



5 Steps to GS-C1 Certification

1) Application: Product manufacturers interested in certification can read and download the GS-C1 Pilot Standard here: http://greenseal.org/programs/green_seal_pilot_company_certification_gs-c1.pdf. The standard and overview documents can be used as guidelines to move toward a more sustainable operation, and outline the requirements for certification. If your company falls under the scope of the pilot standard you can begin the application process by submitting an on-line preliminary application at: <https://www.green-seal.net/secure/Forms/GreeningApp.aspx?type=0>. After submitting the preliminary application you will receive the formal application package which includes our confidentiality agreement, application for certification and a confirmed evaluation fee. After the evaluation fee has been received by Green Seal your company will be assigned a project manager who will guide you through the rest of the certification process.

2) Data Submission and Review: Your project manager will explain the evaluation process, send you a checklist outlining the data required for certification and the LCA prioritization questionnaire, and answer any questions you may have. GS-C1 checklists and guides can be downloaded at: http://greenseal.org/programs/company_certification.cfm. Electronic submissions (PDF, Word or scanned documents) are encouraged as you collect and submit the necessary data to your project manager. If you mail hard copies of the data please provide two copies of each document.

3) Life Cycle Assessment Studies: Based on data provided by the company in the LCA prioritization questionnaire, Green Seal will conduct screening LCA studies on up to 5 representative product lines. Results will be provided to company and used by the company to develop LCA action plan to reduce the life-cycle environmental impacts of its products.

4) Meetings and On-Site Audits: Meetings at headquarters to review corporate sustainability policies and practices, plus on-site audits as needed of the manufacturing and co-manufacturing facilities or a sample of those facilities, will be scheduled after most of the required data have been submitted and reviewed. The auditor performing the on-site visits will focus on verifying that social and environmental policies have been effectively communicated to staff and that the policies and procedures outlined are being implemented; auditors may also address issues related to the LCA studies, the LCA action plan, or other issues as needed. After the audit, the auditor will provide you with a report documenting any corrective actions that must be taken in order to achieve certification. Any corrective actions must be addressed within 120 days of the receipt of the post-audit report.

5) Award of Certification: Once the company meets all requirements for certification, Green Seal will grant the license to use the Green Seal Certification Mark in promotion and advertising by awarding an official certification letter and certificate. Certified companies are also listed on Green Seal's website. Typically a few months prior to the anniversary date of certification, Green Seal will be in contact to schedule a monitoring evaluation. The ongoing compliance monitoring verifies that procedures put in place for certification continue to be followed. To maintain certification bronze level-certified companies must meet the silver requirements within three years of initial certification.

ENVIRONMENTAL
LEADERSHIP STANDARDS



CERTIFICATION FOR
PRODUCTS, SERVICES,
PROPERTIES & COMPANIES



PARTNERSHIPS IN
GREEN PURCHASING &
FACILITIES MANAGEMENT



SUSTAINABILITY
RESEARCH & LIFE CYCLE
ANALYSIS