

**SCHEME ON LABELLING OF ENVIRONMENT FRIENDLY
PRODUCTS (ECO-MARK)**

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS

(Department of Environment, Forests & Wildlife)

RESOLUTION

New Delhi, the 20th February, 1991

G.S.R. 85(E).-(I) The Government have decided to institute a Scheme on Labelling of Environment Friendly Products. The scheme will operate on a national basis and provide accreditation and labelling for household and other consumer products which meet certain environmental criteria along with quality requirements of the Indian Standards for that product. The Label shall be known as the "ECOMARK" and will be of the design to be notified.

Any product which is made, used or disposed of in a way that significantly reduces the harm it would otherwise cause the environment could be considered as Environment Friendly Product.

(2) OBJECTIVES OF THE SCHEME:

The specific objectives of the scheme are as follows:-

- (i) To provide an incentive for manufacturers and importers to reduce adverse environmental impact of products.
- (ii) To reward genuine initiatives by companies to reduce adverse environmental impact of their products.
- (iii) To assist consumers to become environmentally responsible in their daily lives by providing information to take account of environmental factors in their purchase decisions.
- (iv) To encourage citizens to purchase products which have less harmful environmental impacts.
- (v) Ultimately to improve the quality of the environment and to encourage the sustainable management of resources.

(3) ADMINISTRATIVE AND ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE-

There will be three stages leading to the award of the "ECOMARK":-

1. A steering committee, set up in the Ministry of Environment and Forests, to determine the product categories for coverage under the scheme and also formulate strategies for promotion, implementation, future development and improvements in the working of the scheme.

2. A technical committee, set up in the Central Pollution Control Board, to identify the specific product to be selected and the individual criteria to be adopted, including, wherever possible, inter-se priority between the criteria if there be more than one.

3. The Bureau of Indian Standards to assess and certify the products and draw up a contract with the manufacturers, allowing the use of the label, on payment of a fee.

3.1.1 STEERING COMMITTEE:

A steering Committee shall be set up in the Ministry of Environment and Forests by the Central Government to decide the products categories to be taken up under the scheme, and to formulate the strategies for promotion, future development and improvement of this scheme. The product categories will be notified from time to time.

The functions of the Steering Committee shall be as follows:-

- (a) Selection of the logo for the "ECOMARK".
- (b) Activities related to creation of mass awareness for promotion and acceptance of the scheme.
- (c) Determining the product category to be taken up under the scheme.
- (d) Co-ordinating ways of ensuring that industry is actively involved in the scheme.
- (c) Securing the involvement of other Ministries, Government Departments, Industry Associations and other Non-Governmental Organisations and Consumer organisations.
- (f) Formulations of strategies for future development of the scheme.
- (g) Identifying institutions in India or outside which are engaged in the standardization of any article or process or improvement of quality of any article or process and recommending assistance to build consumer awareness.
- (h) Promoting programmes of Comparative Testing of products by Consumer Organisations and dissemination their results to the general public.

- (i) Supporting any research for the formulation of ECOMARK products in the interest of Consumer groups.

The composition of the Committee shall be as follows :

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|--------|---|------------------|
| (i) | Secretary, Deptt. of Environment & Forests | Chairman |
| (ii) | Secretary, Deptt. of Civil Supplies (or his representative) | Member |
| (iii) | Secretary, Ministry of Industry (or his representative) | Member |
| (iv) | Secretary, Ministry of Chemicals & Petrochemicals (or his representative) | Member |
| (v) | Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture (or his representative) | Member |
| (vi) | Secretary, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (or his representative) | Member |
| (vii) | Director General of Technical Development (or his representative) | Member |
| (viii) | Director General, Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (or his representative) | Member |
| (ix) | Director General, Health Services (or his representative) | Member |
| (x) | Development Commissioner, Small Scale Industries (or his representative) | Member |
| (xi) | Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board | Member |
| (xii) | Not more than five non officials, to be nominated by the Central Government; to represent the interests of industry, consumer groups or other non governmental organisations; of which at least two will represent Consumer groups. | Member |
| (xiii) | Officer in charge, "ECOMARK" in the Ministry of Environment & Forests. | Member-Secretary |

In case of special requirement of expertise in specific fields, the committee may invite-experts as special invitees.

The terms of the Committee shall be for three years or until reconstituted.

3.1.2 TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

A Technical Committee shall be constituted by the Central Government to identify the individual products and determine the criteria for awarding the ECOMARK. The Committee shall function in the Central Pollution Control Board, Delhi.

The following shall be the functions for the Technical Committee -

- (i) Identification of specific products for classifying as environment friendly.
- (ii) Reviewing the existing state of knowledge and the environmental criteria being followed in other countries.
- (iii) Recommend the most appropriate criteria and parameters to designate various products as environment friendly, including the most important criteria or individual products that have been specified for the purpose and their inter-se priority, whenever possible.
- (iv) Review the various technologies available for determining the criteria.
- (v) Recommend various laboratories and analysts for product assessment in the Ministry of Environment and Forests.
- (vi) Evaluation of the environmental impact of the products and criteria from time to time.
- (vii) To review from time to time the implementation of the schemes by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), including the sample inspections done by it.
- (viii) Set up sub-committees for each product category if so required, including formulation of test programmes for comparative testing of products by consumer organisations.
- (ix) The technical committee may set up expert panels to advise it for specific products.

The composition of the Committee shall be:-

(i)	Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board.	Chairman
(ii)	Director General, Bureau of Indian Standards, New Delhi	Member
(iii)	Director, National Environmental Engineering Research Institute, Nagpur	Member
(iv)	Director, National Chemical Laboratory, Pune	Member
(v)	Director General, National Test House, Calcutta	Member
(vi)	Director, Industrial Toxicology Institute, Lucknow	Member
(vii)	Director, National Institute of Occupational Health, Ahmedabad	Member
(viii)	Not more than five non-officials to represent the interest of industry & consumer groups, of which atleast three will represent the Consumer groups be nominated by the Central Government.	Research Member
(ix)	Officer in charge, (Eco-Mark scheme) Central Pollution Control Board.	Member-Secretary

The Committee may co-opt experts on different products, as special invitees.

The terms of the Committee shall be for three years or until reconstituted.

3.1.3 ADMINISTRATION

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) shall implement the scheme.

Following shall be functions of the BIS--

(1) Assess the product for Ecomark, certify the product for award of the Ecomark;

(2) Review suspend or cancel a licence, for the use of the Ecomark;

(3) Mark inspections, and take such samples for analysis of any material or substances as may be necessary to see whether any article or product in relation to which the Ecomark has been used, conforms to the contract or whether the Ecomark is improperly used in relation to any article or process with or without a licence;

(4) CERTIFICATION AND LICENCING:

4.1 Under the scheme the manufacturers shall apply for testing and certification of products which fall under the notified categories in terms of their compliance with published environmental criteria in the prescribed form. The terms and conditions governing operations of licences including fees shall be as per the Bureau of Indian Standards Act and the regulations framed there under.

4.2 Testing and certification shall be carried out by the Bureau of Indian Standards. For product categories which have the Indian Standards mark, the Bureau of Indian Standards will ordinarily complete the task of certification within a period of three months. Products certified as eligible for the ECOMARK shall be licenced to carry the ECOMARK for a prescribed time period.

4.3 The product shall be reassessed after the prescribed period and the licence fee shall have to be paid again for the mark.

5. THE CRITERIA FOR ECOMARK:

Environmental criteria for each product category will be notified by the Central Government and later on shall be translated into Indian Standards by the Bureau of Indian Standards. The criteria shall be for broad environmental levels and aspects, but will be specific at the product level. Products will be examined in terms of the following main environmental impacts:-

- (a) That they have substantially less potential for pollution than other comparable products in production, usage and disposal.
- (b) That they are recycled, recyclable, made from recycled products or biodegradable, where comparable products are not.
- (c) That they make significant contribution to saving non-renewable resources, including non renewable energy sources and natural resources, compared with comparable products.
- (d) That the product must contribute to a reduction of the adverse primary criteria which has the highest environmental impact associated with the use of the product, and which will be specifically set for each of the product categories.

In determining the primary criteria for a product the following shall be taken

- (a) Production process including source of raw material;
- (b) Case of Natural Resources;

- (c) Likely impact on the environment;
- (d) Energy conservation in the production of the product;
- (e) Effect & extent of waste arising from the production process;
- (f) Disposal of the product and its container;
- (g) Utilization of "Waste" and recycled materials;
- (h) Suitability for recycling or packaging
- (i) Biodegradability;

The criteria shall be reviewed from time to time. The draft criteria shall be release for public comments for a period of sixty days.

6. PERIOD OF AWARD:

The label shall be awarded for a minimum period of one year and shall roll forward annually. The Bureau of Indian Standards have the powers to withdraw the licence at any time if they find any misleading information. The award may also be withdrawn in case of any change in criteria due to the advancement of technology or any other valid reasons, in consultation with the technical committee. The time period of the award may be reviewed from time to time.

7. THE LOGO:

The Logo for the 'ECOMARK" shall be as notified by the Central Government.

8. CONSUMER AWARENESS:

The Ministry of Environment & Forests shall take appropriate measures to launch a country wide mass awareness campaign, including encouraging consumer groups. Assistance will be given to consumer organisations for comparative testing of products and dissemination of information to the public.

ORDER

Ordered that the Resolution be published in the Gazette of India and a copy there of communicated to all concerned.

[No. 23/1/91-PL]
MUKUL SANWAL, Jt. Secy.

15th February, 1991

Published in the Gazette No. 71 dt. 21-2-91].

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 24th August, 1992

G.S.R.768(E).—In exercise of the decision recorded in paragraph 5 of the Resolution of the Government of India in the Ministry of Environment & Forests, published vide GSR No.85(E), dated 21.2.1991 in the Gazette of India Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section(i), the Central Government hereby notifies the following criteria for labeling Cosmetics as Environment Friendly Products.

- 1. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS** :--(i) All the products manufactured shall meet the requirements of following Indian Standards of BIS pertaining to safety, quality and performance :-

Sl.No.	Item	IS CODE No.
1.	2.	3.
1.	Skin Powders	IS:3959:1979
2.	Skin powder for infants	IS:5339:1978
3.	Tooth Powder	IS:5383:1978
4.	Tooth Paste	IS:6356:1978
5.	Skin Creams	IS:6608:1976
6.	Hair Cils	IS:7123:1984
7.	Shampoo Soap based	IS:7669:1975
8.	Shampoo Synthetic Detergent based	IS:7884:1978
9.	Hair Creams	IS:7679:1975
10.	Oxidation Hair Dyes liquid	IS:8481:1977
11.	Cologne	IS:8482:1977
12.	Nail Polish (Nail Enamel)	IS:9245:1975
13.	After Shave lotion	IS:9255:1979
14.	Pomades & Brilliantines	IS:9339:1979
15.	Depliatorics Chemical	IS:9636:1988
16.	Shaving Creams	IS:9740:1981
17.	Cosmetic Pencils	IS:9832:1981
18.	Lipstick	IS:9875:1981

- (ii) All the ingredients that go into formulation of cosmetics shall comply with the provisions prescribed in IS 4707: Part I,II and III classification of cosmetics raw materials and adjuncts as well as the product specific requirements.
- (iii) The product package shall display a list of critical ingredients in descending order of quantity present. The list of such ingredients shall be identified by BIS.
- (iv) The product shall not be manufactured from any carcinogenic ingredients.

Note :- Central Drug Research Instt./Industrial Toxicological Research Instt. would furnish a list of carcinogenic ingredients to BIS and would also keep BIS informed about the changes therein.

- (v) The product manufacturer must produce the consent as per the provisions of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess Act, 1977 and Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 alongwith the authorisation, if required under Environment(Protection)Act,1986 and rules made thereunder to BIS while applying for ECOMARK, Additionally, provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act,1940 and rules thereunder shall also be complied with.
- (vi) The product package shall be suitably marked that ECOMARK label is applicable only to the contents, if the product package is not separately covered under the ECOMARK scheme.
- (vii) The material used for produce packaging shall meet the parameters evolved under the scheme of labeling Environment Friendly Packaging/packaging materials.

2. PRODUCT SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS :- All the cosmetics formulations shall comply with the requirements given below under (i) to (iii). Further in addition to compliance with the requirements under (i) to (iii) the respective cosmetics namely: Tooth Paste/Tooth Powder, Hair Dyes and Nail Polish shall comply with the requirements given below under (iv),(v) and (vi) respectively.

- (i) Product shall be dermatologically safe when tested by the method prescribed by IS 4011 :1982.
- (ii) Biodegradable surfactant agents wherever used in cosmetics formulation shall be as per their limit finished for synthetic detergents for ECOMARK by the Technical Committee.

- (iii) Heavy metals calculated as lead (Pb) and Arsenic (Ars) shall not exceed 10 and 1 ppm, respectively when tested by the respective methods, prescribed in Indian Standards.
- (iv) Tooth Paste/Tooth Powder :- For the purpose of formulation of these products, the ingredients listed in IS : 6356 (1979) and ISL : 5383 (1978) shall only be used. Moreover, tooth paste shall not be fluoridated and presence of fluoride (F) as impurity shall not exceed the limit of 10 ppm.

Note:- This has been done with a view to ensure safety of these products from oral toxicity as the ingredients listed in the relevant Indian Standards are based on the consideration that are generally regarded as safe for such formulations.

- (v) Hair Dyes :- Lead based dyes shall not be used.
- (vi) Nail Polish :- Halogenated organic solvents shall not be used.

Note : Manufacturers will give necessary undertakings with supporting documents to BIS while applying for ECOMARK for requirements under (v) and (vi) above.

3. BIS may formulate/incorporate optional standards for environment friendly characteristics.

4. Filing of Objections : - Any person interested in filing any objection against these criteria for labeling Cosmetics as environment friendly may do so in writing to the Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Paryavaran Bhawan, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi within sixty days from the date of publication of this notification in the official gazette.

[No. 23/06/91-PL(CPW)]
MUKUL SANWAL, Jt Secretary