

# Environmental Choice<sup>M</sup> Program

## CERTIFICATION CRITERIA DOCUMENT

### CCD-099



**Product: Diapers**

#### 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 **diapers** under the auspices of the Environmental Choice<sup>M</sup> Program (ECP).

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.

Approximately 1.7 billion disposable **diapers** are used each year in Canada, accounting for 85% of the diaper market.

It is estimated that each year 250,000 tonnes of disposable **diapers** end up in the garbage. This represents approximately 2.5% of the municipal solid waste stream. No other single consumer product, with the exception of newspapers, beverage and food containers contributes so much to our solid waste. For every consumer dollar spent on disposable **diapers**, there is an additional hidden cost for disposal.

Based on a review of currently available life cycle information, the product category requirements will produce an environmental benefit through **conservation of resources and reduction of the volume of waste in landfill sites.**

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

The Minister of the Environment anticipates that manufacturers or importers of **diapers** 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.

#### 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.





***For more information about the EcoLogo™ Program, please direct your inquiry to:***  
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