

Interpretation

“Household Commodity Version1.3”

Established: July 1, 2004

1. Applicable Products

In this Product Category, groups were established based on the Standard Commodity Classification for Japan issued by the Ministry of Public Management, Home Affairs, Posts and Telecommunications, and sub-categories were set down for each specific purpose referring to actual product categories of retailers and commodity categories of the Japan Industry Union of Plastic Housewares Manufactures.

The candidate applicable products of this Product Category were reviewed referring to how commodities are taken up in the JIS, including electrical bulbs, lighting equipment, and batteries from other electronic and electric appliances; sharp-edged, hand-crafted, and manual tools; smoking accessories and watch wristbands from jewelry, personal adornments and silverware; home cooking devices; cosmetics, toothpaste, soap, household synthetic detergents, and household chemical products; recreational devices and toys; musical instruments; and sports goods. Candidate products excluded from this Product Category if they were mainly made of metal, varied broadly in type, required individual technical knowledge, etc. Boxes for packaging specific products were also excluded to prevent products contained in the boxes from being misunderstood as Eco Mark certified.

Of products belonging to product categories deemed equivalent to commodities, those shown in Table 1 were excluded from this Product Category because they were difficult to certify safety due to no test methods available, and it was difficult to give consideration to the environment in terms of safety. In addition, products marketed as functionally reducing environmental impact while lacking evidence such as no scientific data to support the function were also excluded, due to the possibility of misunderstanding whether environmental impact reducing effects of the concerned function were certified by the Eco Mark program. Products not listed in Attachment 1 are basically out of this Product category's scope, even though they are not given in Table 1.

The following lists products are outside the scope of this Product Category.

Table 1 List of Products Outside Scope of This Product Category

| Category No. | Category | Examples of Excluded Products |
|--|--|-------------------------------|
| | Kitchen utensils and tableware (except silverware, plated ware and similar metal ware) | |
| 77 3271/77 3313/ 77 343/77 3513 | Plates | Paper plate ^{*16} |
| 77 321/77 322/77 323/ 77 324/77 325/77 3316/ 77 345/77 361/77 39 | Glass | Paper glass ^{*16} |

| Category No. | Category | Examples of Excluded Products |
|--|---|---|
| 77 61 | Kitchen knives, forks, and spoons | Knives, forks, and spoons ^{*12,16} |
| 77 621 | Chopsticks | Chopsticks ^{*16} |
| 77 19 | Other (cookware) | Harshness removing net ^{*1} , pasta maker ^{*12} , kitchen scissor ^{*12} , crab cracker ^{*12} |
| 85 129 | Sponges | Cellulose sponge ^{*20} , sponges not using detergent ^{*21} |
| 77 91 | Paper ware | Paper napkin ^{*17} , coffee filter ^{*19} |
| 77 94 | Skewer | Skewer ^{*16} |
| 77 99 | Other | Potholder ^{*1} , kitchen mat ^{*1} , lace ^{*1} , drain cover ^{*9} , bottle opener ^{*12} , wine opener ^{*12} , ice pick ^{*12} , deflator ^{*12} , iron skewer ^{*12} , aluminum foil ^{*16} , cooking paper ^{*16} , ice tray ^{*22} |
| Lunch and excursion utensils | | |
| 95 99 | Other | PET bottle holder ^{*1} |
| Laundry equipment and utensils | | |
| 85 119 | Other | Laundry net ^{*1} |
| Bath and toilet utensils | | |
| 85 2329 | Other bath products | Body towel ^{*1} , step ^{*7} , shower head ^{*9} , shower hook ^{*9} , faucet handle ^{*9} |
| Sanitary | | |
| 85 99 | Other | Toilet paper holder cover ^{*1} , toilet mat ^{*1} , toilet paper rack ^{*7} , toilet sheet paper holder ^{*22} |
| Cleaning equipment | | |
| 85 129 | Other | Wet tissue papers ^{*1} , mesh cleaner ^{*1} , floor cloth ^{*1} , vacuum cleaner parts (mouthpiece, pipe, nozzle) ^{*22} |
| Storage | | |
| 85 99 | Other storage utensils | Closet rack ^{*7} , closet wagon ^{*7} , necktie chest ^{*7} , scarf chest ^{*7} , clothes case ^{*7} , living rack ^{*7} , chest ^{*7} , toilet rack ^{*7} , toilet paper stocker ^{*7} , storage case ^{*7} , box ^{*7} , shoes rack ^{*7} , lintel ^{*15} , non-penetrating tie beams ^{*15} , cellular phone stand ^{*22} |
| Jewelry, personal adornments and silverware | | |
| 81 24 | Comb, hairnet | Hairpin |
| 81 29 | Other make-up goods, hair utensils, wig and similar items | Make-up pouch ^{*1} |
| Household gardening tools | | |
| 85 49 | Other household gardening tools | Mower (85 41) ^{*12} , scissors (68 14) ^{*12} |
| Rubber fabricated basic materials | | |
| 11 5 | Rubber hose | Reinforced rubber hoses for gas (11 565) ^{*18} |
| Consumer electric and electronic appliances | | |
| 60 9 | Other consumer electric and electronic appliances | Shaver ^{*14} , electric toothbrush ^{*14} |
| Shoes | | |
| 80 43 | Sports shoes | Ice shoes skate ^{*12} , roller skate shoes ^{*12} , riding boots ^{*13} |
| Other household equipment and utensils | | |
| 85 5 | Art and decorative ware (except silverware, plated ware and similar metal ware) | Metal flower vase ^{*12} , metal ornament ^{*12} , stuffed animals ^{*13} , cloud-shaped frame/frame and wood carved frame, wall hanger/tapestry and wall ornaments, box and letter box ^{*2} , calligraphy and picture |

| Category No. | Category | Examples of Excluded Products |
|--------------|---|--|
| | Other products | Wrappings ^{*23} , bird/dog net ^{*1} , shop curtain ^{*1} , portable clay cooking stove ^{*9} , stepladder ^{*7} , message board ^{*7} , single faucet ^{*9} , mixing faucet ^{*9} , faucet ^{*9} , alcohol fuel ^{*10} , stuffed toy ^{*11} , calendar ^{*4} , album ^{*4} , fire extinguisher ^{*5} , recycled soap made from used cooking oil ^{*6} , padlock ^{*12} , wire ^{*12} , trivet ^{*12} , tools ^{*12} , scissor sharpener ^{*22} , doorbell ^{*12} , flashlight ^{*14} , waterproof tape ^{*15} , non-skid tape ^{*15} |
| | Other living and cultural supplies | |
| 95 1 | Matches, candles, perfumed incense and incense-sticks | Incense-sticks ^{*13} , incense ^{*13} |
| 95 412 | Shinto altar fittings | Offertory box ^{*8} |
| 95 422 | Buddhist altar fittings | Buddhist altar ^{*8} , Buddhist altar vase ^{*12} |

- *1: Corresponding to Eco Mark Product Category No.104 “Textile Products for Home Use Version2.0” and not considered to be commodities.
- *2: Corresponding to Eco Mark Product Category No.114 “Paper Packaging Materials” and not considered to be commodities.
- *3: Corresponding to Eco Mark Product Category No.114 “Paper Packaging Materials” and not considered to be commodities.
- *4: Corresponding to Eco Mark Product Category No.120 “Paper Printed Matter” and not considered as commodities.
- *5: Corresponding to Eco Mark Product Category No.127 “Fire Extinguisher Version1.0” and not considered to be commodities.
- *6: Corresponding to Eco Mark Product Category No.129 “Soap Recycled from Waste Cooking Oil” and not considered to be commodities.
- *7: Corresponding to Eco Mark Product Category “Furniture” (currently no category number) and not considered to be commodities.
- *8: Used after installation and not considered to be commodities.
- *9: Corresponding to products for sanitary related accessories equivalent to 84 Air-conditioners and heaters, food cooking utensils and devices ((not using electricity as the main heat source) and not considered to be commodities.
- *10: Corresponding to products for chemical products such as 88 Cosmetics, toothpaste, soap, household synthetic detergents, and household chemical products, etc. and not considered to be commodities.
- *11: Corresponding to 89 Recreational devices and toys and not considered to be commodities.
- *12: Products that are mostly metal or consist of metal parts, and are difficult to satisfy certification criteria.
- *13: Cannot differentiate products in the same category from an environmental perspective.
- *14: Product using electricity.
- *15: Construction product.
- *16: Disposable product.
- *17: Restricted by Food Sanitation Law.
- *18: Difficult to give consideration to environment due to safety problems.
- *19: Though there is a need to enhance eco-friendly features with the spread of non-bleached products, there exists no new appropriate item related to giving consideration to the environment.
- *20: Natural materials not certified.

- *21: No tests for evaluating hygiene related problems and functions to remove dirt are available, thus functionality cannot be certified.
- *22: Part or accessory outside scope.
- *23: Corresponding to processed basic materials or semi-finished product and not considered to be commodities.

3. Terminology

“Post-consumer waste paper” and “pre-consumer waste paper” were defined based on the definitions of post-consumer material and pre-consumer material in JIS Q14021 shown below for reference.

(Reference)

Definition of post-consumer material in JIS Q 14021

Defined as materials generated as products which cannot be used for their intended purpose by commercial, industrial, and other facilities as end users of materials and products disposed of by households. This includes materials returned from the distribution channel.

Definition of pre-consumer material in JIS Q 14021

Defined as materials removed from waste disposed of during the manufacturing process. Excludes products unsuitable for processing or polishing that can be reused in the process which generated these materials, scraps, etc.

4. Environmental Criteria

4-1. Details of establishing environmental criteria

For setting up the criteria, environmental impact over the whole life cycle of a product was considered, using Table 1: Chart for Selecting Environmental Impact at Each Stage of Product Life Cycle. As a result, impact items that are considered to be important to establish criteria for Eco Mark certification were selected in view of environmental impacts over the whole life cycle of the product. For these items, qualitative or quantitative criteria were considered.

Environment impact items considered for the category of "Commodity" are as shown in Table 1: Chart for Selecting Environmental Impact at Each Stage of Product Life Cycle (X and XX in the table). Out of these items were finally selected as the environmental criteria: A-1, B-5, B-6, B-8, B-9, C-1, C-8, D-1, D-7, D-8, D-9, E-7, E-8, and F-1 (XX in the table). The blank columns in the table show items that were out of the scope of review or that were reviewed in combination with other items. Following is the details of establishing the environment-related criteria.

Table 1: Chart for Selecting Environmental Impact Items at Each Stage of Product Life Cycle

| Environmental impact Item | Product Life Stage | | | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| | A | B | C | D | E | F |
| | | | | | | |

| | Resource Extraction | Manu- facturing | Distri- bution | Use/Con- sumption | Disposal | Recycling |
|--|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------|----------------------|----------|-----------|
| 1.Resource consumption | XX | | XX | XX | | XX |
| 2.Discharge of greenhouse gases | | | | | | |
| 3.Discharge of the ozone layer depleting substances | | | | | | |
| 4.Destruction of eco systems | | | | | | |
| 5.Discharge of atmospheric pollutants | | XX | | | | |
| 6.Discharge of water pollutants | | XX | | XX | | |
| 7.Discharge/disposal of wastes | | | | XX | XX | X |
| 8.Use/discharge of hazardous materials | | XX | XX | XX | XX | |
| 9.Other environmental impacts | | XX | | XX | | |

The criteria of this Product Category are composed of 4-1 Environmental criteria and 4-2 Quality criteria. The criteria of 4-1 Environmental criteria are composed of “4-1-1. Common criteria”, “4-1-2. Material criteria” and “4-1-3. Criteria of individual products”.

“4-1-1. Common criteria” are required for all applicable products in this Product Category.

“4-1-2. Material criteria” are related to the materials of products.

“4-1-3. Criteria on individual products” are established for each product category, consisting of criteria on the environmental design of products and on the use of products for reducing environmental impact resulting from other factors.

A. Resource Extraction

A-1 Resource consumption

The following points were reviewed under this item:

- (1) Criteria on materials
- (2) Recycled material mixture rate of individual products
- (3) Measures to reduce impact on environment through the use of natural materials
- (4) Handling of metallic and leather materials

For (1), considering that criteria on environmental issues are established for each material in material product categories, in this Products Category consisting of finished products, items which need to be taken into consideration were selected from existing environmental criteria for each material, taking characteristics unique to commodities into account. After the required revisions were made, the criteria were set down as basic criteria. As most manufacturers of commodities do not manufacture the materials themselves, criteria on the manufacturing process of materials were basically not taken up in this Product Category; instead, criteria on recycled

materials (criteria on the materials themselves) and harmful chemical substances were selected. For products composed of multiple materials, all material criteria were applied except for small accessories. Existing criteria taken into consideration were as follows.

For paper, criteria were quoted from No.107 “Printed Paper Version2.0”. However, for the weight percentage of waste paper in the pulp mixture of board paper, No.112 “Paper Stationery” was quoted. Prohibited products were not selected as criteria due to the difficulty in recycling absorbents, etc. after use. However, for products that should ideally be recycled, different criteria were established on design facilitating the separation of materials. Use of azo colorants was not selected as a criterion considering that paper dyed using these colorants are rarely used in the applicable products of this Product Category.

For wood, criteria on living and cultural commodities (D) of No.115 “Wooden Products Using Waste Wood, Thinned-out Wood, Small-diameter Logs, etc.” were quoted.

For plastics, criteria on “Group A products which become domestic waste when they are disposed of” in No.118 “Plastic Products Using Recycled Materials” were quoted, and the use of halogen polymers was prohibited. In this Certification Criteria Version 1.0, black garbage bag used to be exempt from the applicable products, but the bag becomes included in the applicable products in this Certification Criteria Version 2.0 because there were the following opinions that we need to expand the purpose of use of recycled plastic including parti-colored bags which are difficult to control, and the creative use of transparent/semi-transparent garbage bags and black garbage bag should be the choice of users.

For glass criteria on glass commodities of “No124. Glass Products Version1.0” were quoted.

For fibers, Criteria on “B. Apparel accessories” of No.104 “Textile Products for Home UseVersion2.0” were quoted. However, to distinguish between the applicable products of Category No.104 and this Category, the criterion that fiber must make up less than 50% of the exterior area of products was added here.

For rubber, criteria on materials were established based on the opinions of vendor- related associations. Regarding recycled rubber that requires the desulfurization process, although the recycled material content rate is low due to the chemical process involved, the recycled material content rate was set above 10% to promote the use of recycled rubber products on the market. For normal temperature molded products using rubber powder, considering that a high content rate can be realized because the rubber powder is hardened, the recycled material content rate was set above 60%. The content rate of recycled rubber is prescribed in “No.109 Tile Blocks Version2.0”, and criteria were established in reference to this.

No.109 “Tile Blocks Version2.0” was referred to concerning baked products, and criteria on materials were established based on the opinions of vendor related associations, related municipals, etc. The use of incinerated ash and sludge as recycled materials was not however taken up in this Product Category to avoid the possible risk of harmful chemical substances contacting food or the skin, considering that this Product Category targets products used by consumers in their daily lives. In

No.109 “Tile Block Version2.0”, the content rate of ceramic scraps in tile blocks is set at more than 60%. For ceramics, since 20% is the maximum content rate that can be technically realized, this level was established as a criterion. Products molded at normal temperature were not included in this criterion, as this Product Category targets baked products.

For (2), the content rate of recycled materials was reviewed for each product as follows.

For the filter bags of vacuum cleaners, the content rate of recycled materials was deferred based on the strength of the filter. As parts other than the filter are mainly made of board paper, the content rate of waste paper pulp was set above 90% considering that a high content rate is possible.

For waste cooking oil absorbents, the waste paper content of 100% in current criteria was continued, and recycled materials other than waste paper were approved.

For non-bleached coffee filters, new criteria were set down since their market share was estimated to be over 50%. In addition, considering the need to enhance environmental functions, and the difficulty in establishing other criteria with no environmental efforts currently made for products other than non-bleached filters, this product was excluded from this Product Category.

For footwear, considering that long-life design based on parts replacement has been set down as a criterion, and that there are very few products containing recycled materials, the content rate of recycled materials for sports shoes and children shoes was set above 20%. However, to promote the efforts of manufacturers in using recycled materials, the content rate for recycled materials was set at above 10% for the next two years. For rubber footwear, considering that recycled rubber can be used for the outsole which consists of over 40% of the product weight, and that long-life design based on parts replacement is difficult, it was concluded that enhancing the effective use of resources by including a high content of recycled materials is ideal for this product. The content rate of recycled materials was set at above 40%.

For (3), rubber gloves using natural rubber and kitchen sponges using cellulose were selected as certified products considering that they are composed of natural materials. **といった天然素材**

However, for natural rubber, the issues as to whether the extraction of resources is sustainable or whether efforts are made to give consideration to the environment have yet to be verified by a third-party objective evaluation of rubber plantations around the world, particularly in South-East Asia. Although certain natural rubber materials are thought to be eco-friendly, natural material is not always synonymous with eco-friendliness, suggesting there is a need for an objective evaluation of each type of natural rubber material. For such reasons, natural rubber materials were not taken up in this Product Category.

Cellulose was also not included in this Product Category for the same reasons.

For (4), due to the reasons that recycling systems are already available for metallic materials, and recycled materials are already used on a daily basis, products in which metallic materials consist of more than 50% of the total product weight were not taken up. However, regarding kitchen sink strainers, triangular corner strainers for kitchen sinks, cooking oil filters, and can refuse collectors, since the use of these

products can help contribute to reducing environmental impact for other reasons, the use of metals for more than 50% of the total product weight was approved.

Leather was included in this Product Category considering that further accumulation of information is necessary in order to review the environmental impact of this material.

However, for materials such as metals, leather, stone, natural rubber and cellulose, for which environmental criteria are not established in this Product Category, their use was not deemed as having a major influence on the environment. Consequently, it was decided that these materials can be used if consisting of less than 50% of the total product weight on the condition that certification criteria on the concerned product are met. ~~本項目は基準を策定する項目として選定された。~~

B. Manufacturing

B-5 Discharge of atmospheric pollutants

The following point was reviewed under this item:

(1) Appropriate management shall be implemented for air pollution

Regarding air pollutants discharged in the manufacturing process of products, since it was determined that environmental impact can be adequately reduced by strictly adhering to agreements concerning pollution control and other related environmental regulations, and from the aspect of maintaining consistency with other product categories, this item was selected as a criterion.

B-6 Discharge of water pollutants

The following point was reviewed under this item:

(1) Appropriate management shall be implemented for waste water

Regarding water pollutants discharged in the manufacturing process of products, since it was determined that environmental impact can adequately be reduced by strictly adhering to agreements concerning pollution control and other related environmental regulations, this item was selected as a criterion.

B-8 Use/discharge of hazardous materials

The following point was reviewed under this item:

(1) Elution of harmful substances (Baked products, rubber)

This item is described in [D-8 \(1\)](#). ~~焼き物は、商品類型「No.124ガラス製品」と同様に、有害物質食品衛生法に定めるカドミウム、鉛に関する溶出基準を満たすこととした。~~

~~ゴムについては、再生ゴムに関する有害物質含有・溶出に関する規定は存在しないが、何らかの基準を設ける必要があるとの見解から、環境庁告示46号のうち重金属に関する基準を満たすことを要件とした。本項目は基準を制定する項目として選定された。~~

B-9 Other environmental impacts

The following point was reviewed under this item:

(1) Appropriate management shall be implemented for noise and foul odor

Regarding noise and foul odor produced in the manufacturing process of products, since it was determined that environmental impact can be adequately reduced by strictly adhering to agreements concerning pollution control and other related environmental regulations, this item was selected as a criterion.

C. Distribution

C-1 Resource consumption

The following points were reviewed under this item:

(1) Environmental consideration of packaging (Simple and use of recycled materials)
(2) Labeling on packaging

For (1), it was decided that reduction in packaging volume and use of recycled materials would be promoted for commodities considering that individual packaging is mainstream, and many packaging materials are used. First, unnecessary packaging shall be reduced, and if packaging is required, ~~材料の使用量をなくすこと~~ the volume used shall be reduced. In addition, recycled materials shall be given priority in use. The content of recycled materials shall be based on material criteria. However, since it is difficult to make thin packaging materials containing recycled materials, it was decided that no criteria on recycled materials shall be established for plastic bags and filters. This item was selected as a criterion. ~~また、廃棄時における有害物質排出予防の観点から、包装に使用されるプラスチック材料は、ハロゲンを含むポリマおよび有機ハロゲン化合物を処方構成成分として添加していないこととした。~~

(2) was selected as a criterion to promote smooth recovery by labeling materials used on plastics with which it is difficult to check the materials used. Labeling shall conform with ISO11469. Due to possible physical limitations such as labeling space, exclusive criteria were established referring to the “Law for Promotion of Sorted Collection and Recycling of Containers and Packaging (Containers and Packaging Recycling Law)”.

C-8 Use/discharge of hazardous materials

The following point was reviewed under this item:

(1) Environmental consideration of packaging (Harmful substances)

From the perspective of reducing the emission of harmful substances during disposal, and deciding that plastic packaging material shall not be added with halogen polymers or organic halogenides as prescription constituents, this item was selected as a criterion.

~~C-1(1)において一括して議論されたので省略する。~~

D Use/Consumption

D-1 Resource consumption

The following points were reviewed under this item:

(1) Long product life
(2) Consideration to energy saving by ease of heating and difficulty of cooling features of food

For (1), disposable products based on one-way designs were taken into consideration. Details are provided in D-7. As the long life of commodities means that waste and resource consumption can be reduced, and thus reduced environmental impact can be anticipated, this item was selected as a criterion for feasible products. Specifically, there was the opinion that demands for services such as the supply of replacement parts and repair systems are on an upward trend with the growing interest in environmental concerns. Consequently, for kitchen supplies, tableware, cleaning goods such as mops, and footwear, it was decided that long product life will be promoted by providing these services.

For (2), for kitchen utensils, though the use of electricity and gas can be reduced by improving materials, design, and reduced cooking time, it is difficult to objectively evaluate the effects.

For keep-warm pots, ~~同様に~~ though the reduction in the amount of electricity and gas used can be anticipated with the use of this type of product, as with the above, it is difficult to objectively evaluate the effects.

For these reasons, this item was not selected as a criterion.

D-6. Discharge of water pollutants

The following points were reviewed under this item:

(1) Ease of removing dirt
(2) Elution of harmful substances
(3) Prevention of discharge of water pollutants
(4) Detergent-free cleansing products

For (1), the amount of detergent and water used for cleaning can be reduced by designing easy-to-clean products. For cooking utensils, despite the availability of products that are easy to clean due to a teflon coating on the surface, etc., test methods to objectively evaluate ease of cleaning have yet to be standardized. Consequently, this item was not selected as a criterion.

(2) is described in [BD-88\(21\)](#).

For (3), since kitchen sink strainer filter bags, kitchen sink strainers, and triangular corner strainers for kitchen sinks help prevent the discharge of pollutants into household sewage, this item was selected as a criterion, as use of such products can contribute to the reduction of environmental impact resulting from other causes.

For (4), kitchen sponges requiring no detergent were reviewed from the aspect of reducing water pollutants from the use of detergents. However, due to the risk of hygiene problems arising from not using detergents, and currently no testing methods on the degree of dirt that can be eliminated exists, this item was not selected as a criterion for reasons that the actual effectiveness of this product is not clear and detergent will be needed if very dirty.

D-7 Generation/disposal of waste

The following points were reviewed under this item:

- (1) Disposable products
- (2) Establishment of criteria on individual products

For (1), one-time disposable products can be classified into five groups: (i) products with no alternative products, (ii) products with alternative products, (iii) products causing no inconvenience even if they are not available in daily use, (iv) products which can be differentiated from other products, and (v) products with high environmental impact (some products belong to multiple categories). Products reviewed for this Product Category were taken to be tolerable products.

In conclusion, (i) and (iv) were taken to be products used to their fullest capacity, instead of disposable products, even if they are intended for single use, and were therefore included in this category.

(i) was approved as a certifiable product since more or less no alternatives in terms of functions exist even though they are disposable. An example is the toothpick.

(iv) was also included as a certifiable product in this Product Category because they can be differentiated from other products of the same type in terms of environment. Specific examples are paper diapers, pet sheets, cat litter, etc. For pet sheets and cat litter, since there are products already using a high content rate of waste paper, waste paper pulp, waste wood, etc., the content rate of over 80% in absorbents was established as a criterion. For paper diapers, there are actually few alternative products due to the decreased use of cloth diapers. In addition, there are many consumers who vary in the use of diapers, such as using cloth diapers normally and paper diapers when traveling long distances. As cloth diapers take more time to

wash and change compared to paper, the demand for paper diapers is expected to increase to reduce time and labor, especially in the care of elderly persons. At public facilities such as facilities for the aged and hospitals, etc., the purchase of Eco Mark certified products through green purchasing efforts is expected to help reduce environmental impact with the spread of eco-friendly diapers, such as paper diapers containing recycled materials, etc. On the other hand, the use of recycled materials in products with direct skin contact such as paper diapers is slow due to rejection by consumers. Considering that measures to reduce environmental impact based on other perspectives are difficult to realize, it was decided that promotion of the use of recycled materials such as waste paper at least in portions of products that do not contact the skin, such as absorbents, is important for both changing consumer awareness and reducing environmental impact, this item was selected as a criterion.

(ii) was not included in this Product Category due to the opinion that products which can be repeatedly used should be used, and there is no need to take the necessary measures to certify disposable products. Examples include disposable wood chopsticks, bamboo sticks, paper plates, paper cups, etc.

(iii) was also excluded because the absence of these products would cause no inconvenience in daily life. Examples include disposable plastic forks and knives, plastic film partition, etc.

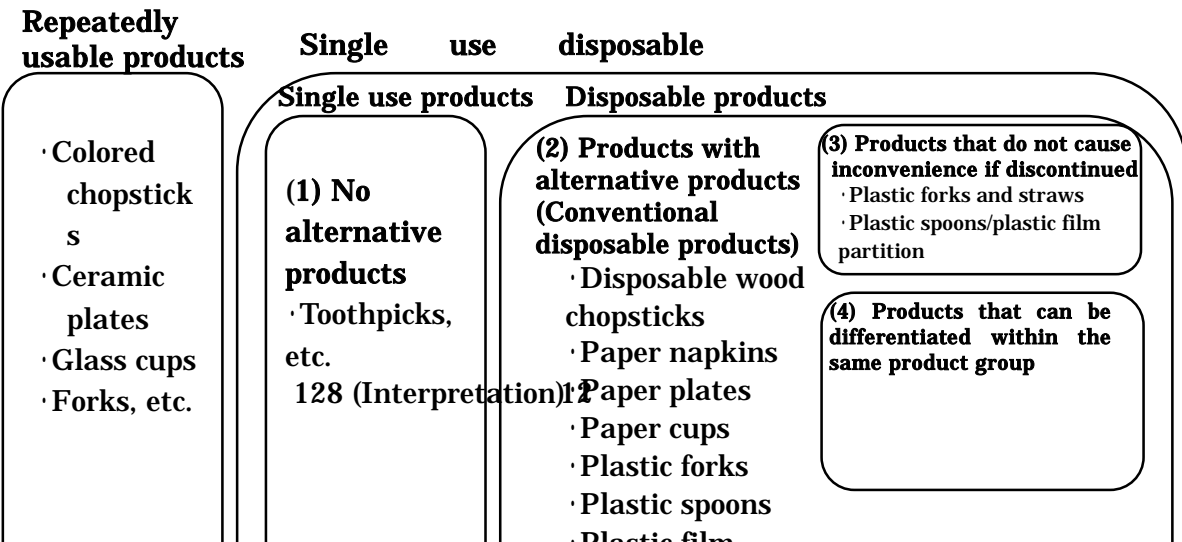
For disposable wood chopsticks, there was the opinion that these should be included in this Product Category provided they were made of 100% thinned-out wood. However, due to conflicting comments that they are disposable products and should thus not be included, they were excluded this time.

(v) was excluded because these products are disposable and deemed to have a large environmental impact. Examples include aluminum foil, aluminum cups, etc.

Though aluminum should ideally be recycled considering the enormous amount of electricity required in its refining process, aluminum products were excluded from this Product Category because they are disposable; additionally, they cannot be differentiated from other similar products in terms of environment because they are made only of metal.

A similar product is plastic wrap. This product was included in this Product Category provided that no vinyl chloride is used, and all certification criteria are satisfied.

For household rubber gloves, products are classified according to rubber thickness. Products which are very thin are assumed to be disposed after one use and thus considered to be disposable products.



- Paper diapers
- Pet sheets
- Cat sand
- Plastic wrap

(5) Products with high environmental impact

- Aluminum foil
- Aluminum cups

(2) was reviewed as follows on functions related to the environment of individual products.

Cooking oil filters was selected as a criterion because these products help reduce cooking oil waste and flow into household sewage.

Details on the supply of replacement parts of kitchen utensils, tableware, cleaning goods such as mops, and footwear are described in D-1.

Toothbrushes are products that help reduce waste due to the replaceable design of the brush portion. The supply of replacement parts was therefore reviewed as a criterion, but since corresponding products are limited to electric toothbrushes, electric toothbrushes were excluded from this Product Category. Consequently, the supply of replacement parts was not selected as a criterion, and it was decided that products are certifiable if they satisfy the criteria on materials.

By facilitating the recovery and recycling of can refuse, can refuse collectors are considered useful for the effective use of resources, improving environmental awareness, and maintaining streets in order by preventing litter. This item was therefore selected as a criterion.

D-8 Use/discharge of hazardous materials

The following points were reviewed under this item:

- | |
|---|
| <p>(1) Elution of harmful substances (2) Labeling of allergenic substances (Plastic, rubber)</p> |
|---|

For (1), kitchen utensils and tableware shall meet elution criteria on cadmium and lead established in the Food Sanitation Law.

For rubber, there are currently no general laws and regulations on the content and elution of harmful substances related to recycled rubber, but since certain green purchasing criteria of municipalities require that criteria on heavy metals in Environment Ministry Notice No. 46 be met, these criteria were also taken up in this Product Category. ~~B-8(2)において一括して議論されたので省略する。~~

For (2), plastics and rubber can cause delayed-type allergic contact dermatitis (type 1) caused by plasticizers in materials and allergic reaction caused by the latex protein in natural rubber (type IV). Related safety criteria are being enforced such as the criteria on the safety of rubber (JIS T9010), Food Sanitation Law, and voluntary criteria by the Society of Rubber Industry, Japan. Considering the importance of label conformance to these criteria, and the need for administrative organs such as

Metropolitan Tokyo to provide guidance on labeling information on allergenic substances, it was decided that labeling shall be provided as required on products using rubber. In addition, as allergic symptoms caused by latex protein can become heavy, it was decided that products using natural rubber shall be labeled with information to prompt precautions against latex allergy in addition to precautions towards normal allergy. Consequently, this item was selected as a criterion.

D-9 Other environmental impacts

The following points were reviewed under this item:

- | |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">(1) Provision of information on appropriate handling(2) Deodorization and decolorization of cooking oil filters |
|--|

For (1), products using direct heat such as fluoride coated fry pans and pots should be handled with precaution due to the discharge of harmful substances when continuously heated without food inside the product. Generally, these products are used for a comparatively long time, and thus the chances of such problems occurring during use are considerably high. Given that information on appropriate use products should therefore be provided to users beforehand, this item was selected as a criterion.

For (2), due to the need to give consideration to the smell of oil, etc. in repeated use of cooking oil, this item was selected as a criterion.

E-7 Generation/disposal of waste

The following points were reviewed under this item:

- | |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">(1) Product structure shall be easy to separate and sort, and materials used shall be reduced and standardized(2) Biodegradable plastics |
|---|

For (1), commodities have simple structures compared to other industrial products in general, and materials used are also restricted. It is therefore relatively easy to adopt structural designs that facilitate disassembly during disposal and separation and sorting by material in the product design stage, as well as to reduce and standardize the materials used. These efforts will not only reduce consumer burden during the sorting and recovery of wastes and resources by municipals, but will also promote recycling. For these reasons, this item was selected as a criterion.

Additionally, since products given such consideration are usually recyclable, there was the opinion that criteria on the content rate of recycled materials should be slightly eased. Taking also into account the need to promote environmental consideration in the product design stage, criteria on the respective materials was reduced by 10% as an incentive. However, for plastics, since the use of post-consumer materials is significant for prompting the use of recycled materials, the content rate of recycled materials in post-consumer materials was set at 50% in accordance with

No.118 “Plastic Products Using Recycled Materials”. For fibers and rubber, etc., considering that the criteria for the content rate of recycled materials are set at low levels, content rate was not particularly prescribed. For wood, as lowering the content rate of recycled materials would not serve as an incentive in particular, the current rate was maintained.

This item is not a required criterion, but was adopted from the exclusive perspective that if satisfied, the content rate of recycled materials reduces.

Regarding the reduction of types of materials used, based on the conclusion that this is easier to undertake compared to efforts on facilitating standardization, separation, and disassembly of materials, it was decided that the content rate of recycled materials shall not be reduced for products corresponding to “Other livelihood supplies”.

Of the category on flyswatters, mousetraps, etc., as recycling of parts other than adhesive portions in mouse adhesive sheets and cockroach adhesive traps is not difficult, the ease of separation of parts composed of different materials was established as a criterion. Parts other than adhesive portions were deemed as not requiring measures to reduce the content rate of recycled materials since board paper is mainly used.

For (2), there was the opinion that the use of biodegradable plastics for filter bags for straining allows them to be disposed in dust chutes and decompose. Compared to plastic water filter bags, they take less time to sort, and offer environmental advantages such as promoting primary processing activities of raw waste.

In conclusion, because biodegradable plastics are a function that focus on the disposal stage in the product lifecycle, they are accompanied by such tasks as the need for overall evaluation of processing after use and product lifecycle. During the review of this item, considering that the mixing of biodegradable plastics with normal plastics during the plastic lifecycle reduces quality, resulting in problems during recycling, there were comments that biodegradable plastics should only be limited to uses where they will not mix into the plastic recycling process. In addition, there were also views that because biodegradable plastic becomes waste eventually and does not contribute to recycling for such reasons, general commodities do not need to be decomposed in soil, and recovered products merely become waste discharged from the final recycling process instead of being decomposed during the recycling process. As a result, biodegradable plastics were included in this Product Category, and this item was not selected as a criterion.

E-8 Use/discharge of hazardous materials

The following points were reviewed under this item:

- | |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">(1) Generation of harmful substances by incineration of adhesives(2) Incombustible polymer |
|---|

For (1), assuming that mouse adhesive sheets and cockroach adhesive traps of the category on flyswatters, mousetraps, etc. are discharged as burnable wastes together

with pests and animals, there were comments on the need to review the generation of harmful substances by the incineration of adhesives. Generally polybutadiene is used for the adhesive of mouse adhesive boards. But since there are no findings on toxicity of these adhesives, this item was not selected as a criterion.

For (2), the relation between the content of polyvinyl chloride, polyvinylidene chloride, and bromine flame-retardants and the generation of dioxins during disposal by burning was pointed out. As a result of survey and review, it was assumed that cooking utensils such as plastic spoon rests generally do not use incombustible plastics, and flame-retardants are rarely used in the applicable products of this Product Category. From the aspect of avoiding the generation of harmful substances as much as possible, this Product Category was also established in accordance with criteria related to the use of flame-retardants in the Guidelines for Eco Mark Program Implementation.

F Recycling Stage

F-1 Resource consumption

The following points were reviewed under this item:

- | |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">(1) Systems shall be established for the recovery and reuse of used products(2) Setting of number of reuses |
|--|

For (1), the recovery and recycling of used products is expected to reduce waste generation and resource consumption. Many of the applicable products of this Product Category are diverse in how they are used, such as duration of use, etc., which makes it difficult to periodically accumulate the volume required for establishing recovery systems. However, recovery systems are assumed to be already established for rubber fabricated basic materials such as dust control mats, since most are rental products for business use. For this reason, the establishment of systems for recovering and reusing rubber fabricated basic materials and reuse was selected as a criterion.

For (2), most dust control mats are repeatedly recovered and reused as rental products for business use. The more times these are reused, waste generation and resources consumed can be reduced. Thus, the reporting of the number of reuses (performance) and design that can withstand repeated use were selected as criteria.

F-7 Generation/disposal of waste

The following point was reviewed under this item:

- | |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">(1) Easy to separate and sort structure |
|---|

(1) is described in E-7(1).