



Eco Mark News

The Eco Mark is a voluntary program ran by Japan Environment Association. Contract fees from licensing companies and application fees from applicants cover whole budget for our activities. In this "Eco Mark News", the information related to Eco Mark Program such as newly selected Eco Mark product category and proposals for certification criteria is provided on the basis of the "Guidelines for Eco Mark Program Implementation".

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Eco Mark products are also exhibited.



A TV seminar was held linking JICA office in Jakarta and JICA headquarters in Tokyo. see page 4

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* Annexes are separate from our newsletter and please contact our office if you wish to obtain them. They are also available on our website.

Committee Report/Decisions

Eco Mark Steering Committee (12th meeting)

The 12th Eco Mark Steering Committee (Chairman: Akio Morishima, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (The acting Chairman: Prof. Takashi Gunjima, Doshisha Univ.) was held on March 2, 2004 at Kazan Kaikan. After the discussion, the following decisions were made;

Decisions

- Eco Mark Annual Plan and Budget for year 2004 was discussed and the plan and the budget for new fiscal was decided as Annex 1.
- It was discussed that current Eco Mark fee structure should be changed from the retail price basis to the sales basis as of April 1, 2005. As a result, it was decided that the announcement of the fee structure revision would be made as of April 1, 2004. (Please refer to the relevant article in [Important Information](#) and Annex 2 to 4.)
- In accordance with the above fee structural revision, it was approved that we will revise relevant parts of “Guidelines for Eco Mark Program Implementation”. (Annex 2).

Important Information

Revision of Eco Mark Certification Fee (Announcement of Revision)

We will implement the revision of Eco Mark certification fee structure including the calculation basis and terms of payment as we have announced in Eco Mark News No.40 (published on April 20, 2003) etc. The revision will take effect a year after the announcement, which is in April 2005. Prior to the actual implementation we announce the details of revision as Annex 2. The summary of revision is as below.

	Current Guideline	Guideline after revision
Calculation basis for Certification Fee	Retail price of the certified products	Total amount of the certified product(s) sales (shipment sales) per company
Amount of Certification Fee	Divided into 4 levels : 80, 120, 160, 200 thou. yen per product for two years	From 10 thou. to 1 mil. yen per company for one year
How to pay the Certification Fee	Lump-sum payment for each certified product for two years	Lump-sum payment for all certified products per company for one year
Licensing Period	2 years	1 year (it will be automatically renewed after the payment is received)
Valid Period of Certified Product	2 years	Until the expiration date of the corresponding certification criteria (shortest 1 month to longest 5 years)

We will announce the details of an explanatory meeting for this revision later.

Notification of Change of Eco Mark Office Address

Eco Mark Office is moving along with Japan Environment Association's removal. Please send postages to new office after the date of reopen.

1. New address

Prime Kamiyacho Bldg. 2F, 1-11-9, Azabudai, Minato-ku, Tokyo 106-0041 Japan

*Nearest Station: 3 minutes walk from Kamiyacho station on subway Hibiya line

2. New phone number

+81-3-5114-1253 (Eco Mark Office Certification Section)

+81-3-5114-1255 (Eco Mark Office Criteria Section, Promotion Section, International Cooperation Section)

+81-3-5114-1251 (Japan Environment Association representative)

3. New fax number +81-3-5114-1257

4. Reopen of office From April 12, 2004 (Mon)

At the same time, web URL will be changed as follows;

New web URL: <http://www.ecomark.jp/english>

E-Mail address will not be changed.

Information

“Eco Mark and Green Purchasing Law Designated Procurement Items” 2004 is Published

We have completed the new edition of “Eco Mark and Green Purchasing Law Designated Procurement Items” for 2004. It is a pamphlet that summarizes the connection between certification criteria for Eco Mark product category and the specific procurement products for Green Purchasing Law as well as their judgmental standards. This pamphlet corresponds to the latest “Basic Principle” of the law.

We distribute this pamphlet mainly for the government and the autonomous communities at various opportunities so that they can use it as a reference for the public procurement. If you wish to distribute this pamphlet by yourself and through your own distribution network, please contact Eco Mark Office.



Topics

Eco Mark Certified Paint with “Odor Index” on Label

Paint is used for various products from the industrial use to the daily living use including building/housing, machinery, transport equipment and furniture. Because of its versatility it is important for us to consider its influence on environment and human body caused by various chemical substances in paint such as solvent, antirust and fungicide during the product development stage as well as for the sales of the products. From this point of view Eco Mark reviewed the product category No.33 “Paint, Coating and Waterproof Coating Containing No Aromatic Hydrocarbon Compounds” (established in 1991) and established new product category No.126 “Paint Version1.0” in June 2003 (partially revised in April and December 2003). New category covers wider area of the subject products, and considers the air pollution control and the improvement of work environment during painting process as well as residential environment.

Certification criteria for new category include the level of aromatic hydrocarbons solvent, Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) ingredient, antiseptic agent used in paint, environmental measure during manufacturing process, provision of appropriate information, and reuse/recycle of the container. It also includes the item for the manufacturers to state the odor index on the label of household products as one of the individual product certification criteria. The odor index (10-60) is sectioned into 5 levels: Weak (10-19), Moderately Weak (20-29), Normal (30-39), Moderately Strong (40-49), and Strong (50-60), and each product should state the level of odor on the label. (see the figure)



芳香族炭化水素類10g/リットル未満
揮発性有機化合物 g/リットル以下
鉛フリー

エコマーク認定番号
第 号

臭いの強さ

弱	やや弱い	普通	やや強い	強い
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An Example of Eco Mark with odor index



Eco Mark products with odor index from Asahipen Corporation

Four (4) water-based paint products from Asahipen Corporation and one product (“Susei Eco Family”) from Nippon Paint Co., Ltd. were certified as Eco Mark products in February 2004 based on this new category and they have the odor level stated on the product labels. Eco Mark certified products will come on to the market shortly.

The paint odor has serious influence on the work environment during painting process. When these products are in the market with odor level stated on the labels, consumers will be able to check the odor level before purchase instead of having to realize the level as they actually use the product. Further application of the odor level statement to the other products outside the household products and establishment of maximum values for the criteria will be considered.

Report on Exhibition Booth at “Global Warming is Coming ! Eco Life/Cafe in Tajimi”

On March 7 (Sun), Eco Mark Office had a booth at the fair above held in “Ceramic Park MINO”, Tajimi city, Gifu Prefecture. The fair was very successful, including environmental exhibition, talk live shows on global environment inviting Mr. Bunta Sugawara, an actor and Takako Shirai, a musician and a show for children. About 300 people (!) in a day participated in “Eco Mark Quiz”, which people look for the answers in the panels at our booth and it was very crowded. Also, many people participated in “THE Eco Mark Quiz” using a screen on the stage and it was a good opportunity to appeal Eco Mark to consumers.

Report from Overseas

Indonesian Ecolabel Logo is Selected

As it was reported in Eco Mark News No.45 (published on December 26, 2003) Indonesia is establishing the first ecolabelling program (type I). We would like to report that they have decided the official logo for the program.(see the picture)

The logo mark selection committee was setup inside The Ministry of Environment Indonesia to select the logo. The committee members were the representatives and experts from various fields. They started to accept the public application for the logo from November 21, 2003 and the total 362 applications were received. Final decision was made on March 9, 2004 at the meeting room of The Ministry of Environment in Jakarta and the official logo was selected from five final candidates. Minister of Environment Indonesia also participated in this final review.

The top prize of 7,500,000 Rupiah (approximately 100,000 yen) was given to the winner and the prize of Japanese Eco Mark products (file made of the recycled paper, ball point pen/mechanical pencil made of the recycled plastic, report pad made of the recycled paper, reusable shopping bag, and T-shirt made from the fabric using recycled PET bottle) were given to all five final candidates.

A TV seminar themed on Japanese Eco Mark was also held on March 4, 2004 linking JICA office in Jakarta and JICA headquarters in Tokyo. The purpose of the seminar was to explain Japanese Eco Mark program so that they can refer to our example in establishing their own ecolabelling program. Officials from Ministry of the Environment and Eco Mark Office in Japan participated in the seminar and explained Japanese Eco Mark program in detail. On the Indonesian side, various officials including Mrs. Masnellyarti Hilman, Vice Minister of the Ministry of Environment participated in the seminar and active discussion was conducted after the presentation from Japan side.

(Tetsuro Fujitsuka, Advisor for Environmental Policy (JICA Specialist), The Ministry of Environment Indonesia)



Indonesian Ecolabel Logo

