

Eco Mark Product Category No.121

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

Category C Paper containers and packaging materials

Japan Environment Association

Eco Mark Office

1. Purpose of Establishing Criteria

Omitted.

2. Applicable Scope

- Paper containers and packaging materials,
that use paper 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) and (7) 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 to show the product designed so as to be

used repeatedly 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 "reusable"
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 prescribed components.

[Certification Procedure] Certifier: Applicant

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

(6) The product whose content is food, cosmetic containers, or medical related products shall not contain fluorescent substances and PCB. In case that the material other than paper contact with the content, it shall meet the requirement of harmful substances described in the Standards for Foods, Food Additives, etc. (Ministry of Health and Welfare Notice No. 370, 1959).

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

For the paper portion, test results shall be submitted regarding the following three points.

1. Test methods for devices or containers and packaging materials using fluorescent substances (Kanshoku No. 244, May 8, 1971)
2. Test methods for devices or containers and packaging materials using fluorescent substances (No. 0107001 issue notice by the Director of the Standards and Evaluation Division, Department of Food Safety and No. 0107001 issued by the Director of the Inspection and Safety Division, Department of Food Safety, January 7, 2004)

3. PCB analysis methods in containers and packaging materials (Kanshokuka No. 385, October 26, 1972)
 In case that the material other than paper contact with content, the Applicant shall submit test results to certifying that the product does not contain the corresponding harmful substances.

(7) 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.

(8) No chlorine gas shall be used in the pulp bleaching process.

[Certification Procedure] Certifier: Manufacturing process manufacturer
 Certificates issued by the paper manufacturer shall be submitted

(9) The materials used in the product shall not be those listed in Table 1.

Table 1 Materials Not Suitable for Recycling

| Category | Container material |
|-----------------|--|
| Processed paper | Colored paper, fancy paper, resin-impregnated paper (except for water soluble), parchment paper, tarpaulin paper, wax paper, cellophane, synthetic paper, carbon paper, non-carbon paper, heat-sensitive paper, pressure-sensitive adhesion paper, printing paper, sublimation transfer printing paper, heat-sensitive foamed paper, scented paper |
| Special ink | Heat-sensitive ink, desensitizing paper, magnetic ink, sublimation ink, foaming ink, scenting ink |

[Certification Procedure] Certifier: Person in charge of each process
 Non-use of any of the materials listed in Table 1 shall be stated in the attachment.

(10) 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

The following shall be stated in the Attached Certificate:

1. Use or non-use of plastic materials in the product
2. In the event of affirmative answer to 1 above, use or not of plastics containing halogens in its polymer backbone.
3. If the answer to 2 above is affirmative, 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.

(11) 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

(12) 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
[\(https://www.env.go.jp/policy/hozen/green/ecolabel/guideline/\)](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.
[\(https://www.ecomark.jp/office/guideline/guide/\)](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) Version2.1) |
| March 1,2011 | Revised (5 Version2.2) |
| July 13,2012 | Revised (5 Version2.3) |

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| 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.(10), Version2.4) |
| June 30, 2027 | Expiration date |

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