THE RECYCLED MATERIAL STANDARD

Advancing the Use of Recycled Materials

Comparison of Recycled Material Standards

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RMS
RECYCLED MATERIAL STANDARD

Overview

The landscape of standards and recognition programs for verified recycled content is growing, as are standards establishing certificate trading programs aimed at addressing plastic pollution. Each scheme is slightly different in how they have been developed, the participants in the supply chain that are covered, what materials are certified, and the method for calculating and claiming levels of recycled material.

These comparative tables offer a side-by-side evaluation of key factors that will help companies throughout the plastics value chain determine which standard or recognition program best suits their needs. In assembling the information in these tables, the standards or programs themselves were referenced, as well as the comparative assessment report prepared by Eunomia in October of 2021[1].

Standards Comparison – Recycled Material Claims

Standard Development Organization	GreenBlue	UL Environment	SCS Global Services	International Sustainability and Carbon Certification	Association of Plastics Recyclers
Standard or Certification	Recycled Material Standard (RMS)[2]	Environmental Claim Validation Procedure for Recycled Content[3]	Recycled Content Standard V7.0[4]	ISCC PLUS	APR PCR Certification Endorsement Program
Standard developed using ISEAL's Code of Good Practices	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Geography served by the standard	North America Expansion pending	Global	Global	Global	North America APR members only
Eligible Certification Bodies	SCS Global Services More pending	UL	SCS Global Services	Numerous, depends on region	AM Testing, Green Circle, SCS Global Services, UL
Material covered	Framework covers any material supported by a Material Module. Plastic Module exists, additional material modules pending.	Any material	Any material	All types of agricultural and forestry raw materials, waste and residues, non-bio renewables and recycled carbon materials and fuels	Plastic
Activity Covered	Full chain of custody standard	Applies to raw materials, manufactured products and components of manufactured products	Product manufacturer and its supply chain	Full chain of custody standard	Only recyclers of post-consumer recycled plastics

Standards Comparison – Recycled Material Claims (Continued)

Standard Development Organization	GreenBlue	UL Environment	SCS Global Services	International Sustainability and Carbon Certification	Association of Plastics Recyclers
Covers mechanical and chemical recycling	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Includes post-industrial	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Chain of Custody models included	Segregation, Mass Balance, Book and Claim	Segregation, Mass Balance	Segregation, Mass Balance	Segregation, Mass Balance	Varies depending on standard that is endorsed
Group certification	Yes; for small businesses	No	No	Yes; applies only to point of origin, storage or logistics	Depends on standard that is endorsed
Multi-site certification	Yes; mass balance claims can be transferred between certified sites under common ownership	Yes; mass balance claims require physical connectivity	Yes; no mass balance allocation, offers weighted average across multiple locations	No	Depends on standard that is endorsed
Allows free allocation of co-products for chemical recycling	Yes; fuels excluded	Yes; fuels excluded	N/A	Yes; no exclusion for fuels	N/A Only endorses mechanical recycling facilities
Allows temporal negative account balance	No	No	N/A, does not cover mass balance allocation	Yes; up to 3 months	Depends on standard that is endorsed
Affords use of a label	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No; promotion through APR website

Standards Comparison – Plastic Credits and Certificate

Criteria	GreenBlue	Verra	rePurpose
Standard or Certification	Recycled Material Standard (RMS)	Plastic Waste Reduction Standard v1.0[5]	rePurpose Global[6]
Standard developed using ISEAL's Code of Good Practices	Yes	Yes	No; verified Protocol
Geography	North America	Global	Global
Material	Plastic	Plastic	Plastic
Investment target	Recyclers	Collectors and Recyclers	Collectors, Sorting operations, Recyclers
Investment must match materials used	Yes	No	No
Allows "plastic neutrality" claims[7]	No	No	Yes
Requires additionality	Yes	Yes	Yes
Credits maintained and retired through third-party registry	Yes	Yes	No
Affords use of a label	Yes	Yes; through other approved participating standards[8]	Yes

References

[1] *A Comparative Assessment of Standards and Certification Schemes for Verifying Recycled Content in Plastic Products*, Eunomia, October 2021,
https://www.eunomia.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Recycled-Content-Comparative-Assessment_Final.pdf

[2] *Recycled Material Standard*, GreenBlue, May 2021,
https://www.rmscertified.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Framework-052021_1159.pdf

[3] *UL 2809*, Underwriter Laboratories, March 2020,
https://www.shopulstandards.com/ProductDetail.aspx?productId=ULE2809_5_S_20200323

[4] *SCS Recycled Content Standard v7.0*,
https://cdn.scsglobalservices.com/files/standards/scs_stn_recycledcontent_v7-0_070814.pdf

[5] *Plastic Waste Reduction Standard v1.0*, Verra, February 2021,
https://verra.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Plastic-Waste-Reduction-Standard-v1.0.pdf

[6] *rePurpose Global*, rePurpose 2021,
https://www.business.repurpose.global/solutions-for-brands

[7] *WWF Position: Plastic Crediting and Plastic Neutrality*, World Wildlife Fund, January 2021
https://files.worldwildlife.org/wwfcmsprod/files/Publication/file/1d2lgi32ab_newWWF_Position_on_Plastic_Crediting_and_PlasticNeutrality_.pdf

[8] *Plastic Credit Labels*, Verra,
https://verra.org/project/plastic-program/plastic-credits/plastic-credit-labels/