Eco Labelling Criteria for Printers & Photo Copiers



National Cleaner Production Centre, Sri Lanka



1. Introduction

1.1 The Certification Scheme for Eco Labelling of Products/Services of the National Cleaner Production Centre, Sri Lanka (NCPC-SL) is based on the requirements laid down in the ISO 14024:2018 Environmental Labels and Declarations - Type 1 environmental labelling – Principles and Procedures.

ISO 14024 specifies the requirements for eco-labeling certification. The Eco Labelling criteria /s of NCPC SL satisfy the ISO 14024 requirements as required by the eco-labelling certification schemes. Here are the key requirements fulfilled accordingly;

- Scope: The eco-labeling certification scheme covers specific product categories/services with a significant impact on the environment.
- Product Criteria: Clear and transparent environmental criteria has been established for products/ services to be eligible for the eco-label. These criteria has been based on scientific evidence and consider the entire product life cycle.
- Independent Third-Party Verification: NCPC SL conduct independent third-party verification of compliance with the eco-labeling criteria.
- Impartiality: The certification process is impartial and free from any conflicts of interest that could undermine its credibility.
- Transparency: The eco-labeling scheme has provided transparent information about the certification process, criteria, and verification procedures.
- Continuous Improvement: The scheme encourages continuous improvement in the environmental performance of certified products /services.
- Stakeholder Involvement: Stakeholders, including businesses, NGOs, consumers, and government representatives, has been involved in the development and revision of the ecolabeling criteria.
- Non-Discrimination: The certification scheme has not discriminated against products or services from different sources based on factors unrelated to environmental performance.
- Compliance Monitoring: Regular monitoring and surveillance of certified products or services has been conducted to ensure ongoing compliance with eco-labeling criteria.
- Public Access to Information: Information about the eco-labeling scheme, certified products, and their environmental criteria shall be accessible to the public.
- Environmental Labeling and Advertising: The use of the eco-label in advertising or labeling has been controlled and subject to the certification scheme's rules.
- Review and Revision: The certification scheme should undergo periodic review and revision to ensure its relevance and effectiveness.

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- **1.2** This document sets out specific managerial and technical criteria for raw material acquisition, transporting, production, and dispatching printers & photocopiers for sale. Terminologies and aspects related to the concepts of sustainability management are covered during the involved processes. The aspects related to sustainability management described in this document can include environmental impacts, energy, and water security, socio-economic development, or any combination thereof.
- **1.3** The certification of Eco Labelling of printers & photocopiers is implemented through a set programme operated over a specified period as agreed upon with relevant parties. The NCPC-SL functions as the scheme owner of this certification scheme. This document includes environmental criteria, functional characteristics, and legal requirements related to printers & photocopier manufacturing.
- 1.4 This specific product environmental criteria document has been prepared by the Expert Committee on Eco Labelling appointed by the NCPC-SL and authorized for adoption by the Board of Directors of NCPC-SL. The printer & photocopier manufacturers who are seeking eco-labeling certification are required to meet the following requirements.
 - I. The product and processing conditions shall comply with the requirements given in the below NCPC-SL guidelines;

and

II. The product and processing shall comply with relevant regulations mentioned in this document and enforced in the country, as applicable;

and

- III. The product should conform to the relevant national, regional, and internationally recognized standards
- 1.5 This document supplements the below guidelines and provides guidance for the certification of printer & photocopier for both Assessors and Producers who are preparing for certification. Each criterion mentioned herein is categorized depending on the significance of its impact on the product environmental criterion or product function characteristic being discussed, e.g. energy, water, environment, or socio-development, as follows.
 - I. Mandatory requirements (M) Related to the legal requirements and product functional characteristics
 - II. Critical requirements (C) Significant to product environmental criteria
 - III. Non-critical requirements (NC) Not so significant to product environmental criteria when compared to critical requirements

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- **1.6** This document should also be read in conjunction with the Rules and Procedures of NCPC-SL as applicable to the Eco Labelling Certification scheme.
- **1.7** This document will be periodically reviewed and updated based on the experience gained and the developments that have taken place in technology and the use of energy, water, material, and the environment. The term 'shall' is used in this document to indicate those provisions which are mandatory. The term 'must' is used to indicate the guidance that, although not mandatory, is provided by NCPC-SL as a recognized means of meeting the requirements of the standard. The term 'should' is used to indicate recommendations for implementation.
- **1.8** The client should submit the relevant pieces of evidence for conformity verification for the last calendar year.
- **1.9** Only test reports generated by laboratories accredited according to ISO/IEC 17025, which outlines the general requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories, will be considered valid. Additionally, verifications in the form of LCA reports, EMS Certifications and Waste management certifications will be accepted if they adhere to specified limit values.
- **1.10** For process-related verifications across different sections, the relevant test reports should not exceed two years from the application date. Similarly, the necessary test reports for assessing the ingredients within the materials incorporated into the products and evaluating the product's suitability for use in various sections should not be older than one year at the time of application.

2. References

In the preparation of this criteria document, the following documents were referred;

- 2.1 ISO 14020 Environmental labels and declarations General principles
- **2.2** ISO 14024 Environmental labels and declarations- Type 1 environmental labeling– Principles and procedures
- 2.3 Guidelines for Providing Product Sustainability Information, UN Environment Programme, 2017

3. Terms and Definitions

For the purpose of this document, the terms and definitions given in the referred standards and the following shall apply.

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3.1 Conformity: Fulfillment of a requirement

Note: Conformance and compliance are synonymously used for conformity but deprecated.

- **3.2 Verification:** Confirmation through the provision of objective evidence that specified requirements have been fulfilled.
- 3.3 Organization: The Applicant organization is hereinafter referred to as an organization
- **3.4 Photo Copier:** A product whose sole function is to produce paper duplicates from paper originals. This definition is intended to cover products that are marketed as photo copiers, and upgradeable digital copiers (UDCs)
- **3.5 Printer:** A product whose primary function is to generate paper output from electronic input. A printer is capable of receiving information from single-user or networked computers, or other input devices (e.g., digital cameras). This definition is intended to cover products that are marketed as printers, and printers that can be field-upgraded to meet the definition of an MFD
- **3.6 MFD:** A product that performs the core functions of a Printer or scanner. An MFD may have a physically integrated form factor, or it may consist of a combination of functionally integrated components. MFD copy functionality is considered to be distinct from single-sheet convenience copying functionality sometimes offered by fax machines. This definition is intended to cover products marketed as MFDs, and "multi-function products" (MFPs).
- **3.7 Prescribed constituent**: A material component added for the intended purpose of giving certain characteristics to a product. Impurities of 0.1 wt% or less that are technically unavoidable in the manufacturing process are not included.
- **3.**8 **General-purpose tools:** Widely used, commercially available tools.

4. Certification Criteria

The criteria are aimed, particularly, at identifying products with a reduced environmental impact throughout their entire life cycle. These criteria focus on specific enhancements that enable products to be: sourced from more sustainable practices, manufactured with heightened resource and energy efficiency, produced through cleaner and less polluting processes, composed of fewer hazardous substances, and designed and specified for superior quality and durability. The criteria established for awarding the Ecolabel - Sri Lanka to Printers & Photo copy machines encompass these aforementioned aspects, thereby encouraging the promotion of products that exhibit enhanced performance in these domains.

5. Applicable Scope

This product category is mainly intended for photocopiers, and printers, that are used in offices or at home, and multifunctional devices having more than one of those functions. For photocopiers, or printers covered that adopts any of such printing methods as Electrophotographic, Ink Jet, High Performance IJ, Direct Thermal, Dye Sublimation, Impact, Solid Ink or Thermal Transfer, and that is mainly used for copying/printing on sheets whose size is A3+ or smaller.

Note that notwithstanding of the above, application of any equipment capable of accommodating any paper size greater than A3+ shall also be acceptable, as far as it meets all corresponding criteria items of this product category

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Certification Criteria Requirements	Weighting Factor	Marks
1. Product Design for Sustainability		
 a) Products must be designed to minimize environmental impact throughout their lifecycle, The following requirements must be met. Including modular design Easy disassembly and repair Reuse of parts used in equipment 	С	5
Conformity Verification: Product catalogues On-site Verification 		
 b) Equipment casing parts, chassis, electric/electronic assemblies, and colorant modules must be made of mutually compatible materials for easy recyclability and reusability. Conformity Verification: 	с	5
> Documentation of material compatibility and recyclability assessments.		
 c) Glued or welded joints must not be allowed between different materials unless technically required. Conformity Verification: Verification reports detailing the types of joints used and justifications for any permanent joints. Hardware configuration diagram 	с	5
 d) Easily detachable mechanical joints should be used in the equipment. Conformity Verification: Documentation and visual inspection reports of mechanical joints. 	NC	3
 e) Easy disassembly of equipment by general-purpose tools for recycling should be ensured, which can be carried out by hand or by machine. Conformity Verification: Fechnical documentation showing disassembly process. 	NC	3
 f) Individual plastic casing parts over 25g should be consisted of a single polymer or polymer blend. Conformity Verification: Material composition records Display of supplier 	NC	3

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 g) All plastic parts used in the plastic casings should not exceed four separable polymers or polymer blends. Conformity Verification: Detailed material composition records. 	NC	3
 h) The use of coatings for parts must be reduced to a minimum. If applied, an appropriate reason must be given. Galvanic coatings are not permissible. Conformity Verification: ➢ Documentation on the use and purpose of coatings. 	С	5
 i) Parts and materials that may contain any hazardous substances must be easily identifiable or removable. Conformity Verification: ➢ Hazardous substance identification records and removal instructions. 	С	5
 j) Recyclable Components: The percentage of recycled material to the total plastic weight should be constantly 5% at a minimum Conformity Verification: ▶ Recycling rate analysis report ▶ Self-declaration 	NC	3
 k) Equipment that does not allow reuse of a module for colourant must not be attached to the module. Conformity Verification ▶ Design documents of colourant 	С	5
 I) Equipment must have the capability of reducing paper usage (reduced printing, page layout printing, etc.) in a printer driver, etc. the following requirements shall be met; Duplexing function Supporting for thin paper (~70 gsm) Different sizes & layouts (A5 & etc.) Conformity Verification Features manual 	С	5
2. Raw Material Extraction		
 a) Raw materials must be sourced from suppliers adhering to sustainable practices, such as recycled content. Conformity Verification: Supplier certificates/ declarations confirming sustainable sourcing Recycled plastic % into the construction EPD 	С	5

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3. Energy Consumption and Conservation		
 a) Operational Energy Efficiency: Printers and photocopiers must meet the maximum allowable typical energy consumption value (TECMZul) for energy consumption. Conformity Verification: Energy consumption test results Typical Energy Consumption The maximum allowable typical energy consumption value (TECMZul) depends on the page throughput (SM). The calculation of the maximum TEC value is defined in Annexure 01. 	С	5
 b) Standby and Sleep Modes: Devices must have effective low-power modes to reduce energy usage when not in active use. <i>Ex:</i> <i>The device must not have more than 2 watts of power consumption, except for devices with a wireless access point, must not have more than 3 watts of power consumption.</i> Conformity Verification: > Onsite measurement for standby power consumption using single phase power meter > Technical specifications and test reports on low-power modes. 	С	5
 c) Energy STAR Compliance: For office printers and photocopiers should be met the requirements of ENERGY STAR® Product Specification Conformity Verification: ENERGY STAR certification and compliance reports. Version 03 or locally acceptable energy rating Available in the ENERGY STAR product registry 		3
4. Recyclability of Material		
 a) Equipment must contain at least 5g of recycled plastics made from post-consumer recycled material or reused plastic parts. Conformity Verification: > Records of recycled material usage and content analysis. 	С	5
 b) Equipment must contain at least 1% of recycled plastics made from post-consumer recycled material or reused plastic parts, or a combination of both. Conformity Verification: > Documentation of material content and supplier certifications. 	С	5

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5. Functional life of the product		
 a) Longevity: Products must be designed to have a long useful life, with design to long lasting materials and construction. Conformity Verification: Warranty documentation. Product life defined by the manufacturer Service continuation agreements Providing manual or data showing the manufacturers provide repair option and spare parts service 	С	5
 b) In every contract for the supply of printers, copiers, or related services, there should be an implied warranty that for service Quality, Material suitability, Standards Compliance and purpose fitness. Service Quality: The services provided, including maintenance, repair, and installation, shall be conducted with due care and skill to ensure the equipment's optimal performance. Material Suitability: Any materials supplied in connection with these services, such as replacement parts, cartridges, or accessories, shall be reasonably fit for the purpose for which they are supplied, ensuring compatibility and effectiveness with the equipment. Standards Compliance: The goods supplied, including printers, copiers, and their components, as well as the services provided, shall conform to the relevant standards and specifications determined under Section 12 of the Consumer Affairs Authority Act. This ensures that the products meet the required quality and sofety standards. Purpose Fitness: The printers, copiers, and related services provided must be reasonably fit for the purpose for which they are supplied. This includes ensuring that the equipment functions as expected and meets the consumer's needs as specified at the time of purchase. (Reference: Point 31 Consumer Affairs Authority Act, No.9 of 2003) Conformity Verification: Records of service contracts and warranties provided with the equipment A system for monitoring customer feedback and addressing complaints related to the quality of goods and services should be in place Supplier Declarations (Statements or certificates from suppliers confirming that the goods and services provided meet the necessary standards and are fit for their intended purpose) 	NC	3
6. Other Resource Consumption		
 a) Consumables: replaceable and high-yield cartridges must be used to reduce waste. Conformity Verification: Specifications for consumables and their recycling programs. Instructions manual (Ex: for using high yield cartridges) 	С	5
 b) Batteries: easy replacement/ easily removable of batteries should be ensured to extend the equipment's life. Conformity Verification: ➢ Design documentation showing battery replacement features. 	NC	3

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c) Weight and Volume Reduction: Devices should be designed with weight and volume reduction in mind.	NC	Э
Conformity Verification:	NC	3
7. Disposal at end-of-life phase		
a) End-of-Life Management: Take-back system and recycling programs		
should be established for end-of-life products.		
Conformity Verification:	NC	3
Details of take-back and recycling programs.		
 b) Proper handling and disposal of any hazardous materials must be ensured. 		
 In manufacturing phase, the applying product, related environmental laws and regulations and pollution control agreement 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 user phase, Instruction manuals (user manuals) are provided to users proper 	С	5
handling and disposal of any hazardous materials		
Conformity Verification:		
Documented information on hazardous waste management practices.		
c) Material Recycling of Cartridges (<i>Applicable only for cartridges which are supplied by the own company or under control or influence of same company):</i> Systems for material recycling of toner cartridges or ink cartridges must be in place, with a reuse/material recycling rate of 50% or more for toner cartridges, and 40% or more for ink cartridges.		
	С	5
 Conformity Verification: Recycling system documentation and recovery rate reports 		
 Agreement with waste management party 		
The dealer should take the responsibility for same brand cartridge recollection		
d) High Recovery Rate: The recovery rate of collected toner cartridges, ink		
cartridges, toner containers, or ink containers must be 95% or more of the total weight of collected used products.		
<pre>Conformity Verification:</pre>	С	5



8. Packaging		
 a) Minimal Packaging: Packaging must be as simple as possible and environmental friendly considerate of reuse and environmental burden when disposed of. Conformity Verification: 	С	5
 Inspection level verification (ie; reusable/ recyclable or recycled packing materials,) Packaging material documentation and compliance records 		
9. Health & Safety		
 a) Polymer containing halogen must not be used for plastic casing parts. In addition, organohalogen compounds as flame retardants shall not be added as prescribed constituents. However, this item shall not apply to a part that falls under one or more of the following a. to e.: a. Fluoroorganic additives (for example, anti-dripping agents, etc.) used to improve the physical properties of plastics, provided that they do not exceed 0.5wt%. b. Fluoroplastics, for example, PTFE, etc c. Plastic materials of 25g or less (this criterion applies to control panel keys even if it weighs 25g or less.) d. Plastic parts installed adjacent to heating and fusing units. e. Large-sized reused plastic parts 	C	5
Conformity Verification: Material composition records and supplier declarations.		
 b) Organohalogen compounds as flame retardants must not be added as prescribed constituents. Conformity Verification: Supplier certificates Material safety data sheets (MSDS). 	С	5
 c) Devices must comply with limits on hazardous substance emissions during operation. Annexure 02: A table with limits of hazardous substances for electrophotographic devices 	С	5
Conformity Verification:Emission test results and compliance reports.		

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d)	Cadmium, lead, mercury, selenium, and their compounds must not be added as prescribed constituents to photoconductor drums used in the product. (Annexure 03)	С	5
\triangleright	rmity Verification: Material safety data sheets (MSDS) Supplier declarations.		
e)	Toner cartridges or toner containers must be sealed to prevent leaks during storage, transport, and handling.		
	mity Verification:	С	5
	Design documentation Compliance shall be indicated in the certificate.		
f)	Toners, inks, or solid inks shall not contain substances in certain hazard categories and shall not use azo coloring agents that generate carcinogenic aromatic amines. (Annexure 04)	_	_
	rmity Verification: Material safety data sheets (MSDS) Compliance reports	С	5
10. Us	ser Information and Support		
a)	Information on Collection and Recycling: information on collection, reuse, recycling, and disposal of equipment and consumables must be provided.	С	5
\succ	rmity Verification: User manuals (in three languages, acc to consumer affairs authority) Website information	-	
b)	Energy and Resource Saving: information on reducing energy and resource consumption, including details on automatic duplexing and power consumption based on ENERGY STAR or relevant standards must be provided.	С	5
	mity Verification:		
) <u>></u>	User manuals and technical specifications. Health Impact Information: information on potential health impacts and recommendations for use, such as ventilation advice during mass copying/printing must be provided.		
	ormity Verification: User manuals Safety guidelines (in three languages)	С	5

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 d) Traders and suppliers shall ensure that all information provided about printers, copiers, and related services is accurate and truthful. This includes the following: Product and Service Claims Pricing and Warranties Conformity Verification: Promotional Materials Customer Complaints Records (Reference: Point 32 Consumer Affairs Authority Act, No.9 of 2003) 	М	
11. General Requirements		
a) Environmental Management System/s should be implemented in the organization	NC	3
 Conformity verification Valid ISO 14001 EMS certificate Records on Environmental Management Policy, procedures, and environmental management programmes are maintained Note: In case of imported products. The manufacturer's factory must have certified ISO 14001 environmental management system 		
b) A Documented Environmental Management Roadmap should be developed to address the potential environmental problems of the organization	NC	3
Conformity verification Environment management roadmap of the organization		
12. Legal Requirements		
a) The Environmental Protection License (EPL) shall be obtained and implemented all its requirements	Μ	
Conformity verification Valid Environmental Protection License is available 		
b) All production activities and products shall comply with the requirements of the relevant national legislation in Sri Lanka	Μ	
Conformity verification Compilation of all the applicable Environmental and other Regulations (Labour Laws) are maintained 		
c) Business registration shall be obtained and implemented all its requirements	М	
Conformity verification		
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13. Continuous Improvement and Innovation		
a) Research and development focused on improving the sustainability of the printers & photocopiers production process, from raw material sourcing to end-of-life should be encouraged.	NC	3
Conformity Verification		
Documentation of R&D projects, and investments in sustainable technologies.		

Annexure 01:

<u>Typical Energy Consumption The maximum allowable typical energy consumption</u> <u>value (TECMZul) depends on the page throughput (SM)</u>

Table 1. Maximum typical energy consumption values (TECMZuI) for monochrome printers.

Page throughput	TEC _{MZu} [kWh/week]
S _M ≤ 25	0,95 +15/100000 x SM
SM > 25	0,35 +105/100000 x SM ²

Table 2. Maximum typical energy consumption values (TECMZuI) for color printers.

Page throughput	TECMZuI [kWh/week]
SM ≤ 25	1,05 +665/100000 x S M ^{1,4}
SM > 25	0,85 +145/100000 x SM ²

Table 3. Maximum typical energy consumption values (TEC_{MZu}) for monochrome multifunction devices.

Page throughput	TECMZuI [kWh/week]
SM ≤ 25	1,35 +30/100000 x S M ^{1,8}
SM > 25	0,8 +105/100000 x SM ²

Table 4. Maximum typical energy consumption values (TECMZuI) for color multifunction devices.

Page throughput	TECMZuI [kWh/week]
SM ≤ 25	1,3 +650/100000 x S M ^{1,3}
SM > 25	0,9 +145/100000 x SM ²

Note: The multifunction printing device is All in one printer that combines the functionality of multiple devices in the same package, including printer, copier, fax machines and scanners, etc. There may be different components for each model.

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Annexure 02- Permissible Test Values for Emission Rates of Hazardous substances during operation

				Emission Rat	te (mg/h)	
		≤ A3+*		A2≤ and ≤ A0+*	>A0+*	
			Monochro me Printing	Color Printing	Monochro me Color Printin g	Monochro me / Color Printin g
Pre-operating Phase	тvос	Desktop Devices	≤ 1.0	≤ 1.0	≤ 2.0	≤ 2.8
		Floor-mounted Devices, Device Volume >250L	≤ 2.0	≤ 2.0		
	TVOC		≤ 10	≤ 18	≤ 39	≤ 55
	Benzen	е	< 0.05	< 0.05	< 0.2	< 0.3
Print Phase (= Pre- operating + Print Phase)	Styrene		≤ 1.0	≤ 1.8	≤ 4.7	≤ 6.6
	Unidentified Single Substances VOC		≤ 0.9	≤ 0.9	≤ 2.0	≤ 2.8
	Ozone		≤ 1.5	≤ 3.0	≤ 7.8	≤ 11
	Dust**		≤ 4.0	≤ 4.0	≤ 16	≤ 22

* Maximum Print Width

** Suspended particulate matters detected according to DE-UZ219 Appendix S-M. Color printing equipment shall be measured in color mode and monochrome printing equipment shall be measured in monochrome mode

Annexure 03: Content rate

Material	Content rate[wt%]
Lead and its compounds	0.1
Mercury and its compounds	0.1
Cadmium and its compounds	0.01
Hexavalent chromium compounds	0.1
Polybrominated biphenyl (PBB)	0.1
Polybrominated diphenylether (PBDE)	0.1
Bis(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate(DEHP)	0.1
Butyl benzyl phthalate (BBP)	0.1
Dibutyl phthalate(DBP)	0.1
Diisobutyl phthalate(DIBP)	0.1

* The content rate refers to the content proportion in a homogeneous substance (minimum unit that can be separated by rule with totally uniform composition).



Annexure 04: Amines that must not be generated due to the reduction of azo groups

	Substances	CAS No.
1	4-aminobiphenyl	92-67-1
	Benzedrine	92-87-5
3	4-chloro-o-toluidine	95-69-2
	2-naphthylamine	91-59-8
5	<i>o</i> -aminoazotoluene	97-56-3
6	2-amino-4-nitrotoluene	99-55-8
7	<i>p</i> -chloroaniline	106-47-8
8	2,4-diaminoanisole	615-05-4
9	4,4'-diaminodiphenylmethane	101-77-9
10	3,3'-dichlorbenzidine	91-94-1
11	3,3'-dimethoxybenzidine	119-90-4
	3,3'-dimethylbenzidine	119-93-7
13	4,4'-diamino-3,3' –dimethyldiphenylmethane	838-88-0
	<i>p</i> -cresidine	120-71-8
15	4,4'-Methylene-bis – (2-Chloroaniline)	101-14-4
16	4,4'-oxydianiline	101-80-4
17	4,4'-4-Aminophenyl Sulfide Bis	139-65-1
18	<i>o</i> -toluidine	95-53-4
19	2,4-diaminotoluene	95-80-7
20	2,4,5-trimethylaniline	137-17-7
21	<i>o</i> -anisidine	90-04-0
22	4-aminoazobenzene	60-09-3

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USERS

This criteria document contains 44 requirements; 04 Mandatory requirements, 27 critical requirements, and 13 noncritical requirements. marks are allocated for each criterion except Mandatory criteria. At least 70% of the total marks allocation for the criteria shall be scored by the applicant for being successful in the Eco Labelling certification process.

Requirements	Total Marks
Critical (C)	135
Non-Critical (NC)	39

Total Marks Allocation = 174

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Mandatory Requirements

When the adequacy audit of the organization's application is conducted, there shall be no non-compliance related to the mandatory requirements, and if any nonconformity is reported during the adequacy audit stage or the certificate audit, a major nonconformity will be raised, and that shall be corrected within two months of the certification Audit.

Critical Requirements

If any violation of critical requirements is found during the verification visit, a minor nonconformity will be raised, and suitable corrective action shall be taken within two months.

Non-critical Requirements

If any non-compliance of non-critical requirements is found during the certification Audit, it will be considered as an observation for the improvement. The effectiveness of the corrective actions taken for the observations raised will be audited in the next surveillance audit.

Note: Until the non-conformities are addressed, the marks should not be released to the governing council, and the certificate should not be granted

Guideline for Marks Allocation;

The below guidelines are to be followed while assessing the implementation of criteria requirements. Marks allocation should be based on the level of implementation and the availability of sufficient evidence.

- ✓ Criteria 1: Full Marks allocation:
 - The criteria requirement has been fully implemented.
 - If sufficient evidence exists, the full marks mentioned in the mark's column can be given.
- ✓ Criteria 2: 70%-80% Marks (Improvement Opportunities)
 - The criteria requirement has been fully implemented.
 - However, sufficient evidence does not exist or has not been maintained.
 - In such cases, 80% of the allocated marks can be given.
- ✓ Criteria 3: 60%-50% Marks (Improvement Opportunities)
 - The criteria requirement has been implemented partially.
 - If sufficient evidence exists, 50% of the allocated marks can be given.

✓ Criteria 4: 30%- 20% Marks (Improvement Opportunities)

- The criteria requirement has been implemented partially.
- However, sufficient evidence does not exist or has not been maintained.
- In such cases, 30% of the allocated marks can be given.
- ✓ Criteria 5: 0 Marks Non-Conformity (Critical Requirement)
 - The criteria requirement has not been implemented.
 - If it's a critical (C) requirement, it must be raised as a Non-Conformity.
 - In this case, 0 marks should be given.
- ✓ Criteria 6: 0 Marks Observation (Non-Critical Requirement)
 - The criteria requirement has not been implemented.
 - If it's a non-critical (NC) requirement, it must be raised as an observation.
 - In this case, 0 marks should be given.

During the mark allocation process, the team of auditors engages in discussions based on the audit findings, which include document reviews, observations, interviews, and other relevant sources of information. These discussions serve to ensure accuracy and prevent inconsistencies in the marks assigned. By collectively evaluating the evidence and considering different perspectives, the team strives to reach a consensus on the appropriate allocation of marks. This collaborative approach helps to enhance the fairness and reliability of the mark allocation process, allowing for a more comprehensive and well-rounded assessment.