

GREEN CHOICE PHILIPPINES

NELP-GCP-2002002 TISSUE PAPER PRODUCTS

Environmental Scenario

In 2001, paper industry profile recorded paper production at 1,137,000 metric tons, about seven percent (7%) of which is attributed to tissue paper products. The apparent consumption per capita of paper in the Philippines is 16 kilograms.

The significant environmental impact of tissue paper products can be credited to the extraction of virgin pulp as the prime material that, in effect, could contribute to the continuous degradation of the forest ecosystem. Likewise, in most paper mills, the processing phase consumes no less than 60 cubic meters of fresh water per ton of tissue paper, which could pose a serious threat to the dwindling water resource supply. Considering further the equivalent energy usage, effluents and sludge discharges, as well as the possible health risk in the production, efforts have to be drawn to improve the impact of tissue paper products to the environment.

Definition of terms:

1. Tissue paper – a thin, soft absorbent paper, made from cellulose fibrous material with close and even formation, and intended for sanitary purposes.
2. Toilet/Bathroom Tissue – a tissue paper intended for sanitary use in toilets/ bathrooms.
3. Facial Tissue – a tissue paper used especially as a disposable handkerchief, such as for removing cosmetics and dirt from the face.
4. Table Napkin – a tissue paper used at tables during meals to wipe fingers and protect clothes.
5. Percent recycled pulp – the percentage ratio of recycled fiber to total pulp material (virgin plus recycled pulp)
6. Virgin pulp – fibrous material separated from wood or other plant material by chemical or mechanical means for the manufacture of paper and paperboard.
7. Recycled fiber (Otherwise termed as secondary fiber) – any fibrous material that has already undergone a manufacturing process and is being recycled as the raw material for another manufactured product.
8. Wet strength – ability of paper to retain its strength when wet.
9. Fluorescent whitening agent – a chemical additive that fluoresces in sunlight and visually enhances the whiteness of paper.
10. Suitable packaging material – material that can maintain the homogeneity of the packaged product. It shall be hygienic and can be recycled.
11. Industrial tree plantation – any forest land exclusively planted to tree crops primarily to supply the raw material requirements of existing or proposed wood processing plants and related industries.
12. Sustainable forest management – the system of managing forest land and resources to secure productivity for the present without undue undesirable effects on the physical and social environment that would jeopardize tomorrow's resources.
13. PNS 72 – Philippine National Standards for Paper, Board and Pulps – Facial Tissue Paper
14. PNS 73 – Philippine National Standards for Paper, Board and Pulps – Toilet Tissue Paper

Scope

These Criteria apply to tissue paper products such as toilet tissue, table napkin, and facial tissue.

Green Choice Criteria

To carry the *Green Choice Philippines* seal, a product must meet the following requirements.

I. Bathroom/Toilet Tissue

A. Quality Criteria

1. The product shall be made of not less than 60 % recycled fiber.
2. The product shall be produced without toxic fluorescent whitening agents.
3. The product shall have the physical properties as determined by the Philippine National Standard for Toilet Paper (PNS 73).

B. Environmental Criteria

1. The production process, transport and disposal features of the product shall meet the requirements of all applicable environmental laws and regulations.
2. Volume of fresh water used in the production shall not exceed 60 cu. m. /ton of tissue paper products.
3. The product shall not be manufactured using dyes and pigments containing heavy metals.

II. Table Napkins

A. Quality Criteria

1. The product shall be made of not less than 60 % recycled fiber.
2. The product shall be produced without toxic fluorescent whitening agents.
3. The product shall have the following physical properties:
 - PH Level: 4.5, min.
 - Wet tensile strength: 0.04 kN/m, min.
 - Grammage: for single ply – 20 g/m²
For two & three ply – 14 g/m² per ply

B. Environmental Criteria

1. The production process, transport and disposal features of the product shall meet the requirements of all applicable environmental laws and regulations.
2. Volume of fresh water used in the production shall not exceed 60 cu. m. /ton of tissue paper products.
3. The product shall not be manufactured using dyes and pigments containing heavy metals.

III. Facial Tissue

A. Quality Criteria

1. The virgin pulp material shall come from industrial tree plantations and/or sustainably managed forest.

2. The product shall be produced without toxic fluorescent whitening agents.
3. The product shall have the physical properties as determined by the Philippine National Standard for Facial Tissue (PNS 72)

Environmental Criteria

1. The production process, transport and disposal features of the product shall meet the requirements of all applicable environmental laws and regulations.
2. Volume of fresh water used in the production shall not exceed 60 cu. m./ton of tissue paper products.
3. The product shall not be manufactured using dyes and pigments containing heavy metals.

Other Requirements

1. Packaging

Each roll or packing unit shall be fully wrapped with paper or other suitable packaging materials in the same type/class and size.

Each roll or packing unit shall contain the total number of sheets or total length of roll not less than the defined number on the label.

2. Marking and labeling

On the packaging may appear *“Made from ___ % ___ . Please dispose of your waste properly.”*

Each roll or packing unit shall inform the consumers in letters, numbers or symbols about the following:

Intended use (e.g. toilet/bathroom tissue, table napkin or facial tissue)

Type/class

Sheet size (width x length) in millimeters

Total number of sheets per roll or pack

Manufacturer’s name or plant name or trademark including company address, phone number and/or e-mail address

Manufacturing country

Effectivity:

These product criteria shall take effect for three (3) years from the date of its approval, and subject to change or withdrawal by the *Green Choice Philippines – ELP Board*, if necessary at any period of time.

EVALUATION & VALIDATION METHOD:

- (1) Regarding quality criteria I.A.1 and II.A.2, data issued by the paper producer certifying the percentage of recycled paper in the pulp mixture shall be submitted.
- (2) Regarding quality criteria I.A.2, II.A.2, and III.A.2, in case fluorescent whitening agent is used, a certificate by the paper producer showing the non-toxicity of the fluorescent whitening agent and/or a certificate from the chemical supplier showing the safety of the material shall be submitted.
- (3) Regarding quality criterion I.A.3, II.A.3, and III.A.3, data from recognized testing laboratories showing conformity of the products with the specified property standards or the corresponding standards (Philippine National Standards) shall be submitted.

- (4) Regarding quality criterion III.A.1, a certificate/document issued by the pulp supplier/paper producer showing the source of the raw material for the virgin pulp used shall be submitted.
- (5) Regarding environmental criteria I.B.1, II.B.1, and III.B.1, applicable licenses and permits to operate indicating the manufacturer's compliance with agreements on environmental regulations applicable to the area in which the plant is located shall be submitted.
- (6) Regarding environmental criteria I.B.2, II.B.2, and III.B.2, data issued by the paper producer certifying the volume of fresh water usage shall be submitted.
- (7) Regarding environmental criteria I.B.3, II.B.3, and III.B.3, a certificate from the chemical supplier showing the safety of the dyes and pigments used shall be submitted.

REFERENCES

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