

## Addendum to the Cradle to Cradle Certified Product Standard, Version 4.0 User Guidance

Date: 5 December 2022

Type of Change: Addition to Further Explanation

Applicable User Guidance Section(s): Water & Soil Stewardship, Section 7.1 Characterizing Local and Product Relevant Water & Soil Issues, Key Materials

Applicable Achievement Level(s): Bronze

### Applicable Requirement(s):

A key material is defined as a material that is typically produced using a high-volume water use process or a pollutant intense process (see *Cradle to Cradle Certified® Water & Soil Stewardship – Key Materials* reference document for the list of applicable materials and processes).

The key materials in scope for the Water & Soil Stewardship requirements must be determined at the generic material level (e.g., if several aluminum parts are used, the total weight of aluminum applies). If there are no key materials present at  $\geq 25\%$  when aggregated by generic material type, but the sum of all key materials is  $\geq 25\%$ , the requirements for key materials must be applied to the key materials representing the highest weight or cost fractions of the product until  $< 25\%$  of the product includes key materials to which the requirements have not been applied. If the 25% threshold is met when using only weight or only cost, then the metric that results in meeting the 25% threshold must be used.

### Applicable User Guidance:

#### Further Explanation, Identifying Key Materials and Associated Processes in Scope

The steps for identifying key materials that are in scope are as follows:

1. Review the [Cradle to Cradle Certified® Water & Soil Stewardship – Key Materials reference document](#) (Key Materials column only) and identify the key materials that the product contains. If the product does not contain any of the materials listed, then the next steps in this list do not apply. In addition, any requirement pertaining to key materials in the other sections of the Water & Soil Stewardship category of the standard are not applicable to the product. However, note that nearly all products will contain at least one key material.
2. As noted in the standard, the key materials in scope for *the Water & Soil Stewardship requirements must be determined at the generic material level (e.g., if several aluminum parts are used, the total weight of aluminum applies)*. Therefore, the next step is to sum the percentages, either by weight or by cost, of all key materials of the same generic type\* within the product. **Once this is done, any key materials present at  $\geq 25\%$  of the product by**

**weight or by cost are in scope.** Note that if there are any key materials identified using the weight option, key materials do not have to be identified using the cost option (and vice versa). Applicants are encouraged to select the option that will allow them to most effectively influence and positively impact water relevant issues in the supply chain. **For many products, this will be the last step necessary for identifying key materials in scope;** however, note the following requirements:

- If there are no key materials present at  $\geq 25\%$  using the option that was selected initially (i.e., weight or cost), then the other method must be checked as well. Any key materials determined to be present at  $\geq 25\%$  based on the alternative approach are in scope.
- If there are still no key materials present at  $\geq 25\%$  when using either the weight or cost approach, then the total percentage of all key materials in the product (regardless of the percentage of any individual generic material type) must be determined. This may also be done by either weight or cost initially.
- If the total percentage of all key materials is  $\geq 25\%$ , then the key materials representing the highest weight or cost fractions of the product must be selected as 'in scope' until  $< 25\%$  of the product includes key materials that will be out of scope. For example, if a product contains three key materials each present at 10% (total 30%), one of these materials must be selected as 'in scope', resulting in 20% of the product with key materials that are out of scope.
- If the total percentage of all key materials is  $< 25\%$  when determined based on weight and cost, then there are no key materials in scope (with one exception as described in the next bullet). This means that any requirement pertaining to key materials in the other sections of the Water & Soil Stewardship category of the standard do not apply to the product.
- For products that only have key materials in scope when water weight is excluded from the key materials determination (as described in the bullets above), applicants must select at least one key material (based on identifying key materials with water weight excluded) as in scope.

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## Addition

### Further Explanation, Identifying Key Material and Associated Processes in Scope (see added text in blue font)

The steps for identifying key materials that are in scope are as follows:

1. Review the [Cradle to Cradle Certified® Water & Soil Stewardship – Key Materials reference document](#) (Key Materials column only) and identify the key materials that the product contains. If the product does not contain any of the materials listed, then the next steps in this list do not apply. In addition, any requirement pertaining to key materials in the other sections of the Water & Soil Stewardship category of the standard are not applicable to the product. However, note that nearly all products will contain at least one key material.
2. As noted in the standard, the key materials in scope for *the Water & Soil Stewardship requirements must be determined at the generic material level (e.g., if several aluminum parts are used, the total weight of aluminum applies)*. Therefore, the next step is to sum the percentages, either by weight or by cost, of all key materials of the same generic type\* within the product. [For liquid formulations, water weight may be excluded prior to making this determination.](#) **Once this is done, any key materials present at ≥ 25% of the product by weight or by cost are in scope.** Note that if there are any key materials identified using the weight option, key materials do not have to be identified using the cost option (and vice versa). Applicants are encouraged to select the option that will allow them to most effectively influence and positively impact water relevant issues in the supply chain. **For many products, this will be the last step necessary for identifying key materials in scope;** however, note the following requirements:
  - If there are no key materials present at ≥ 25% using the option that was selected initially (i.e., weight or cost), then the other method must be checked as well. Any key materials determined to be present at ≥ 25% based on the alternative approach are in scope.
  - If there are still no key materials present at ≥ 25% when using either the weight or cost approach, then the total percentage of all key materials in the product (regardless of the percentage of any individual generic material type) must be determined. This may also be done by either weight or cost initially. [If preferred, this approach may be applied before checking weight or cost using the approach as described in #2 above. This may be of interest if cost data cannot be obtained.](#)
  - If the total percentage of all key materials is ≥ 25%, then the key materials representing the highest weight or cost fractions of the product must be selected as ‘in scope’ until < 25% of the product includes key materials that will be out of scope. For example, if a product contains three key materials each present at 10% (total 30%), one of these materials must be selected as ‘in scope’, resulting in 20% of the product with key materials that are out of scope.
  - If the total percentage of all key materials is < 25% when determined based on weight and cost, then there are no key materials in scope (with one exception as described in the next bullet). This means that any requirement pertaining to key materials in the other sections of the Water & Soil Stewardship category of the standard do not apply to the product.

- For products that only have key materials in scope when water weight is excluded from the key materials determination (as described in the bullets above), applicants must select at least one key material (based on identifying key materials with water weight excluded) as in scope. Note that this option is only applicable after checking for key materials in scope as described above, including checking for key materials by both weight and cost. It will be unusual to identify a product that falls into this category because, for formulations with a high concentration of water, the value (i.e., cost) tends to be from the other inputs.
- **Alternative:** Key materials in scope may be identified on an annual basis for the entire set of products included on a single certificate. This will require adjusting weights or costs associated with individual inputs in each product using annual sales data. The result of this calculation would be a list of materials by total weight or cost purchased over the course of a year to produce the product group. This list would then be put through the process described above. Referring back to the first steps in #2, **any key materials present at  $\geq 25\%$  of the product group by weight or by cost on an annual basis are in scope.** The steps that follow apply as well in the event that key materials still have not been identified using this first approach.