

ControlPlast Origin Audit Program of Control Union
WG Spain S.A. for the Certification of the Plastic
Recycling Process.

ControlPlast Origin. PE CU PRP

Version 1.4

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1. INTRODUCTION

The certification of the [ControlPlast Origin](#) Plastic Recycling Process Audit Program developed by Control Union to make it easier for the plastics industry to demonstrate and guarantee the application of the principles of the circular economy.

The growing environmental awareness in our society is fostering a demand from consumers who are not only looking for high-quality products, but also for them to be produced in an environmentally responsible manner and the sustainable use of natural resources.

Faced with this reality, Control Union has launched a certification scheme designed to promote and guarantee the transition of the sector towards a Circular Economy. This approach focuses especially on completing the production cycle, transforming plastic waste into new resources.

Our certifications fully cover the traceability of recycled material. From the reception of the plastic waste, through its processing, to its reintroduction into the market as a recycled material. This includes the characterisation of this recycled material, its conversion into pellets for subsequent use and, finally, the certification of the percentage of this recycled material incorporated into new products.

2. OBJECT AND SCOPE OF CERTIFICATION

The objective of this certification is **to recognize plastic recycling processes for pre-consumer and post-consumer waste operating at a Site in accordance with the requirements set out in the Recycling Process Conformity Assessment Scheme:**

Certification against this Audit Scheme allows Recyclers to demonstrate their contribution to plastic waste management and transparently communicate the origin of the waste. The Recycling Process certification is the point-of-origin audit for the chain of custody of recycled plastics. Certified Organizations provide confidence to all actors in the plastics value chain for a continuous increase in the use of recycled plastics.

The requirements of the Audit Scheme are aligned with those of EN 15343:2007 and ISO 22095:2020.

The certification focuses on the verification of the origin of the waste, traceability throughout the Recycling Process and the calculation of the recycled content at the output. The Audit Scheme covers the requirements that Organizations must comply with in terms of traceability according to EN 15343:2007, quality management systems and environmental and administrative operational performance for waste recycling, as well as chain of custody.

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The chain of custody defines the requirements to ensure the origin of the waste, traceability and the percentage of recycled plastics at the exit. The Audit Scheme operates in accordance with the controlled mix chain of custody model as described in ISO 22095:2020 which allows the transfer of information from one value chain actor to another under the Certification.

The use of the Certification mark is limited to those Recyclers who obtained a certificate through Control Union based on this Audit Scheme.

3. REFERENCE STANDARDS

EN 15342 Recycled plastics. Characterization of recycled Polystyrene (PS)
EN 15343 Plastics. Recycled plastics. Traceability and conformity assessment of plastic recycling and recycled content.
EN 15344 Recycled plastics. Characterization of recycled Polyethylene (PE)
EN 15345 Recycled plastics. Characterization of recycled Polypropylene (PP)
EN 15346 Recycled plastics. Characterization of Poly(vinyl chloride) (PVC) recyclates
EN 15347 Recycled plastics. Characterization of plastic waste.
EN 15348 Recycled plastics. Characterization of poly(ethylene terephthalate) (PET) recyclates.
EN 15353:2007 Plastics — Recycled Plastics — Guidelines for the development of standards on recycled plastics.
EN ISO 14021 Eco-labels and environmental declarations. Environmental self-declarations (Type II eco-labelling).
EN 17615 Plastics – Environmental Aspects – Vocabulary
ISO 22095:2020 Chain of Custody – General Terminology and Models
ISO 9001 - Quality Management Systems. Requirements

4. TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

Organization

[ISO 22095:2020, 3.4.1]

Entity or group of persons and facilities with an arrangement of identifiable responsibilities, authorities, and relationships and objectives.

Site

[ISO 22095:2020]

A geographically bounded location where defined activities are carried out under the control of an organization.

Recycler

Organization that requests Certification for one or more Recycling Processes at a site.

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Certification

Certification under this Audit Scheme.

Plastic

Material consisting of a polymer as defined in point 5 of Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006, to which additives or other substances may have been added, and which may function as a main structural component of final products, with the exception of natural polymers that have not been chemically modified.

Recycled Plastic

[EN/ISO 472:2013, 2.612]

Plastic prepared by transformation into a production process from plastic waste materials for the original purpose or for other purposes, but excluding energy recovery. In a broad sense, plastics recycling covers any reuse of waste material or discarded items, including pyrolysis to recover useful organic chemicals. Recycled plastics may or may not be reformulated by adding fillers, plasticizers, stabilizers, pigments, etc.

Traceability

[ISO 22095:2020, 3.6.1]

Ability to track the history, application, location, or source(s) of a material or product throughout the supply chain.

Segregation

[ISO 22095:2020, 3.3.2]

Chain of custody model in which the specific characteristics of a material or product are maintained from initial input to final output. Note 1 at the entrance: The addition of material with different characteristics and/or grade to the input is not allowed. Note 2 at the entrance: Commonly, material from more than one source contributes to a chain of custody under the segregated model.

Controlled mixing

[ISO 22095:2020, 3.3.3]

Chain of custody model in which materials or products with a specific set of characteristics are mixed according to a certain criterion with materials or products without that set of characteristics resulting in a known proportion of the characteristics specified in the final result.

Storage bay

A defined storage area where a known number of incoming plastic waste batches can be kept separate and isolated from other incoming plastic waste batches and contamination.

Current Operating Hours

The hours of operation of the Recycling Process at the time of the audit.

Permitted Operating Hours

The maximum number of hours that the Recycler can execute the Recycling Process according to the terms of their licenses and operating permits.

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Equipment Capacity

The theoretical maximum capacity of the Recycler's equipment with respect to the weight of Input Plastic Waste that they can accept in the Recycling Process to produce a Recycled Product.

Site Capacity

The lesser of the sum of the computer's capacity(s) or licensed input volume.

Rated capacity

The ability of the Recycler's equipment to function with respect to the weight of Input Plastic Waste they accepted in the Recycling Process to produce a Recycled Output. It is the value of the capacity calculated based on the consumption figures during a given period of time. It considers the planned production hours, throughput, and identified availability of the line.

Batch

[EN 17615:2020, 3.17]

Amount of material considered as a single unit and having a unique reference.

Lot

A defined quantity of a product manufactured or produced under conditions that are presumed to be uniform.

Incoming plastic waste

The grade of plastic waste required for the Recycling Process for which the Recycler is applying for Certification.

Input Volume

The total weight of Input Plastic Waste delivered to the Recycler during a given period of time.

Input Volume License

The total weight of all plastic waste that the Recycler can accept under the terms of its operating license in a given period of time.

Recycling process

(Art. 3(17) OJ L 312, 22.11.2008, p. 3)

Any recovery operation by which waste materials are reprocessed into products, materials or substances, whether for the original purposes or for other purposes. It includes the reprocessing of organic material but does not include energy recovery and reprocessing into materials that will be used as fuels or for backfilling operations. A Recycling Process produces a Recycled Product for which Certification is requested.

Recycled output

Recycled plastic (recycled) produced by the Recycling Process that can be used as a substitute for virgin polymer or other raw materials to manufacture products (excluding products for power generation).

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Output of pre-processed waste

Waste outputs sent for subsequent recycling.

Performance

Amount of recycled output (in percentage) that is produced from a given tonnage of input waste plastic.

Beneficial output

Beneficial Output refers to all Recycled Output, including by-products produced from the Recycling Process that can be used as a direct replacement for virgin polymer or other raw material to manufacture goods (excluding those intended for power generation).

Recycled content

[CEN/TR 15353:2004, adapted] Percentage by weight of recycled plastics in a product. Percentage by weight of Certified Recycled Input at Output. It must be defined between Pre-Consumer Material and Post-Consumer Material.

Pre-consumption

[EN 14021:2016, 7.8.1.1]

A descriptive term that covers material diverted from the waste stream during a manufacturing process.

Note 1: This term excludes reused material, such as rework, shredding or scrap that has been generated in a given process and can be recovered within that same process. The same process involves the manufacturing operation for the same type of product either in the same location or in a different one.

Note 2: The term "post-industrial material" is sometimes used synonymously.

Post-consumer

[EN 14021:2016, 7.8.1.1]

A descriptive term that covers material, generated by end-users of products, that has served its intended purpose or can no longer be used (including material returned within the distribution chain). For specific materials such as PVC, industry definitions apply.

Note 1: The term "post-use" is sometimes used as a synonym

Post-consumer home

A descriptive term that covers waste generated by households. Usually a synonym for 'garbage/garbage' and 'household waste'. Household waste is the fraction of municipal waste collected from households, the final depositories of waste. However, this type of waste is not limited to households, as it also includes all waste that resembles the same characteristics as such.

Post-consumer commercial

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A descriptive term that covers waste produced by the operation of a professional, commercial, institutional, or commercial governmental facility. Commercial waste is synonymous with commercial waste. Commercial waste is generated from the handling, transportation, retail, and storage of products and services, generally referred to as tertiary packaging. Within this category of waste, we also find that generated by public institutions (schools, museums, libraries, government buildings, hospitals and the like) or by commerce, small businesses and office buildings. Commercial waste includes waste electronic and electrical equipment when it is returned to the businesses that manage the disposal. In addition, plastic beverage bottles that are part of deposit-return schemes are typically considered commercial waste, as the ultimate holder of the product to be disposed of is the retail center where these bottles are collected.

Waste, scrap metal, shredded material

[EN/ISO 472:2013, 2.1707]

Recovered plastic material shredded and/or granulated in the form of fluid material. The term is frequently used to describe plastic material in the form of scrap metal generated in a plastics processing operation and reused internally. The term is also used to describe the fine plastic powder used as filler in plastics recovery.

Recycling rate

The amount of municipal waste recycled will be the amount of municipal waste at the point of calculation. The amount of municipal waste entering the recycling operation will include specific materials. It may include non-specific materials only to the extent that their presence is permissible for the specific recycling operation.

Outsourced Processing

When the Incoming Plastic Waste has an operation performed by a third party, e.g., sorting, pollution disposal, etc., before it goes through the Recycling Process. Outsourced processing is not a recycling process in itself.

Outsourced recycling

Incoming plastic waste delivered to the Recycler that is recycled via toll by a third-party recycler also certified under this Audit Scheme where the Recycler retains ownership of the third-party recycler's recycled output (recycling under toll).

5. TYPES OF CERTIFICATION

5.1 INITIAL CERTIFICATION

The Initial Certification must take place for one or more Recycling Processes within a Site that can present production records from the previous 12 months of operation. This Certification is valid for 1 year.

5.2 RECERTIFICATION

Recertification must be performed at a Site that must submit production records for the 12 months prior to the Production Process.

Recertification will be granted to the Site when the prior year's Certification becomes available. This Certification is valid for 1 year.

5.3 MULTI-SITE CERTIFICATION

It must take place for one or more Recycling Processes within two or more separate sites under the same ownership. The recycler must designate a location as the primary address for administrative purposes of the Certification. All locations must be visited during the on-site audit and listed on the Audit Report and Summary Sheet. This Certification is valid for 1 year.

6. ELIGIBILITY FOR CERTIFICATION

Certification can only be granted to recyclers who have processes capable of recycling pre-consumer and/or post-consumer plastic waste into new plastic products.

Recyclers must have a Recycling Process(es) in place in possession of a waste management permit, an exception authorisation under Article 20 of the Waste Framework Directive, or an operating licence or environmental licence with specific provisions on waste treatment.

7. OBJECT OF CONFORMITY

The certification enables recyclers with plastic recycling processes to demonstrate compliance with the certification under Control Union's recycling process audit scheme in line with the requirements of EN 15343:2007.

8. MANAGEMENT OF THE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

Control Union WG Spain S.A. will be in charge of the related responsibilities for the planning, implementation and management of the traceability certification process in the plastic recycling process, ranging from the receipt of the certification application to the end of the process, including the issuance of the final evaluation and certificate report.

9. AUDIT OF THE RECYCLING PROCESS

9.1 APPLICATION

When an organization contacts Control Union WG Spain SA to apply for certification, they are sent an application form to complete with the necessary data. With this information, the commercial proposal will be prepared. Once the client accepts the offer, the audit date will be coordinated, then the audit plan will be sent and through it information and documentation will be requested that the client must send before the audit. The Audit Plan will also inform the date of the visit and the audit team assigned.

9.2 REVIEW OF DOCUMENTATION

Control Union will review and analyze the documentation provided by the company. If necessary, additional information may be requested.

9.3 AUDIT

After carrying out the documentary review, the Union control audit team will visit the recycler and verify that the organization has implemented the processes and stages necessary for the manufacture of recycled material and be able to guarantee the traceability of plastic waste within a recycling process and provide a statement of the percentage of recycled content (pre-consumer and post-consumer) in the recycled products.

During the audit, the following will be evaluated:

- Processes and stages necessary for the manufacture of recycled material.
- Procedures and means necessary to ensure the process.
- Reception of plastic waste: Control of incoming waste by identifying the type (PP, PE, etc.), quantity, origin (pre-consumer, post-consumer) and presentation (big, bags, sacks, bales or others).
- Records of entry and reception of waste (delivery notes, invoices).
- Identification if the waste may contain known hazardous substances.
- Documentation of the characterization of the waste according to UNE EN 15347.
- Supplier certificates if applicable (e.g. recycler who performs a pre-treatment of plastic waste such as shredding).
- Production means necessary to carry out the processes (separation, segregation, shredding, washing, drying, homogenization, extrusion, packaging and storage).
- Specifications of recycled material in technical data sheets. The characterization is carried out according to the Implementing Rules:
 - EN15342 for recycled polystyrene (PS)
 - EN15344 for recycled polyethylene (PE)
 - EN15345 for recycled polypropylene (PP)
 - EN15346 for recycled poly(vinyl chloride) (PVC)
 - EN15348 for poly(ethylene terephthalate) (PET) recyclates
- Mass balance to determine the percentage of pre-consumer and post-consumer material, if any.

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- Calibration of the equipment used.

Control Union recognises other Certificates issued by independent Certification bodies that have the corresponding accreditation for the Certification of Plastic Recycling Process.

9.4 REPORT

The assessor shall record the results of the assessment in a report, summarizing the conformity and detailing the non-conformity, including its supporting evidence. The report will indicate the results with all certification requirements.

9.5 NON-CONFORMITIES

If non-conformities are detected, the organization must send a corrective action plan and evidence of correction and implementation within **12 weeks** after the audit to the audit team for evaluation, approval, and correction.

Control Union must inform the customer of all non-conformities and observations.

The customer must express whether they are interested in continuing the certification process, in which case Control Union will provide information on the additional assessment tasks necessary to verify that the non-conformities have been corrected.

9.6 ISSUANCE OF THE CERTIFICATE

Once all the necessary information is available, such as the audit report and, if applicable, a corrective action plan, the technical review will be carried out and the decision to grant the Certification will be made.

The Certificate issued will be valid for 1 year. The annex to the same will indicate the type of recycled material that has been audited with its respective pre-consumer or post-consumer percentage of recycled material.

Once it has its Certificate, the Organization will refer to it through the use of the Certification logo and mark.

In the event that it is decided not to grant the certification, the reasons will be explained in detail.

9.7 EXAMPLE OF TRADEMARK USE

The Organization that has received the Certification may make use of the mark as shown below.



For more details, please refer to the Control Union Regulations on the Use of the Mark.

10. CHANGES AFFECTING CERTIFICATION

Changes to the product, process or quality management system that would affect compliance with the requirements of the Audit Scheme should be reported to Control Union for review of the information and a decision on whether a site audit is necessary prior to making the modification of the Certificate. In the event that the visit is necessary, the scope of the visit shall be limited to the certification of the requirements established in point 9.3.

The scope of the visit will be limited to the certification of the following requirements:

- Quality Management System
- Control processes on recycled material
- Certification of recycled material content in the final product

Where the Recycler wishes to expand the scope of the conformity assessment, add or remove products, change suppliers or waste type, or change the proportion of recycled content in a Recycled Product, this must be communicated to CU to amend the certificate. Changes shall be indicated on the certificate without changing the period of validity.

Expanding certification to new products or changes in the percentage of recycled content will require CU to verify new formulas, product data sheets, and production records for the appropriate production batches.

After the technical review of the report with the results, Control Union will decide on the necessary modifications to the certificate, which will be in line with the current situation.

11. ECONOMIC ISSUES

CU WG Spain SA will determine and communicate to the organisations that apply for certification the economic conditions corresponding to the activities related to the granting, monitoring and renewal of the Certificate in the offer for the service.

12. CHANGE CONTROL

Date	Version	Summary of Changes
15.02.2023	1.0	Document creation
02.02.2024	1.1	Introduction is added
02.02.2024	1.1	The Provisional Certification option is removed from the Types of Certification section.
02.02.2024	1.1	Texts are improved and points 1 to 12 are indicated
26.04.2024	1.2	9.1 It is indicated that the audit plan informs the date of the visit and the audit team assigned.
26.04.2024	1.2	9.2 Improved wording on Recycled Material Content Calculations.
26.04.2024	1.2	9.3 The wording is improved indicating that the visit will be carried out after the documentary review and the checks that will be carried out during the on-site audit are described in greater detail. A clarification is added to refer to the need for accredited certification as the only option for recyclers who provide pre-treated plastic waste.
26.04.2024	1.2	9.6 The text is completed by detailing that the respective pre-consumer or post-consumer percentage of recycled material will be indicated in the annex to the certificate.
26.04.2024	1.2	10 It is clarified that in the event that the visit is necessary, the scope of the visit will be limited to the certification of the requirements established in point 9.3.
30-12-2024	1.3	The 12-month period is updated.
19-05-2026	1.4	The name of the Plastics Recycling Process scheme "UNE 15343" is changed to ControlPlast Origin.