

Eco Mark Product Category No.140

“Containers and Packaging for Food and Beverages, Cosmetics, Household Goods
Version 1.15” Certification Criteria

A-2. Replaceable Containers

Japan Environment Association

Eco Mark Office

1. Purpose of establishing criteria

Omitted

2. Applicable Scope

This document applies to the containers filled with the content refilled into the product container for repeated use of a part of the product container (e.g. spray or pump). Replaceable containers provided with a product label or other that informs consumers they are also available as refill shall be classified into Category A-1. Product containers for which replaceable containers are available may be included in the scope of application (may be applied for as a set) only when they meet the requirements of 4-1. (12). However, products covered by other product categories such as Eco Mark Product Category No. 112 "Stationery / Office Supplies, Version 2" are excluded.

3. Terminology

Omitted

4. Certification Criteria and Certification Procedures

To show conformance to the criteria items, the Attached Certificates and related documents shall be submitted.

4-1. Environmental Common Criteria and Certification Procedures

(1) A replaceable container shall meet a) or b) below.

- a) The weight of the replaceable container (including the exterior package) shall be reduced by at least 40% compared to the product container (including the exterior package).

$$\text{Reduction ratio (\%)} = ([\text{Weight of the product container}] - [\text{Weight of the replaceable container}]) / [\text{Weight of the product container}] \times 100$$

- b) A replaceable container (including exterior packaging) shall meet the criteria in the Table below, or weight of the container shall be 20g or less regardless of the interior content of the replaceable container.

Table 1. Weight of replaceable container

区分 classification	Weight of Container per 1L (or 1000 g) of Content
Plastic containers / packaging	40g or less
Paper containers / packaging	65g or less

[Certification Procedure]

A certificate stating materials used and the weight of the replaceable container shall be submitted.

(2) 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 materials 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 last five years from the date of application (whether there is any violation) must be reported. If there is any violation, it is necessary that proper remedies and preventive measures 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 manager of the relevant plant (entry or attachment of the list of names of the Environmental Laws, etc.) must be submitted.

In addition, it is necessary to report whether there is any violation during the last 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 (making a series of progress clear);
- b. Following materials (copies of recording documents, and so on) 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 entry of roles, etc.);
- 3) Document 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).

(3) Substances regulated by “Voluntary Regulation on Printing Ink (NL regulations)” by the Japan Printing Ink Makers Association shall not be added to printing ink used for the container (labels, etc.) as a prescribed constituent.

[Certification Procedures]
The Applicant shall state in the Attached Certificate that the product complies with NL regulations.

(4) Adhesives used for containers shall not be added materials forbidden in “Voluntary Regulation on Adhesive for Food Packaging Materials (NL regulations)” by the Japan Adhesive Industry Association as a prescription constituent.

[Certification Procedures]
The Applicant shall state in the Attached Certificate that the product complies with NL regulations.

(5) The Applicant shall state on the container, package, manual, brochure, etc. that the replaceable product is available for purchase.

[Certification Procedures]
The applicant shall report the content of statement as well as submit photographs of the container or package, manual, brochure, etc., specifications or the explanatory document that indicate the corresponding statement.

(6) Plastic materials used in the container shall not be added plastics that contain halogen in polymeric backbone as a prescription constituent.

[Certification Procedures]
Whether any halogen element is added or not in polymeric backbone shall be stated in the Attached Certificates

(7) For replaceable containers in which plastic materials are used, the plasticizers, color materials, 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 which are

not intended as containers for food, the plastic additives shall meet the requirements described in ISO 8124-3, etc.

[Certification Procedures]

The applicant shall submit certificates that plasticizer, color materials, stabilizers, lubricants and other plastic additives conform to the Positive List system of food utensils, containers and packaging, etc. With respect to plastic additives not included in the Positive List, the results of tests to show the conformance to the requirements stipulated in ISO 8124-3, etc. shall be submitted.

- (8) For replaceable containers food in which recycled plastic materials are used, , the measures to ensure the safety based on “Guidelines on the use of recycled plastic in food apparatus and containers and packaging” of Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (Shokuan, 0427 No.2, April 27 2012), shall be taken.

[Certification Procedure]

The written document shall be submitted which shows the ensuring the safety based on “Guidelines on the use of recycled plastic in food apparatus and containers and packaging” of Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (Shokuan, 0427 No.2, April 27 2012).

- (9) The product whose content is food, cosmetic, or medical related products shall meet the requirement described in the Standards for Foods, Food Additives, etc. (Ministry of Health and Welfare Notice No. 370, 1959).

[Certification Procedure]

The Applicant shall submit test results to certifying that the products meet the corresponding requirements.

- (10) If exterior package is used for the replaceable container, the following "a" and "b" shall be met.

- a. Exterior package shall be as simple as possible, easy to recycle, and free of adhesion between different materials (excluding labels, seals, laminated packaging, coating processing, etc.).
- b. If paper material is used, the waste paper pulp content shall be 50% or more. If waste paper pulp is unavailable, use of the forest certification paper is acceptable.

[Certification Procedure]

The Applicant shall state in the Attached Certificate that the products meet the corresponding requirements. Also, a raw material certificate or a certificate of forest-certification shall be attached.

(11) In the event that the virgin pulp is used for material of replaceable containers and outer packages, the timber used for material must be harvested in legally appropriate manner consistent with the forest laws of timber producing countries.

[Certification Procedure]

A certificate shall be submitted to prove that the timber whose legality has been verified* in accordance with “Guideline for Verification on Legality and Sustainability of Wood and Wood Products” of Forestry Agency has been in custody to be separated by the applicant or the paper manufacturer and is supplied to the applied products. At the same time, the applicant or the paper manufacturer who issues the above certificate shall submit any of the following certificates:

- 1) Certificate that the applicant or the paper manufacturer has been assessed and authenticated by the CoC (Chain of Custody) Certification System;
- 2) Certificate of the authorized company (that guarantees the association member’s adequate way of supplying wood and wood products verified with legality, etc.); and
- 3) Code of management practice which stipulates the way of custody to manage wood and wood products verified with legality (the method in the case that the timber verified with legality only is handled. The same applies to hereunder), retention of certificates for a predetermined period, etc.

In the event that Item 2) or 3) above is chosen and the certificate is submitted, the applicant, paper manufacturer or material supplier who issues the above-mentioned certificates shall publicly announce through its web site the code of management practice prescribed by the association concerned in the case of Item 2) and shall prescribe and publicly announce through its Web site the code of management practice concerning the scheme to assess and guarantee the system for separative management, document management for retention of certificates for a predetermined period, etc. in the case of Item 3).

*Confirm the certificate issued by the related company closest in commercial process, which at least verifies that wood and wood products they supply are with legality and under separative custody management.

(12) Product containers applied with replaceable containers as a set shall conform to I. “Multiple containers and packaging using plastics”.

[Certification Procedures]

Certificates in accordance with the procedure defined in the category I shall be submitted.

4-2. Quality Criteria and Certification Procedures

(13) Quality of containers shall conform to the industrial voluntary standards or the manufacturer's own standards.

[Certification Procedures]

With respect to the industrial voluntary standards or the manufacturer's own standards, certificates by the Applicant shall be submitted.

5. Considerations

In the process of manufacturing products, it is desirable to consider the following items, although they are not requirements for certification.

- (1) Replaceable containers shall be designed as compact and thin as much as possible.
- (2) For replaceable containers or exterior packaging, recycled plastics or bio-based plastics, etc. shall be used and those percentage of mixing shall be indicated

6. Product Classification, Indication and Others

(1) Product shall be applied by brand name and by type of replaceable container (plastic package and container / paper package and container).

(2) When indicating the Eco Mark on the packaging or container, it should be indicated so as to clearly show that replaceable containers or product containers are the Eco Mark certified products and also show that the product content has nothing to do with the Eco Mark

(3) In principle, the Eco Mark shall be indicated on the product, the catalog, 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.

Example)



エコマーク認定
付け替え容器



Eco Mark Certified

(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/>)

November 1, 2020	Addition of A-2, I. and J.(Version1.13), Extension of Expiration
December 15, 2022	Revised (Version1.14)
February 1, 2023	Revised (Version1.15, Category K added, I, J, etc. revised)
June 30,2027	Expiration

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