p]
- (37) The status of energy consumption is evaluated by comparison to the previous year and on the basis of original unit and, furthermore, specific goals and plans have been established to reduce the energy [1p]\* or

consumption.

Furthermore, the following (1) goal to strive for or (2) Benchmark goal has [2p]\* been achieved.

(1) Goal to strive for: reduce at least 1% in annual average in the energy consumption per-unit for the last 5 fiscal years.

(2) Benchmark goal: level to be strived for by the operator in the medium to long term as established in the target business type/area of the benchmark system

(38) –(40)Other ※ (1 point per 1 activity, maximum 3 items ) [1p each]

\* Points given if conformance is attained as the company

※ Other referential keywords : Participation in an Cool Share initiative practiced by the local government, implementation of demand monitoring, conducting of energy-saving audits, installation of solar or wind power generation equipment, heat insulation of windows and walls, roof-top greening and wall surface greening, use of rain water, obtaining ISO50001 certification, etc.

**4-5. Efficient distribution**

[optional item]

- |  |           |
|--|-----------|
| (41) Returnable containers and packaging materials (use of a returnable box, hanged delivery, etc.) are used.  | [1p]      |
| (42) Eco-friendly driving is promoted through periodic training and management of driving records.   | [1p]*     |
| (43) When delivering packages, a mechanism or system is in place to reduce re-deliveries.  | [1p]*     |
| (44) Eco-friendly vehicles have been introduced as home delivery vehicles and trucks.  | [1p]*     |
| (45) Freight forwarders who have obtained the Green Management Certification are used.   | [1p]*     |
| (46) Joint delivery is pursued with group companies and other companies, and a warehouse/logistic center is shared.  | [1p]*     |
| (47) A consistent logistic network that combines delivery work with returned products and recalls has been established (use of reverse logistics in compliance with laws, ordinances, etc.). | [1p]*     |
| (48) -(50)Other ※ (1 point per 1 activity, maximum 3 items )   | [1p each] |

\* Points given if conformance is attained as the company

※ Other referential keywords: use of BDF, use of recycled tire, introduction of modal shift, calculation of greenhouse gas emissions (Scope 3 emissions) from the entire supply chain, etc.

**4-6. Eco-friendly store operation****Store operation**

[mandatory item]

- (51) The store complies with the applicable environmental laws and regulations, etc. (including municipal ordinances) (The applicant understands the compliance status including those of franchisees and tenants.)

[optional item]

- |   |           |
|---|-----------|
| (52) All employees are educated and trained as necessary to carry out environmental initiatives.  | [1p]      |
| (53) A basic policy on environmental activities has established (environmental targets and action plan).  | [1p]*     |
| (54) An internal standard has been established to preferentially purchase environmental-friendly products such as Eco Mark products (stationery, toilet paper, etc.) for goods used in the company. | [1p]*     |
| (55) The store has been certified by a third party's environmental management system, such as Eco-Action 21 or ISO 14001.   | [1p]*     |
| (56) After making a sufficient effort to reduce greenhouse gases emitted from the stores, an initiative of carbon offset is being taken.  | [1p]*     |
| (57) Publication of specific details to be worked on and establishment of numerical goals have been conducted for achieving sustainable development goals (SDGs).                                   | [1p]*     |
| (58) -(60)Other ※ (1 point per 1 activity, maximum 3 items )  | [1p each] |

\* Points given if conformance is attained as the company

※ Other referential keywords : Introduction of environmental accounting, evaluation of environmental performance of buildings (stores) with CASBEE and LEED, use of detergents of low environmental load, Eco First certification, use of thinned wood and FSC certified products in procurement of building materials, establishment of a company standard that is more stringent than the statutory regulations, participation in RE100, etc.

## 5. Application unit, indication, etc.

- (1) The unit of application shall be a single store or chain stores (multiple stores working on common initiatives in accordance with the policy and manual established by the headquarters). When applying for certification of multiple stores collectively, the applicant shall determine the target stores of the application in advance.
- (2) The Eco Mark shall be displayed in the store. For the indication specifications, "Guide to Eco Mark Usage for Retail Stores" shall be followed. Examples are as follows. The facilities certified under Product Category No. 501 "Retail Stores Version1" may display the conventional certification number and Eco Mark.

[Display example]



Note 1) The Eco Mark shall be indicated to show that the subject of certification is the "store". When multiple stores have been certified, the Eco Mark shall be presented so that the scope of certification is clear.

Note 2) It is acceptable to indicate only pictograms (figures / characters representing the purpose according to each evaluation category) for which at least 2 points are acquired in each corresponding evaluation category. (non-applicable pictograms are not displayed.)

March 1, 2019	Established (Version2.0)
September 1, 2020	Revised 4-1(2),4-3(26),(27) (Version2.1)
July 1, 2022	Revised, addition of 4-1.(61) (Version2.2)
March 15, 2024	Extension of Expiration date
August 1, 2024	Revised, 5.Application unit, indication, etc. (Version2.3)
February 28, 2031	Expiration date

Certification Criteria of this Product Category shall be revised as needed.