



# Corrections and Clarifications Report

July 2020

**The following editions of Green Seal Standards were issued on July 31, 2020.  
The non-substantive changes included in these editions are detailed herein.**

- GS-1, Edition 6.3, Sanitary Paper Products
- GS-8, Edition 5.5, Cleaning Products for Household Use
- GS-37, Edition 7.6, Cleaning Products for Industrial and Institutional Use
- GS-40, Edition 2.5, Floor-care Products for Industrial and Institutional Use
- GS-44, Edition 4.3, Soaps, Cleansers, and Shower Products

## **Introduction**

Corrections and Clarifications Reports (CCRs) are Green Seal's public record of all non-substantive changes made to Green Seal standards. CCRs are not proposed for public comment due to their low impact on the standards. Substantive changes, which may raise or lower the bar of health and environmental leadership, are still required to undergo Green Seal's rigorous stakeholder engagement process, which includes a 60-day public comment period. Upon release of a CCR, all affected standards are re-issued with updated edition numbers to signify that an update occurred.

## **Non-Substantive Changes**

Non-substantive changes to Green Seal Standards do not affect the certification status of Green Seal-certified products. Examples of non-substantive changes include changes to phrasing, wording, and formatting for improved readability of the standard, updates of external references, and corrections of errors.

## **Release Schedule of CCRs**

Editorial Reports are released on a quarterly basis and can be accessed on Green Seal's website.

## **Our Stakeholder-Based Process**

Although non-substantive changes are not published for public comment, Green Seal remains open to all input from our stakeholders on all issues regarding the standards. We encourage any interested party or individual to submit comments on Green Seal standards via Green Seal's website, email, or phone.

## **Clarifications**

Green Seal periodically notes issues with the text of a standard. In certain cases, a requirement is worded in a way that leads to misinterpretations. In these cases, Green Seal improves the text of the standard via clarifications to ensure clear and consistent interpretations.

## **Corrections**

Green Seal standards undergo scheduled quality reviews during which errors may be noted. Examples of errors include typos, grammatical errors, misplaced text, omissions in information, and inconsistencies within a standard.

## **Information about the Red-lined Text within CCRs**

CCRs use formatting that is consistent with Green Seal's Standard Revision Proposals to depict the differences between the previous edition of a standard and the current edition.

- **Text Boxes** are used to highlight the excerpts of standard content.
- **Red font** is used to show that text has been added to a standard.
- Text with ~~strikethrough lines~~ show that text has deleted from a standard.

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## Sanitary Paper Products, GS-1

### 1. Re-Entering Definition for Third-Party Certification Program

GS-1, Edition 6.3 was issued and did not include the definition of “third-party certification program.” This definition was unintentionally deleted from the Annex A, which lists normative definitions. The definition below is now included in GS-1, Edition 6.3.

- 3.1 Fiber Requirements.** The fiber source shall meet one of the following:
- The product shall be made from 100% *recovered material*, subject to the applicable requirement in section 3.2;
  - The product shall be made from 100% *agricultural residue*;
  - The product shall be made from any combination of *recovered material* and *agricultural residue*, provided that the *recovered material* is 100% *post-consumer material*, or the product meets the applicable requirement in section 3.2 herein.

For *recovered material* produced by *integrated mills* where *whitewater* and/or *wastewater* recovery may cause contamination of the incoming *recovered material furnish* (stock), reclaimed mixed fibers containing *virgin material* may be acceptable as long as it can be shown, through mass balance calculations, that the amount of *virgin fiber* in the reclaimed mixed fibers is less than 0.5% of the incoming *recovered material furnish* (stock).

When using *agricultural residue*, the manufacturer shall document the original source of the material and the *agricultural residue* shall originate from a crop certified to the Rainforest Alliance Sustainable Agriculture Standard or other approved *third-party certification program*.

**Third-Party Certification Program.** A program without any financial interest or stake in the sales of the product or service being certified or other conflict of interest. The basis for certification must be a publicly-available standard that was developed with stakeholder input. Certification to the standard must be completed by an independent party (i.e., not the product company), include site inspections, where applicable, and have a monitoring program to verify ongoing compliance.

## Cleaning Products for Household Use, GS-8

### 1. Aquatic Toxicity, Editorial Correction

Green Seal has corrected an editorial issue with the phrasing of Aquatic Toxicity; the numerical reference of the OECD test guidance 202 has been corrected, as demonstrated below.

**3.5 Aquatic Toxicity.** The *product as used* shall not be toxic to aquatic life. A compound is considered not toxic to aquatic life if it meets one or more of the following criteria: Acute LC<sub>50</sub> for algae, daphnia, or fish  $\geq 100$  mg/L. Aquatic toxicity tests shall follow the appropriate protocols in ISO 7346.2 for fish or OECD test guidance 203 for fish, OECD test guidance 201 for algae, and ~~202~~-OECD test guidance **202** for daphnia.

### 2. Disposal Instructions, Editorial Correction

Green Seal has corrected an inconsistency within the Disposal Instructions requirement. The primary packaging requirements were updated to provide additional alternative compliance pathways for household product packaging that no longer required every certified product to be recyclable, therefore the sentence within Disposal Instructions was no longer appropriate. Green Seal has deleted this sentence for consistency and accuracy.

**5.3 Disposal Instructions.** The label must include proper disposal instructions. If the product is a towelette or other disposable wipe product, the label must clearly indicate proper disposal of the wipes. ~~For the primary package disposal, the label must include clear recycling instructions.~~

### 3. Basis Statement, Editorial Correction

In 2017, Green Seal issued updated cleaning standards that included more consistent terminology. During that revision the proposed updates included the Basis Statement. The proposed updates were supported by stakeholders and were intended to be implemented, however, this section in the GS-8 Standard was unintentionally not updated. Green Seal has corrected the wording of this requirement.

**5.7 Basis of Certification Statement.** Wherever the Green Seal Certification Mark appears, it shall be accompanied by a description of the basis for certification. The description shall be in a location, style, and typeface that are easily readable.

Unless otherwise approved in writing by Green Seal, the description shall read as follows, unless an alternate version is approved in writing by Green Seal:

This product meets Green Seal® Standard GS-8 based on effective performance, **minimized** recycled/recyclable packaging, and protective limits on VOCs and human & environmental toxicity. GreenSeal.org.

If the *powder/solid/non-aqueous liquid* product was evaluated in accordance with Annex B, the description shall read as follows, unless an alternate version is approved in writing by Green Seal:

This product meets Green Seal® Standard GS-8 based on effective performance, **minimized** ~~recycled~~/recyclable packaging, and protective limits on VOCs and human & environmental toxicity. [Powders OR Solids OR Non-aqueous liquids]<sup>1</sup> have alternate thresholds for [acute toxicity and/or skin/eye damage]<sup>2</sup> and added requirements for packaging and labeling. GreenSeal.org

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<sup>1</sup> The specific type of product shall be listed.

<sup>2</sup> Only the criteria that were evaluated according to the relevant Annex shall be listed.

## Cleaning Products for Institutional and Industrial Use, GS-37

### 1. General-Purpose Performance Test Method, Clarification

Green Seal recognizes that the standard test method referenced in the General-Purpose Cleaners performance requirement is withdrawn. The additional footnote clarifies Green Seal's remaining preference for this test.

**2.1.1 General-Purpose Cleaners.** *General-purpose cleaners* shall remove at least 80% of the particulate soil in ASTM International (ASTM) D4488, A5.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>3</sup> ASTM D4488 has been withdrawn, however it is still the best available method for this performance testing, remains available for purchase, and is regularly used by laboratories to test performance.

### 2. Restroom Cleaner Performance Requirements, Clarification

Green Seal has included the word "stain" to clarify the intention of the performance requirements for restroom cleaners.

**2.1.2 Restroom Cleaners.** *Restroom cleaners* shall remove at least 75% of the soil in ASTM D5343 as measured by the method. If the product is used for toilet bowl or urinal cleaning, then it must also demonstrate efficacy for water hardness **stain** removal with an appropriate method following the requirements outlined in 2.2 for Alternative Performance Requirements.

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<sup>3</sup> ASTM D4488 has been withdrawn, however it is still the best available method for this performance testing, is still available for purchase, and is regularly used by laboratories to test performance.

## Floor-care Products for Industrial and Institutional Use, GS-40

### 1. Additional Performance Requirements, Clarification

Green Seal has clarified the phrasing of the pre-condition requirements for alternative performance testing and has shifted this text to the top of the requirement for stronger visibility.

**2.2 Additional Performance Requirements.** Each product shall perform effectively, as measured by the following standard test methods:

For each of the below tests, products shall be diluted, as required, just prior to testing using water from the cold tap at no more than 50°F.

**Removability:** The floor finish and compatible stripper shall achieve a removal ease rating of “good” as measured by ASTM D1792, Standard Test Method for Long-Term Removability Properties of Floor Polishes. In the case of a floor finish and stripper proposed for certification together, they should be tested together, with the candidate stripper replacing the ASTM standard-defined stripper. In the case of a floor finish alone proposed for certification, it should be tested with a Green Seal-certified stripper, with the Green Seal-certified stripper replacing the ASTM standard-defined stripper. In the case of a stripper alone proposed for certification, it should be tested with a Green Seal-certified finish, with the candidate stripper replacing the ASTM standard-defined stripper.

**Soil Resistance:** The floor finish shall perform as well as a nationally recognized or market-leading product of its type as measured by ASTM D3206, Standard Test Method for Soil Resistance of Floor Polishes.

**Detergent Resistance:** The floor finish shall demonstrate minimal deterioration by achieving a detergent resistance rating of “very good”, as measured by ASTM D3207, Standard Test Method for Detergent Resistance of Floor Polish Films. The floor finish shall be tested using a GS-37 certified floor cleaner at the recommended dilution rate for routine floor maintenance as listed on packaging, or the ASTM cleaning solution specified in ASTM D3207.

~~Products shall be tested as used, and if diluted, products shall be diluted with water from the cold tap at no more than 50 °F.~~



## Soaps, Cleansers, and Shower Products, GS-44

### 1. Natural and Biobased Claims, Correction

Green Seal has deleted a typo, a phrase that was not intended to be included, within the requirements for Natural and Biobased Claims within this standard.

The GS-44 Standard is currently open for public comment as of July 30, with the Proposed Criteria for Hand Sanitizers, Green Seal will include the correction within the next edition of the GS-44 Standard at the time that the hand sanitizer criteria is finalized. As of July 30, 2020, the GS-44 Standard has not yet included the below correction.

**5.4 Natural and Biobased Claims.** Only the following *natural* and *biobased*, or related, claims are allowed when the product meets the criteria outlined:

- “100 percent Natural,” “All Natural,” “100 percent Biobased,” or “All Biobased” shall only contain *natural* or *biobased components*, respectively, with no synthetic, petroleum, silicone, or artificial components. An exception is permitted for lye used to produce soap.
- "Natural" or “Biobased” products shall contain 95% *natural, naturally-derived, or biobased components*, respectively, ~~with no synthetic, petroleum, silicone, or artificial components.~~
- Claims on specific product *ingredients* being “natural” or “biobased” may be permitted if it is a *natural or biobased ingredient*.