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RECYCLED CONTENT
VERIFICATION &
CERTIFICATION

RECYCLED CONTENT VERIFICATION

Suppliers, Manufacturers, and Retailers are increasingly challenged to ensure that environmental and sustainability claims of their brands are meeting consumer demand for transparency and authenticity.

Today's consumer is knowledgeable and wary of misleading sustainability claims or "eco-claims" that are reported on products and packaging, sometimes referred to as "greenwashing". Intertek's Verified Recycled Content program supports suppliers and manufacturers with validating and communicating the pre-consumer and/or post-consumer recycled content in their material, product, or package. Intertek's Verified Recycled Content program authenticates the post-consumer, pre-consumer (post-industrial), closed loop, or total recycled content of your product, providing the assurance of third-party verification to consumers in accordance with eco-claim and labelling standards.

CERTIFICATION

Intertek's Verified Recycled Content program includes an evaluation report, a certificate, and the use of an Intertek Sustainability Certification mark that can be used on products and packaging to help you effectively market your recycled content claim to customers.

BENEFITS

There are several benefits to verifying your recycled content verification, including:

- Demonstrating leadership in reducing reliance on virgin materials and resources;
- Satisfying procurement requirements and customer expectations for sustainable products;
- Meeting global regulatory requirements for environmental labelling and "eco-claims";
- Meeting consumer demand for greater transparency;
- Contributing to LEED® points (or other building programs); and
- Differentiating your product with certification from an independent third party.

PROCESS

The verification process involves several steps with the Intertek team:

STEP 1 – Data Review: Intertek will request data and documents that are needed to help prove the amounts of recycled content that are being used in your product. Intertek will guide you on what is required and help ensure that the right evidence is collected.

STEP 2 – Audit: An onsite audit will be determined based on the critical areas where recycled content is handled, to ensure the consistency of production.

STEP 3 – Evaluation: Our Intertek experts will review the product and production data to determine the recycled content claims that can be validated. You will be engaged through this process to help ensure that all of the information has been appropriately incorporated in to the evaluation.

STEP 4 – Certification: Intertek keeps it's certification body separate from the evaluations teams to ensure there is no conflict of interest. Once Certified, your company and products will be listed on Intertek's products directory (https://sustainabilitydirectory.intertek.com/home).

STEP 5 – Certification Maintenance: Certification is valid for 3 years provided there are no changes to materials, suppliers, processes, etc. Intertek's Certification Manager will send a brief survey each year to confirm that no changes have occurred.

INTERTEK ADVANTAGE

The Intertek Verified Recycled Content program can verify recycled content claims for everything from raw materials to finished goods to packaging, in industries such as plastics, textiles, building materials, electronics, consumer goods, engineered woods, paper, packaging, and more.

As recycled content does not guarantee improved overall environmental benefits, it is important to remember there are trade-offs with every decision. Intertek is here to help through its unparalleled team of industry-leading experts providing science-based assurance in quality, safety, and sustainability.

Through our global network, local knowledge and subject-matter expertise we are ideally positioned to provide you with a unique end-to-end solution that includes our wide variety of sustainability services and independent certifications. We can help you to meaningfully demonstrate your commitment to sustainability and manage risk and resilience, whilst supporting your ability to operate effectively and act responsibly.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What does the Intertek Verified Recycled Content certification mark mean to me as a client?

The Intertek certification mark enables you to confidently showcase your sustainability efforts to your consumer. This provides you with a distinct advantage in busy and competitive marketplaces for products demonstrating environmentally beneficial qualities. Including recycled content in the manufacture of your product, not only speaks to the efficiency and integrity of your supply chain, it also speaks to the commitment you've made to environmental stewardship.

Can I certify my product if it is produced at multiple facilities?

Yes, many clients have multiple production facilities. Information and documentation will be required from each facility involved in production.

Can I choose not to get a onsite audit?

The onsite audit is not optional as it is at Intertek's discretion based on the quality of data and documentation from the supplier.

I have Grades/Products. Will I receive any discount?

For any price-related queries, Intertek recommends contacting the Sustainability Program Manager for specifics.

My raw material manufacturer has verified their recycled content. Can I get my final product verified too?

Yes, you can get the final product verified. For example, a paper manufacturer's pulp supplier may have their pulp recycled content verified, and the manufacturer may want to, in turn, verify the recycled content of their paper.

Can I make any changes to the labels/ mark which will be provided by Intertek?

No changes can be made to the words on the certification mark. For other details, please refer to our label usage guidelines (https://www.intertek.com/WorkArea/DownloadAsset.aspx?id=34359807308).

We internally recycled the material we used for recycled content verification. Can we get certified/verified?

There are some circumstances where recycled material generated within your own facility can be certified. Intertek recommends contacting the Sustainability Program Manager for specifics.

Do you test our product? How do you determine the percentage of recycled content?

There is no commercially available test to determine the recycled content percentage of any material or products. To determine the recycled content percentage, Intertek performs a mass balance calculation on the overall product weight, supported by documentation from suppliers and/or a onsite audit conducted by Intertek.

Does Intertek follow any global standards for the Verified Recycled Content program?

This program authenticates and classifies materials using definitions consistent with using definitions consistent with ISO 14021: 2016 Environmental labels and declarations – Self-declared environmental claims.

Recycled content verification and certification is a key component of our CircularAssure programme, which consists of assurance, testing and certification services. CircularAssure can be applied across the recycled plastic value chain from waste collectors and recycling companies to polymer producers and brands. This program enables each stakeholder to ensure quality, safety, and optimise the value of products within the plastics/polymer circular economy. Find out more here.

Intertek is a leading Total Quality Assurance provider to industries worldwide. Our network of more than 1,000 laboratories and offices in more than 100 countries, delivers innovative and bespoke Assurance, Testing, Inspection and Certification solutions for our customers' operations and supply chains. Intertek Total Quality Assurance expertise, delivered consistently with precision, pace and passion, enabling our customers to power ahead safely.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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