

Frequently Asked Questions about Safer Choice Packaging Criteria (9/2014)

Below, we provide answers to questions frequently asked about the packaging criteria. If you have other questions or need further clarification please contact your third-party profiler or Safer Choice. Safer Choice greatly appreciates your partnership.

When were the packaging criteria added to the Safer Choice Standard?

The packaging criteria were finalized in April 2011.

What do I need to submit?

Partners need to submit:

- Documentation that 25% of the primary packaging (packaging in direct contact with the labeled products) meets ONE of the six sustainability criteria.

AND

- Documentation that the primary packaging (packaging in direct contact with the labeled products) does not contain intentionally added heavy metals, BPA, or phthalates.

Do I need to address each of the six sustainability criteria?

No, the criteria only require 25% to be met in one of the six sustainability criteria. We encourage partners to exceed the 25% level and maximize their sustainable packaging opportunities.

What are examples for each of the six sustainability criteria developed by the Sustainable Packaging Coalition (<http://www.sustainablepackaging.org>)?

Criteria	Example
Is sourced, manufactured, transported, and recycled using renewable energy	Packaging is delivered by hybrid fuel truck. Packaging plant purchases wind/solar/hydroelectric power.
Optimizes the use of renewable or recycled source materials	Packaging contains post consumer recycled content. Packaging is produced from bio-based resins.
Is manufactured using clean production technologies and best practices	Packaging contains regrind.
Is made from materials healthful in all probable end-of-life scenarios	Packaging is recyclable, for example, HDPE resin.

Criteria	Example
Is physically designed to optimize materials and energy	Packaging uses less resin than alternative, for example, by replacing pails with bag-in-box or by delivering product in tanker trucks instead of 265 gallon containers.
Is effectively recovered and used in biological and/or industrial closed-loop cycles	Packaging is collected by partner for reuse. Bulk containers are returned and refilled.

Who should the documentation come from?

Information on the packaging should come from the packaging or resin supplier.

If the supplier is unknown in the case of tanker trucks or other reusable bulk packaging, the partner may submit the statement that they are not intentionally adding any heavy metals, BPA, or phthalates (sustainability documentation not required for tanker trucks or other reusable bulk packaging).

Do I need to submit information on cardboard cartons, labels, or caps?

Only submit information on the packaging that is in direct contact with the labeled product, excluding incidental contact like funnels and caps.

What should the documentation look like?

Signed statements on packaging/resin supplier letterhead are ideal. Standard resin disclosures and emails from packaging/resin suppliers are also acceptable. Emails/statements from partners who do not have control over the resin are not acceptable.



Packaging Company

July 24, 2013

To Whom it May Concern:

This letter is to certify that our product (HDPE bottles, part number 1234567) is not manufactured with or known to contain any heavy metals such as lead, mercury, cadmium, or hexavalent chromium. The incidental levels are less than 100 PPM.

In addition, Packaging Company verifies that we do not intentionally add Bisphenol-A or phthalates to our materials at any time during processing in our facilities.

Please feel free to contact me at (543) 555-0150 if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

Regulatory Affairs

Regulatory Affairs Contact

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Townsville, State 54321 USA
(543) 555-0150 (800) 555-0150
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Other questions?

Please contact saferchoice@epa.gov.