



December 21, 2012

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

The Papermaking Additives Definition Revision, Updates to Section 2.1.2 (Toilet Seat Covers), Clarification to Section 2.3 Product Specifications, Clarifying Processed Chlorine Free Definition, Addition of Section 3.6 Added Lotions, and Revision to Disposal Section 6.1 and Statement of Basis of Certification Section 6.2 for Sanitary Paper Products, GS-1, has been approved by the stakeholders. The revised standard is now available for applications for Green Seal certification.

This standard establishes environmental, health, and social requirements for sanitary paper products, covering products in both institutional and retail markets, including bathroom tissue, facial tissue, paper towels, napkins, and placemats. Because the standard is comprehensive, easy to use, and addresses the life cycle issues for sanitary paper products, it can serve as a tool to help companies take action to improve their sustainability. The GS-1 standard, available for Green Seal certification, can be found at: 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 as functional papermaking additives.
- Limited use of optical brighteners.
- Requirement for ready biodegradability of functional 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 to GS-1, with information available at:

www.greenseal.org/GetCertified.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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Green Seal