



June 3, 2011

**NOTIFICATION TO STAKEHOLDERS: GREEN SEAL STANDARD FOR SANITARY PAPER PRODUCTS, GS-1: CONTAMINANT DEFINITION REVISION ISSUANCE**

The Contaminant Definition Revision with Corresponding Changes to 4.5.3 and 4.5.7, Addition of Specifications for Center Pull Towels, and Minor Editorial Modifications in the Green Seal Standard for Sanitary Paper Products, GS-1, has been approved by the stakeholders. The revised standard is now available for applications for Green Seal certification or recertification.

This standard establishes environmental, health, and social requirements for sanitary paper products, including products such as bathroom tissue, facial tissue, paper towels, napkins, and placemats. This fourth edition standard combines the previous Green Seal Standards for Tissue Paper (GS-1, Second Edition, February 12, 1992) and Paper Towels and Napkins (GS-9, First Edition, January 27, 1993), broadens the scope, and covers products for both institutional and retail markets. The standard is comprehensive, easy to use, and addresses the life cycle issues for sanitary paper products. The standard can serve as a tool to help companies begin to take action to improve their products and is available for Green Seal certification. The standard can be found at: <http://www.greenseal.org/gs1.aspx>.

The following are the highlights of the standard:

- Product performance requirements for basis weight, tensile strength, stretch, water absorbency, and minimum product per roll/package.
- Fiber source expanded to include recovered material or agricultural residue of non-timber species (e.g. bagasse).
- Increases to the post-consumer material requirements, on average by 25%.
- Requirements for the entire manufacturing process to be processed chlorine free, with an allowance for chlorine derivatives and biocides as water treatment chemicals.
- Prohibition of carcinogens, mutagens, or reproductive toxins in the product.
- Limited use of optical brighteners.
- Requirement for ready biodegradability of papermaking additives, with the exception of inorganics, polymers, optical brighteners, and biocides.
- Prohibition of chlorophenolic biocides, fragrances, heavy metals, and ozone-depleting compounds.
- Requirements of social responsibility for the manufacturing facility.
- Manufacturing sustainability requirements including tracking of air and wastewater quality, and solid waste data and limits to energy and water use during the manufacturing process.
- Expanded requirements for packaging.

Green Seal is accepting applications for certification and re-certification to GS-1, with information available at: <http://www.greenseal.org/GreenBusiness/Certification/GreenSealRecertification.aspx>. Green Seal certification involves a Green Seal technical staff review of data and information for compliance to the standard's requirements. A site visit is then conducted to evaluate the manufacturing and quality control of the product. Labels, marketing material, and websites are also reviewed for compliance to the standard and to FTC requirements. If the product meets the Green Seal standard, it will be awarded the Green Seal. The seal may be used on the product, in advertising, promotional materials, catalogs, and in operation/business descriptions.

Once certified, products are subject to monitoring to ensure that they continue to meet the standard. Any deviation is immediately brought to the company's attention and corrective action must be instituted within an appropriate time. Non-compliance may result in termination of the manufacturer's privilege to carry the Green Seal.

Thank you for your interest and time to help develop this revised standard, and we look forward to helping companies manufacture environmentally preferable Sanitary Paper Products for institutional and retail consumer use.

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