



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. Dyeing 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

Auto & Tires

Automotive Parts
Auto Electronics
Car Care & Maintenance
Exterior Accessories
Interior Accessories
Tires
Tools & Equipment
Vehicles

Baby

Baby Toys
Bedding & Décor
Car Seats
Clothing
Diapering & Potty
Feeding
Health & Safety
Strollers

Basic Materials

Chemicals
Finishes
Glass
Metals
Paper Products
Polymers
Resins
Stone
Wood

Electronics

Cameras & Camcorders
Cell Phones
Computers
GPS & Navigation
Home Audio & Theater
iPods & MP3 Players
Office Electronics
Tablet & eReaders
TV & Video
Video Games

Fashion + Textiles

Apparel
Fabrics
Yarn
Thread, Trims, + Notions
Dyes + Finishes
Raw Materials

Health & Beauty

Bath & Body
Diet & Nutrition
Fragrances
Hair Care
Makeup
Massagers & Spa
Medical Supply & First Aid
Men's Grooming

Oral Care
Personal Care
Shaving
Skin Care
Vision

Interior Design & Furniture

Appliances
Bath
Bedroom & Bedding
Carpeting Products
Ceiling Products
Décor
Floor Coverings
Interior Design & Upholstery Textiles
Kitchen & Dining
Lighting
Living Room
Luggage
Miscellaneous Furniture
Office
Outdoors & Patio
Seating
Storage & Organization
Surfaces
Wall Coverings

Building Supply & Materials

Architectural Glass
Building Exteriors
Concrete, Cement, and Masonry
Daylighting & Shades
Drywall
Electrical

Fire Safety
Floors
Flooring Adhesives
Garden & Landscape
Hardware
Heating, Cooling, & Ventilation
Insulation
Paint, Finishes, & Coatings
Plumbing, Pipe, & Fixtures
Roofing & Rainwater Management
Specialties and Miscellaneous Applications
Structural Building Materials
Tools
Transportation Elements

Jewelry

Bracelets
Earrings
Jewelry Storage
Pendants & Necklaces
Personalized Jewelry
Rings
Watches
Wedding & Engagement

Home & Office Supply

Batteries
Cleaning Supplies
Craft & Party Supply
Laundry Supplies
Office & School Supplies
Paper Supplies
Postal & Shipping Supplies
Towels & Linens
Washroom Supplies

Packaging & Paper

Bags
Display Boards
Food & Beverage
Packaging

Impact Protective Packaging
Labeling & Postage
Paper & Paper-like
Printed Products
Printing Materials
Reusable Containers

Sport & Hobby

Bikes and Riding
Equipment
Camping
Exercise & Fitness
Game Room
Golf
Hunting & Fishing
Outdoors & Recreation
Musical Instruments
Miscellaneous Sports
Tennis & Racquet
Watersports

Toys

Action Figures
Building Sets & Blocks
Development & Learning Toys
Dolls & Dollhouses
Games & Puzzles
Kids Electronics
Miscellaneous Toys
Outdoor Play
Pretend Play, Arts & Crafts
Stuffed Animals
Vehicles, Trains & Remote Control