

Eco Mark Product Category No.128  
**“Household Commodity Version1.25” Certification Criteria**  
**L. Match, Match woods, Incent sticks**

Japan Environment Association  
Eco Mark Office

### **1. Purpose of Establishing Certification Criteria**

Commodities consist of various products, ranging broadly from kitchen utensils to tableware, home and living supplies, etc. They are the most closely related daily-use products to consumers. Setting an Eco Mark Category for such a group of commodities to recommend eco-friendly products within the category to consumers would therefore contribute enormously to reducing environmental impact in daily living, as well as enhance the environmental awareness of consumers. For this reason, the establishment of this Product Category is considered to have vast environmental significance.

Under the Eco Mark program, the certification criteria of several current product categories have been established taking material into account, namely Product Category No.115 “Wooden Products Using Waste Wood, Thinned-Out Wood, Small-Diameter Logs, etc.”, No. 118 “Plastic Products Using Recycled Materials”, and No.124 “Glass Products”. This new Product Category was established by integrating the commodity products included in those product categories and adding tableware, kitchen utensils, footwear, and home and living supplies to cover a broad range of products.

Existed eight categories of the Eco Mark program cover kitchen utensils including sponges, coffee filters, cooking oil filters, rubber gloves, waste oil absorbers, draining filter bags, strainers, and triangle strainers for kitchen sinks. They have also been organized and integrated into this Commodity category. For these types of products, previous criteria were established from the environmental perspective of preventing discharge of water pollutants, using natural materials, and non-bleaching, but as a result of a general evaluation based on the new product lifecycle concept, they were reviewed also from the perspectives of effective use of resources and chemical substances this time.

As a specific example, Product Category No.5 “Absorbents for Used Cooking Oil” was established for the purpose of reducing waste by preventing the discharge of waste oil which causes water pollution and the use of recycled material, while in this Product Category, the effective use of thinned-wood and waste fiber (cloth, etc.) as unused material differing from recycled material was selected as a new criteria.

### **2. Applicable Scope**

Match , Match woods, Incent sticks

However, for products using electricity and products whose mass ratio of metal materials, leather materials, and stone that make up 50% or more of the total product mass are excluded.

### 3. Terminology

Terms for the common criteria	
Disposable products	Products not intended for repeated use while other products in the same area are used repeatedly with durability.
Reusable	Nature of products and packaging designed for repeated use for a certain number of times through recycling.
Recycling	Indicates material recycling. Does not include energy recovery (thermal recycling).
Prescription constituents	Components intentionally added with the purpose of providing specific characteristics to the product. Impurities which are inevitably mixed during the manufacturing process are excluded.
Plastic sheet	Plate-like thin plastic with 0.25mm and more thickness
Terms for material	
Recycled material	Materials made of post-consumer materials, pre-consumer materials, or a mixture of these. In this Product Category, includes waste fiber.
Pre-consumer material	Materials or defective products generated from disposal route of manufacturing process. However, excludes those recycled within the same process as the raw material (same plant).
Post-consumer material	Materials or products disposed after used as a product.
Terms for paper	
Percentage of waste paper in the pulp mixture	Weight percentage of waste pulp in pulp contained in product. Expressed by $(\text{waste paper pulp}) / (\text{virgin pulp} + \text{waste paper pulp}) \times 100 (\%)$ . However, the weight of the pulp is measured under the condition of containing 10% moisture. For materials with 100% yield such as pulp mold and cushioning made of cut waste paper, percentage of waste paper in pulp mixture is taken to be 100% regardless of the actual percentage.
Terms for wood	
Reused/Unused wood	Indicates the following: thinned wood, waste wood, construction waste wood, and less useful wood.
Thinned wood	Wood produced from work activities adjusting the individual density of the objective tree type according to the congested state of forest stand.
Waste wood	Used wood (used packaging material, etc.), remainder material generated in wood processing plants (shavings generated in plywood and lumber plants, etc, low quality chips not used as raw material for paper, etc.), and wood and wooden materials such as trimmed branches, bark, etc.

Construction waste wood	Wood and wooden materials disposed as waste in construction work such as dismantling of buildings, construction of new buildings, building extensions, renovation, and construction related to other work.
Less useful wood	Abandoned lumber in the forest, shrubs, tree roots, wood obtained from lumber damaged by disease, pests, disasters, bent or small diameter logs, etc. Also includes bamboo cut down in bamboo groves for the purpose of maintenance and management in environment preservation. Small diameter logs measuring less than 14 cm in diameter corresponding to “a” or “b” below must be certified as forests sustainably managed by an independent third party. a. Small diameter logs from logs felled from natural forests. b. Small diameter logs from logs produced by clear cutting, patch logging, and strip logging in plantation forests.
Waste plant fiber	Fiber made from agricultural residue (such as stalks that are usually disposed, etc.) generated in harvesting and manufacturing process of crop.
Wooden part	Actual wood (including plant fiber)

#### 4. Certification Criteria and Certification Procedure

To show conformance to the individual criteria item, the respective Attached Certificates shall be submitted.

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

###### 4-1-1. Common Criteria and Certification Procedure

(1) 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 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]

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 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).

- (2) Products shall consist of less than 50% metal for the total product mass.

[Certification Procedure]

The total mass of metals used in the applied products shall be indicated in the Attached Certificate.

- (3) Products shall be shipped in the unpackaged state or in simple packaging at the retail stage. Material labeling of plastic materials used for packaging shall conform to JIS K 6899-1:2000. However, labeling can be omitted in accordance with the standards on ID marks in the “report developed by the Package Labeling Review Committee” (Ministry of Economics, Trade and Industry) such as “labeling for plain containers”, “labeling for containers with physical restrictions of display space, etc.”, “labeling conditions and methods for multi-layer containers, etc.”, “labeling for packaging printed with company/brand name”, and “labeling on export products”.

[Certification Procedure]

The packaging state in the retail stage of products, packaging material used (content rate of recycled materials), material labeling state shall be indicated in the Attached Certificate. (Drawings and photographs can be used to supplement description). If material labeling is omitted, the reason shall be indicated.

- (4) Plastic materials used for packaging shall not use plastics containing halogens in the polymer backbone.

[Certification Procedure]

For packaging, use or not of any plastics containing halogens to the polymer backbone shall be indicated in the Attached Certificate.

#### 4-1-2. Material criteria and Certification Procedure

Materials of which the product is composed shall meet the material criteria specified below. However, the following material criteria shall not apply to small

accessories (screws, and other small parts required by the product function) and (13) shall apply to adhesive and the other material criteria shall not apply to adhesives.

#### A. Paper

- (5) Percentage of waste paper in the pulp mixture shall be above 70%.
- (6) The coating amount on coated printing paper shall be 30 g/m<sup>2</sup> or less on both sides. However, the maximum amount per side shall be 17g/ m<sup>2</sup>.
- (7) The brightness of uncoated printing paper shall be about less than 70%.
- (8) Addition of fluorescent whitening agents as a prescription constituent shall be minimized.
- (9) Chlorine gas shall not be used in the bleaching process of pulp.

#### [Certification Procedure]

Certificates issued by the paper manufacturer shall be submitted. For (5) and (6), the waste paper pulp content, and specific coating amount (numerical value) on either and both sides shall be indicated. Documents indicating the results of brightness tests by the Hunter method or based on the ISO whiteness (diffuse blue reflectance factor) shall be submitted. These documents shall indicate the specific whiteness value for the test results, whether florescent whiteners are added. If added, the amount used in the documents submitted.

Whether chlorine has is used in the pulp whitening process shall be indicated.

#### B. Wood

- (10) The percentage of reused/unused wood or waste plant fiber provided by terminology as materials for wooden parts shall be 100% (mass ratio). Less useful wood with small diameters shall satisfy Attachment 1 for forest certification if corresponding to “a” or “b”. However, this criteria does not apply to Incense sticks, and 4-1-3(14) shall be applied, instead.

(Note) The mass ratio means the mass percentage of the product or each material at the air dried state<sup>\*1</sup> or at the point of constant mass<sup>\*2</sup> under the condition of a temperature of 20±2°C and humidity of 65±5%.

\*1: Indicates leaving in a well-ventilated room for seven days or more.

\*2: Change is less than 0.1% when mass is measured every 24 hours.

\*1 is not applicable if lumber and logs are used. It can be applied when using wood corresponding to the water content percentage of 15% or below in domestic and overseas public dried material water content percentage criteria.

#### [Certification Procedure]

Documents issued by the raw material vendor certifying that the raw material is reused /unused wood or waste plant fibers shall be submitted. If there are multiple vendors, a list of the vendors and list of certification of the top 10 vendors in terms of volume of material traded shall be submitted.

If using thinned wood as the material, a certificate of origin that includes information on the place of production, type of tree, and year of planting shall be

submitted with photographs of the forest concerned (showing clearly that the forest stand has been thinned). The thinning percentage and how many times the forest stand has been thinned, including the most recent thinning shall also be indicated if possible.

If using less useful wood, the following information shall be submitted. At the same time, official documents stating that the forest has been certified as sustainable by a third party shall be submitted.

- Type of forest (natural or man-made, etc.), place of production, type of tree, and year of tree planting if man-made forest.
- Under what conditions was the wood produced (damaged by disease/pests, damaged by disaster, bent or narrow trees, etc.). For small diameter log, indicate logging method and tip end diameter.

If using bamboo as the raw material in less useful wood, certificates indicating the following information and photographs/maps of the surroundings of the bamboo grove shall be submitted.

- Type of bamboo, place of production, surrounding conditions, and description that logging is carried out for the purpose of appropriate maintenance and management in environment preservation, as well as management plans and quantity.

- (11) Products shall not use wood preserving agents (wood termicides, preservatives, pesticides, and fungicides) as prescription constituents. However, this item is not applicable to “incense stick”, but 4-1-3(14) shall be applied.

[Certification Procedure]

Whether termicides, preservatives, and pesticides are used as prescription constituents shall be indicated in the Attached Certificate.

- (12) Regarding products used indoors, no emissions of toluene or xylene shall be detected at product shipment. “No emissions detected” means less than the minimum value measured by JIS A 1901. “Measuring methods for emission of volatile organic chemicals (VOC), formaldehyde and other carbonyl compounds—small chamber method.” However, this item is not applicable to “incense stick”.

[Certification Procedure]

Results of tests prescribed in JIS shall be submitted. The test method shall be based on JIS A 1901. However, tests can be exempted for products not added with toluene and xylene as prescription constituents.

- (13) For products used indoors and using adhesive or paint, emissions of formaldehyde from the product, wood material, adhesive or paint shall be of the F\*\*\*\* grade in accordance with JIS or JAS, or falling outside the scope of regulations by the Ministry of the Land, Infrastructure and Transport. The products should meet the numerical criteria of “a” or “b” below. However, this item is not applied to “incense stick”.

- a. The amount of Formaldehyde emissions measured by JIS A 1460 “Building boards Determination of formaldehyde emission -- Desicator method” shall be below 0.3 mg/l for average value and below 0.4 mg/l for maximum value.

- b. The emission rate of formaldehyde measured by JIS A 1901 “Determination of the emission of volatile organic compounds and formaldehydes for building products -- Small chamber method” shall be less than 5µg/(m<sup>2</sup>-h).

[Certification Procedure]

Results of tests prescribed in JIS A 1460 or JIS A 1901 or tests by methods prescribed in specific JIS or JAS criteria shall be submitted to indicate that standard values are met. For materials and products permitted to be labeled F\*\*\*\* grade in accordance with JIS and JAS, documents certifying this or copies of such documents can be submitted in place of test results. For materials and products authorized as falling outside the scope of regulations by the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, documents certifying this or copies of such documents can be submitted in place of test results. For materials and products permitted to be labeled as using non-formaldehyde adhesives by JAS, documents certifying this or copies of such documents can be submitted in place of test results.

#### 4-1-3. Criteria on individual products and Certification Procedure

- (14) The percentage of thinned wood, waste wood, and waste plant fiber in product mass (excluding dyestuff, perfume material, and paste) of “incense sticks” shall be 100% of the product mass.

[Certification Procedure]

The Attached Certificate shall describe raw materials of incense sticks (excluding dyestuff, perfume material, and paste) and material mixing percentage of thinned wood, waste wood, and waste plant fiber. In addition, raw material certificates issued by raw material suppliers shall be attached.

- (15) The perfume material to be added to “incense sticks” shall be used in accordance with the standard defined by IFRA (International Fragrance Association).

[Certification Procedure]

All of perfume materials to be added shall be stated.

- (16) Dyestuff to be added to “incense sticks” shall be a “food additive” specified in Food Sanitation Law, or authorized by “Standards for Cosmetics” specified in the Pharmaceutical Affairs Law or “Ordinance Defining Tar Color that Can be Used in Drug Medicines, etc. (Cosmetic Legal Pigment)”.

[Certification Procedure]

All dyestuffs to be added shall be stated.

- (17) A paste to be added to “incense sticks” shall have Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS).

[Certification Procedure]

MSDS shall be submitted.

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

- (18) The product quality shall conform to Japanese Industrial Standard, Japan Agricultural Standards and the industry quality standards. In addition, the quality control is adequately implemented in the manufacturing stage.

[Certification Procedure]

Certificates of compliance with the corresponding quality criteria shall be submitted. At the same time, certificates and declarations issued by the manager of the plant manufacturing the product that quality control is implemented in the manufacturing stage and shipped that only products passing quality inspections are shipped shall be submitted. If the applied product or the manufacturing plant of the applied product is JIS or JAS certified, submission of a photocopy of such JIS or JAS certification shall be sufficient for certification of conformance to this item.

#### 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) Products shipped in simple packaging shall meet the following criteria for packaging material.
- a. Percentage of waste paper in the pulp mixture shall be 70% or more.
  - b. Mass ratio of recycled polymers in the total raw material polymers used in plastic sheets shall be 60% or more.

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

- (1) Products shall be classified by a product category “match”, “match woods”, “incense stick”, and by brand or series name. Also, products shall be classified into other product classification when materials used or the combination of materials used differ. (Each material classifications of A and B in 4-1-2. shall be considered as a different material.) Products shall not be classified by size or color.
- (2) In principle, Eco Mark shown as below shall be indicated on the product. Regarding licensee of Eco Mark Utilization Contract who already own Eco Mark products, the indication of the logo and certification number that have been used is also acceptable.



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

## Attachment 1 Forest Certification defined in Terminology

Certification criteria	Certification shall keep balance between ecological and social benefits, agree to Agenda 21 and the Declaration of Forest Principle, and observe related international agreements and treaties.
	Certification shall contain definite requirements and shall promote and be oriented to sustainable forest.
	Certification shall be nationally or internationally recognized and shall be recommended as part of an open process to which ecological, economic, and social interested parties can participate.
Certification system	The certification system shall provide high transparency, maintain extensive national or international reliability, and enable the verification of requirements.
Certification organization and association	Certification organization and association shall be highly impartial and reliable, allow them to be verified as to whether or not they satisfy requirements, report the verification results, and be able to effectively implement requirements.