



January 10, 2008

PROJECT SCOPE & STAKEHOLDER INVITATION FOR PARTICIPATION: Revision of Environmental Standard for Reusable Bags (GS-16)

Green Seal™ is inviting the participation of stakeholders to assist in the development of the revision of the standard for reusable bags (GS-16). The standard is being developed to help consumers and purchasers identify environmentally-preferable products and services. To be included in the email list for this project that will include project updates and announcements, as well as enable your involvement in the standard development process and to submit comments during review periods, you will need to register during the scoping phase of the project, described below.

Developing the scope for the project is the first phase in the revision of the current GS-16 standard. The scope will identify areas to consider; *specific requirements have not been set*. The proposed revised standard will follow at a later date, after researching the items identified in the scope.

Green Seal is soliciting suggestions and comments on the scope of the revision from the diverse stakeholders including producers, users and general interest groups. Scoping comments (and registration to be included in email list for the scope of this project) will be submitted through an online forum system. Once registered on the forum for this project, one can post contributions to the scope. All registered users will be able to view all the comments and the name of the commenter. Some topics are locked from replies since they are administrative (indicated with a lock symbol).

To register for the project and access the forum:

- Get on the following URL: <http://green-seal.org/standards>
- Register an account; **for the username please use first initial and full last name (e.g., G Seal)**; select “**GS16 Reusable Bags**”; review the disclaimer information; click *Register*.
- You should receive a welcome email from the Green Seal Development Forum within one business day.

There will be User tips and a Help section on using the online forum available once you log in to the forum on how to use the online forum as well as general guidelines and rules on posting comments and attachments. Green Seal has administrative rights to the forum to ensure proper use of the online forum.

Green Seal will also accept comments by email, fax and postal mail. Any comments received by postal mail, fax and email will be posted to the online forum and will be viewable by GS-16 registered forum participants by the name of the commenter. Please refer to specific sections (see below) on which you have comments and include copies of any supporting documentation and send your comments to:

Green Seal, Inc.
Attn: GS-16 Reusable Bags Revision
1001 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 827
Washington, DC 20036

Or by fax: (202) 872-4324 (please fax no more than 10 pages)
Or by e-mail: green seal@green seal.org with “GS-16 Reusable Bags Revision” in the subject header.

The scoping will be open for 7 weeks beginning January 4, 2008 with an additional week allowed for the federal holiday observed on February 18th. Scoping comments must be received by **February 29, 2008**. The forum will be closed on February 29th and no additional comments will be accepted for the scoping portion of this project after this date.

All comments received on the scope will be reviewed and carefully considered during the research and development phase of the project. While written responses to each comment may not be made, a commenter may be contacted during the research and development about their comments. A summary of the comments received will be posted on the Green Seal website by April 4, 2008.

GS-16 Scoping comments will fall in the following sections:

- Products in standard ("Scope")
- Relevant definitions for standard
- Product performance requirements
- Prohibited additives
- Dye and coloring use
- Packaging
- End-of-Life management
- Energy consumption
- Raw material considerations
- Manufacturing considerations
- Consumer education and label requirements
- Optional verification claims
- General comments

If you have any questions, please contact Green Seal as 202-872-6400 or email green Seal@green Seal.org.

By participating in the process of setting environmental standards, you play an important role in our efforts to encourage the design, manufacture, and use of environmentally responsible products and services. Thank you in advance for your participation.

We look forward to receiving your comments.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Baldwin, Ph.D.
Director of Science and Standards

Christine Chase
Lead Environmental Scientist