Interpretation

Product Certification Criteria for

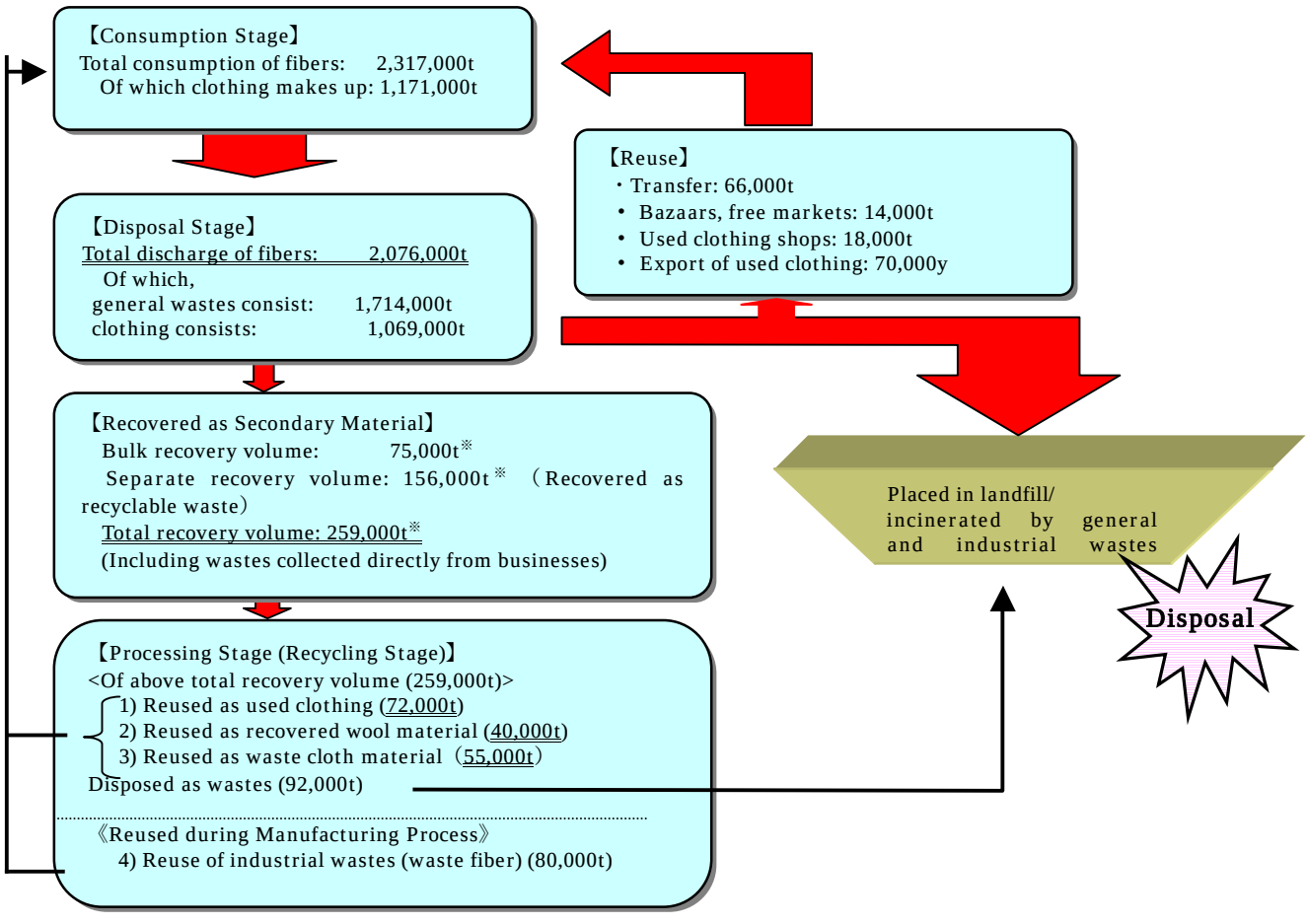
"Textile Products for Industrial Use"

Revised: April 28, 2006

1. Environmental Background

As the following diagram "Life Cycle Flow of Textile Products" shows, a total of 1,109,000 tons of clothing and other fabrics are consumed annually, of which about 180,000 tons are recovered as recycling resources, according to the data of the Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry, indicating that less than 20% are reused. The focus of this Product Category was placed on the Eco Mark certification of clothing using waste fibers and recycled fibers to disseminate recycled products, thereby promoting recycling and expanding the outlet of the so-called circulatory loop. The establishment of mechanisms for collecting and recycling unwanted uniforms, office uniforms, fatigues, sanitary suits, and sportswear was also taken into account in the criteria established. Regarding the use of chemical substances, provisions were sharply reinforced, specifying that further efforts be made to reduce pollution by chemicals.

Life Cycle Flow of Textile Products



(1)Recycling Volume = ***247,000 t*** ;1)＋2)＋3)＋4)
(2)Total discharge volume = ***2,076,000 t***
(3)Recycling rate（(1)/(2)） = ***11.9%***

Note: The above figures were estimated on the annual statistics of FY1999 (figures of other fiscal years included in part), based on the 2001 “Survey of Textile Industry Revitalization Measures (Consumption and Distribution Survey) exclusive of certain questionnaire surveys. As the discharge volume was mainly estimated referring to waste surveys and demand rates, etc., the figures are slightly lower than the consumption (demand volume).

2. Applicable Products

On the whole, this product category mainly targets standardized products such as JIS products. Products under the functional categories including Eco Mark Certification Category No. 123 “Building Products Using Recycled Material” and No. 4 “Filter Bags for Kitchen Disposal” are managed according to their respective category criteria.

For fabricated basic textile products have been so far divided into the “Household Textile Products” and “Textile Products for Industrial Use” categories. Because this categorization proved complicating, revisions were made to consolidate all fabricated basic textile products in the “Household Textile Products.”. The “Textile Products for Industrial Use” category shall remain to include “non-woven fabrics and felt in the lace fabrics or non-woven fabrics” category; “nets, fences and ropes of other fabricated basic textiles”; and “knit fabrics” because majority of these products are for industrial use. New applicable products in the household textiles include narrow woven fabrics, fabrics for chairs, filaments and other yarns, and interlining cloths.

JIS L 0204 defines fabrics for boards, drains, sheets, etc., as “those that have appropriate length compared in respect to its thickness, are thin and bend easily”. Drains are classified as fabric products while boards and sheets are not classified as fabric products based on common sense. Note that, however, products made of cloth may sometimes be handled as fabric products.

Synthetic leather was excluded from the product category, since it is classified as a plastic base material by the Japan Standard Commodity Classification and because it is not a fiber. Note that, however, since synthetic leather ground fabrics use cloths in general, synthetic ground fabrics made of fibers were included in this product category.

3. Terminology

For defining unused fibers, the following categories were reviewed: a. threads made of stable fibers effectively using in-process end-piece materials, etc., b. chemical fibers effectively using resources such as cupra, c. fibers of new materials such as hemp and kenaf which have not been so far used as resources. It was decided that “a.” will be retained as before within the scope of applicable products of this product

category and further efforts should be made to disseminate their use. For “b.”, since cupra is used for industrial applications, its removal from the scope was once revisited. However, because it is made of cotton linter, a resource which is usually thrown away, and is certified as an Eco Mark product as a clothing fabric, and it has the same level of usefulness as a fabric as “a.”, it was decided that cupra would be included in the unused fiber group. It should be noted, however, that, for establishment of the standard content rate for unused fabrics pursuant to the standard concerning environment, a different content rate was established. The hemp, kenaf, bamboo fibers, etc. in “c.” were not included in this product category because they were developed for new applications, no similar fabrics exist as comparative materials, and one object of the certification criteria is to select the most eco-friendly fibers among similar fiber products.

In general, the meaning of recovered wool fiber is not properly understood since “recovered wool” is a new term. According to the “Japan Standard Commodity Classification” (Ministry of Public Management, Home Affairs, Posts and Telecommunications), Japanese Industrial Standard JIS L 0204 (Japanese Standards Association), “Textile Products Recycling Council Report” (Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry, September 2001), “Fiber Recycling Issues” (Japan Cotton Waste & General Fibre Exporters Association, August 2001), and “Garment Dictionary” (Dobunshoin), “recovered wool” is defined as a process to restore cotton-wool fibers by raveling used clothing, etc. (what is known as old or used clothing and used fabrics in the rags industry), and out-of-process end-piece such as waste thread from spinning plants, waste thread from weaving plants, and cut away wastes from clothing plants, etc. (what is known as cotton waste in the rags industry) by using a garnet machine (such as rotating garnet, etc.). Based on this concept, “recovered wool” was redefined in this product category.

Recycled PET fibers have been so far defined as “fibers made of PET resins recycled by using recycled and reprocessed flakes or pellets. Due to the increased number of vendors who are able to directly recycle pre-consumer discarded PET material as a result of improved recycling technology, the definition was broadened to include “flakes, pellets, etc.”

Considering that the rags fiber recycling market can be roughly divided into used clothes, recovered wool, and waste, unused cloth and recycled cloth should be clarified under new definitions to promote the use of these items, which has been rapidly decreasing in recent years.

4. Environmental Criteria

4-1. Environmental criteria

For setting up the criteria, environmental impact over the whole life cycle of a products was considered, using Table: 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 “Clothes” are as shown in Table: Chart for Selecting Environmental Impact at Each Stage of Product Life Cycle (X in the table). Out of these items were finally selected as the environmental criteria: A-1, B-5, B-6, B-7, B-8, B-9, C-1, C-7, E-7, F-1, F-7 and F-8（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: Chart for Selecting Environmental Impact Items at Each Stage of Product

Environmental Impact Item	Product Life Stage					
	A. Resource Extraction	B. Manufac-turing	C. Distribu-tion	D. Use/Con-sumption	E. Disposal	F. Re-cycling
1. Resource consumption	XX	X	XX	XX	XX	
2. Discharge of greenhouse gases		X				
3.Discharge of ozone layer depleting substances				X	XX	
4. Destruction of eco systems				XX		
5. Discharge of atmospheric pollutants		XX				
6. Discharge of water pollutants		XX		X		
7. Discharge/disposal of wastes		X				XX
8. Use/discharge of hazardous materials	X	XX		XX		
9. Other environmental impacts	X	XX				

A. Resource Extraction Stage

A-1 Resource consumption

The following points were reviewed under this item.

(1) Recycled fibers shall be used where possible.
(2) Considerations for sustainable use shall be given for resources that can be durably used as well as for natural resources (wool, cotton, linen, silk, etc.).
(3) Biodegradable resources shall be used.

For item (1), as already mentioned in the Environmental Background section, the volume of fiber wastes discharged is now about 1,700,000t, urgently calling for waste reduction and effective use of resources. Consequently, this item was selected as a provision in the criteria. The standard content rates of waste fibers, recovered wool fibers, recycled PET fibers, recycled PE fibers, recycled PP fibers and chemically recycled fibers were set at a level which can be reached by the current skills and techniques of spinning companies. The basic level was set at 10% for fiber to fiber, and 50% for other than fiber to fiber. Small accessories include woven labels.

Products containing mixed fibers (for example, XX% of waste fibers + XX% of recycled fibers, totaling XX%) were also taken into consideration. It was concluded that they would not be included in this item at this point, based on the requirement that the standard content rate of waste fibers or recycled fibers has to be met.

Waste fibers and recovered wool fibers are mainly composed of cotton and chemical fibers. Recycled PET fibers and chemically recycled fibers help promote the reuse of recycled polyester (chemically recycled fibers contain nylon). Sheep wool becomes a very staple fiber below 2 cm in length after fraying. Though it is difficult to use recovered wool fibers in worsted products, recycled fibers from wool can be used in woolen products.

For item (2), cotton is certified by various organizations mainly in the U.S. and Europe by the name of organic cotton. This item was therefore selected as a provision in the criteria on organic cotton.

Item (3) was not selected as a provision in the criteria because it is currently being reviewed by other committees.

A-8 Use/discharge of hazardous materials

The following points were reviewed under this item.

(1) Environmental load during cultivation of cotton, etc., and environmental load during sheep ranching, etc. (2) Observance of environmental laws and regulations on production country, etc.

For items (1) and (2), it was debated whether to specify local observance provision in the criteria regarding cotton and recovered wool. However, because it is difficult to prove observance, it was not selected as a provision in the criteria.

The definition of “organic cultivation” was established referring to the certification regulations and standards of the Japan Organic Cotton Association. Organic cotton was designated as “a material with a ‘material certificate’ issued for organic cotton materials (yarn, fabric, etc.) to verify the material.” At the same time, it was decided that cotton fibers should be verified using the certificate of an appropriate organization of the cotton fiber production site issued for the organic cotton (indicating the shipment number) as well as the invoice, packing list, or delivery statement (indicating the identical number) issued during the business procedure.

A-9 Other environmental impacts

The following point was reviewed under this item:

(1) Recombinants

This item was not selected as a provision in the criteria because currently, commercial use of recombinants is not carried out, and it shall be reviewed as dictated by future situations.

B. Manufacturing Stage

B-1 Resource consumption

The following points were reviewed under this item.

(1) Energy and water shall not be used excessively in the use of recycled fibers. (2) Product design shall allow easy recycling.

For item (1), large amount of water is used during the cleaning and manufacturing processes of clothing, including recycled fibers. For this reason, reducing the amount of water used during manufacturing is given as a means to lighten environmental load. Consequently, in the Eco Mark Product Category "Clothing made of Recycled PET Resin," item (1) was selected as a provision in the criteria, specifying that products using extreme volumes of water should not be Eco Mark certified. Specifically, it was deemed that it is difficult to measure and compare the amount of water actually used during manufacturing, and differences in the volume of water used by product type may lead to differences in the volume of water used by plant. For these reasons, item (1) was not selected as a provision in the criteria. The same decision was given to energy consumption.

For item (2), designs to ensure easy recycling need to take into consideration the recycling system, and it is difficult to list easy-to-recycle materials. Easy-to-recycle designs were deemed as included in the recycling system provision, which is reviewed in the F-7 item. Finally this item was not selected as a provision in the criteria on easy-to-recycle designs as a means of certifying that recycling mechanisms are available.

B-2 Discharge of greenhouse gases

The following point was reviewed under this item.

(1) Energy consumption is less with light or natural colors than dark colors

For this item, there were opinions that, from an energy saving perspective, light colors impose less energy load in the dying process than darker colors. The comparison of energy load between colors involves various elements such as plant size and color fastness, and it is not appropriate to conclude that light colors are more environment-oriented. For this reason, this item was not selected as a provision in the criteria.

B-5 Discharge of atmospheric pollutants

The following point was reviewed under this item.

(1) No discharge of air pollutants

For this item, it was decided that the generation and discharge of hazardous substances in the manufacturing process need to be minimized where possible. For

this reason, requirements that sewing plants producing clothing should be managed appropriately with observance of local agreements, ordinances, and laws were established as a criterion.

In addition to air pollutants, this item shall be applicable to water pollutants, vibration, noise, odor, and discharge of other harmful pollutants, requiring that local agreements, ordinances, and laws should be followed in terms of these pollutants and environmental irritants based on the same principle.

B-6 Discharge of water pollutants

The following points were reviewed under this item.

(1) No discharge of water pollutants (2) Minimization of effects on environment during dying (3) Restrained use of substances deemed as endocrine disruptors

Item (1) was omitted because it has already been reviewed in B-5.

Items (2) and (3) were omitted because they have already been reviewed in B-8.

B-7 Discharge/disposal of wastes

The following points were reviewed under this item.

(1) Reduction and recycling of wastes (2) Reduction of sludge

Item (1) was not selected as a provision in the criteria due to the difficulty in relatively determining the recycling situation.

Likewise, item (2) was not selected as a provision in the criteria due to the difficulty in relatively determining the sludge amount.

B-8 Use/discharge of hazardous materials

The following points were reviewed under this item.

(1) Controlled use and discharge of hazardous substances (2) Use of eco- and human-friendly agents

For items (1) and (2), taking into consideration effects on the environment and human body, figures to prohibit or limit use of substances determined as harmful were set and provided in Attachment 1. The impact of chemical substances was studied, and ideas of phased criteria setting from observance of laws through prohibition of use, setting of quantitative criteria, and reporting are provided in the guidelines for the Eco Mark Category and Criteria Establishment Committee. In this Certification Criteria, the apparel manufacturer's report to the the Eco Mark Office was not required for substances that should preferably be reported; it was rather recommended that information be provided on chemicals that may affect the health of

humans or the environment, and if there exists literature and case studies which report actual damage resulting from their use, and the information list (draft) was released as Certification Criteria (draft). Apparel manufacturers are able to use the concerned chemicals in Eco Mark products, but they will need to consider risks including the possibility of restrictions by certification criteria in the future and of having to devise measures against consumer damage. This will ensure that apparel manufacturers take comprehensive environmental measures for the product with focus placed on total balance. Even though a substance may pose risks of affecting our health and the environment, this approach ensures further eco-friendly efforts. This list (draft) drew various opinions, such as anxiety about harmful rumors and close investigation on the literature as information source in adopting substances to the list (draft), and the Eco Mark office carefully reviewed them.

As a result, the following points have been found out. Judging that the current changing conditions of accident cases of skin sensitizing have significantly differed from those when the cases were reported and the information disclosure becomes less important and that there is no particular factor that makes some dyes banned in Certification Criteria as skin sensitizing dyes now, we concluded to call off the revision (draft) to release the information list and to add some dyes to the prohibited list as skin sensitizing dyes.

- The improvement and management of manufacturing processes by dying manufacturers reduces the exposure risk for skin sensitizing dyes.
- The accident cases twenty years ago of some dyes were caused by inadequate dying method of some dying manufacturers, and such cases are not found now.
- The accident cases of the other dyes were the cases of dye factory workers thirty years ago. The exposure risk for skin sensitizing dyes has been reduced due to the improvement of manufacturing processes, etc. in the present factories._

Use and discharge of florescent whitening agents, flame retardants, softeners, sanitary processing agents, and product bleaching agents shall follow circular specifications of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry. Established criteria expect businesses to voluntarily control the amount of use.

This review concluded that chemical substances prescribed by OEKO-TEX would not be covered by environmental criteria because the OEKO-TEX test methods are not disclosed. However, these chemicals shall be reexamined in the next criteria review.

It is prescribed in standards for fiber products that free formaldehyde amount shall not be detected in general baby wear and shall be below 75 ppm for underwear. The Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry notification prescribes the amount to be less than 300 ppm for outer wear. This Product Category which deals with products with low risks of direct contact with the skin prescribes that the free formaldehyde amount shall be less than 300 ppm of the whole product as a substance which can harm health by causing allergic contact dermatitis. As free formaldehyde amount varies according to the product storage condition, it is difficult to determine the exact amount after shipment by the manufacturer. For this reason, the results obtained from tests at shipment shall be adopted as the standard value for certification. Ordinance No. 34 of the Ministry of Health and Welfare was adopted as the testing method for free formaldehyde amount. Some testing facilities designate JIS L 1041,

which is essentially the same as Ordinance No. 34. This Product Category prescribes Ordinance No. 34 of the Ministry of Health and Welfare. Consequently, this item was selected as a provision in the criteria.

Criteria were established by adding dyes prescribed by OEKO-TEX to the list of dyes whose manufacturing and sales are subject to voluntary restriction with the following categories: a. azo dyes with risks of generating carcinogenic amines shown in Attachment 3 when subject to degradation, b. carcinogenic dyes, c. skin sensitization dyes. This list of dyes, which was developed by the ETAD (the Ecological and Toxicological Association of Dyes and Organic Pigments Manufacturers), contains substances whose application to products used daily is prohibited in Germany. It served to sharply improve the list of dyes taken up in Product Category No. 103 “Clothing Made of Recycled PET Resin.”

Currently, chrome dyes are produced in volumes of 4700t yearly, used mainly for black and navy clothing. From the viewpoint of reducing heavy metals, their use in fibers other than sheep wool is prohibited in Product Category No. 104 “Household Textile Products Using Recycled PET Resin.” After the latest revisions in this product category, the scope of prohibited use of chrome dyes remains unchanged because chrome dyes are still indispensable for sheep wool though alternative dyes are being developed in the sheep wool industry.

Chlorine bleaching of cotton was selected as a provision in the criteria because it is already being undertaken, though the resultant products become more highly value-added, and to control the use of bleach. As a shrinkage prevention process of sheep wool, chlorine treatment is carried out by some manufacturers as a pre-process. Usually, post-processing using urethane resin is carried out. Though it does not serve as a direct certification criteria, this shrinkage prevention process was also selected as a provision in the criteria and provides that environment laws should be observed by the plant.

“Unbleached products” are defined as cotton products which was admitted the use of drugs in the finishing process as shown in the following table, in accordance with the certification criteria of the Japan Organic Cotton Association. “Hydrogen Peroxide Bleaching” was admitted for products for which sourcing and bleaching are carried out in one process because such bleaching is generally carried out for these products, and problems related to environmental safety were not seen in particular.

For products containing halogens, focus was placed on the relation between the content of poly- (vinylidene chloride) and brominated flame retardants and the generation of dioxins in fuel disposal. As a result of review, it was decided that products containing halogens (resins as fibers and post-processes, excludes colorants and fluoride additives) would not be accepted for certification in order to prevent the generation of toxic substances as much as possible while considering the maintenance of fire prevention and safety performance. In addition, it was decided that this item would not be applied to products whose use are difficult to prohibit, such as fire-proof supplies, blankets, and carpets. The production process of clothing material is as follows. The post process given in these certification criteria means the addition of processing agents from the weaving/knitting process to post processes.

Clothing material production process

Spinning → Weaving/Knitting → Dyeing

“Unbleached products” are defined as cotton products which was admitted the use of drugs in the finishing process as shown in the following table, in accordance with the certification criteria of the Japan Organic Cotton Association. “Hydrogen Peroxide Bleaching” was admitted for products for which sourcing and bleaching are carried out in one process because such bleaching is generally carried out for these products, and problems related to environmental safety were not seen in particular.

List of Permitted Drugs

Labeled as Hydrogen Peroxide Bleaching	Sourcing and bleaching in one process	1. Desizing	Use permitted: Boiling water, citric acid, acetic acid, salt, enzymes (protease, lipase, amylase, cellulase, etc.), low impact and biodegradable of any of these agents: anionic, cationic, nonionic surface-active agent, gluconic acid soda, other organic chelating agents
		2. Sourcing and bleaching	Use permitted: Boiling water, enzymes (protease, lipase, amylase, cellulase, etc.), citric acid, acetic acid, low impact and biodegradable of any of these agents: anionic, cationic, nonionic surface-active agent, gluconic acid soda, other organic chelating agents Soda ash, hydrogen peroxide below 1.5 % owf. However, these chemicals shall be completely removed with enzymes, boiling water, citric acid, or acetic acid, and there shall not be any residue in finished cloth.
Labeled as Unbleached	Sourcing and bleaching in separate processes	1. Desizing	Not specified.
		2. Sourcing and bleaching	No bleaching permitted. Use permitted for sourcing: Boiling water, enzymes (protease, lipase, amylase, cellulase, etc.), citric acid, acetic acid, low impact and biodegradable of any of these agents: anionic, cationic, nonionic surface-active agent, gluconic acid soda, other organic chelating agents

B-9 Other environmental impacts

The following point was reviewed under this item.

(1) Observance of related environmental laws and regulations, and circular notices

This item was also reviewed in B-5. It was determined that for noises and vibrations, environmental burden can be reduced by dealing appropriately with neighboring complaints, and observing related environmental laws and regulations,

and pollution control agreements. Consequently, this item was selected as a provision in the criteria.

C. Distribution Stage

C-1 Resource consumption

The following points were reviewed under this item.

(1) Packaging shall be repeatedly usable and recyclable. (2) Packaging material shall be simplified, and not excessive.

Though many simple packaging alternatives are basically available, the simplification of packaging and reuse and recycling of packaging material was determined to help reduce resource consumption. Therefore, items (1) and (2) were selected as criteria.

D. Use/Consumption Stage

D-1 Resource consumption

The following points were reviewed under this item.

(1) Supply systems of accessories such as buttons shall be available. (2) Products shall have a long life (Not disposable).

Because item (1) is considered to contribute to longer product lifespan as well as reduced resource consumption, it was selected as a provision in the criteria in the apparel category. However, it was not selected as a provision in the criteria in this product category since there are currently no corresponding products.

For item (2), disposal products means products designed to be used only once, even through there are substitute products that can be used over and over again. However, wiping cloths and other textiles that may be disposed after one use were not included because they do not contribute to reducing resource consumption. Such products, however, may be used repeatedly for the industrial purpose. Consequently, this category can include them in applicable products if: a. data demonstrates the repeated use of the product; b. “Repeatedly usable” or similar labeling is placed on the package of the product; c. use is limited to business purpose. Therefore, this item, essentially excluding disposable products from scope of certification, was selected as a provision in the criteria.

D-3 Discharge of ozone layer depleting substances

The following point was reviewed under this item.

(1) Washing with water is recommended as a substitute to dry cleaning

With this item, it was examined whether labeling of products indicating that the product can be washed with water should be made compulsory. However, due to the lack of comparative data on environmental load between dry cleaning and washing with water, and because the quality label already includes washing information, this item was not selected as an environment criterion.

D-4 Impact on the eco system

The following point was reviewed under this item.

(1) Products left in the natural environment

Considering that resins and other materials left outdoors have impacts on the eco system, this item was selected as a provision in the criteria. “Left outdoors” above means products used outdoors are not recovered from the natural environment after use. Therefore, judging criteria are: a. Products are used outdoors for the most part; b. Products are not recovered from the natural environment after use; and c. Products are not treated appropriately as wastes after use. In cases of a. or c., Eco Mark certification will not be given. In case of c., or supplemental remarks, Eco Mark certification may not be given if Condition b is not evident. However, of products used in the natural environment, those that function as part of a semi-permanent product (building) such as underground structure are not included in this category.

D-6 Discharge of water pollutants

The following point was reviewed under this item.

(1) Dye fastness

This item was not selected as a provision in the environmental criteria due to the lack of data and the difficulty in establishing criteria with the focus placed on this item alone. It should be included in the quality criteria.

D-8 Use/discharge of hazardous materials

The following points were reviewed under this item.

(1) Compliance with laws and regulations and circular notices pertaining to clothing such as “Law for the Control of Household Goods Containing Harmful Substances,” “Formalin Resin Processing (Notice No. 569, July 20, 1972, Director-General of the Fiber and Goods Bureau [now Consumer Goods Industries Bureau], Ministry of International Trade and Industry,)”
(2) Benzidine dyes, chrome dyes, and azo dyes generating carcinogenic amines shall not be used.
(3) No harmful or restricted substances such as heavy metals shall be used in the product.

These items were omitted because they have already been reviewed in B-8.

E. Disposal Stage

E-1 Resource consumption

The following point was reviewed under this item.

(1) Mechanisms to recover heat energy shall be available in incineration.

Whether to indicate the heat energy recovery rate was examined. Because it is not possible to calculate the heat energy of each product, certifying only the recovery of heat energy for areas of the product which cannot be recycled is required. This item was selected as a provision in the criteria.

F. Recycling Stage

F-7 Discharge/disposal of wastes

The following points were reviewed under this item.

(1) Collected products shall have many reusable parts. (2) Systems to recover and recycle unwanted products shall be available.

Item (1) was omitted because it was reviewed together in B-1(2).

Item (2) was selected as a provision in the criteria because it is indispensable for promoting recycling. Since it is technically difficult to address this item as a common criterion, it was selected as a specific provision of the environmental criteria. In this review, beddings and other textiles with recycling systems are considered as applicable products.

4-2. Quality Criteria

Voluntary criteria shall ensure quality equivalent to or higher than JIS L 4107 and so on. In addition, voluntary criteria hereof mean that delivery criteria agreed upon between the manufacturer of the product under application for certification and its consumer are superior to those established only by the manufacturer.

5. Others

Due to the numerous requests for relaxation of requirements and enquiries on details received for Eco Mark Product Category No. 103 “Clothing made of Recycled PET Resin,” the product category was streamlined and made easier to understand in the revisions conducted this time. Under the last criteria, an application was required for every brand name, material (products made of cotton and other materials or wool

and other materials required separate applications), each of the 6-digit category of the "Japan Standard Commodity Classification," and every different recycled PET resin content rate. After the revisions, an application is required for every brand name and according to conditions prescribed in 4-1.(1) (separate application is required for different waste fiber content rates and recycled fiber content rates). Products containing waste fiber and those containing recycled fiber require separate applications due to the difference in the indication below the Eco Mark.