

Eco Mark Product Category No.121

“Returnable Containers / Packaging Materials Version2.4” Certification Criteria

**Category B Plastic containers and packaging materials**

Japan Environment Association

Eco Mark Office

**1. Purpose of Establishing Criteria**

Omitted.

**2. Applicable Scope**

- Plastic containers and packaging materials,  
that use plastic not less than 70% in weight to the whole product as a major material

**3. Terminology**

Omitted.

**4. Certification Criteria and Certification Procedure**

To show conformance to the individual criteria, the Applicant shall submit the respective Attached Certificate forms duly filled in.

In the event re-examination under the present Certification Criteria is sought for a product that is already certified in the Product Category 121 “Returnable Containers and Packaging Materials (no version),” the certifications procedures 4-1. (2), (3), (5)-(8) and (13) may be substituted by filling in necessary items on the Attached Certificate form and declaring further therein that no alternations have been made to the product already certified.

**4-1. Environmental Criteria and Certification Procedure**

- (1) An average product shall be repeatedly used at least five times.

[Certification Procedure] \* Certifier: Applicant

The Applicant shall submit a document indicating that the actual average number of recycling uses of a product is five times or more (for new products, the data for comparable products may be submitted instead).

- (2) The product shall be designed so as to be used repeatedly.

[Certification Procedure] Certifier: Applicant or a third party body

The Applicant shall submit a certificate by a third party or company design

documents describing:

1. Strength
2. Cleaning characteristics
3. Label's adhesive or removable characteristics (for those products requiring attachment or removal of a label after each reuse)

(3) A product collecting (recycling) system shall be established, and this fact shall be made known by marking or information disclosure.

[Certification Procedure] Certifier: Applicant

The Applicant shall submit the following:

1. A document describing a system or a product collecting route to make a product returnable
2. A document or photos illustrating a container (if any) in which products are put for transportation
3. Marking or information disclosure stating that a product is reusable

(4) 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] Certifier: Final product manufacturer

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).

(5) Of printing ink used on a product (product labels, etc.), substances restricted by the Japan Printing Ink Maker's Association's "Self-imposed Controls on Printing Ink for Food Packaging Materials (Negative List Control)" shall not be added as components.

[Certification Procedure] Certifier: Applicant

The Applicant shall state in the Attached Certificate that the product complies with Negative List regulations.

(6) The amount of the material, such as throw-away attachments, of products which is discarded during distribution or after use shall be smaller than or equal to that of comparable one-way containers and packaging materials. However, this requirement does not apply to the cases that neither comparable one-way containers nor packaging materials are available.

[Certification Procedure] Certifier: Applicant

A document prepared by the applicant shall be submitted that explains the generation of label, cap and other wastes during the phases of distribution, use and consumption is less than or equivalent to that generated by comparable one-way containers or packaging materials.

(7) Packaging material shall not use the specific chlorofluorocarbons (five CFCs), other CFCs, carbon tetrachloride, trichloroethane, and CFC substitutes (HCFCs) during product manufacturing.

[Certification Procedure] Certifier: Manufacturing process manufacturer

Conformance to this criterion shall be stated in the attachment. In addition, certification issued by the authorized representative or plant general manager of

the manufacturer of the plastic material used in the product or of the business establishment that assembles the product shall be submitted.

(8) With respect to products which are intended as containers for food, cosmetics, medicine-related products and the like and for which plastic materials are used, the plasticizers, colorants, stabilizers, lubricants and other plastics additives 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 products other than food utensils, containers and packaging, those color materials or plastic additives shall meet the requirements described / prescribed in ISO 8124-3, laws or voluntary standards in the industry etc.

[Certification Procedure] Certifier: Manufacturing process manufacturer or a third party body

The Applicant shall submit certificates that the plasticizers, colorants, stabilizers, lubricants and other plastics additives used in the products which are intended as containers for food, cosmetics, medicine-related products and the like conform to the positive list system of food utensils, containers and packaging, etc. With respect to color materials and plastic additives not listed in the Positive List, the results of tests to show the conformance to the requirements described in ISO 8124-3, laws or voluntary standards in the industry, etc. shall be submitted.

(9) Cadmium, lead, hexavalent chromium, mercury, or their compounds as formulation ingredients shall not be added.

[Certification Procedure] Certifier: Applicant

Certification to indicate not to add chemical substances as formulation ingredients during manufacturing process shall be submitted.

(10) With respect to products which are intended as containers for food, cosmetics, medicine-related products and the like shall not be added the substances classified as Groups 1, 2A and 2B by IARC (International Agency for Research on Cancer) as formulation ingredients. However, it excludes the chemical substances to use for the purpose of making polymers by polymerization reaction (ex: polyvinyl monomer, styrene).

[Certification Procedure] Certifier: Applicant

Fill in the attached certificate that if the applied product falls under this criteria item or not. In the case that the product falls under this criteria item, document certifying that the products do not contain chemical substances described in each

criteria item as formulation ingredients during manufacturing process shall be submitted.

(11) Products which are intended as containers for food, cosmetics, medicine-related products and the like shall meet the requirement of harmful substances in the Standards for Food, Food Additives, etc.(Ministry of Health and Welfare Notice No.370, 1959).

[Certification Procedure] Certifier: Third party testing body, Applicant or manufacturer

The Applicant shall submit test results to certifying that the products do not contain the corresponding harmful substances.

(12) The parts of different construction materials shall be separable at the time of disposal. Provided, however, this separation performance shall not be required if the product is made of FRP.

[Certification Procedure] Certifier: Applicant

Documents explaining that the product can be separated into parts of different construction materials at the time of disposal shall be submitted.

(13) Products made of FRP, in case of failure, shall be repairable.

[Certification Procedure] Certifier: Applicant

Documents indicating the address, repair methods and the capability of the facility shall be submitted.

(14) The product shall be marked to facilitate recycling. Or, when containers are disposed of and recycled, recyclers, etc. must familiarize themselves with container material (only when containers whose whereabouts become unknown are not more than 10% of the total). To indicate a type of polymers, a symbol of JIS K 6899-1 or ISO 1043-1 is used, and regarding to the indicating method, it shall follow the JIS K 6999. Though the above mentioned display method is basically followed, it is possible to substitute it by the display that is obligated by other laws, etc. In addition, for the product to use multiple types of polymers, the indication such as “R-PE, PP, PS” can be used. In case to use three or more types of polymers, indicate the top two polymers and the rest can be omitted.

[Certification Procedure] Applicant

Photographs and/or design drawings to show the contents and the labeled portion of indication shall be submitted. Statements that demonstrate that the product

material is identifiable or methods for making sure that everyone involved is thoroughly conversant with the material, and explanatory material, etc. that containers which are not recovered and go missing do not exceed 10%, etc. shall be submitted.

(15) The product shall not use plastics containing halogens in its polymer backbone. If any such plastic is used, 70% or more of it shall be material-recycled.

[Certification Procedure] Certifier: Applicant

Use or non-use of plastic materials containing halogens in the polymer backbone in the product shall be stated in the attached certificate.

If the material is used, a document assuring proper material recycling after disposal shall be submitted. The Secretariat reserves the right to collect reports on the recycling ratio (or conduct an audit) after conclusion of the license agreement, and the applicant hereby agrees to cooperate for these purposes.

(16) In the event the applicant is a “specified business entity” under the Containers and Packaging Recycling Law and the product for which application is made is subject to the recycling obligation, the certification for voluntary recycling shall have been obtained (recycling ratio approximately 90%). If no certification has been obtained, the recycling fee shall have been duly paid.

[Certification Procedure] Certifier: Applicant

In the event the applicant is a “specified business entity” under the Containers and Packaging Recycling Law and the product for which application is made is subject to the recycling obligation, the attachment shall state that the certification for voluntary recycling shall have been obtained. If no certification has been obtained, a document evidencing due payment of the recycling fee shall be submitted.

#### 4-2. Quality Criteria and Certification Procedure

(17) The quality of the product shall conform to the following conditions (a) to (c). In case that the product functions as part of equipment such as a printer, the Applicant shall certify the fact that repeated use of the product would not disrupt its performance by the following conditions (a) to (c).

(a) For the product which is applicable to quality criteria such as JIS, it shall conform to the quality criteria.

(b) For the product which is not applicable to (a) on the above, it shall conform to the voluntary quality standards of the industry.

(c) For the product which is not applicable to (a) or (b) on the above, there shall be

in-house quality standards for quality management.

[Certification Procedure] Certifier: Third party testing body or Applicant

The Applicant shall submit test results regarding quality criteria of the product based on the applicable laws, JIS standards, voluntary standards, etc. or a copy of a certification issued by a JIS certified plant.

## 5. Product Classification, Indication and Others

- (1) Product shall be applied by a returnable business operator.
- (2) An application shall be made by applicable scope of this product category, by structured returnable system unit, or by brand name (including structured returnable system name). Classification by size or color is not performed.
- (3) In principle, the Eco Mark shall be indicated on the product, 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.



(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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July 2, 2007:

Established (Version 2.0)

August 21, 2008:

Revised (4-1(4),(14) Version2.1)

March 1,2011	Revised (5 Version2.2)
July 13,2012	Revised (5 Version2.3)
March 15, 2016	Extension of Expiration
April 1,2019	Revised (5. (3) Mark indication)
March 1, 2021	Extension of Expiration
February 1, 2023	Revised (4-1.(8)(15), Version2.4)
June 30, 2027	Expiration date

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