The European eco-label for copying and graphic paper

Commission Decision
O.J. n° L
Criteria valid until 31 August 2007
Previous criteria valid until 31 August 2003

Applies to unprinted paper in sheets or rolls used for printing, copying, writing or drawing (except newsprint, thermally sensitive paper and carbonless paper).

Even if the ease of use and portability of electronic systems and their ability to store vast quantities of data in small volumes makes them an attractive alternative to printed pages, the paperless office has not yet emerged to any great extent. The psychological value of printed material has remained high and the increased use of computer printouts and photocopiers is believed to have actually increased the use of paper rather than reduced it. Actual consumption of copying paper in Europe remains with about 2.7 million tons recorded for 1999 alone.

Demand for copying paper is also subject to customers' views of the "green" image of products. Paper producers have begun to promote environmentally friendly products by tackling issues such as development of sustainable forest management, increased levels of recovery and recycling of waste paper, reduced use of water in the manufacturing process or reduced levels of chlorine emissions. Today, customers not only require high environmental standards but also a guarantee that green claims have been controlled and certified by an independent body.

The European eco-label, which is the only sign of environmental quality both certified by an independent organisation and valid throughout Europe, presents a unique opportunity to satisfy your customers' expectations.

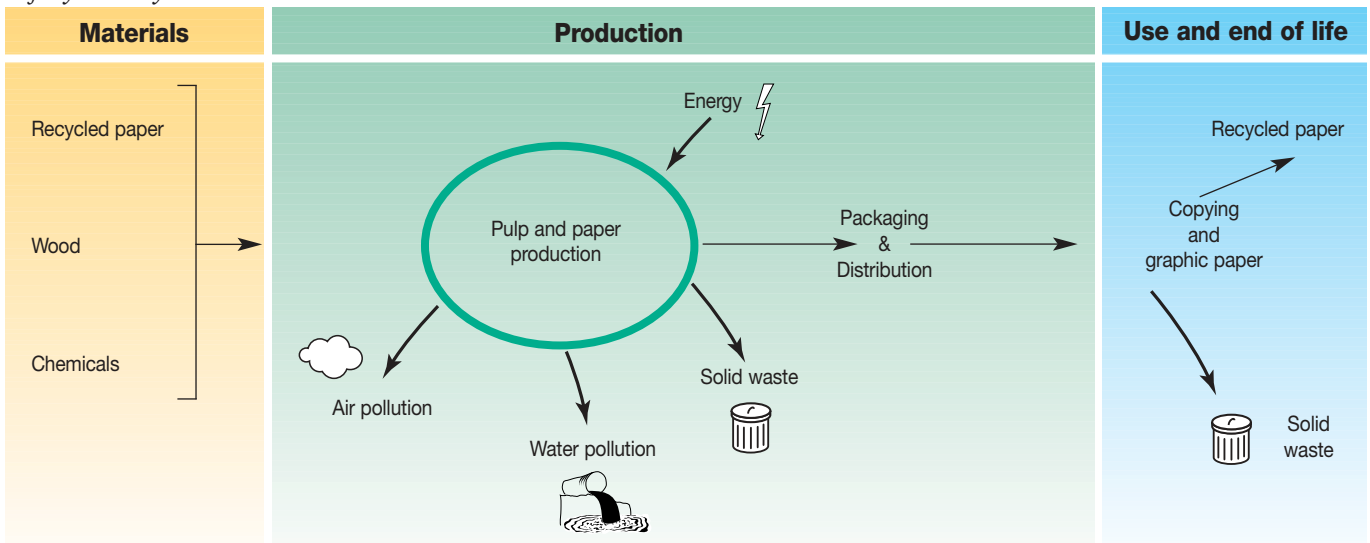
Putting the eco-label on your products means that they have the following assets:

- Reduction of air emissions of sulphur and greenhouse gases during manufacturing
- Decreased emissions to water of chlorine compounds and organic wastes during production
- Limitation of energy consumption during production
- Use only recycled fibres or virgin fibres from sustainably managed forests

GIVE YOUR PRODUCT A CREDIBLE SIGN OF ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE …
APPLY NOW FOR THE EUROPEAN ECO-LABEL.

To receive the EU eco-label, the copying and graphic paper must meet the following ecological criteria

Life cycle analysis



ECOLOGICAL CRITERIA

Reduction of ecological damage related to the use of natural resources by encouraging sustainable forestry management

- Virgin wood fibres shall come from sustainable managed forests (> 10% from certified sustainable managed forests).
- Indication of the origin of fibres.

Energy saving

Electricity and fuel consumption expressed in terms of points: $P_E \leq 1.5$, $P_F < 1.5$.

Reduction of emissions to water and air

- AOX < 0.25 kg/t.
- CO_2 from non-renewable sources < 1000 kg/t (< 1100 kg/t for non integrated mills).
- COD, Sulphur (S), NO_x: emissions expressed in terms of points: PCOD, PS, $PNO_x \leq 1.5$ each. PCOD + PS + $PNO_x \leq 3$.

Limitation of the use of substances harmful for the environment

- Chlorine gas prohibited as a bleaching agent.
- Chemical substances classified as carcinogenic, mutagenic; teratogenic, toxic for reproduction, very toxic for aquatic organisms and may cause adverse effects on the aquatic environment according to Directive 67/548/EEC: limited to 100 ppm for residual monomers and 1000 ppm for acrylamide.
- No $APED_s$ or alkylphenol derivatives.
- No A_{zo} dyes that cleave to a list of aromatic amines.
- No bio-accumulative biocides or biostatic agents.
- All surfactants in de-inking formulations for return fibres shall be readily biodegradable (or ultimately biodegradable if quantity < 100g/ADT.
- Dyes classified as toxic to acquatic organisms of harmful to the acquatic environment: limited to 2% in weight.
- No dyes based on Pb, Cu, Cr, Ni, Al (copper phthalocyanine dyes or pigments allowed).
- Level of ionic impurities in dyes (in ppm):
  Ag < 100. As < 50. Ba < 100. Cd < 20. Co < 500.
  Cr < 100. Cu < 250. Fe < 2500. Hg < 4. Mn < 1000. Ni < 200.
  Pb < 100. Se < 20. Sb < 50. Sn < 250. Zn < 1500.

Reduction of the impacts of solid waste

Implementation of a waste management system including the following procedures:
- Separation and use of recyclable materials.
- Recovering of materials for other uses.
- Handling hazardous waste.

Consumer information for environmental use

Product packaging shall bear information on the environmental benefits of the eco-label and on green behavior to protect further the environment.

This fact sheet is for general information only. For more detailed information on the criteria as well as information on who to contact in your country in order to apply for the label, please consult the web site:

http://europa.eu.int/ecolabel

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European Commission