

Environmental Choice^M Program

CERTIFICATION CRITERIA DOCUMENT

CCD-126



Product: Plastic Film Products

Preamble

Pursuant to paragraph 54 (1)(b) of the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999*, the Minister of the Environment is pleased to publish the following national guideline on **plastic film products** under the auspices of the Environmental Choice^M Program.

The Environmental Choice 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 available to Canadians.

Based on a review of currently available life cycle information, the product category requirements will produce an environmental benefit through **a reduction of material entering the solid waste stream and conservation of resources, including energy.**

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

Environment Canada anticipates that manufacturers or importers of **plastic film products** which conform to this guideline will apply to the Environmental Choice Program for verification and subsequent authority to label the qualifying products with the Environmental Choice EcoLogo^M.

Notice

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

The Environmental Choice Program reserves the right to accept equivalent test data for the test methods specified in this guideline.

Interpretation

1. In the following guideline:

"agricultural film" means film, whether or not in rolls, used to preserve fodder, as a replacement for glass in greenhouses, as row covers, hay bags, silo caps, trench silo covers, plant bed covers, and for composting;

"agricultural mulch film" means film, whether or not in rolls, used in the ground, under the root systems of plants, to facilitate crop cultivation;

"construction film" means film, whether or not reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials, used in the construction industry (e.g., tarpaulins, drop sheets, and wind screens), excluding products intended for use as vapour barrier films;

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

"drum and other liners" means film, whether or not in rolls, and whether or not reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials, intended for use inside industrial shipping containers;

"garbage bags" means film bags or sacks manufactured for intended use as a container to hold, store or transport materials to be discarded, composted or recycled, including, but not limited to, garbage bags, composting bags, lawn and leaf bags, can-liner bags, kitchen bags, compactor bags, and recycling bags;

"grocery carry-out sacks" means film sacks or bags intended for the conveyance of grocery products;

"household post-consumer material" means material collected from curbside and depot collection programs serving individual households and apartments;

"industrial stretch wrap" means film that is stretched during application and shrinks without the use of heat to unitize loads of goods shipped on pallets;

"PFMAC" means the Plastic Film Manufacturers' Association of Canada;

"post-consumer material" means a product which has served its end-use at the consumer level, has been discarded by the consumer, and would, unless diverted, enter the waste stream. This includes household post-consumer material;

"pre-consumer material" means materials generated by an industrial process that would, unless diverted, enter the waste stream. This includes, but is not limited to, damaged or defective materials, overstock or obsolete inventories from manufacturers, distributors, and wholesalers;

"recycled material" means post-consumer material and pre-consumer material. It does not include by-products of an industrial process that can be, and regularly are, used in either the same process, or in a different process, except that proportion which originated as post-consumer material and pre-consumer material;

"retail sacks" means film sacks or bags intended for the conveyance of non-grocery retail merchandise;

"shrink film case wrap" means film that has been stretched during manufacture and reverts to its original dimensions when heated; and

"technically non-recyclable" means that, after use, products or materials can not easily be diverted from the waste stream and recycled into new products or packages, due to material selection, lack of technology.

Category Definition

2. This category includes all *plastic film products* as further defined in the sub-categories in this section.

The sub-categories are:

- (a) garbage bags;
- (b) grocery carry-out sacks;

- (c) retail sacks;
- (d) industrial shipping sacks;
- (e) shrink film case wrap;
- (f) industrial stretch wrap;
- (g) drum and other liners;
- (h) construction films;
- (i) agricultural films; and
- (j) agricultural mulch films.

General Requirements

3. To be authorized to carry the EcoLogo *plastic film products* 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 including, for facilities located in Canada, the *Fisheries Act* and the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act* (CEPA).

Product Specific Requirements

4. To be authorized to carry the EcoLogo the *plastic film product* must:
 - (a) not be manufactured or printed with inks, dyes, pigments, or stabilizers, or any other additives which contain lead, cadmium, mercury, or hexavalent chromium; and
 - (b) not be manufactured in a manner that renders them technically non-recyclable.
5. To be authorized to carry the EcoLogo the *plastic film product* must meet the criteria specific to its subcategory. (For a summary of the recycled content requirements specified in Subsections 5.1 through 5.10, refer to Table 1 at the end of the criteria document).
 - 5.1 Garbage bags must contain a minimum of:
 - (a) 20% post-consumer material;
 - (b) of which at least 10% must be household post-consumer material.
 - 5.2 Grocery carry-out sacks must:
 - (a) conform to the requirements of the PFMAC's *Performance Test For Plastic Grocery Carry-out Sacks*; and
 - (b) contain a minimum of:

- (i) 20% post-consumer material;
 - (ii) of which at least 10% must be household post-consumer material.
- 5.3 Retail sacks must contain a minimum of:
 - (a) 20% post-consumer material;
 - (b) of which at least 10% must be household post-consumer material.
- 5.4 Industrial shipping sacks must contain a minimum of:
 - (a) 25% recycled material;
 - (b) of which at least 10% must be post-consumer material.
- 5.5 Shrink film case wrap must contain a minimum of:
 - (a) 20% post-consumer material;
 - (b) of which at least 10% must be household post-consumer material.
- 5.6 Industrial stretch wrap must contain a minimum of 20% post-consumer material.
- 5.7 Drum and other liners must contain a minimum of:
 - (a) 50% recycled material;
 - (b) of which at least 20% must be post-consumer material;
 - (c) of which at least 10% must be household post-consumer material.
- 5.8 Construction films must contain a minimum of:
 - (a) 50% recycled material;
 - (b) of which at least 20% must be post-consumer material;
 - (c) of which at least 10% must be household post-consumer material.
- 5.9 Agricultural films must contain a minimum of:
 - (a) 20% recycled material;
 - (b) of which at least 5% must be household post-consumer material.
- 5.10 Agricultural mulch films must contain a minimum of:
 - (a) 25% recycled material;
 - (b) of which at least 5% must be household post-consumer material.

Verification

- 6. To verify a claim that a product meets the criteria listed in the guideline, the Environmental Choice 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.

7. 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 Environmental Choice Program shall be advised in writing immediately by the licensee of any noncompliance which may occur during the term of the license. On the occurrence of any noncompliance, the license may be suspended or terminated as stipulated in the license agreement.

Conditions for EcoLogo Use

8. The EcoLogo may appear on wholesale or retail packaging, or on the product itself, provided that the product meets the requirements in this guideline.
9. It is recommended that a criteria statement appear with the EcoLogo whenever the EcoLogo is used in association with the **polyethylene plastic film product(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 criteria statement must be specific to the product's sub-category.

For sub-category 2(a), the recommended criteria statement is "Garbage Bags";

for sub-category 2(b), the recommended criteria statement is "Grocery Sacks";

for sub-category 2(c), the recommended criteria statement is "Retail Sacks";

for sub-category 2(d), the recommended criteria statement is "Shipping Sack";

for sub-category 2(e), the recommended criteria statement is "Shrink Film Case Wrap";

for sub-category 2(f), the recommended criteria statement is "Stretch Wrap";

for sub-category 2(g), the recommended criteria statement is either "Drum Liner;" or "[other] Liner;" as appropriate;

for sub-category 2(h), the recommended criteria statement is "Construction Film";

for sub-category 2(i), the recommended criteria statement is "Agricultural Film"; and

for sub-category 2(j), the recommended criteria statement is "Agricultural Mulch Film".

The licensee may propose other wording for the criteria statement, but any such proposed wording must be approved by the Environmental Choice Program.

10. All licensees and authorized users must comply with the Environmental Choice Program's *Guide to Proper Use of the EcoLogo^M* regarding the format and usage of the EcoLogo.
11. Any accompanying advertising must conform with the relevant requirements stipulated in this guideline, the license agreement and the Environmental Choice Program's *Guide to Proper Use of the EcoLogo^M*.

***For additional copies of this guideline or for more information about the Environmental Choice Program, please contact: TerraChoice Environmental Marketing Inc.,
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Table 1

Summary of Minimum Recycled Content Requirements

Sub-Category	Minimum Recycled Content Requirements (%)		
	(a) Total Recycled Material	(b) Post-consumer portion of (a)	(c) Household post- consumer portion of (b)
Garbage Bags	not specified	20	10
Grocery Carry-out Sacks	not specified	20	10
Retail Sacks	not specified	20	10
Industrial Shipping Sacks	25	10	not specified
Shrink Film Case Wrap	not specified	20	10
Industrial Stretch Wrap	not specified	20	not specified
Drum and Other Liners	50	20	10
Construction Films	50	20	10
Agricultural Films	20	not specified	5
Agricultural Mulch Films	25	not specified	5

Note: Post-consumer material includes household post-consumer material.

EcoLogo™ Program Interpretation Document CCD-126

Clarification of Requirements for Recycled Materials



Basis for Interpretation

The EcoLogo™ Standard for Plastic Film Products, CCD-126, includes requirements for recycled content in products. The purpose of this Interpretation is to clarify those requirements and to introduce a slight change to the definition of household post-consumer material to reflect increasing availability of collection programs from apartments and the option of direct collection from households.

Interpretation

Original Definition:

"household post-consumer material" means material collected from curbside and depot collection programs serving individual households and apartments;

Revised Definition:

"household post-consumer material" means a material which has served its end-use at the household consumer level and has been collected from households directly or through curbside and depot collection programs serving individual households and apartments.

In addition to the definition revision, we have clarified the requirements for recycled content as follows. Note: there is no change in the requirements themselves, edits were made to improve clarity.

<u>Former Wording</u>	<u>New Wording</u>
5.1 Garbage bags must contain a minimum of: (a) 20% post-consumer material; (b) of which at least 10% must be household post-consumer material.	5.1 Garbage bags must contain a minimum of 20% post-consumer material, of which at least 50% of the post-consumer material must be household post-consumer material.
5.2 Grocery carry-out sacks must: (a) conform to the requirements of the PFMAC's <i>Performance Test For Plastic Grocery Carry-out Sacks</i> ; and (b) contain a minimum of: (i) 20% post-consumer material; (ii) of which at least 10% must be household post-consumer material.	5.2 Grocery carry-out sacks must: (a) conform to the requirements of the PFMAC's <i>Performance Test For Plastic Grocery Carry-out Sacks</i> ; and (b) contain a minimum of 20% post-consumer material; of which at least 50% of the post-consumer material must be household post-consumer material.
5.3 Retail sacks must contain a minimum of: (a) 20% post-consumer material; (b) of which at least 10% must be household post-consumer material.	5.3 Retail sacks must contain a minimum of 20% post-consumer material of which at least 50% of the post-consumer material must be household post-consumer material.

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Clarification of Requirements for Recycled Materials



Former Wording	New Wording
<p>5.4 Industrial shipping sacks must contain a minimum of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) 25% recycled material; (b) of which at least 10% must be post-consumer material. 	<p>5.4 Industrial shipping sacks must contain a minimum of 25% recycled material; of which at least 40% of the recycled material must be post-consumer material.</p>
<p>5.5 Shrink film case wrap must contain a minimum of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) 20% post-consumer material; (b) of which at least 10% must be household post-consumer material. 	<p>5.5 Shrink film case wrap must contain a minimum of 20% post-consumer material; of which at least 50% of the post-consumer material must be household post-consumer material.</p>
<p>5.6 Industrial stretch wrap must contain a minimum of 20% post-consumer material.</p>	<p>5.6 Industrial stretch wrap must contain a minimum of 20% post-consumer material.</p>
<p>5.7 Drum and other liners must contain a minimum of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) 50% recycled material; (b) of which at least 20% must be post-consumer material; (c) of which at least 10% must be household post-consumer material. 	<p>5.7 Drum and other liners must contain a minimum of 50% recycled material;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (b) of which at least 40% must be post-consumer material; (c) of which at least 20% must be household post-consumer material.
<p>5.8 Construction films must contain a minimum of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) 50% recycled material; (b) of which at least 20% must be post-consumer material; (c) of which at least 10% must be household post-consumer material. 	<p>5.8 Construction films must contain a minimum of 50% recycled material;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (b) of which at least 40% of the recycled material must be post-consumer material; (c) of which at least 20% of the recycled material must be household post-consumer material.
<p>5.9 Agricultural films must contain a minimum of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) 20% recycled material; (b) of which at least 5% must be household post-consumer material. 	<p>5.9 Agricultural films must contain a minimum of 20% recycled material of which at least 25% of the recycled material must be household post-consumer material.</p>
<p>5.10 Agricultural mulch films must contain a minimum of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) 25% recycled material; (b) of which at least 5% must be household post-consumer material. 	<p>5.10 Agricultural mulch films must contain a minimum of 25% recycled material of which at least 20% of the recycled material must be household post-consumer material.</p>

EcoLogo™ Program Interpretation Document CCD-126 Clarification of Requirements for Recycled Materials



Affected EcoLogo Standards:

This interpretation applies only to CCD-126, Plastic Film Products

For further clarification as to this interpretation document, please contact the EcoLogo Program at 1-800-478-0399