



TÜVRheinland®

DIN CERTCO

Genau. Richtig.



# Certification programme

**Recyclable**

to

**DIN EN ISO 14021  
and minimum standard packaging in accordance with § 21 Para.  
3 VerpackG**

(Status: 23.12.2020)

## Foreword

DIN CERTCO was founded in 1972 by the DIN Deutsches Institut für Normung e. V. (German Institute for Standardisation) to award the DIN mark and offers certification of products, persons, services and companies on the basis of DIN standards and similar specifications.

To document our neutrality, independence and competence, we have accreditation in accordance with DIN EN ISO/IEC 17065. We also ensure the satisfaction and trust of our customers and their data through the following certifications:

- Quality management system according to DIN EN ISO 9001
- Environmental management system according to DIN EN ISO 14001
- Information security management system according to DIN ISO/IEC 27001
- Occupational health and safety management system according to OHSAS 18001

Recycling is an important component of sustainable resource use and part of product responsibility. Recyclability is an important part of the development of packaging and products and must be taken into account.

The minimum standard for the assessment of the recyclability of packaging subject to system participation was published by the ZSVR in agreement with the Federal Environment Agency. DIN CERTCO evaluates the quality of recyclability to close material cycles and the associated ecological and economic added value.

With a Flustix DINplus combi-label from DIN CERTCO, the sustainable resource use of products and packaging becomes visible.

The basis for the classification of the recyclability of products and packaging is DIN EN ISO 14021, the minimum standard for packaging according to § 21 para. 3 VerpackG. and in accordance with DIN EN 13430.

In addition to DIN CERTCO's General Terms and Conditions, this certification scheme forms the basis for suppliers of recyclable packaging to mark their packaging with the certification mark "Flustix Flustix DINplus Combi Mark".

The quality mark "Flustix *DINplus* Combi Mark" gives the consumer confidence that an independent, neutral and competent body has carefully examined and evaluated the test criteria. The external monitoring also ensures that the product quality is maintained during ongoing production. The customer thus receives added value that he can take into account when making his purchase decision.

Recyclable products and packaging are awarded the certification mark "Flustix *DINplus*-Kombizeichen" if the requirements listed in section 4 are met in accordance with the procedure described in this certification scheme.

All certificate holders can visit daily updated on the homepage of DIN CERTCO homepage ([www.dincertco.de](http://www.dincertco.de)).

## Start of validity

This certification scheme is valid from 2021-01-01.

## Changes

None

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## 1 Scope of application

This certification scheme applies to the recyclability of packaging and, in conjunction with the test bases mentioned below, contains all the requirements for awarding the certification mark "Flustix *DINplus* Combi Mark Recyclable".

This certification scheme refers to packaging that is subject to system participation pursuant to Section 7 (1) of the Packaging Act and thus must meet the requirements of the minimum standard pursuant to Section 13 (3) of the Packaging Act.

This includes packaging made of plastic, PPK, glass and metals. The unfilled packaging is considered as a complete packaging system and includes packaging components such as labels, sealing films, lids and closures or adhesive applications. Separate consideration of packaging components is only possible if they are typically disposed of separately.

This certification scheme sets out requirements for the packaging itself and for its testing, monitoring and certification.

## 2 Testing and Certification basis

The documents listed below form the basis for testing and certification. In the case of dated references, only the version referred to shall apply. In the case of undated references, the current edition of the referenced document, including all amendments, shall apply.

DIN EN 14021 Environmental labels and declarations- Environment-related

Supplier declarations (environmental labelling type II)

§ Section 21 (3) VerpackG Mindeststandard für die Bemessung der Recyclingfähigkeit von

Packaging subject to system participation

- this certification programme
- the General Terms and Conditions of DIN CERTCO
- the associated schedule of fees from DIN CERTCO
- Testing, Registration and Certification Regulations DIN CERTCO

## 3 Definitions of terms

### Packaging component

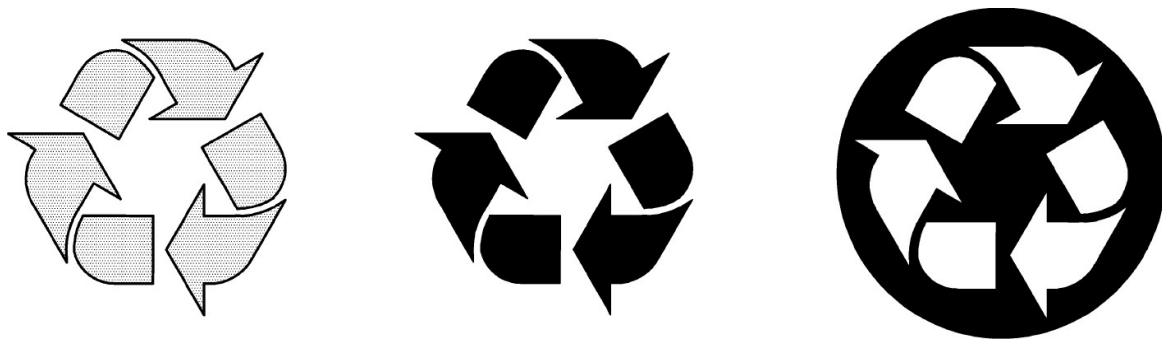
Part of the packaging that can be separated by hand or using simple mechanical means

## 4 Product requirements

The certification programme, in conjunction with the referenced standards and laws, defines requirements for packaging that can be classified as recyclable and thus recyclable.

In general, the DIN EN 14021 standard defines the prerequisites for recyclability and specifies the use of recyclability labels.

The existence of suitable collection points for the recycling of the products is necessary and must be clearly described in case of limited availability. The three-arrow symbol must be used in addition to the certification mark to indicate recyclability:



**Figure 1: Examples of the three-arrow symbol [DIN EN ISO 14021:2016].**

In addition to this standard, the minimum standard for the assessment of the recyclability of packaging subject to system participation pursuant to Section 21 (3) of the Packaging Act is used in this certification scheme.

The recyclability is determined analogously to Section 4 and Annexes 1 to 3.

## **5 Exam**

### **5.1 General**

DIN CERTCO makes use of the testing laboratories recognised by it to carry out the necessary tests as a basis for the assessment and certification of the packaging and products.

### **5.2 Types of examination**

#### **5.2.1 Initial test (type test)**

The initial test is a type test (design test, type examination) which serves to determine whether the product complies with the requirements according to section 4 of this certification scheme.

#### **5.2.2 Monitoring audit (control audit)**

The surveillance test is carried out at recurring, fixed intervals (annually) and serves to determine whether the certified packaging/certified product corresponds to the type-tested product in the production phase.

It is commissioned by DIN CERTCO and must be verified in due time by a positive test report.

The scope of the surveillance test corresponds to the initial test in section 5.2.1.

#### **5.2.3 Supplementary examination**

A supplementary test takes place if additions, extensions or changes (see section 6.9) have been made to the certified product which have an influence on the conformity with the underlying requirements.

The type and scope of the supplementary test shall be determined in each individual case by DIN CERTCO in agreement with the testing laboratory.

### 5.2.4 Special test

A special test will take place

- in the case of detected defects
- after production has been suspended for a period of more than 6 months
- at the justifiable instigation of DIN CERTCO
- at the written request of third parties, if they have a special interest in maintaining orderly market operations in terms of competition or quality

The type and scope of a special test shall be determined in each individual case by DIN CERTCO in consultation with the testing laboratory in accordance with the purpose.

If defects are found during a special inspection or if it is a special inspection due to the suspension of production, the certificate holder shall bear the costs of the special inspection procedure.

If no defects are found during special inspections at the request of third parties, the costs shall be borne by the requesting third party.

### 5.3 Sampling

The samples for the initial and surveillance testing are usually delivered by the manufacturer to the testing laboratory commissioned with the testing. The costs for this are borne by the manufacturer.

The number of samples for product testing is agreed between DIN CERTCO and the testing laboratory, insofar as it is not regulated in the valid testing principles.

### 5.4 Conducting the examination

After application with document template according to section **Fehler! Verweisquelle konnte nicht gefunden werden**, all documents relating to the sample to be tested are sent by DIN CERTCO to the testing laboratory performing the test.

After receipt of the test samples, the testing laboratory checks together with the submitted documents whether the test is feasible. If this is the case, one test sample per type (see section 6.2) is tested by the testing laboratory. In addition, the testing laboratory determines the scope of testing.

- Verification of packaging design and composition
- Examination of the availability of suitable technologies for material recycling
- Sortability test
- Testing for recycling incompatibilities
- If recyclability cannot be clearly determined, extended laboratory tests or testing in a sorting plant may be necessary.
- For the identification of the recyclable material, the recording of an IR spectrum according to the appendix is additionally required.

### 5.5 Test report

The testing laboratory shall inform the client of the result of the tests in a test report. This must be submitted to DIN CERTCO in the original.

As a rule, the test report must not be older than 6 months at the time of application. In individual cases, older test reports may also be recognised if the testing laboratory confirms in writing the validity of the information stated in the test report.

The test report shall comply with DIN EN ISO/IEC17025, section 5.10 and shall contain at least the following information.

- Name and address of the manufacturer
- Name and address of the applicant (if different from the manufacturer)
- Test basis (standards and certification scheme) incl. date of issue
- Type of test (e.g. type test, supplementary test, etc.)
- Date of the examination
- Results and assessment of the audit
- Name and signature of the person responsible for the audit
- If applicable, further points required by standards

## **6 Certification**

Certification within the meaning of this certification scheme is the conformity assessment of a product by DIN CERTCO on the basis of test reports of the testing laboratories recognised by it. In this context, the products to be certified are checked for compliance (conformity) with the requirements specified in section 4 and subsequently monitored.

The right to use the quality mark "Flustix *DINplus* Combi Mark" is granted by issuing a corresponding certificate.

### **6.1 Application for certification**

Applicants can be manufacturers in accordance with § 4 of the Product Liability Act (ProdHaftG) or distributors who, in written agreement with the certificate holder, place the products on the market under their own responsibility within the meaning of the Product Liability Act.

The applicant shall submit the following documents to DIN CERTCO:

- Application for certification in original and with legally binding signature
- Completed data sheet (is part of the application form)
- Disclosure of the chemical composition of the packaging components (incl. substances contained in quantities of less than 1% by mass).
- Safety data sheets according to REACH for each additive used to prove the harmlessness of the additives
- Construction drawing of the packaging system
- Sending of product samples

After receipt of the application, the applicant receives an order confirmation from DIN CERTCO with a procedure number and information on the further procedure and any missing application documents.

### **6.2 Classification into packaging groups**

Packaging groups can be assessed if the material structure of the individual packages of this group is identical. They may differ in the contents and filling quantity. Different colours may not be certified in one packaging group.

### 6.3 Conformity assessment

DIN CERTCO carries out the conformity assessment on the basis of the submitted application documents. In particular, the test report is used to assess whether the product meets the requirements of the certification scheme and the standard.

The applicant shall be informed in writing by DIN CERTCO about possible deviations.

### 6.4 Certificate and right to use the mark

After successful examination and conformity assessment of the submitted application documents, DIN CERTCO issues a certificate to the applicant and grants the right to use the quality mark "Flustix *DINplus* Combi Mark" in connection with an associated registration number.



Structure of the  
Registration number:

<Recy>0F000

Packaging and products for which the right to use the quality mark "Flustix *DINplus* Combi Mark" has been granted shall be marked with the quality mark "Flustix *DINplus* Combi Mark" and the associated register number.

The mark and registration number may only be used for the type for which the certificate has been issued and which corresponds to the type-tested product.

One register number is assigned per type. The same register number is issued for execution types (subtypes) of a type (see section 6.2).

In addition, the General Terms and Conditions of DIN CERTCO shall apply.

### 6.5 Publications

All certificate holders can be accessed on a daily basis via the DIN CERTCO homepage [www.dincertco.de](http://www.dincertco.de). Manufacturers, users and consumers use this recherche possibility to inform themselves about certified products.



## 6.6 Validity of the certificate

The certificate is valid for 3 years. The validity period is indicated in the certificate. When the certificate expires, the right to use the mark also expires.

## 6.7 Renewal of the certificate

If the certification is to be maintained beyond the date specified in the certificate, a current sample must be submitted to DIN CERTCO in good time before the expiry of the validity and an application for extension must be submitted. DIN CERTCO carries out the conformity assessment on the basis of the submitted application documents.

Proof of compliance with the requirements of the testing and certification principles according to Section 2 shall be provided within the scope of an initial test according to Section 5.2.1, which shall be assessed by DIN CERTCO.

## 6.8 Expiry of the certificate

If the renewed test for conformity to standards according to section 5 has not taken place in time before the expiry of the validity period, the right to use the quality mark "Flustix *DINplus* Combi Mark" and the register number expires without the need for an explicit notification by DIN CERTCO.

In addition, the certificate may expire if, for example:

- the monitoring measures according to section 8 are not carried out in a timely manner or are incomplete,
- the quality mark "Flustix *DINplus* Combi Mark" is misused by the certificate holder,
- the requirements arising from this certification scheme or their accompanying documents are not met,
- the applicable certification fees are not paid on time,
- the requirements for the granting of the certificate are no longer met.

## 6.9 Changes/Supplements

### 6.9.1 Changes/additions to the product

The certificate holder is obliged to notify DIN CERTCO immediately of any changes to the product. DIN CERTCO decides in consultation with the testing laboratory to what extent a test in accordance with section 5.2.3 is to be carried out and whether it is a significant change. The test report on this shall be forwarded to DIN CERTCO by the testing laboratory.

If DIN CERTCO detects a significant change, the certificate with the associated registration number expires. A new application for initial certification and the right to use the quality mark "Flustix *DINplus* Combi Mark" can be submitted for the modified product.

The certificate holder is also obliged to notify any changes in formal details (e.g. certificate holder or its address).

The certificate holder can apply to DIN CERTCO for an extension of the existing certificate for further design types (subtypes) of the same type. DIN CERTCO decides whether these additions require a supplementary test. Provided that the requirements are fulfilled, the design types are included in the certificate for the already certified product and are considered to be part of it.

### **6.9.2 Change to the test basis**

If the test basis for certification changes, an application for a change in certification must be submitted within 6 months of notification by DIN CERTCO and, as a rule, conformity with the changed test basis must be submitted after 12 months by submitting a positive test report (see section 5.2.3).

### **6.10 Defects in the packaging or the product**

If defects are found in a certified packaging or product on the market, the certificate holder shall be requested in writing by DIN CERTCO to remedy the defects.

DIN CERTCO decides in consultation with the testing laboratory whether the defect is serious or minor.

In the case of defects which have a direct or indirect influence on the safety or functional behaviour (serious defects), the manufacturer must ensure that the products are no longer marked with the certification marks until the defects have been rectified.

The defects shall also be remedied immediately on installed products or products in stock. The manufacturer shall prove to DIN CERTCO within 3 months by submitting a test report on a special test according to section 5.2.4 that the defects have been remedied and that the product complained about again complies with the specified requirements.

In the case of defects which have no influence on the safety or functional behaviour (minor defect), the manufacturer must prove to DIN CERTCO within 3 months and in a suitable manner that the defects in the product complained about have been rectified.

If the manufacturer does not comply with these deadlines, the certificate and thus the right to use the quality label "Flustix *DINplus* Combi Label" will be withdrawn from him and the distributor.

If there is still cause for complaint, the certificate shall initially be suspended by DIN CERTCO and at the same time a final deadline shall be granted for the elimination of the defects. If the certificate holder does not comply with the request or does not comply within the set period, or if the elimination of the defects cannot be proven again, the certificate shall expire.

## **7 Self-monitoring by the manufacturer**

The manufacturer shall take appropriate quality assurance measures to ensure that the packaging and product characteristics confirmed during certification are maintained. This can be achieved by means of a quality assurance system directly aimed at the product or production.

The production process is ensured by means of factory production control (FPC) and, in addition, by measures within the framework of a quality management system (QM system) in accordance with the DIN EN ISO 9000 ff series of standards.

### **7.1 Factory production control (WPK)**

Factory production control is the continuous monitoring of the production process by the manufacturer, which ensures the conformity of the manufactured products with the specified requirements.

Corresponding records must be submitted to DIN CERTCO or its representatives upon request. They must contain at least the following information:

Designation of the test item Date of manufacture

Date of the examination

Result of the test and, if provided, comparison with the specified requirements Signature of the person responsible for the test

Date of the recording

If the result of a test is negative, the manufacturer must immediately take all measures to remedy the defect. Defective products must be labelled and removed. The test shall be repeated regularly in order to determine whether the defect has been remedied.

### **7.2 Quality management system**

DIN CERTCO recommends the establishment and certification of a quality management system in accordance with the DIN EN ISO 9000 ff. series of standards.

## **8 External monitoring by DIN CERTCO**

### **8.1 General**

An essential part of the certification is the continuous monitoring of the certified packaging and the certified product during the entire term of the certificate. The monitoring takes place at regular intervals of 1 year.

DIN CERTCO checks and evaluates the conformity of the packaging/product with the requirements specified in the certification scheme by means of surveillance tests.

### **8.2 Surveillance audits (control audits)**

In addition or instead of the inspection, regular control tests of randomly selected packaging may be specified in the certification scheme.

The surveillance tests shall be carried out annually within the scope of a type test of randomly selected packagings in accordance with section 4.2.2.