

**Hong Kong Green Label Scheme**  
**Product Environmental Criteria for**  
**Plastic Bags for Non-food Products (GL-002-003)**



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## **BACKGROUND**

The Hong Kong Green Label Scheme (HKGLS) is an independent and voluntary scheme, which aims to identify products that are, based on life cycle analysis consideration, more environmentally preferable than other similar products with the same function. The Scheme is organized by the Green Council (GC) with contributions from the HKGLS Advisory Committee and a number of supporting organizations.

The prime objectives of HKGLS are:

- For Consumers: assist in making purchases of products that are less harmful to the environment;
- For Industry: stimulate development and production of environmentally preferable alternatives.

This specification sets out the requirements that plastic bags for non-food products will be required to meet in order to be licensed to use the HKGLS label. The requirements include environmental criteria and product characteristics. The specification also defines the testing and other means to be used to verify conformance with the environmental criteria and product characteristics.

## **POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS**

Plastic wastes contribute significantly to the solid waste in our landfills. Reduce the volume of waste plastic through recycling will both reduce the amount of plastic entering the waste stream and reduce the consumption of non-renewable plastic resources.

## **LABEL OBJECTIVE**

The aim of the environmental criteria developed for plastic bags for non-food products is to:

- Promote the manufacture of environmental plastic products from plastic wastes.
- Reduce the amount of plastic entering the waste stream.
- Help reduce non-renewable virgin plastic resources.

## **PRODUCT DEFINITION**

This document and all product environmental criteria therein apply to all plastic bags for non-food products such as shopping bags or garbage bags.

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**PRODUCT ENVIRONMENTAL CRITERIA**

The table below sets out the environmental criteria for the product category of Plastic bags for non-food products (GL-002-003) under the HKGLS.

Criteria	Verification Method
1. The plastic product shall contain at least 50% by weight of recycled plastic content.	C,D
2. The product shall be marked with an appropriate plastics resin identification code.	B
3. The product shall have not be impregnated, labeled, coated or otherwise treated in a manner, which would prevent recycling.	B
4. General packaging requirements (Refer to criteria for packaging materials: GL-Packaging)	B,C,D

Legend:

A - Analytical testing shall be performed by laboratories that meet the requirement laid out in the EN45001 standards or any equivalent systems (e.g. HOKLAS, IEC/ISO 17025).

B – Inspection of product samples

C- Review of supporting information as required by the GC

D – Interviews with relevant personnel and/or site visits to relevant facilities