

DECISIONS

COMMISSION DECISION

of 6 June 2014

amending Decision 2012/481/EU establishing the ecological criteria for the award of the EU Ecolabel for printed paper

(notified under document C(2014) 3590)

(Text with EEA relevance)

(2014/345/EU)

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EC) No 66/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2009 on the EU Ecolabel ⁽¹⁾, and in particular 8(2) thereof,

After consulting the European Union Eco-Labeling Board,

Whereas:

- (1) Commission Decision 2012/481/EU ⁽²⁾ excludes board substrates above 400 g/m² from the scope, as that Decision requires that printed paper products are printed only on paper bearing the EU Ecolabel as established in Commission Decision 2011/333/EU ⁽³⁾ or in Commission Decision 2012/448/EU ⁽⁴⁾. However, certain product categories, such as pads, notebooks, exercise books, spiral-bound notebooks and calendars with covers, included in the scope of Decision 2012/481/EU, entail the use of paperboard substrates which exceed 400 g/m². Therefore, the implementation of the criteria for certain products has been impossible.
- (2) The scope of Commission Decision 2014/256/EU ⁽⁵⁾ includes stationery paper products that consist of at least 70 % by weight of paper, paperboard or paper-based substrates and establishes requirements for board substrates with a basis weight higher than 400 g/m².
- (3) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Committee set up by Article 16 of Regulation (EC) No 66/2010.
- (4) Decision 2012/481/EU should therefore be amended accordingly,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

Decision 2012/481/EU is amended as follows:

- (1) in Article 1, paragraph 1 is replaced by the following:

'1. The product group "printed paper" shall comprise any printed paper product that consist of at least 90 % by weight of paper, paperboard or paper-based substrates, except for books, catalogues, booklets or forms that shall consist of at least 80 % by weight of paper or paperboard or paper-based substrates. Inserts, covers and any printed paper part of the final printed paper shall be considered to form part of the printed paper product.;

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 27, 30.1.2010, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ Commission Decision 2012/481/EU of 16 August 2012 establishing the ecological criteria for the award of the EU Ecolabel for printed paper (OJ L 223, 21.8.2012, p. 55).

⁽³⁾ Commission Decision 2011/333/EU of 7 June 2011 establishing the ecological criteria for the award of the EU Ecolabel for copying and graphic paper (OJ L 149, 8.6.2011, p. 12).

⁽⁴⁾ Commission Decision 2012/448/EU of 12 July 2012 establishing the ecological criteria for the award of the EU Ecolabel for newsprint paper (OJ L 202, 28.7.2012, p. 26).

⁽⁵⁾ Commission Decision 2014/256/EU of 2 May 2014 establishing the ecological criteria for the award of the EU Ecolabel for converted paper products (OJ L 135, 8.5.2014, p. 24).

- (2) in paragraph 3 of Article 1, point (c) is replaced by the following:
'(c) folders, envelopes, ring binders and stationery paper products.');
- (3) in Article 2, point (1) is replaced by the following:
'(1) "Books" means yarn-bound and/or glue-bound printed paper products with hard or soft covers, such as school books, fiction or non-fiction books, reports, handbooks and paperbacks. "Books" do not include journals, brochures, magazines, catalogues published on a regular basis and annual reports.');
- (4) in Article 2, point (9) is replaced by the following:
'(9) A "printed paper product" means the product resulting from the processing of a printing material. The processing consists of printing onto paper. In addition to printing, the processing may include finishing, for example folding, stamping and cutting or assembling, using glue, binding, yarn-binding. Printed paper products include newspapers, advertising materials and news-sheets, journals, catalogues, books, leaflets, brochures, posters, business cards and labels.');
- (5) Criterion 3 in Annex to Decision 2012/481/EU is amended:

'Criterion 3 — Recyclability

The printed paper product shall be recyclable. The printed paper shall be de-inkable and the non-paper components of the printed paper product shall be easily removable to ensure that those components will not hinder the recycling process.

- (a) Wet strength agents may be used only if the recyclability of the finished product can be proved.
- (b) Adhesives may be used only if their removability can be proved.
- (c) Coating varnishes and lamination, including polyethylene and/or polyethylene/polypropylene, may be used only for covers of books, magazines and catalogues.
- (d) The de-inkability shall be proved.

Assessment and verification: the applicant shall provide the test result of the recyclability for wet strength agents and removability for adhesives. The reference test methods are PTS method PTS-RH 021/97 (for wet strength agents), INGEDE Method 12 (for non-soluble adhesive removability), or equivalent test methods. The de-inkability shall be proven by using the "Deinking Scorecard" (*) of the European Recovered Paper Council or equivalent test methods. Testing shall be performed on three types of paper: uncoated, coated and surface-sized paper. If a type of printing ink is only sold for one or two specific types of paper, it is sufficient to test the paper type(s) in question. The applicant shall provide a declaration that coated and laminated printed paper products are in compliance with point 3(c). Where a part of a printed paper product is easily removable (for instance a plastic cover), the recyclability test may be made without this component. The easiness of removal of the non-paper components shall be proven via a declaration of the paper collecting company, the recycling company or an equivalent organisation. Test methods shown by a competent and independent third party as giving equivalent results may also be used.

(*) Assessment of Print Product Recyclability — Deinkability Score — User's Manual, www.paperrecovery.org, "Publications".

Article 2

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels, 6 June 2014.

For the Commission
Janez POTOČNIK
Member of the Commission