

## Eco Mark Product Category No.128

**“Household Commodity Version1.16”****Certification Criteria****J. Vacuum Cleaner Filter Bags**

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**

Vacuum cleaner filter bags

However, for products using electricity and products whose weight percentage of

metal materials, leather materials, and stone that make up more than 50% of the total product weight are excluded.

### 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 $(\text{waste paper pulp}) / (\text{virgin pulp} + \text{waste paper pulp}) \times 100 (\%)$ . 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 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.

### 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 consist of less than 50% metal for the total product weight.

[Certification Procedure]

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

(3) 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.

- (4) Plastic materials used for packaging shall not be added with polymers including halogens, and organic halogenides shall not be added to products as prescription constituents.

[Certification Procedure]

Whether polymers including halogens and organic halogenides have been added to packaging shall be indicated in the Attached Certificate.

#### 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).

- (5) For filter bags of vacuum cleaners, the percentage of waste wood in the pulp mixture shall be above 20%, and that of parts other than the filter shall be above 70%.
- (6) 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>.
- (7) The brightness of uncoated printing paper shall be about less than 70%.
- (8) Addition of fluorescent whitening agents as a prescription constituent shall be minimized.
- (9) Chlorine gas shall not be used in the bleaching process of pulp.

[Certification Procedure]

Certificates issued by the paper manufacturer shall be submitted. For (6) and (7), 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.

#### 4-2. Quality criteria and Certification Criteria

- (10) The quality of the outer bag of vacuum cleaner filter bags shall be burst strength of above 2kgf/cm, pull strength of above 3 kgf vertically and above 1.5 kgf horizontally, and air permeability of less than 0.5. (The measurement method is based on JIS P 8111.)

[Certification Procedure]

Test results of evaluation items shall be submitted.

### 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. Weight percentage of recycled polymers in the total raw material polymers used in plastic sheets shall be above 60%.

### 6. Product Classification, Indication and Others

- (1) Products shall be classified by the sub-category purposes and by brand or series name indicated in 2. Applicable Scope. Products shall not be classified by size or color.
- (2) Environmental information for each product category shall be indicated below the mark. The environmental information indicated shall be consisted of two lines and enclosed in a rectangular box, the first line shall be indicated as “recycled material used” and the second line shall be indicated as “waste paper pulp X% or more” or “waste paper pulp X%”. However, the indication of Eco Mark and certification information (Type B indication) can be allowed by following “Guide to Eco Mark usage” (enforced on March 1, 2011). The location and details of the Eco Mark to be indicated shall be submitted when applying for Eco Mark product certification and use.

For Eco Mark products certified under Eco Mark Product Category No.41 ‘Filter Bags of Recycled Paper for Vacuum Cleaners’, and those which conclude Eco Mark contract under this product category after April 1, 2005, the display of environmental information below mark which is used in the former product category may be indicated the same as before.

Example: omitted.

- (3) The Eco Mark indication method shall be followed in accordance with Guide to Eco Mark Usage.

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  
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Revised: August 21, 2008, (Version1.8)  
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Revised: November 1, 2011, (Version1.14)  
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The Certification Criteria for the Product Category will be revised when necessary.