



Eco Mark News

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Eco Mark Office has been publishing The "Eco Mark News" since June 14, 1996 in response to a revision of the "General Procedures for the Eco Mark Program". In this issue of "Eco Mark News", the information related to the Eco Mark Program such as the newly selected Eco Mark product category and proposals for certification criteria is provided on the basis of the "General Procedures for the Eco Mark Program".

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Annex 1: Eco Mark Product Category No.123
"Building Products using Recycled Material"
(Established: April 20, 2002)

Annex 2: Eco Mark Product Category No.117 "Copier"
(Revised: April 20, 2002)

Committee Report/Decisions

Eco Mark Committee for Establishing Category and Criteria (16th meeting)

The 16th Eco Mark Committee for Establishing Category and Criteria (Chairman: Prof. Takashi Gunjima, Doshisha Univ.) was held on April 2, 2002 at the Japan Environment Association. After the discussion, the following decisions were made;

<Decisions>

- Certification criteria for Eco Mark product category No.123 "Building Products using Recycled Material" is to be established.
- A revised Certification criteria for Eco Mark product category No.117 "Copier" is to be enforced.
- Certification criteria for Eco Mark product category No.101 Version2.0 "Recyclable Suitcase with Collecting System after Use (Draft)" is to be reconsidered at the working group and then at the next committee for Establishing Category and Criteria. Present validity of the criteria is to be prolonged until the day before the enforcement of this revised (Version2.0).

- Of the seven categories presented at the 16th meeting of the Eco Mark Committee for Establishing Category and Criteria, none were subjected to secondary assessment.
- The secondary assessment of “rechargeable and reusable alkali dry cells” which had been proposed at the 15th Eco Mark Committee for Establishing Category and Criteria was conducted but was not adopted as an Eco Mark product category.
- The partial revision of Eco Mark product category No.109 “Tile-blocks Made of Recycled Materials” which was submitted to Eco Mark Committee for Product Certification was approved.

Establishment of Certification Criteria

Eco Mark Product Category No.123 “Building Products using Recycled Material”

After the discussion, it was decided that new Eco Mark product category No.123 “Building Products using Recycled Material” will be established on April 20, 2002 as Annex 1.

In accordance with the establishment, existing product category No.23 “Thermal Insulation for Buildings”, No.27 “Straw Matting (Tatami Made from Rice Straw)”, No.40 “Wallpaper, Fusuma Paper and Shoji Paper Made from Recycled Pulp”, No.57 “Fancy Sound-Absorption Panels of Iron-Slag Mineral Wool”, and No.58 “Laminated Fiberboard of Recycled Pulp” will be terminated under the same date.

Revision

Eco Mark Product Category No.117 “Copier”

As a result of discussion based on opinions for Eco Mark product category No.117 “Copier (Draft)”, it was decided to be revised on April 20, 2002 as Annex 2.

Partial Revision of Eco Mark Product Category No.109 “Tile-blocks Made of Recycled Materials”

<Reason for revision>

In accordance with the consideration of new product category “Glass Products (Draft)” which is currently open to the public, Eco Mark Product Category No.109 “Tile-blocks made of recycled materials” needs to be revised partially due to safety assurance and certification procedures, and as a result of the discussion, the following items will be added.

<Revision description>

Following items are to be added to 4-1. Environmental criteria;

- (8) A non-baking product of glass-concrete admixture must undergo a check of alkali-aggregate reaction by means of a detoxification test according to JIS A 5308 (mortar bar method). The detoxification test is not required for a product undergoing detoxification processing such as baking and coating after admixture with glass and utilized for the non-baking product.
- (9) Glass cullet shall undergo edgeless processing (melting, chamfering).

<Date of revision> April 2, 2002

Information

Agreement between Nordic Swan and Eco Mark on Partial Mutual Recognition for “Copier(s)”

The agreement between Nordic Eco-labeling Board and Japan Environment Association on Partial Mutual Recognition for “Copier(s)” was concluded on March 28, 2002. With this system, relevant audit and verification findings of one program may be accepted by the other program as part of its certification process. Not only certification processes can be accelerated due to the simplification of examinations and testing procedures, but it is also expected that international harmonization of certification criteria will be promoted and credibility from consumers will be strengthened.

Exhibition booth at Eco-Life Fare 2002

The Eco Mark Office will participate and exhibit in the Eco-Life Fare 2002 (Sponsor: Ministry of the Environment, Japan Environment Association, others) to be held in the Parkway of the Yoyogi Municipal Park on June 1 (Sat) and June 2 (Sun) during Environment Month. The Fair was first held in 1990 to promote and realize ecological lifestyles and has a long history. At our Eco Mark Office booth, we will display panels to explain the program itself such as the procedure of certification and the Eco Mark system. In addition, many visitors can handle the actual Eco Mark certified products on display. Please visit our booth when you come to the fair. Admission is free.

