

# Recycled Content. Recognized Credibility. Recycled & Material Content Certification



Scientific Certification Systems (SCS) – recognized globally for integrity, scientific rigor and true independence – provides material content certification assessment services to manufacturers offering products made from recycled or biodegradable materials.

Launched in 1993, the SCS Environmental Claims Certification Program is the leading scientific program for independently certifying environmental claims for manufactured goods and materials. All claims are certified in accordance with U.S. Federal Trade Commission's *Guides for the Use of Environmental Marketing Claims* and ISO-14021 standards.

## Recycled Content

Recycled content products are made from materials that would otherwise have been discarded. Inputs for recycled content products come from numerous sources including newspapers, milk jugs, industrial metal discards, mill waste or any other material diverted from the waste stream.

There are two types of recycled content:

### Pre-Consumer Material

Pre-consumer material is material that has been diverted from the waste stream during a manufacturing process. Materials generated in a process and capable of being reclaimed within the same process (such as rework, regrind or scrap) are excluded.



### Post-Consumer Material

Post-consumer material is generated by households or by commercial, industrial and institutional facilities in their role as end-users of a product that can no longer be used for its intended purpose.

Use of recycled materials is one of the most widespread environmental strategies employed by manufacturers and is also a key factor in emerging sustainability and "green building" standards.



## Biodegradable Content

To be certified biodegradable, 70% of the product formula compound must – under aerobic conditions – break down into the simple substances of carbon dioxide, basic salts and water within 28 days.

## No Added Formaldehyde Content

No Added Formaldehyde certification ensures a product has been manufactured without the addition of formaldehyde. A No Added Urea Formaldehyde claim can also be certified.

[www.SCScertified.com/recycled](http://www.SCScertified.com/recycled)

For information about becoming certified or locating certified products, please contact us at 800.326.3228 or visit us online at **SCScertified.com**.



**SCIENTIFIC CERTIFICATION SYSTEMS**

| *Setting the standard for sustainability™*

Providing global leadership in independent, third-party certification, auditing, testing and standards development for more than 25 years.

## Benefits of Certification

- Reinforce your brand image with on-product, third party certification labeling
- Assure regulators and customers your certified products are held to rigorous standards
- Demonstrate conformance to material definitions in ISO 14021 environmental labeling standard and U.S. Federal Trade Commission (FTC) *Guides for the Use of Environmental Marketing Claims*
- Attain bottom-line cost savings with effective environmental strategies
- Achieve value-added cross-certifications including CARB ATCM and Indoor Advantage Gold™
- Products containing a certain percentage of either pre-consumer or post-consumer recycled material can help meet the criteria for LEED MR 4.1 or MR 4.2

## Certification Process

Certification assessment consists of a desk audit, an on-site SCS audit and, in some cases, lab testing. All certifications must be assessed annually.

1. **Application:** Upon receipt of your application, SCS creates a proposal and a work order outlining the scope of work and fees associated.
2. **Data Review:** SCS reviews applicant's confidential data.
3. **Verification:** SCS conducts on-site audit, reviewing upstream suppliers if needed.
4. **Certification:** SCS issues certificate and label, adds product information into searchable certified products database.
5. **Monitoring:** SCS requests and processes data annually, watching for changes that could impact certification.

## Complementary Certifications

In addition to recycled content certification, SCS provides level™ certification for furniture (based on BIFMA e3), Sustainable Choice™ certification for carpet (based on NSF 140-2007), Indoor Advantage™ certification for low-VOC content and emissions (based on LEED requirements and CA 01350 limits) and CARB ATCM certification for meeting California's Airborne Toxic Control Measure (ATCM 93120) for composite wood products. SCS is also an accredited certifier of Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) forest products and forest product handlers.



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