



# GS-18

**GREEN SEAL™ STANDARD FOR  
PAPER PRODUCTS USED FOR FOOD  
PREPARATION**

**SECOND EDITION  
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Green Seal, Inc. • 1001 Connecticut Ave. NW, Ste 872 • Washington, DC USA 20036-5525  
(202) 872-6400 • FAX (202) 872-4324 • [www.greenseal.org](http://www.greenseal.org)

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THE MARK OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

## **GREEN SEAL™**

Green Seal is a non-profit organization whose mission is to use science-based programs to empower consumers, purchasers, and companies to create a more sustainable world. Green Seal sets leadership standards that aim to reduce, to the extent technologically and economically feasible, the environmental, health, and social impacts throughout the life-cycle of products, services, and companies. The standards may be used for conformity assessment, purchaser specifications, and public education.

Green Seal offers certification of products, services, and companies in conformance with its standards. For additional information on Green Seal or any of its programs, contact:

Green Seal  
1001 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 827  
Washington, DC 20036-5525  
(202) 872-6400  
greenseal@greenseal.org  
www.greenseal.org

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## FOREWORD

**General.** The final issued standard was developed in an open and transparent process with stakeholder input that included producers, users, and general interests.

The requirements in the standard are based on an assessment of the environmental, health, or social impacts associated with the products, services, or organizations covered in the scope of the standard. The requirements included in the standard are subject to revision. Provisions for safety have not been included in this standard. This standard neither modifies nor supersedes laws and regulations. Compliance with this Standard is not a substitute for, and does not assure, compliance with any applicable law or regulations. Compliance with all applicable laws and regulations is a required prerequisite for the manufacturing and marketing of the products. This standard (and any corresponding conformity assessment) presumes compliance with all applicable laws and regulations.

Products, services, or organizations that are substantially similar to those covered by this standard in terms of function and life cycle considerations may be evaluated against the intent of the requirements of this standard, accounting for relevant differences between the intended scope of the Standard and the actual product, service, or organization to be evaluated.

This standard may not anticipate features of the paper products used for food preparation that may significantly, and undesirably, increase its impact on the environment, health, or society. In such a situation, Green Seal will ordinarily amend its standards to account for the unanticipated environmental, health, and societal impacts.

Normative references (e.g., other standards) in this standard intend to refer to the most recent edition of the normative reference.

**Edition.** This version is the Second Edition from January 7, 1997 (with editorial changes made on October 1, 2011) and replaces the First Edition from July 5, 1995, including substantive revisions.

**Disclaimer of Liability.** Green Seal™, as the developer of this standard, shall not incur any obligations or liability for any loss or damages, including, without limitation, indirect, consequential, special, or incidental damages arising out of or in connection with the interpretation or adoption of, reliance upon, or any other use of this standard by any party. Green Seal makes no express or implied warranty of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose, nor any other express or implied warranty with respect to this standard.

Tests may be required by the standard that involve safety considerations. Adequate safeguards for personnel and property should be employed in conducting such tests.

**GREEN SEAL™ STANDARD FOR  
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## **1.0 SCOPE**

This criteria document establishes requirements for *paper products used in the preparation of food, also known as "indirect food additives."* See Appendix 1 for an example list of products included in this standard.

Words and phrases described in the standard that appear in *italics* have a corresponding definition located in the definition section of the standard, Annex A.

## **2.0 PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS**

The product must be made in accordance with reasonable industry practice with respect to quality and performance.

## **3.0 PRODUCT-SPECIFIC ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS**

The product must meet the requirements under either Section 3.1 or Section 3.2.

### **3.1 Non-Whitened Products or Unbleached Products Requirements.**

Product must not be whitened or *bleached* through any chemical processes, i.e. *unbleached*.

**3.2 Whitened or Bleached Products Requirements.** Neither chlorine nor any of its derivatives shall be used in the bleaching agent if *bleaching* is employed in the manufacturing of virgin pulp used in the product or in the manufacturing of the product itself.

## **4.0 PACKAGING REQUIREMENTS**

**4.1 Toxics in Packaging:** The sum of the concentration levels of lead, cadmium, mercury, and hexavalent chromium present in any package or packaging component shall not exceed 100 parts per million by weight.

**4.2 Recycled Content:** Products packaged in fiberboard packaging must contain a minimum of 15% *post-consumer materials*.

## 5.0 LABELING REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTIFICATION BY GREEN SEAL

Unless otherwise approved in writing by Green Seal the following labeling requirements shall apply.

**5.1. Certification Mark.** The Green Seal certification mark shall appear on the package.

**5.2. Statement of Basis for Certification.** Wherever the Green Seal Certification Mark appears on a package, the package shall contain a description of the basis of certification. This description shall be in a location, style, and typeface that are easily readable by the consumers. The description shall read as follows for *unbleached* products:

This product meets the Green Seal™ Standard for Paper Products Used for Food Preparation, GS-18, for manufacturing without bleaching. Recycled content may have originally been bleached.

For whitened or *bleached* products, as applicable:

This product meets the Green Seal Standard for Paper Products Used for Food Preparation, GS-18, for No Chlorine Bleach used to manufacture this product. Recycled content may have originally been bleached with Chlorine.

Product *bleached* with Oxygen:

This product meets the Green Seal Standard for Paper Products Used for Food Preparation, GS-18. Recycled content may have originally been bleached with Chlorine.

The description should also include a reference to the packaging material, using similar terms as in Annex A for *unbleached*, whitened or *bleached* packaging as appropriate.

## ANNEX A – Normative

### Definitions of Terms

(note that the defined terms are italicized throughout the standard)

#### **Paper Products Used in the Preparation of Food or "Indirect Food Additives".**

Paper products as defined by Title 21, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 176.180, Components of Paper and Paperboard in Contact with Dry Foods.

**Unbleached.** Paper products produced without undergoing any chemical whitening or lightening process.

**Bleached.** Paper products produced with a chemical whitening or lightening process.

**Post-Consumer Materials.** Those finished products, packages or materials generated by a business or consumer that have served their intended end uses, and that have been recovered from or otherwise diverted from the waste stream for the purpose of recycling.

**APPENDIX 1 - Informational**

Examples of products included and excluded in the scope of GS-18:

**Products Included in GS-18**

- Uncoated paper and paperboard used in contact with dry foods (e.g., during production, packing, preparing, holding, etc.)
- Coated paper and paperboard used in contact with dry foods (e.g., during production, packing, preparing, holding, etc.)

**Products Excluded from GS-18**

- Paper towels (included in GS-1)
- Napkins (included in GS-1)
- Nonwoven sanitary products
- General purpose disposable and flushable wipes
- Bathroom tissue (included in GS-1)
- Facial tissue (travel packs)
- Facial tissue (flat box and cube box) (included in GS-1)
- Toilet seat covers (included in GS-1)
- Placemats or tray liners (included in GS-1)
- Table coverings (included in GS-1)
- Printing and writing paper (covered in GS-7)
- Newsprint (covered in GS-15)
- Coated printing paper (covered in GS-10)
- Single-use rigid containers for packaging or carry-out (included in GS-35)
- Single-use plates and bowls for packaging or carry-out (included in GS-35)