

Hong Kong Green Label Scheme
Product Environmental Criteria for
Toner Cartridge (GL-005-002)



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 Toner cartridge 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

Most printers and other computer printers as well as some copying machines utilize toner cartridges. The content of these cartridges include powder and drum. These products are normally one-way products. As a result, considerable amounts of plastic waste get into household refuse and thus into landfills after use.

LABEL OBJECTIVE

The environmental criteria developed for toner cartridge are primarily focused on waste minimization.

PRODUCT DEFINITION

Toner cartridges are defined to be containers that contain toner powder, a drum and other necessary operational mechanisms in connection with printing or electrographic reproduction process.

PRODUCT ENVIRONMENTAL CRITERIA

The table below sets out the environmental criteria for the product category of toner cartridge (GL-005-002) under the HKGLS.

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Criteria	Verification Method
1. The cartridge shall be refillable for at least 5 times.	C,D
2. The number of copies/printouts per unit shall be more than or equal to 3000 copies/printouts with the contrast set at medium and a black portion of the copy/printout of 6%.	A (ASTM F 1531), C
3. Materials containing mercury, lead, cadmium or chromium VI compounds shall not be used as constituent parts	A,C
4. Packaging requirements : <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The packaging of the product shall not contain PVC or chlorine-based plastics;• General packaging requirement (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