

Eco Mark Product Category No.128

## “Household Commodity Version1.28” Certification Criteria

### Category A. Kitchen utensils and tableware

Japan Environment Association  
Eco Mark Office

#### 1. Purpose of Establishing Certification Criteria

Commodities consist of various products, ranging broadly from kitchen utensils to tableware, home and living supplies, etc. They are the most closely related daily-use products to consumers. Setting an Eco Mark Category for such a group of commodities to recommend eco-friendly products within the category to consumers would therefore contribute enormously to reducing environmental impact in daily living, as well as enhance the environmental awareness of consumers. For this reason, the establishment of this Product Category is considered to have vast environmental significance.

Under the Eco Mark program, the certification criteria of several current product categories have been established taking material into account, namely Product Category No.115 “Wooden Products Using Waste Wood, Thinned-Out Wood, Small-Diameter Logs, etc.”, No. 118 “Plastic Products Using Recycled Materials”, and No.124 “Glass Products”. This new Product Category was established by integrating the commodity products included in those product categories and adding tableware, kitchen utensils, footwear, and home and living supplies to cover a broad range of products.

Existed eight categories of the Eco Mark program cover kitchen utensils including sponges, coffee filters, cooking oil filters, rubber gloves, waste oil absorbers, draining filter bags, strainers, and triangle strainers for kitchen sinks. They have also been organized and integrated into this Commodity category. For these types of products, previous criteria were established from the environmental perspective of preventing discharge of water pollutants, using natural materials, and non-bleaching, but as a result of a general evaluation based on the new product lifecycle concept, they were reviewed also from the perspectives of effective use of resources and chemical substances this time.

As a specific example, Product Category No.5 “Absorbents for Used Cooking Oil” was established for the purpose of reducing waste by preventing the discharge of waste oil which causes water pollution and the use of recycled material, while in this Product Category, the effective use of thinned-wood and waste fiber (cloth, etc.) as unused material differing from recycled material was selected as a new criteria.

#### 2. Applicable Scope

Applicable products of this Product Category are those shown in Attachment 1, selected out of the “Kitchen utensils and tableware, except silverware, plated ware and similar metalware” covered by Standard Commodity Classification for Japan, issued by the Ministry of Public Management, Home Affairs, Posts and

Telecommunications.

However, for products using electricity, and products whose mass ratio of metal materials, leather materials, and stone that make up more than 50% of the total product mass are excluded.

Table 1 Applicable product classification

Classification number	Classification	Products applicable to each classification
	<b>KITCHEN UTENSILS AND TABLEWARE, EXCEPT SILVERWARE, PLATED WARE AND SIMILAR METALWARE</b>	
	Tableware	
77 3271/77 3313/77 343/77 3513	Plates and dishes	Small plates, Gratin dish, dish for western style
77 3311/77 3317/77 3321/77 341/77 3511/77 3512/77 39	Small Bowls	Soup bowls, Rice bowls,
77 3272/77 3312/77 3322/77 342	Bowls for donburi	Donburi
77 326/77 3324/77 3515/77 39	Bowls	Curry bowls, Soup bowls, Punch bowls, Salad bowls, Slop bowls, Mixing bowls
77 326/77 3314/77 3315/77 3324/77 344/77 3514	Bowls	Shallow bowls, Bowls with lid, Café bowls
77 321/77 322/77 323/77 324/77 325/77 3316/77 345/77 361/77 39	Tumblers (cup)	Jugs, Cocktail glasses, Champagne glasses, Brandy glasses, Whisky glasses, Cordial glasses, Sherry glasses, Wine glasses, Sundae glasses, Paffe glasses, Fruit punch glasses, Fruit cocktail glasses, Goblet glasses, Pilsner glasses, Soda glasses, Tea cups
77 3291/ 77 3318/ 77 39	Vessels for sake	
77 39	Other tableware	Sauce board, Sundae cups, Casseroles, Mug cups with lid
	Knives, forks, spoons, chopsticks and others	
77 613 77 614 77 39	Forks	
77 613/77 614/77 39	Spoons	Tea spoons
77 39	Ladles	
77 39	Tongs	
77 612/77 39	Ceramic spoons	
77 621	Chopsticks	Lacquered chopsticks
77 623	Chopsticks plates	
77 624	Chopsticks stands	
77 99	Other	Cake servers, Ice cream dishers, Cutlery cases, Fork rests

### 3. Terminology

Terms for the common criteria	
Disposable products	Products not intended for repeated use while other

	products in the same area are used repeatedly with durability.
Reusable	Nature of products and packaging designed for repeated use for a certain number of times through recycling.
Recycling	Indicates material recycling. Does not include energy recovery (thermal recycling).
Prescription constituents	Components intentionally added with the purpose of providing specific characteristics to the product. Impurities which are inevitably mixed during the manufacturing process are excluded.
Plastic sheet	Plate-like thin plastic with 0.25mm and more thickness
Terms for material	
Recycled material	Materials made of post-consumer materials, pre-consumer materials, or a mixture of these. In this Product Category, includes waste fiber.
Pre-consumer material	Materials or defective products generated from disposal route of manufacturing process. However, excludes those recycled within the same process as the raw material (same plant).
Post-consumer material	Materials or products disposed after used as a product.
Terms for paper	
Percentage of waste paper in the pulp mixture	Weight percentage of waste pulp in pulp contained in product. Expressed by (waste paper pulp) / (virgin pulp + waste paper pulp) x 100 (%). However, the weight of the pulp is measured under the condition of containing 10% moisture. For materials with 100% yield such as pulp mold and cushioning made of cut waste paper, percentage of waste paper in pulp mixture is taken to be 100% regardless of the actual percentage.
Terms for wood	
Reused/Unused wood	Indicates the following: thinned wood, waste wood, construction waste wood, and less useful wood.
Thinned wood	Wood produced from work activities adjusting the individual density of the objective tree type according to the congested state of forest stand.
Waste wood	Used wood (used packaging material, etc.), remainder material generated in wood processing plants (shavings generated in plywood and lumber plants, etc, low quality chips not used as raw material for paper, etc.), and wood and wooden materials such as trimmed branches, bark, etc.
Construction waste wood	Wood and wooden materials disposed as waste in construction work such as dismantling of buildings, construction of new buildings, building extensions, renovation, and construction related to other work.
Less useful wood	Abandoned lumber in the forest, shrubs, tree roots, wood obtained from lumber damaged by disease,

	<p>pests, disasters, bent or small diameter logs, etc. Also includes bamboo cut down in bamboo groves for the purpose of maintenance and management in environment preservation. Small diameter logs measuring less than 14 cm in diameter corresponding to “a” or “b” below must be certified as forests sustainably managed by an independent third party.</p> <p>a. Small diameter logs from logs felled from natural forests.</p> <p>b. Small diameter logs from logs produced by clear cutting, patch logging, and strip logging in plantation forests.</p>
Waste plant fiber	Fiber made from agricultural residue (such as stalks that are usually disposed, etc.) generated in harvesting and manufacturing process of crop.
Wooden part	Actual wood (including plant fiber)
Terms for plastic	
Plastic	Materials made of single or multiple polymers, additives, fillers, etc. added to give characteristics
Polymer	Macromolecules, which are the main components of plastic.
Biomass	Biomass is a term originally used in ecology to describe the amount (mass) of living organisms (bio). In this criteria, it refers to resources that are organic matter-derived from plants and animals, excluding fossil fuels.
Bio-based plastic	<p>Plastics that are produced from bio-based synthetic polymer derived from renewable organic resources such as plants. In particular, plant-derived plastics are also called plant-based plastics. For example, polyethylene (PE), polyethylene terephthalate (PET), polylactic acid (PLA) and polytrimethylene terephthalate (PTT) are offered in the form of bio-based plastics.</p> <p>*Bio-based plastic means plastic whose bio-based carbon content can be determined by 14C content measurement specified in ISO 16620-2 or ASTM D6866.</p>
Bio-based synthetic polymer	Polymer obtained through chemical and/or biological industrial process(es) wholly or partly from biomass resources.
Bio-based synthetic polymer content rate	Amount of biomass resource origin part in biobased synthetic polymer present in the product (or the portion specified in the certification criteria). Natural polymers such as starch are not included. This is defined in ISO 16620-1 3.1.5. (original :biobased synthetic polymer content: amount of biobased synthetic polymer present in the product.)
Terms for glass	
Glass cullet content	Percentage of glass cullet in the whole glass

	materials used in a product. i.e. Glass cullet content = Glass cullet/Whole glass materials (per product), (materials are expressed in mass)
Cullet	Glass materials recycle-processed (sorting, elimination of foreign bodies, etc.) from waste glass

#### 4. Certification Criteria and Certification Procedure

To show conformance to the individual criteria item, the respective Attached Certificates shall be submitted.

##### 4-1. Environmental Criteria and Certification Procedure

###### 4-1-1. Common Criteria and Certification Procedure

(1) In manufacturing the applied 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 substances 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 past five years from the date of application (whether there is any violation) must be reported. If there is any violation, proper remedies and preventive measures shall 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 business of manufacturing the applied product or the relevant plant manager (entry or attachment of a list of names of the Environmental Laws, etc.) must be submitted.

In addition, the applicants shall report whether there is any violation in the past 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 (clearly indicating a series of communication);
- b. Following materials (copies of recording documents, etc.) 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 roles, etc.);
  - 3) Bylaws 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).

- (2) Products shall not increase waste (products shall not be disposable).

[Certification Procedure]

The use of the applied product shall be indicated in the Attached Certificate.

- (3) Products shall consist of less than 50% metal for the total product mass.

[Certification Procedure]

The total mass of metals used in the applied products shall be indicated in the Attached Certificate.

- (4) Products shall be shipped in the unpackaged state or in simple packaging at the retail stage. Material labeling of plastic materials used for packaging shall conform to JIS K 6899-1:2000. However, labeling can be omitted in accordance with the standards on ID marks in the “report developed by the Package Labeling Review Committee” (Ministry of Economics, Trade and Industry) such as “labeling for plain containers”, “labeling for containers with physical restrictions of display space, etc.”, “labeling conditions and methods for multi-layer containers, etc.”, “labeling for packaging printed with company/brand name”, and “labeling on export products”.

[Certification Procedure]

The packaging state in the retail stage of products, packaging material used (content rate of recycled materials), material labeling state shall be indicated in the Attached Certificate. (Drawings and photographs can be used to supplement description). If material labeling is omitted, the reason shall be indicated.

- (5) Plastic materials used for packaging shall not use plastics containing halogens in the polymer backbone.

[Certification Procedure]

For packaging, use or not of any plastics containing halogens to the polymer backbone shall be indicated in the Attached Certificate.

- (6) Antimicrobial agents shall not be used as far as possible. In the case of use, the product shall be certified by the SIAA Mark of Society of Industrial technology for Antimicrobial Articles or the SEK Mark of Japan Textile Evaluation Technology Council, etc.

[Certification Procedure]

Compliance with this item shall be indicated in the Attached Certificate.

In the case of using antibacterial agents, documents certifying SIAA Mark of Society of Industrial technology for Antimicrobial Articles, or SEK Mark of Japan Textile Evaluation Technology Council, etc. shall be submitted.

#### 4-1-2. Material criteria and Certification Procedure

Materials of which the product is composed shall meet the material criteria specified below. However, the following material criteria shall not apply to small

accessories (screws, shoestrings and other small parts required by the product function) and (14) shall apply to adhesive and the other material criteria shall not apply to adhesives.

#### A. Paper

- (7) Percentage of waste paper in the pulp mixture shall be above 70%.
- (8) The coating amount on coated printing paper shall be 30 g/m<sup>2</sup> or less on both sides. However, the maximum amount per side shall be 17g/ m<sup>2</sup>.
- (9) The brightness of uncoated printing paper shall be about less than 70%.
- (10) Addition of fluorescent whitening agents as a prescription constituent shall be minimized.
- (11) Chlorine gas shall not be used in the bleaching process of pulp.

#### [Certification Procedure]

Certificates issued by the paper manufacturer shall be submitted. For (7) and (8), the waste paper pulp content, and specific coating amount (numerical value) on either and both sides shall be indicated. Documents indicating the results of brightness tests by the Hunter method or based on the ISO whiteness (diffuse blue reflectance factor) shall be submitted. These documents shall indicate the specific whiteness value for the test results, whether florescent whiteners are added. If added, the amount used in the documents submitted.

Whether chlorine has is used in the pulp whitening process shall be indicated.

#### B. Wood

- (12) The percentage of reused/unused wood or waste plant fiber provided by terminology as materials for wooden parts shall be 100% (mass percentage). Less useful wood with small diameters shall satisfy Attachment 1 for forest certification if corresponding to “a” or “b”.

(Note) The mass percentage means the mass ratio of the product or each material at the air dried state<sup>\*1</sup> or at the point of constant mass<sup>\*2</sup> under the condition of a temperature of 20±2°C and humidity of 65±5%.

\*1: Indicates leaving in a well-ventilated room for seven days or more.

\*2: Change is less than 0.1% when mass is measured every 24 hours.

\*1 is not applicable if lumber and logs are used. It can be applied when using wood corresponding to the water content percentage of 15% or below in domestic and overseas public dried material water content percentage criteria.

#### [Certification Procedure]

Documents issued by the raw material vendor certifying that the raw material is reused /unused wood or waste plant fibers shall be submitted. If there are multiple vendors, a list of the vendors and list of certification of the top 10 vendors in terms of volume of material traded shall be submitted.

If using thinned wood as the material, a certificate of origin that includes information on the place of production, type of tree, and year of planting shall be submitted with photographs of the forest concerned (showing clearly that the forest stand has been thinned). The thinning percentage and how many times the forest

stand has been thinned, including the most recent thinning shall also be indicated if possible.

If using less useful wood, the following information shall be submitted. At the same time, official documents stating that the forest has been certified as sustainable by a third party shall be submitted.

- Type of forest (natural or man-made, etc.), place of production, type of tree, and year of tree planting if man-made forest.
- Under what conditions was the wood produced (damaged by disease/pests, damaged by disaster, bent or narrow trees, etc.). For small diameter log, indicate logging method and tip end diameter.

If using bamboo as the raw material in less useful wood, certificates indicating the following information and photographs/maps of the surroundings of the bamboo grove shall be submitted.

- Type of bamboo, place of production, surrounding conditions, and description that logging is carried out for the purpose of appropriate maintenance and management in environment preservation, as well as management plans and quantity.

- (13) Products shall not use wood preserving agents (wood termicides, preservatives, pesticides, and fungicides) as prescription constituents.

[Certification Procedure]

Whether termicides, preservatives, and pesticides are used as prescription constituents shall be indicated in the Attached Certificate.

- (14) Regarding products used indoors, no emissions of toluene or xylene shall be detected at product shipment. “No emissions detected” means less than the minimum value measured by JIS A 1901. “Measuring methods for emission of volatile organic chemicals (VOC), formaldehyde and other carbonyl compounds—small chamber method.”

[Certification Procedure]

Results of tests prescribed in JIS shall be submitted. The test method shall be based on JIS A 1901. However tests can be exempted for products not added with toluene and xylene as prescription constituents.

- (15) For products used indoors and using adhesive or paint, emissions of formaldehyde from the product, wood material, adhesive or paint shall be of the F\*\*\*\* grade in accordance with JIS or JAS, or falling outside the scope of regulations by the Ministry of the Land, Infrastructure and Transport. The products should meet the numerical criteria of “a” or “b” below. However, this item is not applied to “incense stick”.

- a. The amount of Formaldehyde emissions measured by JIS A 1460 “Building boards Determination of formaldehyde emission -- Desicator method” shall be below 0.3 mg/l for average value and below 0.4 mg/l for maximum value.
- b. The emission rate of formaldehyde measured by JIS A 1901 “Determination of the emission of volatile organic compounds and formaldehydes for building products -- Small chamber method” shall be less than 5µg/(m<sup>2</sup>-h).

**[Certification Procedure]**

Results of tests prescribed in JIS A 1460 or JIS A 1901 or tests by methods prescribed in specific JIS or JAS criteria shall be submitted to indicate that standard values are met. For materials and products permitted to be labeled F\*\*\*\* grade in accordance with JIS and JAS, documents certifying this or copies of such documents can be submitted in place of test results. For materials and products authorized as falling outside the scope of regulations by the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, documents certifying this or copies of such documents can be submitted in place of test results. For materials and products permitted to be labeled as using non-formaldehyde adhesives by JAS, documents certifying this or copies of such documents can be submitted in place of test results.

**C. Plastic**

(16) Mass ratio of recycled polymer in the total raw material polymer of the product shall be 25% or more.

Products using bio-based plastic shall meet the criteria item (17) instead of this item

**[Certification Procedure]**

The mass ratio of pre-consumer materials and post-consumer materials making up the whole product shall be indicated in the Attached Certificate. Raw material certificates issued by the raw material supplier shall also be attached.

(17) Products using bio-based plastic shall meet all requirements in the following a) to c).

a) The content of bio-based synthetic polymer in the product shall be equal to or higher than 25%;

b) Sustainability of biomass mixed into plastic as raw material shall meet the requirements of Appendix 1(a) “Sustainability checklist of bio-based plastics (raw resin)” and the supply chains of the biomass shall be identified. If the biomass material has undergone third-party audit or certification for sustainability (an international sustainability certification for plastics, etc.), the result of audit or certification may be submitted as evidence instead of Appendix 1(a).

c) It shall be confirmed through life cycle assessment (LCA) that the bio-based plastic (raw resin) does not cause an increase of GHG emissions (in terms of CO<sub>2</sub>) throughout the product life cycle in comparison with a resin to replace with.

**[Certification Procedure]**

a) Certificates indicating the calculated content of bio-based synthetic polymers in the product shall be submitted. For the bio-based plastic (raw resin) thereof, measurement results of the bio-based synthetic polymer content calculated with the method specified in ISO 16620-3, using measurement results of the bio-based carbon content and element composition by the 14C method specified in ISO 16620-2 or ASTM D6866 shall be mentioned. Should there be any deviation of 10% or higher between the measurement results and the content of bio-based synthetic polymer in the standard, a description of a reason(s) therefor shall also be included. The measurement results of the bio-based carbon content shall be submitted as an attached document.

In addition, for appropriate maintenance of the content of bio-based synthetic polymer after certification, any of the following certificates issued by a raw resin

supplier (including a dealer) shall be submitted.

- An explanatory document stating that measurements of the content of bio-based carbon will be regularly carried out, and that measurement results can be disclosed as per a request of the Eco Mark Office; and

- A certificate that the Applicant has been audited or certified by a third party for management of the content of the bio-based synthetic polymer.

b) An applicant shall submit documents on the source of biomass material (a cultivation area (country, state, city, etc.), a generation process of waste and residues, etc.), a manufacturing flowchart (of raw resin) (describe the name of manufacturers of fundamental chemicals (monomers), polymers, etc.), and checklists or an evidence of a third-party audit or certification.

To the application for Eco Mark certification of products containing bio-based plastics or biomass materials that have never been certified for use, Eco Mark Office may request the applicant (or the plastic supplier) to provide information on the chemical composition of the products (see [Appendix 1\(b\)](#)).

c) An applicant shall submit the result of LCA conducted by a third-party. (An applicant shall provide the LCA result and the calculation conditions. If the applicant has underwent LCA under an international sustainability certification scheme for plastics, it may submit the data instead. The applicant may submit an academic paper published on a journal as an evidence as long as the same materials and/or manufacturing processes (sites) are mentioned in the paper as those used for the product applied for certification.)

(18) HCFCs shall not be used during the manufacture of plastic materials.

[Certification Procedure]

Certificates issued by the manager of the plant manufacturing the plastic material shall be submitted.

(19) Plastics shall not use plastics containing halogens in the polymer backbone.

[Certification Procedure]

Use or not of plastics containing halogens in the polymer backbone shall be indicated in the Attached Certificate.

(20) Products shall not contain harmful substances such as heavy metal, etc. prescribed in laws and voluntary criteria of the industry concerned as prescription constituents.

Plastic additives shall conform to the positive list system of food utensils, containers and packaging, etc. In case of using color materials or the plastic additives which are not listed in the positive list for products other than food utensils, containers and packaging, those color materials or plastic additives shall meet the requirements described / prescribed in ISO 8124-3, laws or voluntary standards in the industry etc.

[Certification Procedure]

Certificates issued by the raw material supplier, or documents certifying results of tests performed by a third party testing center or public institution shall be submitted. The Applicant shall submit certificates that the plastic additives such as color materials, plasticizers, stabilizers, lubricants and other additives used in the plastic materials conform to the Positive List system of food utensils, containers

and packaging, etc. With respect to color materials and plastic additives not listed in the Positive List, the results of tests to show the conformance to the requirements described in ISO 8124-3, laws or voluntary standards in the industry, etc. shall be submitted.

- (21) The product shall not contain Polybrominated biphenyl (PBB), Polybrominated diphenylether (PBDE) or short-chain chlorinated paraffin (the number of chained C is 10 to 13 and contained chloride concentration is 50% or over) as a prescription constituent when flame retardant is used in plastics.

[Certification Procedure]

Compliance with this item shall be indicated in the Attached Certificate. In the case of using flame retardant, the applicant shall submit a document specifying the names of chemical substances.

#### D. Glass

- (22) Use of glass cullet shall be above 70% (weight percentage). It shall be above 20% (weight percentage) in heat-resistant glass.

[Certification Procedure]

The utilization rate of glass cullet and weight percentage of glass materials making up the whole product shall be indicated in the Attached Certificate.

- (23) Safety of the glass bottle (elution of mercury, chromium, arsenic, selenium) shall be verified and explained. The elution of the subject materials shall conform to the requirement of the Environmental Standard concerning soil pollution (the Ministry of Environment Notice No.46, Aug.23, 1991)).

[Certification Procedure]

Purchasing methods and acceptance test standards (for cadmium, lead, mercury, chromium, arsenic, and selenium; tests may not be required for certain substances) of glass cullet shall be submitted.

- (24) Coloring agents used in products shall not contain cadmium, lead, mercury, hexavalent chromium, arsenic, selenium and their compounds as prescription constituents.

[Certification Procedure]

Component list issued by the manufacturer of coloring agents or the Safety Data Sheet (SDS) shall be submitted.

#### E. Rubber

- (25) The mass ratio of recycled rubber out of the total rubber used in the product shall be above 10%. However, this shall be over 60% for normal temperature molded products using rubber powder.

[Certification Procedure]

The mass ratio of recycled rubber materials making up the total rubber weight shall be indicated in the Attached Certificate. Raw material certificates issued by raw material suppliers shall be attached.

- (26) Harmful substances contained in rubber shall conform to criteria on heavy metals prescribed in the Ministry of Environment Notice No.46, Aug.23, 1991.

[Certification Procedure]

Certificates issued by raw material suppliers and documents certifying results of tests implemented by a third party testing center or public institution shall be submitted. However, if all the raw materials used do not contain the corresponding chemical substances as prescription components, documents certifying compliance with this criterion issued by the raw material suppliers or applicant can be submitted instead.

- (27) The product shall not contain Polybrominated biphenyl (PBB), Polybrominated diphenylether (PBDE) or short-chain chlorinated paraffin (the number of chained C is 10 to 13 and contained chloride concentration is 50% or over) as a prescription constituent when flame retardant is used in rubber.

[Certification Procedure]

Certificates issued by raw material suppliers and documents certifying results of tests implemented by a third party testing center or public institution shall be submitted. However, if all the raw materials used do not contain the corresponding chemical substances as prescription components, documents certifying compliance with this criterion issued by the raw material suppliers or applicant can be submitted instead.

- (28) Information on appropriate handling of products such as precautions on handling and storage and allergy information, etc. shall be provided in instruction manuals, on product labels, and in pamphlets.

For labeling of allergy information on products, the following requirements shall be observed:

- a. In material labeling, name of materials related to natural rubber, rubber, or plastic shall be indicated. For synthetic rubber and plastic, indicate the specific name in brackets behind the name of the material.

Example: Synthetic rubber (nitrile rubber), natural rubber

- b. For synthetic rubber, natural rubber and plastic products, in addition to the current precautions on use, also include precautions on use for allergy referring to Example 1 below. For natural rubber products, in addition to the current precautions on use, also include precautions on use for latex allergy referring to Example 2.

Example 1: May cause itchiness, skin irritation, rash. In such cases, discontinue use.

Example 2: This product is made of natural rubber. Natural rubber can rarely cause itchiness, redness, rash, bloating, fever, difficulty in breathing, asthma-like symptoms, drop in blood pressure, shock, and other allergic symptoms. In such cases, discontinue use promptly and consult your physician.

[Certification Procedure]

Labeling of allergy information shall be indicated specifically in the Attached Certificate. (Drawings and photographs can be used to supplement description)

#### F. Ceramics

(29) For ceramics, for each raw material category given in Table 2, the mass of recycled materials in the total mass of the product shall meet the standard content rate shown. However, for products made of several recycled materials so that they apply to several standard content rate in Table 2 below, the total mass ratio of all recycled materials shall be above the standard content rate shown. The standard content rate lower limit is calculated using the following equation based on the proportional composition.

$$\text{Standard Content Rate (lower limit of recycled material)(\%)} = \frac{(AxX1+BxX2)}{(A+B)}$$

(Set for products using [Standard Content Rate X1% category material] = A% and [Standard Content Rate X2% category material] = B%)

Table 2 Raw Material Categories of Recycled Materials, Certification on Use, and Standard Content Rate

Category and name of waste serving as raw material of recycled materials		Standard Content Rate <sup>Note2)</sup> (mass%)
Category	Name of recycled material	
Waste from mines and quarries	-Waste sand from quarries and ceramics -Micro silica sand generated at separation of silica by water	35%
Used pottery		15%
Glass cullet		Glass mass/product mass ≥ 15% Glass cullet use rate ≥ 70%
Other industrial waste	-Coal ash -Shell	50%

Note 1) For products in which a small amount of colorant is added to molten parts, the weight of colorant shall not be included in the weight of all materials used for calculating the standard content rate.

Note 2) For the products containing moisture, use dry weight, and for fired and molten products, the weight loss on burning shall not be included.

Note 3) For products applicable to several standard content rates in this table due to multiple recycled materials used, calculate the standard content rate on a proportional basis.

Example) Fired and molten parts using ceramic waste and sewer sludge

Ceramic waste A (%) (Standard content rate 35%)

Used pottery B (%) (Standard content rate 15%)

In this case, the standard content rate (lower limit of recycled material content) (%) is  $(Ax35+Bx15)/(A+B)$ .

Consequently, in this case, the A+B total content rate is required to be above the standard content rate calculated in the above equation.

Note 4) For products using glass cullet in the raw material category in Table 2, the mass ratio of glass materials making up the product mass shall be 15% or more, and the rate of using glass cullet shall be 70% or more.

## [Certification Procedure]

The standard content rate and total mass percentage of the recycled materials shall be indicated in the Attached Certificate for each raw material category in Table 2. Raw material certificates issued by raw material suppliers shall be attached.

**4-1-3. Criteria on individual products and certification procedure**

- (30) Information on appropriate handling of products such as precautions on handling and storage, etc. shall be provided in instruction manuals, on product labels, and in pamphlets.

## [Certification Procedure]

Copies of instruction manuals, product labels, pamphlets, etc. providing information on handling and storage precautions shall be submitted.

- (31) The product shall conform to the elution test for cadmium and lead as defined in the Food Sanitation Act. In addition, for food apparatus using waste paper or recycled plastic, the measures to ensure the safety shall be taken based on the basis of Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare “Guidelines on the use of recycled paper in food apparatus and containers and packaging” (Shokuan, 0427 No.7, April 27 2012) or “Regarding “Guideline for the Use of Recycled Materials as Raw Materials for Synthetic Resins Used in the Manufacture of Food Utensils and Containers/Packaging”” (issued on March 28, 2024 as Food Safety Standards and Evaluation Division 0328 No.7 and Food Inspection and Safety Division 0328 No.7 under the joint names of chiefs of above both divisions of Pharmaceutical Safety and Environmental Health Bureau, the MHLW).

## [Certification Procedure]

Results of tests based on the Food Sanitation Act shall be submitted. In addition, for food apparatus using waste paper or recycled plastic, the written document shall be submitted which shows the ensuring of the safety on the basis of Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare “Guidelines on the use of recycled paper in food apparatus and containers and packaging” or “Guideline for the Use of Recycled Materials as Raw Materials for Synthetic Resins Used in the Manufacture of Food Utensils and Containers/Packaging”.

**4-2. Quality criteria and Certification Procedures**

- (32) The product quality shall conform to Japanese Industrial Standard, Japan Agricultural Standards and the industry quality standards. In addition, the quality control is adequately implemented in the manufacturing stage.

## [Certification Procedure]

Certificates of compliance with the corresponding quality criteria shall be submitted. At the same time, certificates and declarations issued by the manager of the plant manufacturing the product that quality control is implemented in the manufacturing stage and shipped that only products passing quality inspections are shipped shall be submitted. If the applied product or the manufacturing plant of the applied product is JIS or JAS certified, submission of a photocopy of such JIS

or JAS certification shall be sufficient for certification of conformance to this item.

## 5. Considerations

In manufacturing products, it is desirable to consider the following, although they are not requirements for certification. The conformance to the individual criteria item shall be indicated in Attached Certificates.

- (1) Products shipped in simple packaging shall meet the following criteria for packaging material.
  - a. Percentage of waste paper in the pulp mixture shall be above 70%
  - b. Mass ratio of recycled polymers in the total raw material polymers used in plastic sheets shall be above 60%.
  
- (2) Quantitative environmental information on greenhouse gas emissions throughout the life cycle of the applied product, from the procurement of the raw materials to the disposal and recycling, shall be disclosed, which is calculated by converting into carbon dioxide equivalents based on the global warming potential (when applying for multiple types at once, calculation by a representative type is acceptable). It shall be possible to explain that the quantitative environmental information has been calculated in accordance with the Carbon Footprint (ISO 14067), Life Cycle Assessment (ISO 14040 and ISO 14044), or "Carbon Footprint Guidelines" prepared by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry and the Ministry of the Environment. The medium for disclosing the quantitative environmental information (URL of the calculation report, etc.) shall be disclosed as part of product information on the Eco Mark website.

## 6. Product Classification, Indication and Others

- (1) Products shall be classified by the sub-category purposes and by brand or series name indicated in Table 1 in 2. Applicable Scope. Also, products shall be classified into other product classification when materials used or the combination of materials used differ. (Each material classifications of A-F in 4-1-2., recycled plastic and bio-based plastic are considered as a different material.)
  
- (2) In principle, Eco Mark shown as below shall be indicated on the product. Regarding licensee of Eco Mark Utilization Contract who already own Eco Mark products, the indication of the logo and certification number that have been used is also acceptable.



(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/>)

Established: July 1, 2004 (Version 1.0)

Revised: Oct 14, 2004, Applicable Products, etc (Version1.1)

Revised: May 13, 2005, 4-6(1) and Attachment 1 (Version1.2)

Revised: Sept. 8, 2005, 4-1-2.(15) (Version1.3)

Revised: October 19, 2006, 4.(23)-(26), 4.(51)-(54), 6(2) (Version1.4)

Revised: April 13, 2007, 4-1-2.(15) (Version1.5)

Revised: August 2, 2007, 4-1-3.(42) (Version1.6)

Revised: Oct. 5, 2007 Extension of Term of Validity

Revised: Feb. 14, 2008, (Version1.7)

Revised: August 21, 2008, (Version1.8)

Revised: May 1, 2009, (Version1.9)

Revised: November 4, 2009, (Version1.10)

Revised: December 13, 2010, (Version1.11)

Revised: March 1, 2011, (Version1.12)

Revised: August 1, 2011, (Version1.13)

Revised: November 1, 2011, (Version1.14)

Revised: February 1, 2012, (Version1.15)

Revised: July 5, 2012, (Version1.16)

Extension of Expiration date: February 1, 2014

Revised: June 1, 2015, (Version1.17)

Revised: June 1, 2016, (Version1.18)

Revised: February 1, 2017, (Version1.19)

Revised: September 1, 2017, (Version1.20)

Extension of Expiration date: January 7, 2019

Revised: March 1, 2019, (category A, Version1.21)

Revised: March 1, 2020, (category E, Version1.22)

Revised: February 1, 2021, (category E, Version1.23)

Revised: February 1, 2023, (Version1.24)

Revised: September 1, 2023, (category I, Version1.25)

Extension of Expiration date: March 15, 2024

Revised: August 1, 2024 (Version1.26)

Revised: January 1, 2025 (Version1.27)

Revised: April 1, 2025 (Version1.28)

Expiration date: June 30, 2030

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

Attachment 1 Forest Certification defined in Terminology

<p>Certification criteria</p>	<p>Certification shall keep balance between ecological and social benefits, agree to Agenda 21 and the Declaration of Forest Principle, and observe related international agreements and treaties.</p> <p>Certification shall contain definite requirements and shall promote and be oriented to sustainable forest.</p> <p>Certification shall be nationally or internationally recognized and shall be recommended as part of an open process to which ecological, economic, and social interested parties can participate.</p>
<p>Certification system</p>	<p>The certification system shall provide high transparency, maintain extensive national or international reliability, and enable the verification of requirements.</p>
<p>Certification organization and association</p>	<p>Certification organization and association shall be highly impartial and reliable, allow them to be verified as to whether or not they satisfy requirements, report the verification results, and be able to effectively implement requirements.</p>

Appendix1(a) Sustainability checklist of Bio-based Plastic (Raw Resin)

No	Purpose	Request (Item that must be realized)	Subject	Realized	Implementation Method (Check off all relevant items.)
1	Prevention of global warming, conservation of the natural ecosystem	Hasn't the farm land where plants are cultivated been converted from valuable land in biodiversity or land with high carbon storage (forests, peatland, etc.) since 2008?	Farm land	<input type="checkbox"/> Not converted <input type="checkbox"/> Converted <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable due to residues or waste	<input type="checkbox"/> Confirmed the laws and regulations concerning the land conversion for the site. <input type="checkbox"/> Gained the understanding of the actual condition of the site through on-site investigation or hearings. <input type="checkbox"/> Defined and released the guideline for procurement of plants. Alternatively, conforming to the guideline of an independent third party. - Name of the guideline: - Location of release: <input type="checkbox"/> Also using the certification system of an independent third party, regarding the procurement of plants. -Name of certification system: <input type="checkbox"/> Others (Describe specifically.):
2	Conservation of the ecosystem	If the Applicant uses the genetically modified crop as a raw material, has the Applicant assessed ensuring of safety?	Farm land	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes/ <input type="checkbox"/> No/ <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable (GM crops Not used) <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable due to residues or waste	<input type="checkbox"/> Confirmed the laws and regulations concerning genetically engineered crop on the site. <input type="checkbox"/> Gained the understanding of the actual condition of the site through on-site investigation or hearings. <input type="checkbox"/> Defined and released the guideline for procurement of plants. Alternatively, conforming to the guideline of an independent third party. - Name of the guideline: - Location of release: <input type="checkbox"/> Also using the certification system of an independent third party, regarding the procurement of plants.

No	Purpose	Request (Item that must be realized)	Subject	Realized	Implementation Method (Check off all relevant items.)
					-Name of certification system: <input type="checkbox"/> Others (Describe specifically.):
3	Prevention of land acidification/nutrient enrichment/water contamination	Has the Applicant gained the understanding of usage conditions of fertilizers/agricultural chemicals in the main cultivation area of plants? Isn't any agricultural chemical regulated under the "Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants" (POPs Treaty) used?	Farm land	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes/ <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable due to residues or waste	<input type="checkbox"/> Confirmed the laws and regulations concerning fertilizers/agricultural chemicals on the site <input type="checkbox"/> Gained the understanding of the actual condition of the site through on-site investigation or hearings. <input type="checkbox"/> Defined and released the guideline for procurement of plants. Alternatively, conforming to the guideline of an independent third party. - Name of the guideline: - Location of release: <input type="checkbox"/> Also using the certification system of an independent third party, regarding the procurement of plants. -Name of certification system: <input type="checkbox"/> Others (Describe specifically.):
4	Appropriate water usage	Has the Applicant gained the understanding of usage conditions of water in the main cultivation area of plants?	Farm land	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes/ <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable due to residues or waste	<input type="checkbox"/> Confirmed the laws and regulations concerning usage of water (limits on the amount of water) on the site. <input type="checkbox"/> Gained the understanding of the actual condition of the site through on-site investigation or hearings. <input type="checkbox"/> Defined and released the guideline for procurement of plants. Alternatively, conforming to the guideline of an independent third party. - Name of the guideline: - Location of release: <input type="checkbox"/> Also using the certification system of an independent



No	Purpose	Request (Item that must be realized)	Subject	Realized	Implementation Method (Check off all relevant items.)
		and pollution control agreement with respect to air pollution, water contamination, noise, vibration, offensive odor, and emission of hazardous materials?			

\* Residues or Waste defined in Renewable Energy Directive (RED) of EU

Appendix 1 (b) Sheet for Providing Information for Application of Products Containing New types of Bio-based Plastics or Biomass Materials

Month/Day/Year

Submit to: Eco Mark Office, Japan Environment Association

Company name: \_\_\_\_\_

Department: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**1. Information on bio-based plastic used in a product applied for Eco Mark certification**

Item	Description
Type of plastic (PE, etc.)	
Chemical structural formula	
Major use (molded product, fiber)	
Launch onto the market and production volume of bio-based plastic	<input type="checkbox"/> Already put on the market ( <input type="checkbox"/> Japan / <input type="checkbox"/> Overseas)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Not yet (the scheduled time of launch                      Month/Year)
	Production volume (actual, planned or estimated)                      tons (Year)
Manufacturer of bio-based plastic (and the URL of website) (Describe the name of manufacturer of bio-based plastic proposed in the form in addition to the applicant)	
Fossil-based plastic to be replaced with the bio-based plastic	
Manufacturing process chart from raw material to production of plastic (Description of processes from acceptance of raw material to production of monomer and plastic, with or without of fermentation process, etc.)	May be described in an attached sheet
100-percent bio-based/ Partially bio-based	<input type="checkbox"/> 100-percent bio-based (the bio-based synthetic polymer content is 100 percent) <input type="checkbox"/> Partially bio-based -> The maximum bio-based synthetic polymer content that can be mixed into the bio-based plastic [    %]
Management under the mass balance (MB) approach	<input type="checkbox"/> Plastic directly mixed with biomass / <input type="checkbox"/> MB approach *Bio-based plastics managed under the MB approach are not covered by the guidelines.
Biodegradability	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes    / <input type="checkbox"/> No
Disposal after use Issues in disposal and recycling in comparison with	

fossil-based plastics to replace with (possible disposal method, etc.)	
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## 2. Information on biomass material

Item	Description
Type of biomass material (name of plant, etc.)	
Cultivation area (country, state, city, etc.) or the generation process of waste and residues, etc.	
Production or generation volume of biomass material	
Main use of biomass material (principal product or by-product)	
State of cultivation land (for plants, describe type of land such as peatland)	
Possible influences on biomass material if production of bio-based plastic increases in the future (Influences on other uses of the biomass, influences caused by rapid expansion of production of the biomass, etc.)	
Competing demand against foods	
Use of recycled material in production of bio-based plastic (If recycled material can be used, describe the source, collection methods, management under EU RED, etc.)	

## 3. Information on sustainability of biomass material

Item	Description
Sustainability certificates and initiatives of biomass material (RSPO, ISCC, etc.) and acquisition (If acquired, describe the name and detailed criteria)	
Any sustainability issues pointed out by NGOs or researchers regarding the cultivation of biomass material (If any, describe the details and the URL of website of NGOs or researchers)	
Any other concerns about the biomass material	

## 4. Others

Item	Description
Other bio-based plastics produced from the same biomass material (if any, describe the name of bio-based plastics)	
Others	

\* Attach relevant documents such as company profile of manufacturer.

The information provided in this form will be used as reference for examination of Eco Mark certification by Eco Mark Office and relevant committees only. The Certification Committee will assess the sustainability of bio-based plastic based on the information provided in the form. The Certification Committee may conduct additional study or consult with the Evaluation Panel established under the Committee as necessary. In this case, a longer assessment period will be taken than usual.