
BACKGROUND

The Hong Kong Green Label Scheme (HKGLS) is an independent and voluntary scheme, which aims to identify products that are, based on life cycle analysis consideration, more environmentally preferable than other similar products with the same function. The Scheme is organized by the Green Council (GC) with contributions from the HKGLS Advisory Committee and a number of supporting organizations.

The prime objectives of HKGLS are:

- For Consumers: assist in making purchases of products that are less harmful to the environment;
- For Industry: stimulate development and production of environmentally preferable alternatives.

This specification sets out the requirements that the bulk / transport packaging material of the product in application will be required to meet in order to be licensed to use the HKGLS label. The requirements also include environmental criteria and the testing methods to verify conformance with the environmental criteria and product characteristics.

POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Bulk / transport packaging materials are usually required to provide physical protection for manufactured products. Nonetheless, excessive use of bulk / transport packaging materials would consume natural resources wastefully and contribute a significant burden on local solid waste management. Some bulk / transport packaging materials also contain substances that are harmful to the environment.

LABEL OBJECTIVE

The aim of the environmental criteria developed for general bulk / transport packaging materials is to:

- Reduce the amount of bulk / transport packaging materials used in order to conserve resources and to help reduce the environmental loading of waste disposal facilities; and
- Promote reuse and recycling of bulk / transport packaging materials. Encourage the use of recycled materials for bulk / transport packaging in order to conserve resources and reduce the amount of bulk / transport packaging in order to conserve resources and reduce the amount of bulk / transport packaging wastes entering landfills.

PRODUCT DEFINITION

This document and all product environmental criteria therein apply to the bulk / transport packaging materials of the product in application that are made of paper and/or plastics. Stand-alone packaging materials will not be awarded the HKGLS label.

PRODUCT ENVIRONMENTAL CRITERIA

The table below sets out the product environmental criteria for general bulk/transport packaging materials under the HKGLS.

Product Environmental Criteria	Verification Methods*
<p>Packaging Material using Recycled Paper Applicable to packaging paper, paper bag, paper box, paper board and pulp derived products.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The recycled content of the packaging paper and paper bag should be at least 50%. Paper box, board and plate should be of 100% recycled content. 2. The source of raw material, country of origin and recycled content ratio should be clearly stated. 	<p>✓ Review of supporting information;</p>
<p>Packaging Material using Virgin Wood Fibers Applicable to packaging paper, paper bag, paper box, paper board and pulp derived products.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It shall originate from sustainable source with certification on chain of custody 2. The paper pulp shall be bleached with elemental free or totally chlorine free agents. 	<p>✓ Review of laboratory test report(s);</p> <p>✓ Review of supporting information.</p>

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Product Environmental Criteria	Verification Methods*
<p>Packaging Material using Metals Applicable to cans, pails, buckets or any container to hold substances.</p> <p>1. Hazardous substances shall not be used as an ingredient. The levels of the following hazardous substances as impurities shall not exceed the following: Lead: 1,000 ppm Mercury: 1,000 ppm Cadmium: 100 ppm Chromium VI: 1,000 ppm Polybrominated biphenyls (PBB): 1,000 ppm Polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDE): 1,000 ppm</p>	<p>✓ Review of supporting information;</p> <p>✓ In compliance with RoHS standard</p>
<p>Packaging Material using Plastics Applicable to non-food products plastic packaging.</p> <p>1. The product shall not contain lead, cadmium, chromium VI and antimony.</p>	<p>✓ Review of supporting information;</p>
<p>2. The product shall not contain PVC or chlorinated plastics.</p>	<p>✓ Review of supporting information;</p>
<p>3. The product shall not contain the following flame retardant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Polybrominated biphenyls, PBBs • Polybrominated diphenylethers, PBDEs 	<p>✓ Review of supporting information;</p>
<p>4. The product shall not contain formaldehyde.</p>	<p>✓ Review of supporting information;</p>
<p>5. The ratio of the aromatic compounds shall not exceed 0.5% of product weight.</p>	<p>✓ Review of supporting information;</p>
<p>6. The product shall not manufacture with organic tin.</p>	<p>✓ Review of supporting information³ ;</p>
<p>7. Resin identification code should be clearly stated.</p>	<p>✓ Inspection of product samples</p>

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Note:

Supporting Information includes: laboratory test report, certificates, supplier declaration, Material Safety Data Sheet, etc.

*Analytical testing should be accredited and performed by laboratories that meet the requirement laid out in the IEC/ISO 17025 or EN45001 standards or any equivalent systems e.g. HOKLAS, CNAS. Under special situation and with the approval from GC, test can be performed by in-house method by the accredited laboratory or manufacturer.