



GS-18

GREEN SEAL® STANDARD FOR PAPER PRODUCTS USED FOR FOOD PREPARATION

EDITION 2.1

July 12, 2013

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THE MARK OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

GREEN SEAL®

Green Seal is a non-profit organization whose mission is to use science-based programs to empower consumers, purchasers, and companies to create a more sustainable world. Green Seal sets leadership standards that aim to reduce, to the extent technologically and economically feasible, the environmental, health, and social impacts throughout the life-cycle of products, services, and companies. The standards may be used for conformity assessment, purchaser specifications, and public education.

Green Seal offers certification of products, services, and companies in conformance with its standards. For additional information on Green Seal or any of its programs, contact:

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**GREEN SEAL STANDARD FOR
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FOREWORD

Edition. Edition 2.1 was issued on May 10, 2013 and replaces the Second Edition from January 7, 1997. Corrections and/or clarifications were last made on April 30, 2021. Information on all changes made to this standard can be found on Green Seal's website.¹

General. The final issued standard was developed in an open and transparent process with stakeholder input that included producers, users, and general interests.

The requirements in the standard are based on an assessment of the environmental, health, or social impacts associated with the products, services, or organizations covered in the scope of the standard. These requirements are subject to revision, and generally cover aspects above and beyond regulatory compliance. This standard neither modifies nor supersedes laws and regulations. Any conformity assessment to this standard requires compliance with all applicable laws and regulations for the manufacturing and marketing of the products.

Provisions for safety have not been included in this standard, since they are supervised by regulatory agencies. Adequate safeguards for personnel and property should be employed for all stages of production, and for all tests that involve safety considerations.

Products, services, or organizations that are substantially similar to those covered by this standard in terms of function and life cycle considerations may be evaluated against the intent of the requirements of this standard, accounting for relevant differences between the intended scope of the Standard and the actual product, service, or organization to be evaluated.

This standard may not anticipate a feature of the product that may significantly, and undesirably, increase its impact on the environment, health, or society. In such a situation, Green Seal will ordinarily amend a standard to account for the unanticipated environmental, health, or societal impacts.

Normative references (e.g., other standards) in this standard intend to refer to the most recent edition of the normative reference. Test methods may be required for product evaluation. Unless explicitly stated that a specified method is the only acceptable one, the intent of the standard is that an equivalent test method may be accepted at Green Seal's sole discretion.

Certification to this standard shall be awarded only by Green Seal, or, with Green Seal's explicit written permission, by a third-party certification program conducting on-site audits.

Disclaimer of Liability. Green Seal, as the developer of this standard, shall not incur any obligations or liability for any loss or damages, including, without limitation, indirect, consequential, special, or incidental damages, arising out of or in connection with the interpretation or adoption of, reliance upon, or any other use of this Standard by any party. Green Seal makes no express or implied warranty of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose, nor any other express or implied warranty with respect to this Standard.

¹ Library of Standards Documents, www.greenseal.org/green-seal-standards/library#section6

GREEN SEAL STANDARD FOR PAPER PRODUCTS USED FOR FOOD PREPARATION, GS-18

1.0 SCOPE

This criteria document establishes requirements for *paper products used in the preparation of food, also known as "indirect food additives."* See Appendix 1 for an example list of products included in this standard.

Words and phrases described in the standard that appear in *italics* have a corresponding definition located in the definition section of the standard, Annex A.

2.0 PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS

The product must be made in accordance with reasonable industry practice with respect to quality and performance.

3.0 PRODUCT-SPECIFIC ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS

The product must meet the requirements under either Section 3.1 or Section 3.2.

3.1 Non-Whitened Products or Unbleached Products Requirements. Product must not be whitened or *bleached* through any chemical processes, i.e. *unbleached*.

3.2 Whitened or Bleached Products Requirements. Neither chlorine nor any of its derivatives shall be used in the bleaching agent if *bleaching* is employed in the manufacturing of virgin pulp used in the product or in the manufacturing of the product itself.

4.0 PACKAGING REQUIREMENTS

4.1 Toxics in Packaging: The sum of the concentration levels of lead, cadmium, mercury, and hexavalent chromium present in any package or packaging component shall not exceed 100 parts per million by weight.

4.2 Recycled Content: Products packaged in fiberboard packaging must contain a minimum of 15% *post-consumer materials*.

5.0 TRADEMARK USE REQUIREMENTS

5.1 Trademark Use. Any use of the Green Seal® Certification Mark or the Green Seal name, e.g., on the product, product label, packaging, secondary documents, or promotional materials, must be in accordance with Green Seal's Trademark Use Guidelines.²

5.2 Misleading Claims. Green Seal trademarks shall not be used in conjunction with any modifying terms, phrases, or graphic images that might mislead consumers as to the extent or nature of the certification.

² www.greenseal.org/trademark-use-guidelines

ANNEX A – DEFINITIONS (Normative)

Note that the defined terms are italicized throughout the standard.

Paper Products Used in the Preparation of Food or "Indirect Food Additives". Paper products as defined by Title 21, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 176.180, Components of Paper and Paperboard in Contact with Dry Foods.

Unbleached. Paper products produced without undergoing any chemical whitening or lightening process.

Bleached. Paper products produced with a chemical whitening or lightening process.

Post-Consumer Materials. Those finished products, packages or materials generated by a business or consumer that have served their intended end uses, and that have been recovered from or otherwise diverted from the waste stream for the purpose of recycling.

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APPENDIX 1 – SCOPE (Informative)

Examples of products included in or excluded from the scope of GS-18:

Products Included in GS-18

- Uncoated paper and paperboard used in contact with dry foods (e.g., during production, packing, preparing, holding, etc.)
- Coated paper and paperboard used in contact with dry foods (e.g., during production, packing, preparing, holding, etc.)

Products Excluded from GS-18

- Paper towels (included in GS-1)
- Napkins (included in GS-1)
- Nonwoven sanitary products
- General purpose disposable and flushable wipes
- Bathroom tissue (included in GS-1)
- Facial tissue (travel packs)
- Facial tissue (flat box and cube box) (included in GS-1)
- Toilet seat covers (included in GS-1)
- Placemats or tray liners (included in GS-1)
- Table coverings (included in GS-1)
- Printing and writing paper (covered in GS-7)
- Newsprint (covered in GS-15)
- Coated printing paper (covered in GS-10)
- Single-use rigid containers for packaging or carry-out (included in GS-35)
- Single-use plates and bowls for packaging or carry-out (included in GS-35)