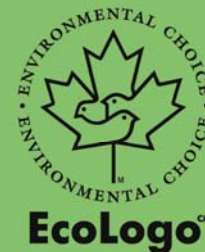


# EcoLogo<sup>CM</sup> Program Certification Criteria Document

CCD-046  
Adhesives



## Introduction

The EcoLogo<sup>CM</sup> 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.

Adhesives come in many formulations and are used for bonding a wide variety of substrates in fabrication, maintenance and repair applications by industry, contractors and individual consumers.

Many of the current adhesives contain volatile organic compounds (VOCs) which, when released, 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<sup>CM</sup> 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 adhesives will be reviewed from time to time for possible inclusion in future revisions of this guideline.

## Interpretation

1. In this criteria document:

"**adhesive**" means a substance capable of holding or bonding materials together by surface attachment with sufficient strength for the objects to behave as one object. It does not include adhesive tape strips;

"**aromatic solvent**" means any organic solvent that has a benzene ring in its molecular structure;

"**contact adhesive**" means any adhesive which, when dried to touch, exhibits a minimum 30 minute bonding range and, when applied to two substrates which are brought together under pressure, forms an instantaneous, non-repositionable bond;

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

"**general purpose adhesives**" means any single or multicomponent adhesive designed for use on one or several substrates; and

"**volatile organic compound**" or "**VOC**" means any organic compound which participates in atmospheric photochemical reactions. It excludes those organic compounds that the EcoLogo<sup>CM</sup> Program designates as having negligible photochemical reactivity.

## Category Definition

2. This category includes only contact and general purpose adhesives.

Additional sub-categories may be added at a later date.

## General Requirements

3. To be authorized to carry the EcoLogo<sup>CM</sup>, the adhesives 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<sup>CM</sup>, adhesives must:

- (a) not be formulated or manufactured with aromatic solvents;
  - (b) not be formulated or manufactured with borax;
  - (c) not be formulated or manufactured with formaldehyde;
  - (d) not be formulated or manufactured with any halogenated solvent;
  - (e) not be formulated or manufactured with mercury, lead, cadmium, hexavalent chromium or their compounds;
  - (f) not contain volatile organic compounds in excess of 5% by weight as measured by:
    - EPA Method 24-24A, 40 C.F.R., Part 60, Appendix A (1991);
    - Method 18,48 Federal Register 48, no. 202, October 18, 1983;
    - Method 1400 NIOSH Manual of Analytical Methods, Volume 1, February 1984;
    - Environmental Protection Agency Method 8240 GC/MS Method for Volatile Organics; September 1986; or
    - as demonstrated through calculation from records of the amounts of constituents used to make the product.
- Note: In the case of multi-component adhesives, the VOC content should be calculated after the components have been mixed together to produce the final 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<sup>CM</sup> 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<sup>CM</sup> 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<sup>CM</sup> Use

7. The EcoLogo<sup>CM</sup> 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<sup>CM</sup> whenever the EcoLogo<sup>CM</sup> is used in association with the Adhesive. 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 "Adhesive". The licensee may propose other wording for the criteria statement, but any such proposed wording must be approved by the EcoLogo<sup>CM</sup> Program.

9. All licensees and authorized users must comply with the Program's *Guide to Proper Use of the EcoLogo<sup>CM</sup>* regarding the format and usage of the EcoLogo<sup>CM</sup>.
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<sup>CM</sup>*.

**For additional copies of this criteria document or for more information about  
the EcoLogo<sup>CM</sup> Program, please contact:  
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