

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

Date: 21 October 2022

Type of Change: Additions to Further Explanation and Required Documentation

Applicable User Guidance Section(s): Product Circularity, Section 5.5 Material Compatibility for Technical and/or Biological Cycles

Applicable Achievement Level(s): Gold

Applicable Requirement(s): For the Gold level (#1.a. i.): Materials intended for technical cycles and solid materials intended for biological cycles must not contain additives or features that are likely to result in low-value (i.e., low-quality) reprocessed material.

Additions

Further Explanation

A material is considered to *not contain additives or features that are likely to result in low-value (i.e., low quality) reprocessed material* when all three of the following conditions are met:

1. The product (or for products new to the market, a similar product) has achieved the Gold level Active Cycling requirements for short use phase products per Section 5.9: *Actively cycle at least some (> 0%) of the product's materials and implement a program to increase the cycling rate or quality of the product for its next use.* For the purposes of the Gold level compatibility requirements, this means that at least some (> 0%) of each material or part that will count towards the $\geq 90\%$ of the product with 'high value cycling potential' must be actively cycled. Note that per the definitions section, cycling is defined as follows: The processing of material, parts, or whole products toward a new use cycle via a technical or biological cycling pathway that includes at least one of the following: reuse, remanufacturing, refurbishing, recycling, nutrient extraction/anaerobic digestion, composting, or biodegradation.
2. A product or material(s) of the same type or economic value can be produced in an economically competitive way using the cycled material by the applicant or applicant's cycling partner(s). The partners are those that were identified and engaged for achieving the requirements in standard Section 5.3 Preparing for Active Cycling.
3. For products of a type similar to those that would typically be collected in a curbside recycle bin and recycled at a municipal facility (e.g., plastic water bottles), the applicant must take

actions that aim to ensure the municipal recycle stream is not contaminated by their product. This must include communicating directly on the product how it should be cycled (i.e., reused, remanufactured, refurbished, recycled, or made available for anaerobic digestion, composting, or biodegradation) and that it should not be placed in the curbside collection/recycle bin. This must go beyond use of the typical 'chasing arrow' recycling marks (e.g., #7 for plastics, which is misleading in most locations).

Required Documentation

- Evidence that active cycling is occurring via the chosen intended cycling pathway(s). Theoretical/planned systems do not receive credit.
- Evidence of active partnerships with the companies involved in the recovery and processing of the product and/or its materials.
- Evidence demonstrating that the product or material(s) of the same type or economic value are being produced.
- For any product of a type similar to those that would typically be collected in a curbside recycle bin: Evidence of communication regarding how to cycle the product on the product itself.

Additional Required Documentation for Recertification

Evidence that all requirements (#1-3 above) have been met over the past two-year certification period (i.e., a pilot project conducted more than two years prior to the recertification date and not active in the subsequent two-year period does not receive credit at recertification). This must include evidence that the *program to increase the cycling rate or quality of the product for its next use* has been active over the prior certification period.