



# **Product Grouping Policy**

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## Product Grouping Policy Revision Log

REVISION DATE	SECTION	TYPE OF CHANGE
March 17, 2015		Initial Release
February 15, 2016	3.2	Modular product option added
February 15, 2016	3.3	"Same manufacturing process" requirements (formerly section 3.3) removed.
April 8, 2016	Appendix 1	Added product categories in "Textiles + Apparel", "Building Materials", and "Interior Design"
February 1, 2017	Appendix 1	Changed "Materials for Product Designers" category to "Basic Materials", added and reorganized categories in Interior Design, Toys, and Sports
June 9, 2017	Appendix 1	Changed Printed Publications to Printed Products and added Printing Materials
February 22, 2018	throughout	Clarified that requirements pertain to product groups not individual products in a group
February 22, 2018	3.2.1	Added exemption to 'same primary materials' requirement (3.2.1 c) for simple multi-material products
February 22, 2018	Appendix 1	Added 'Vehicles' and 'Automotive Parts' to group categories
June 25, 2018	3.2.1	Added alternative grouping criterion for textile process chemicals
January 15, 2019	Title	Changed title of policy to include Material Health Certificate Program
January 15, 2019	1	Addition of applicability to the Material Health Certificate Program
January 15, 2019	Appendix 1	Addition of applicability to the Material Health Certificate Registry
October 16, 2025	3.2	Added that exceptions are permitted under certain conditions.

# 1 Purpose

A certification within the Cradle to Cradle Certified® Products Program may be conferred to an individual product or to a qualifying group of related products by the same applicant. This policy defines a product and a product group for this purpose.

## 2 Definition of a product

Cradle to Cradle Certified defines a product as follows:

*A physical item that can be routinely and individually purchased from the applicant by other entities. A product is composed of one or more components, homogeneous materials, and/or chemical substances. A product may function as a component or material in another product. For the purpose of the standard requirements, any item that is sold along with the product, other than the packaging, is considered part of the product. This includes spare parts if it is not possible to purchase the product without these.*

## 3 Definition of a product group

Product groups must be defined in such a way that it is clear to any potential customer which products are covered by a certification, and which are not. For individual products to qualify as a product group, and therefore be grouped in a single certification, the group must meet all of the following criteria in Sections 3.1-3.4.

### 3.1 Grouped products are in the same product category

- 3.1.1 Same product category and subcategory (see Appendix 1)
- 3.1.2 Same Nice classification

### 3.2 Grouped products have a similar composition or are components in a modular product offering

The conditions in either Section 3.2.1 or Section 3.2.2 apply. At the discretion of C2CPII, exceptions may be permitted for some product types with prior written approval by C2CPII before the assessment is submitted for review.

3.2.1 Grouped products have a similar composition

- a) Grouped products are designed for the same cycle (biological or technical) and have the same intended cycling pathway:
  - i. If one product contains more than 50% of materials that are designed for the technical cycle by weight, all products in the group contain more than 50% of materials that are designed for the technical cycle.
  - ii. If one product contains more than 50% of materials that are designed for the biological cycle by weight, all products in the group contain more than 50% of materials that are designed for the biological cycle.
  - iii. The same intended cycling pathway applies to each product in the group, with all products in the group intended for the same end of use (i.e., if one product is intended for recycling within the municipal system, all within the group must be; if a take-back program is in place, it must apply to all products in the group).
- b) For simple multi-material product groups (fewer than 15 distinct homogeneous materials total for all products in the group), point 3.2.1a above is sufficient for products in the group to qualify as having similar composition and point c below may be ignored.
- c) Products in a product group must contain the same primary materials OR, for textile process chemical product groups, must belong to a single textile process chemical category:
  - i. For complex multi-material products (15 or more distinct homogeneous materials total for all products in the group), at least 67% by weight of each product in the group consists of materials that are present at a level of 1% or greater in all other products in the group. For single-material products, at least 67% by weight of each product in the group consists of *chemicals* that are present at a level of 1% or greater in all other products in the group.

AND

ii. For complex multi-material products (15 or more distinct homogeneous materials total for all products in the group), any two products within the group share at least 50% by weight of their material composition, in terms of generic material type (e.g. aluminum, polyethylene, steel, etc.). For single-material products, any two products within the group share at least 50% by weight of their *chemical* composition.

OR

iii. For textile process chemical products, all products in a group belong to the same textile process chemical category. The categories are:

- a. Yarn preparation chemicals
- b. Sizing and other fabric production (weaving or knitting) chemicals
- c. Pre-treatment chemicals
- d. Dying auxiliaries (dyes and other colorants themselves are separate and not considered process chemicals)
- e. Textile finishing chemicals
- f. Garment washing chemicals

### 3.2.2 The product group is for a modular offering

- a) The product group consists of configurable combinations of a fixed set of components, in which the components are physically connected, and the use of any one component does not preclude the use of any other component. Examples of products that may be modular include partition wall systems, office landscapes, and playground systems.

If the product is configurable, but the use of any component precludes the use of another component, the product is not considered modular. For example, an office chair is not a modular product, because although it can be customized (e.g., with different armrest types), any given chair product can contain only one armrest type. Similarly, two partition walls that cannot be used together in the same system because of physical incompatibilities are not considered part of the same modular product.

### **3.3 Grouped products serve the same function and have the same exposure scenarios**

### **3.4 Grouped products have the same certification level**

- a) The product group's overall achievement level and its achievement level in each standard category are the lowest levels that would be attained by any product within the group.
- b) No averaging across products takes place to obtain any certification metric, such as the percentages of recycled/rapidly renewable and recyclable/compostable content.

## **Appendix 1 – Categories for the Cradle to Cradle Certified Product Registry**

<b>Auto &amp; Tires</b>	<b>Health &amp; Beauty</b>		
Automotive Parts	Bath & Body	Fire Safety	Impact Protective Packaging
Auto Electronics	Diet & Nutrition	Floors	Labeling & Postage
Car Care & Maintenance	Fragrances	Flooring Adhesives	Paper & Paper-like
Exterior Accessories	Hair Care	Garden & Landscape	Printed Products
Interior Accessories	Makeup	Hardware	Printing Materials
Tires	Massagers & Spa	Heating, Cooling, & Ventilation	Reusable Containers
Tools & Equipment	Medical Supply & First Aid	Insulation	<b>Sport &amp; Hobby</b>
Vehicles	Men's Grooming	Paint, Finishes, & Coatings	Bikes and Riding Equipment
<b>Baby</b>	Oral Care	Plumbing, Pipe, & Fixtures	Camping
Baby Toys	Personal Care	Roofing & Rainwater Management	Exercise & Fitness
Bedding & Décor	Shaving	Specialties and Miscellaneous Applications	Game Room
Car Seats	Skin Care	Structural Building Materials	Golf
Clothing	Vision	Tools	Hunting & Fishing
Diapering & Potty		Transportation Elements	Outdoors & Recreation
Feeding		<b>Jewelry</b>	Musical Instruments
Health & Safety		Bracelets	Miscellaneous Sports
Strollers		Earrings	Tennis & Racquet
<b>Basic Materials</b>		Jewelry Storage	Watersports
Chemicals	Appliances	Pendants & Necklaces	<b>Toys</b>
Finishes	Bath	Personalized Jewelry	Action Figures
Glass	Bedroom & Bedding	Rings	Building Sets & Blocks
Metals	Carpeting Products	Watches	Development & Learning
Paper Products	Ceiling Products	Wedding & Engagement	Toys
Polymers	Décor		Dolls & Dollhouses
Resins	Floor Coverings		Games & Puzzles
Stone	Interior Design & Upholstery Textiles		Kids Electronics
Wood	Kitchen & Dining		Miscellaneous Toys
<b>Electronics</b>	Lighting		Outdoor Play
Cameras & Camcorders	Living Room		Pretend Play, Arts & Crafts
Cell Phones	Luggage		Stuffed Animals
Computers	Miscellaneous Furniture		Vehicles, Trains & Remote Control
GPS & Navigation	Office		
Home Audio & Theater	Outdoors & Patio		
iPods & MP3 Players	Seating		
Office Electronics	Storage & Organization		
Tablet & eReaders	Surfaces		
TV & Video	Wall Coverings		
Video Games			
<b>Fashion + Textiles</b>			
Apparel	<b>Building Supply &amp; Materials</b>		
Fabrics	Architectural Glass		
Yarn	Building Exteriors		
Thread, Trims, + Notions	Concrete, Cement, and Masonry		
Dyes + Finishes	Daylighting & Shades		
Raw Materials	Drywall		
	Electrical		