

Eco Mark Product Category No.121

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

Category H Other containers and packaging materials

Japan Environment Association
Eco Mark Office

1. Purpose of Establishing Criteria

Omitted.

2. Applicable Scope

- Containers and packaging materials other than those in A-G
(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 Version 1,” the certifications procedures 4-1. (2), (3), (5), (8), (10) and (15) 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 (This item is not applicable for “pottery and earthenware

containers”.)

2. Cleaning characteristics (applicable only for containers)
3. Label’s adhesive or removable characteristics (for those products requiring attachment or removal of a label after each reuse)

(3) A product collecting (reusable) 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 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 in the product
3. If the answer to 2 above is affirmative, a document assuring proper material recycling after disposal shall be submitted. The Eco Mark Office 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.

(7) The product whose content is food, cosmetic containers, or medical related products 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). For the paper portion, it shall not contain fluorescent substances and PCB. However, this requirement does not apply for wood/bamboo materials.

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

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

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)

(8) 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 (this requirement does not apply to the coating (e.g., full-shrink) to protect glass surfaces (such as straw woven bags)). However, this requirement does not apply if there are no one-way containers or packaging materials to be compared with.

[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.

4-2. Material Criteria and Certification Procedure

The materials “A” through “G” the shares of which in the product (container or packaging material) by weight first exceed 70% when added in descending order shall satisfy the below-mentioned criteria “A.” though “G.”, respectively.

A. Glass materials

(9) Additives, such as coloring agents, used in the product shall not contain cadmium, lead, mercury, hexavalent chromium, arsenic, selenium or their compounds as prescribed components. Provided, however, additives, such as decolorizing agents, used in colorless glass bottles or in colorless lightweight glass bottles shall not contain cadmium, lead, mercury, hexavalent chromium, arsenic or their compounds as prescribed components.

[Certification Procedure] Certifier: Applicant (Applicant and manufacturer if the product is a glass bottle of other color or a lightweight glass bottle of other color.)

Use or non-use of the aforesaid substances shall be stated in the attachment. With respect to glass bottles of other colors and lightweight glass bottles of other colors, furthermore, the composition data or Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) issued by the manufacturer of the additives (such as coloring agents) shall be submitted in addition.

B. Plastic materials

(10) No ozone-depleting substances including substitute CFCs shall have been used in the manufacture of the product.

[Certification Procedure] Certifier: Applicant

A certificate showing that no ozone-depleting substances including substitute CFCs have been used at the time of manufacture shall be submitted.

(11) 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 the 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 testing 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.

(12) Cadmium, lead, hexavalent chromium, mercury, or their compounds as prescribed components shall not be added.

[Certification Procedure] Certifier: Applicant

Certification to indicate not to add chemical substances as prescribed

components during manufacturing process shall be submitted.

(13) 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 prescribed components. 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 prescribed components during manufacturing process shall be submitted.

(14) 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.

(15) 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.

(16) The product shall be marked to facilitate recycling. 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.

C. Paper materials

(17) 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.

(18) The materials used in the container 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 manufacturing process
Non-use of any of the materials listed in Table 1 shall be stated in the attachment.

D. Wood/bamboo materials

(19) With respect to products for which adhesives or additives are used or decorative finishing is made, the prescribed components and their respective weight percentages shall be reported

[Certification Procedure] Certifier: Applicant and raw material supplier
The prescribed components shall be specified in the attachment. Furthermore, addition or not of the substances in question shall be stated in the attachment.

(20) Products do not contain preservatives (termicides, pesticides and fungicides) as prescribed components.

[Certification Procedure] Certifier: Applicant
Addition of the chemical substance, whether it is used or not, shall be indicated on the attached certificate..

E. Metal materials

(21) The construction materials of the product (for example, steel or aluminum) shall

be easily recognizable at the time of recovery for recycling. The ratio of material recycling for other uses shall be documented and submitted.

[Certification Procedure] Certifier: Applicant

Photographs and the like showing the section that indicates the identification of the product construction materials shall be submitted. A document describing that the product is in fact directed for material recycling shall be submitted.

F. Pottery/earthenware

(22) The content of hazardous materials in products shall satisfy the requirements of six substances in (attached) Table 5 (December 26, 2002, Environment Ministerial Ordinance No. 29); cadmium, lead, hexavalent chromium, arsenic, mercury, and selenium.

[Certification Procedure] Certifier: Third party testing body

Documents certifying test results implemented by third party testing bodies or public institutions shall be submitted.

G. Fiber materials

(23) Various types of finishing to the product (fungicidal, fluorescent, softener, hygienic, product bleaching, flame retardant/resistant) shall be kept to the minimum required and maximum care shall be taken to prevent excess application of finishing. Use of finishing agents that are suspected of their safety to human health shall be refrained. Provided, the finishing of wool products by the use of dieldrin or DTTB shall conform to the provisions of Ordinance No.34 of the Ministry of Health and Welfare, in addition to the aforesaid general attention to finishing

[Certification Procedure] Certifier: Applicant and manufacturing process manufacturer

Finishing or non-finishing of the product shall be stated in the attachment. If any finishing is given, the identity of finishing agents, their dosage and other information shall be reported in accordance with the attachment. With respect to wool products, finishing or non-finishing by the use of dieldrin or DTTB shall be stated, and if affirmative, conformance to Ordinance No.34 of the Ministry of Health and Welfare shall be shown.

(24) The amount of free formaldehyde shall be no more than 300 ppm by the test method prescribed in Ordinance No.34 of the Ministry of Health and Welfare. Provided this criterion shall not apply to products that are used outdoors only.

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

Test results for every different fabric pursuant to Ordinance No.34 of the

Ministry of Health and Welfare shall be submitted.

(25) With respect to the colorants used in the product, no azo dyes that are likely to generate one or more of the amines listed in Table 2 through reduction decomposition of one or more of their azo radicals, no carcinogenic dyestuffs listed in Table 3, and no skin-sensitive dyestuffs listed in Table 4 shall have been added as prescribed components. Except for wool fibers, no chromic dyestuffs shall have been added as prescribed.

[Certification Procedure] Certifier: Manufacturing process manufacturer
A certificate issued by the general manager of the dye-house for the product shall be submitted.

Table 2 Amines that should not be generated by reduction decomposition of azo radicals

		CAS No
1	4-amino diphenyl	92-67-1
2	Benzidine	92-87-5
3	4-chloro- <i>o</i> -toluidine	95-69-2
4	2-naphthyl amine	91-59-8
5	σ amino azo toluene	97-56-3
6	2-amino-4-nitrotoluene	99-55-8
7	<i>p</i> -chloroaniline	106-47-8
8	2,4-diamino anisole	615-05-4
9	4,4'-diamino diphenyl methane	101-77-9
10	3,3'-dichloro benzidine	91-94-1
11	3,3'-dimethoxy benzidine	119-90-4
12	3,3'-dimethyl benzidine	119-93-7
13	3,3'-dimethyl-4,4'-diamino diphenyl methane	838-88-0
14	<i>p</i> -cresidine	120-71-8
15	4,4'-methylene-bis-(2-chloroaniline)	101-14-4
16	4,4'-oxydianiline	101-80-4
17	4,4'-thiodianiline	139-65-1
18	σ toluidine	95-53-4
19	2,4-toluilene diamine	95-80-7
20	2,4,5-trimethylaniline	137-17-7
21	σ anisidine	90-04-0
22	4-aminoazobenzene	60-09-3

Table 3 Carcinogenic dyestuffs

CAS No.	Name	Color Index
569-61-9	C.I. BASIC RED 9	CI 42500
2475-45-8,	C.I. DISPERSE BLUE 1	CI 64500
3761-53-3	C.I. ACID RED 26	CI 16150
6459-94-5	C.I. ACID RED 114	CI 23635
2602-46-2	C.I. DIRECT BLUE 6	CI 22610
1937-37-7	C.I. DIRECT BLACK 38	CI 30235
573-58-0	C.I. DIRECT RED 28	CI 22120
	C.I. DISPERSE YELLOW 3	CI 11855

Table 4 Skin-sensitive dyestuffs

CAS No.	Name	Color Index
2475-46-9	C.I. DISPERSE BLUE 3	CI 61505
12222-75-2	C.I. DISPERSE BLUE 35	
	C.I. DISPERSE BLUE 106	
	C.I. DISPERSE BLUE 124	
2832-40-8	C.I. DISPERSE YELLOW 3	CI 11855
730-40-5	C.I. DISPERSE ORANGE 3	CI 11005
	C.I. DISPERSE ORANGE 37	
2872-52-8	C.I. DISPERSE RED 1	CI 11110
2475-45-8	C.I. DISPERSE BLUE 1	CI 64500
3179-90-6	C.I. DISPERSE BLUE 7	CI 62500
3860-63-7	C.I. DISPERSE BLUE 26	CI 63305
	C.I. DISPERSE BLUE 102	
	C.I. DISPERSE ORANGE 1	CI 11080
	C.I. DISPERSE ORANGE 76	
2872-48-2	C.I. DISPERSE RED 11	CI 62015
	C.I. DISPERSE RED 17	CI 11210
119-15-3	C.I. DISPERSE YELLOW 1	CI 10345
	C.I. DISPERSE YELLOW 9	CI 10375
	C.I. DISPERSE YELLOW 39	
	C.I. DISPERSE YELLOW 49	

Reference: International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC)
National Toxicity Program (NTP)
EU Directive 76/769/EC

EU Directive 2006/61/EC
 Ecological and Toxicological Association of Dyes and Organic Pigments
 Manufacturers (ETAD)
 Oeko-Tex STANDARD 100

(26) Each construction material shall be separable at the time of disposal.

[Certification Procedure] Certifier: Applicant

Documents showing that each construction material is separable at the time of disposal shall be submitted.

4-3. Quality Criteria and Certification Procedure

(27) 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/>)

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)
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.(6),(11) Version2.4)
June 30, 2027	Expiration date

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