

Environmental Choice^M Program

CERTIFICATION CRITERIA DOCUMENT

CCD-122



Product: Plastic Cheese Packaging Film

Preamble

Pursuant to paragraph 54 (1)(b) of the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, the Minister of the Environment is pleased to publish the following national guideline on *plastic cheese packaging film* 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.

A number of plastic film products are available to produce marketers for wrapping cheese and similar food items. The purpose of such wrappings is to preserve the cheese until the final consumer utilizes it, and as such must provide an effective vapour barrier, while allowing sufficient oxygen transfer to prevent spoilage.

While a variety of resins may be employed for food-preserving purposes, some contain chlorine compounds such as polyvinyl chloride or polyvinyl di-chloride. These chlorine-containing resins may pose significant environmental impacts during their production and final disposal, and can produce harmful emissions during combustion. Alternative, chlorine-free resins avoid these impacts.

Almost all resins currently used in plastic food packaging, regardless of their composition are derived from petrochemicals, thus efforts to reduce the overall material used (i.e., “source-reduction”) provides an additional benefit through the reduced use of non-renewable resources.

Based on a review of currently available life cycle information, the product category requirements will produce an environmental benefit through the reduced use of non-renewable resources and reduction of harmful emissions.

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 *plastic cheese packaging films*, 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

Throughout this document, any reference to a standard or guideline means to its latest edition.

The Environmental Choice^M Program (ECP) reserves the right to accept equivalent test data for the test methods specified in this document.

Alternative or sub-categories may be added a future date.

First published: 1996/06

Last revised: 2002/11

Next scheduled review: 2007/2008

Interpretation

1. In this set of requirements, please note the following definitions:

“ASTM” means the Society for Testing and Materials;

“chlorinated resin” means a resin used in the manufacture of a plastic that contains the element chlorine (Cl) within any constituent monomer; such resins include, *inter alia*, polyvinyl chloride (PVC) and polyvinyl dichloride (PVdC);

“oxygen transmission rate” is a film barrier property which means the rate at which oxygen gas is able to permeate through a film;

“source reduced” means a reduction in the overall material used in the manufacture of the product, when compared to the average used in the industry for this product-type; where appropriate, this definition may include reference to the manufacturer’s previous material demands. For the purposes of this Certification Criteria Document, appropriate measures of source reduction may include weight per unit area and/or overall film thickness; and

“water vapour transmission rate” is a film barrier property which means the rate at which water vapour is able to permeate through a film.

General Requirements

2. To be authorized to carry the EcoLogo^M, the *plastic cheese packaging film* must:
- meet or exceed all applicable governmental and industrial safety and performance standards; and
 - be provided 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

3. To be authorized to carry the EcoLogo^M, the *plastic cheese packaging film* must:
- not contain any chlorinated resin in any component layer;
 - be manufactured using materials which offer an overall source reduction of at least 7.5% when measured using a weight per unit area basis;
 - have a maximum weight per unit area of 70 g/m²;
 - allow a maximum water vapour transmission rate of 8.0 g/m²/24 hr, as measured by *ASTM F1249-01: Standard Test Method for Water Vapor Transmission Rate Through Plastic Film and Sheeting Using a Modulated Infrared Sensor*; and
 - when measured by *ASTM D3985-02: Standard Test Method for Oxygen Gas Transmission Rate Through Plastic Film and Sheeting Using a Coulometric Sensor* allow minimum oxygen transmission rates of:

- i) 0.95 cm³/m²/24 hr at 0% relative humidity, and
- ii) 15.8 cm³/m²/24 hr at 85% relative humidity.



Verification

- 4. To verify a claim that a service meets the criteria listed in this document, the ECP 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.
- 5. Compliance with requirement 2(b) shall be attested to by a signed statement of the Chief Executive Officer or the equivalent officer of the licensee. The ECP 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

- 6. The EcoLogo may appear on retail or wholesale products, signs or sign boards, point-of-purchase displays, delivery vehicles, and any accompanying advertising or corporate literature provided the service meets the requirements in this document.
- 7. All licensees and authorized users must comply with the ECP's *Guide to Proper Use of the EcoLogo^M* regarding the format and usage of the EcoLogo.
- 8. Any accompanying advertising must conform with the relevant requirements stipulated in this guideline, the license agreement and the ECP's *Guide to Proper Use of the EcoLogo^M*.
- 9. It is required that a criteria statement appear with the EcoLogo whenever the EcoLogo is used in association with the *plastic cheese packaging film*. 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.

ECP required criteria statement wording for this product type is "*plastic cheese packaging film*". The licensee may propose other wording for the criteria statement (e.g., reference to source reduction and/or chlorine-free content), but any such proposed wording must be approved by the Environmental Choice Program.

	<p>For more information about the EcoLogoTM Program, please direct your inquiry to: The EcoLogoTM Program 171 Nepean Street, Suite 400 Ottawa, ON, K2P 0B4 Phone: 1.800.478.0399 www.ecologo.org</p>	
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