

EcoLogo^{CM} Program Certification Criteria Document

CCD-045
Sealants and Caulking Compounds



Introduction

The EcoLogo^{CM} Program is designed to support a continuing effort to improve and/or maintain environmental quality by reducing energy and materials consumption and by minimizing the impacts of pollution generated by the production, use and disposal of goods and services.

Sealants and caulking compounds are used to fill and/or seal joints in buildings and other structures. When suitably applied, they form a seal sufficiently resilient to accommodate relative movement caused by expansion, contraction, vibration and other stresses.

Air exchange energy losses can account for up to 50% of the total energy bill. Sealants and caulking compounds significantly reduce unintentional air exchange thus lowering heating and cooling losses and conserving energy.

In addition to energy conservation benefits, sealants and caulking compounds promote structural integrity and thus protect and extend the life of structures and component materials. This in turn conserves the energy and resources required to make, deliver and install replacements.

Many sealants and caulking compounds contain volatile organic compounds (VOCs) that offgas after application. Increased levels of VOCs in buildings have been attributed to the use of sealants. These emissions may contribute to reduced interior air quality. Many VOCs also react with nitrogen oxides in the presence of sunlight to produce ground level ozone and photochemical smog.

Based on a review of currently available life cycle information, the product category requirements will produce an environmental benefit through a reduction in toxic emissions to the environment.

Life cycle review is an ongoing process. As information and technology change, the product category requirements will be reviewed and possibly amended.

Notice

Any reference to a standard means to the latest edition of that standard.

The EcoLogo^{CM} Program reserves the right to accept equivalent test data for the test methods specified in this document.

Notice of Intent

Developments in the areas of test methods for measuring VOC emissions (ASTM Z38897-draft), assessing indoor air quality, reduced levels of VOCs in formulations and performance criteria for sealants and caulking compounds will be reviewed from time to time for possible inclusion in future revisions of this guideline.

Interpretation

1. In this criteria document:

"aromatic hydrocarbon" means an organic substance that has a benzene ring in its molecular structure;

"consumer" means a household, industrial or commercial establishment or institutional facility;

"gap sealants and caulking compounds" means sealants and caulking compounds installed on the inner surface of a structure, for the purpose of energy conservation and maintaining structural integrity;

"halogenated solvent" means any organic solvent containing halogens including fluorine, chlorine, bromine and iodine;

"sealants and caulking compounds" means gap sealant and caulking compounds, tub and tile sealant and caulking compounds and weatherproofing sealant and caulking compounds;

"tub and tile sealants and caulking compounds" means sealants and caulking compounds used in the vicinity of sinks, bathtubs, etc. as water barriers;

"volatile organic compound" or **"VOC"** means any organic compound which participates in atmospheric photochemical reactions. It excludes those organic compounds that the EcoLogo^{CM} Program designates as having negligible photochemical reactivity; and

"weatherproofing sealants and caulking compounds" means sealants and caulking compounds applied on the exterior of a structure primarily to protect against moisture penetration and damage, and to facilitate energy conservation.

Category Definition

2. This category includes all sealant and caulking compounds.

General Requirements

3. To be authorized to carry the EcoLogo^{CM}, the sealant and caulking compounds must:
- (a) meet or exceed all applicable governmental and industrial safety and performance standards; and
 - (b) be manufactured and transported in such a manner that all steps of the process, including the disposal of waste products arising therefrom, will meet the requirements of all applicable governmental acts, by laws and regulations.

Product Specific Requirements

4. To be authorized to carry the EcoLogo^{CM} sealant and caulking compounds must:
- (a) not be formulated or manufactured with aromatic solvents;
 - (b) not be formulated or manufactured with fibrous talc or asbestos;
 - (c) not be formulated or manufactured with formaldehyde;
 - (d) not be formulated or manufactured with halogenated solvents;
 - (e) not be formulated or manufactured with mercury, lead, cadmium, hexavalent chromium, barium or their compounds, except barium sulfate;
 - (f) not contain a total of volatile organic compounds in excess of 5% by weight as calculated from records of the amounts of constituents used to make the product;
 - (g) be accompanied by detailed instructions for proper application so as to minimize health concerns and maximize performance; and
 - (h) be accompanied by information describing proper disposal methods for containers 500 mL (or 17 oz) or larger.

Verification

5. To verify a claim that a product meets the criteria listed in the guideline, the EcoLogo^{CM} Program will require access, as is its normal practice, to relevant quality control and production records and the right of access to production facilities on an announced basis.
6. Compliance with section 3(b) shall be attested to by a signed statement of the Chief Executive Officer or the equivalent officer of the manufacturer. The EcoLogo^{CM} Program shall be advised in writing immediately by the licensee of any non-compliance which may occur during the term of the license. On the occurrence of any non-compliance, the license may be suspended or terminated as stipulated in the

license agreement.

Conditions for EcoLogo^{CM} Use

7. The EcoLogo^{CM} may appear on wholesale or retail packaging, or on the product itself, provided that the product meets the requirements in this document.
8. It is recommended that a criteria statement appear with the EcoLogo^{CM} whenever the EcoLogo^{CM} is used in association with the sealant and caulking compound(s). The intent of this statement is to provide clarification as to why the product was certified and to indicate constraints to which the certification is limited. This is to ensure no ambiguity over, or misrepresentation of, the reason(s) for certification.

The suggested criteria statement wording for this product type is "Sealant", "Caulking Compound" or "Sealant and Caulking Compound", as appropriate to the product. The licensee may propose other wording for the criteria statement, but any such proposed wording must be approved by the EcoLogo^{CM} Program.

9. All licensees and authorized users must comply with the Program's *Guide to Proper Use of the EcoLogo^{CM}* regarding the format and usage of the EcoLogo^{CM}.
10. Any accompanying advertising must conform with the relevant requirements stipulated in this document, the license agreement and the Program's *Guide to Proper Use of the EcoLogo^{CM}*.

**For additional copies of this criteria document or for more information about
the EcoLogo^{CM} Program, please contact:
TerraChoice Environmental Marketing Inc.
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