



flustix certification scheme

for the award of the flustix RECYCLED seal



Version 2.0, 02/03/2026

Document information

Title of the document	flustix standards
Last modification date	02/03/2026
Current document issue	02/03/2026
Status	English expansion edition
Description of the document	This document defines additional guidelines / recognitions / cooperations in addition to the "Certification scheme, products made from recycled material – flustix", in accordance with DIN EN 15343 (as of 2008-02), ISO 22095 (as of 2020-10), and DIN EN ISO 14021 for certification with the "flustix RECYCLED" trustmark

Contributors

Name	Organisation
Sameh Mahmoud, Leed Auditor Sustainability, Senior Environmental Consultant	Control Union Germany
Mag. Dr. Robert Herrmann, Geschäftsbereichsleiter Green Energy & Sustainability	TÜV SÜD Landesgesellschaft Österreich GmbH
Malte Biss, CEO & Scheme Development	flustix – RETHINK PLASTICS
Kiwoong Jung, Team Leader	IGSC (Institute of Global Sustainability Certification South Korean)
Kathrin Schaumann, Sales & Certification Development Manager (Program & Partners)	flustix – RETHINK PLASTICS

Change history

Version	Change date	Modified from	Summary of the change
1.0	28/11/2025	Malte Biss	First version of the document was created
2.0	02/03/2026	Malte Biss	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Revision of accepted pre-certifications (Section 6.4)- Clarification and application of the definitions Manufacturer / Processor / Production Site (Section 3.7, Section 8.5, Section 9.1)- Editorial amendments

flustix GmbH

Founded in 2017, the flustix initiative aims to support the responsible use of resources, particularly plastics. As the first of its kind in Europe, the flustix seals serve as a trademark for the sustainable use of plastics and other resources. In cooperation with internationally accredited certification and laboratory partners, flustix analyses materials, products and packaging with regard to their plastic content, their recyclability or the use of recycled materials of various kinds. All this is done to enhance the responsible use of resources and to come closer to the vision of an efficient circular economy.

The flustix initiative and the certification marks awarded serve as reliable guidance for consumers and businesses in the purchase and sale of sustainable goods. The primary objective of flustix is to reduce the excessive use and new production of plastics and to promote a functioning circular economy across materials, in order to prevent negative impacts on health and the environment. flustix recognises the importance of plastics as a valuable material and its diverse applications, such as in the fields of safety, transport, medicine and research. The main mission is the responsible use of all resources, especially plastics. flustix actively interacts with companies and consumers for the benefit of health and the environment.

flustix offers six trustmarks: the three "flustix LESS PLASTICS – MIN. XX% PLASTIC-FREE" trustmarks and the "flustix PRODUCT CONTENT MICROPLASTIC-FREE" trustmark certify – in collaboration with accredited testing laboratories and certification bodies – the entire product, its packaging, or the formulation itself. flustix RECYCLABLE confirms and communicates the recyclability of packaging. The flustix RECYCLED label certifies recyclates, semi-finished goods, and products or packaging containing recycled content.

flustix RECYCLED certification history

In January 2021, flustix, in cooperation with its accredited certification partner, began awarding the "flustix RECYCLED" label on the basis of the certification scheme "Products Made from Recycled Materials – flustix," according to the versions 2019-02 / 2019-07 / 2019-11 / 2020-07 / 2021-10 / 2022-07 / 2023-02 / 2023-10 / 2024-06.

In 2025, flustix developed a new certification scheme within a formal committee procedure in consultation with an international expert group and, in November 2025, published this scheme under the title "flustix certification scheme for the award of the flustix RECYCLED seal".

Imprint

Publisher: flustix GmbH

Managing Director: Malte Biss

Text: Malte Biss

flustix GmbH

Kronprinzendamm 20

10711 Berlin

Phone: +49 (0) 30 3982 0696 2

E-mail:m.biss@flustix.com

www.flustix.com

© 2026 flustix GmbH, Berlin

Start of validity

This certification scheme applies from 02/03/2026.

Previous issues

28.11.2025

Contents

- 1 Area of application.....10**
- 2 Testing and certification principles10**
- 3 Definitions of terms12**
 - 3.1 Waste before use (industrial waste)..... 12
 - 3.2 Waste after use..... 12
 - 3.3 (Waste) glass 12
 - 3.4 (Scrap) metal..... 12
 - 3.5 Products Leaving the Certified Process..... 13
 - 3.6 Batch / Stack 13
 - 3.7 Manufacturer / processor / manufacturing facility 13
 - 3.8 Component 13
 - 3.9 Plastic..... 13
 - 3.10 Mixture of PCR and PIR (MIX) 13
 - 3.11 Multisite..... 14
 - 3.12 Post-consumer recyclates (PCR) 14
 - 3.13 Post-industrial recyclates (PIR) 14
 - 3.14 Product..... 14
 - 3.15 Product code..... 14
 - 3.16 Product family..... 14
 - 3.17 Process..... 14
 - 3.18 Recycled material..... 14
 - 3.19 Recycled input..... 14
 - 3.20 Recycled content..... 15
 - 3.21 Traceability..... 15
 - 3.22 Uncontrolled recycled input 15
 - 3.23 Recovered (recycled) material 15
- 4 Requirements for third-party bodies (certification bodies, inspection bodies and auditors)15**
 - 4.1 Requirements for certification bodies 15
 - 4.2 Requirements for inspection bodies..... 15
 - 4.3 Requirements for auditors..... 16
- 5 Product requirements16**
 - 5.1 Supplier declaration and information on recycled content..... 16
 - 5.2 Products intended for food contact..... 16

5.3	Operational performance requirements (audit criteria)	17
6	Traceability requirements	17
6.1	General information	17
6.2	Supplier declarations / certificates	18
6.3	Controlled mixing model.....	18
6.4	Supplier attestations / certificates.....	18
6.4.1	Plastics	18
6.4.2	Fiber-based materials (paper and paperboard).....	20
7	Audits (conformity check).....	21
7.1	General information	21
7.2	Definition of the process boundaries	21
7.2.1	Utilisation of waste after use	21
7.2.2	Use of waste before use	22
7.3	Audit types	22
7.3.1	Initial audit	22
7.3.2	Monitoring audit.....	23
7.3.3	Supplementary audits.....	23
7.3.4	Special audits (audits for special reasons).....	24
7.3.5	Provisional initial certification (Provisional Certification)	24
7.4	Audit report	24
8	Certification	25
8.1	Application for certification	25
8.2	Classification of types and sub-types.....	25
8.3	Conformity assessment and deviations	26
8.4	Certificate and right to use the seal.....	27
8.5	Sub-Certificate	27
8.6	Publications.....	28
8.7	Validity of the certificate	28
8.8	Renewal of the certificate.....	28
8.9	Invalidation of the certificate.....	29
8.10	Changes / additions	29
8.10.1	Changes / additions to the product	29
8.10.2	Change to the test basis.....	30
8.11	Product defects.....	30
9	Self-monitoring by the manufacturer	31
9.1	Involvement of intermediaries	31
9.2	Factory production control (FPC) / Quality assurance.....	31

9.3	Requirements for the quality system	32
9.3.1	Business registration.....	32
9.3.2	Quality management system	32
9.3.3	Education	32
9.3.4	Register of complaints	33
9.3.5	Records – REACH compliance and product testing	33
9.3.6	Quality assurance.....	33
9.3.7	Communication about compliant products.....	33
9.4	Supplier evaluation	34
9.4.1	Identification of suppliers	34
9.4.2	Input data records.....	34
9.5	Input requirements	34
9.5.1	Purchase specification	34
9.5.2	Recorded weights and dates of delivery.....	35
9.5.3	Origin, source, sector and type of recycled input.....	35
9.6	Inventory management	36
9.6.1	Identification of stocks.....	36
9.6.2	Storage conditions	36
9.6.3	Inventory management system	36
9.6.4	Inventory controls.....	36
9.7	Process	37
9.7.1	Overview of the process	37
9.7.2	Incoming utilised input data records	37
9.7.3	Physical identification of material flows.....	37
9.7.4	Input records for contract processing	37
9.7.5	Utilisation of internal returns (in-process side streams)	37
9.7.6	Input and output records.....	38
9.7.7	Process documents	38
9.7.8	Metrological testing of the test equipment.....	38
9.7.9	Volume reconciliation.....	38
9.7.10	Traceability.....	39
9.8	Composition of the products leaving the certified process.....	40
9.8.1	Output specifications	40
9.8.2	Output description.....	40
9.8.3	Calculation of the recycled content	41
9.8.4	Plausibility check.....	41
9.9	Output requirements	42
9.9.1	Output specifications	42
9.9.2	Records of sales	42
9.10	Subcontracting.....	42

9.10.1	Control of processing by subcontractors	42
9.10.2	Certification of the subcontractor	43
9.10.3	Social Responsibility / Corporate Social Responsibility	43
10	External monitoring by the certification body	43
10.1	General information	43
10.2	Audits	44
Appendix A	Requirements for plastics	45
A 1	Product properties for plastics, metal, paper and cardboard, glass.....	45
A 1.1	Additional requirements for products intended for food contact	45
A 1.2	Requirements for intermediaries	45

1 Area of application

The certification scheme applies to all products made from recycled materials, including plastic, metals, paper, cardboard, carton and glass. It defines all the criteria required to obtain the flustix RECYCLED seal. The main focus of the certification scheme is on the assessment of the traceability system and the resulting determination of the proportion of recycled material in the product. However, the scheme does not provide any information on the quality, functionality or physical properties of the product. It is not intended for the assessment of reused components.

The certification scheme explicitly excludes certain products, semi-finished products and materials from certification due to potentially hazardous waste sources:

- Products contaminated by radioactive contact
- Medical products
- Products that do not fulfil the requirements of the (EC) regulations and/or technical rules for hazardous substances

This certification scheme determines the requirements for the product, the recording of mass flows of recycled materials used, the tracking of recycled materials as well as for conformity control, monitoring and certification.

For products intended for food contact, additional requirements apply. These are based on the relevant European legal frameworks for food contact materials, Regulation (EC) No. 1935/2004, Regulation (EU) No. 10/2011, Regulation (EU) No. 2022/1616. The obligation to provide evidence exists only if the final product is intended for contact with food. In all other cases, proof of suitability for food contact is not required.

This certification scheme applies to all actors along the supply chain who take ownership of the material. These include manufacturers, processors, recyclers, as well as traders with or without physical storage. Traders must be included in the traceability system, otherwise the closed supply chain would be interrupted.

2 Testing and certification principles

The standards listed below form the basis for testing and certification. If a date is specified, this refers only to the version specified. For documents without a date, the latest version including all amendments applies.

Depending on the application and the material used to manufacture the product, different standards can be considered:

DIN 6730	Paper, board and pulp - Definitions
DIN EN 643	Paper, board and cardboard - European list of standard grades of recovered paper
DIN EN 15343	Plastics - Recycled plastics - Traceability in plastics recycling and assessment of conformity and recycled content

DIN EN 15342	Plastics - Recycled plastics - Characterisation of polystyrene (PS) recyclates
DIN EN 15344	Plastics - Recycled plastics - Characterisation of polyethylene (PE) recyclates
DIN EN 15345	Plastics - Recycled plastics - Characterisation of polypropylene (PP) recyclates
DIN EN 15346	Plastics - Recycled plastics - Characterisation of polyvinyl chloride (PVC) recyclates
DIN EN 15347	Plastics - Recycled plastics - Characterisation of plastic waste
DIN EN 15348	Plastics - Recycled plastics - Characterisation of polyethylene terephthalate (PET) recyclates
DIN EN ISO 472	Plastics - Technical terms
DIN EN ISO 14021	Environmental labels and declarations - Environmental supplier declarations (type II environmental labelling)
ISO 22095:2020-10	Traceability of supply chains - General terminology and models
CEN/TR 15353	DIN Technical Report Plastics - Recycled plastics - Guidelines for the development of standards for recycled plastics
ISO 19011	Guideline for the auditing of management systems
ISO/IEC 17020	Conformity assessment - Requirements for the operation of different types of bodies performing inspections
ISO/IEC 17065	Conformity assessment - Requirements for bodies certifying products, processes and services
EC 1935/2004	Materials and articles intended to come into contact with food (Framework Regulation)
EU 10/2011	Plastic materials and articles intended to come into contact with food
EU 2022/1616	Recycled plastic materials and articles intended to come into contact with foods
EC 2023/2006	Good manufacturing practice for materials and articles intended to come into contact with food

- this certification scheme
- the general terms and conditions of contract and certification of the certification body
- the flustix RECYCLED Styleguide
- the scale of fees and charges of the certification body

For plastics, DIN EN 15343:2008-02 "Plastics - Plastic recyclates - Traceability in plastics recycling and assessment of conformity and recyclate content" is used as the relevant technical standard for the assessment of recyclate content, traceability and conformity. The definitions of "post-consumer recyclate" (PCR) and "pre-consumer recyclate" (PIR) are additionally based on DIN EN ISO 14021:2016 Section 7.8.1.1.

Irrespective of this certification scheme, the express obligation to comply with the laws and regulations applicable to the products in question remains in force.

3 Definitions of terms

3.1 Waste before use (industrial waste)

Waste before use (industrial waste) refers to material that is generated as waste during manufacturing or processing operations and is diverted from the resulting waste stream before it reaches use by end consumers. This does not include materials that can be directly reintroduced into the same technical process without leaving it (e.g., internal rework returns, regrind, or process-internal scrap).

3.2 Waste after use

This material comes from households, commercial and industrial facilities or institutions that are end users of the product and can no longer be used for its original purpose. It also includes returned material from the supply chain.

3.3 (Waste) glass

Glass is an inorganic, non-metallic material produced by complete fusion of raw material at high temperature into a homogeneous liquid, which is then cooled to a solid state without significant crystal formation.

Used glass refers to used glass that is collected for recycling. This is glass packaging such as bottles, jars and other glass containers that are returned or disposed of after use. This glass is collected, processed and then melted down to produce new glass products.

3.4 (Scrap) metal

Scrap metal typically refers to metallic waste or residual materials resulting from industrial processes, construction, the manufacturing industry or the consumption of products that can be recycled or returned to the production process. There are different types of scrap metal, divided into:

- Heavy scrap: Large pieces such as old railway tracks or shipwrecks.
- Light scrap: Thin metal products such as wire or sheet metal scraps.
- Household waste: This includes old household appliances, cans, tools, etc.
- Production scrap: Waste that comes directly from production processes, such as chips, cuttings or defects.
- Electronic waste: This refers to electronic and electrical devices at the end of their service life.

3.5 Products Leaving the Certified Process

Products leaving the process for which certification was requested.

3.6 Batch / Stack

Within the scope of this certification scheme, “stack” refers, in accordance with EN/ISO 471:2013, 2.1679, to a quantity of material that is regarded as a single unit and can be uniquely referenced.

Building on this normative definition, “batch” is understood as the material unit that, in addition to its physical uniformity, is assigned a standardised identification number and is therefore uniquely traceable.

A batch is thus the documented and identified form of a stack, meeting the traceability requirements of DIN EN 15343 and ISO 22095.

3.7 Manufacturer / processor / manufacturing facility

The companies or production facilities that carry out the various stages of the manufacturing process are referred to as manufacturers / processors. A manufacturer / processor may carry out several of these manufacturing phases simultaneously and may also hold a certificate.

Companies that exclusively source fully certified products or components, use them without modification, and perform only activities such as filling, labeling, marking, or placing them on the market are not considered manufacturers or processors within the scope of this certification program.

Such activities do not constitute a processing step that affects the recycled content, material composition, or traceability of the certified product, provided that the certified product or certified component remains physically and materially unchanged.

3.8 Component

The specific components of the end product, especially if it contains different plastic parts, other materials or other ingredients.

3.9 Plastic

Material consisting of a polymer as defined in Article 3(5) of Regulation (EC) 1907/2006 to which additives or other substances may have been added and which may act as the main constituent of the final products, with the exception of natural polymers which have not been chemically modified.

3.10 Mixture of PCR and PIR (MIX)

A mixture of PCR and PIR (MIX) refers, within the scope of this certification program, to recycled input or recycled content that consists of a combination of post-consumer recycled materials (PCR) and post-industrial recycled materials (PIR).

3.11 Multisite

A standardised quality management system is used at various locations to carry out identical production steps. In addition, there is a legal or contractual agreement that enables a central organisation to implement corrective measures.

3.12 Post-consumer recyclates (PCR)

Post-consumer recycled material (PCR) refers to recycled material originating from waste streams generated after use by end consumers. The term is used in alignment with DIN EN ISO 14021 (Section 7.8.1.1).

3.13 Post-industrial recyclates (PIR)

Post-industrial recycled material (PIR) refers to recycled material originating from waste streams generated during industrial manufacturing or processing operations prior to use by end consumers. The term is used in alignment with DIN EN ISO 14021 (Section 7.8.1.1).

Addition to 3.12 (PCR) and 3.13 (PIR):

The definitions are based on **DIN EN ISO 14021:2016 (Section 7.8.1.1)** and are concretised for plastics in accordance with **DIN EN 15343:2008-02**.

3.14 Product

A material, object or semi-finished product that consists entirely or partially of recycled or reused materials.

3.15 Product code

Unique transaction code for an incoming batch of material.

3.16 Product family

A group of products manufactured with the same processing technology, within the same product line, to a similar recipe and for similar applications, and containing materials of the same waste origin.

3.17 Process

The entire manufacturing process of the certified product fulfils the requirements of DIN EN 15343 for the traceability of plastics. For traceability reasons, this process can also be adopted for some other materials.

3.18 Recycled material

This material has been produced by reprocessing recovered (recycled) material using a manufacturing process and processed into an end product or a component of an end product. It can be obtained both from waste before its utilisation and from waste after its utilisation.

3.19 Recycled input

Batches of certified recycled materials that can be identified by a unique transaction code must be certified in accordance with EN 14353:2007 by the certification body or a system recognised by flustix.

3.20 Recycled content

The mass fraction of recycled material in a product, individual components or regranulate, whether in packaging, product or other form, is referred to as the recycled content. It is important to note that according to the following definitions, only pre-consumer waste (PCR) and post-consumer waste (PIR) may be included in the calculation of the recycled content.

3.21 Traceability

Traceability refers to the ability to trace the history, use, location or source of a material or product throughout the supply chain, in accordance with ISO 22095:2020, definition 3.6.1.

3.22 Uncontrolled recycled input

Batches of recycled material that originate from a non-certified supplier and/or have no traceability.

3.23 Recovered (recycled) material

This material has been collected and recovered (recycled) instead of being disposed of or used to generate energy and is now used in a recycling or manufacturing process instead of new primary material.

4 Requirements for third-party bodies (certification bodies, inspection bodies and auditors)

The third-party bodies (certification bodies, inspection bodies and auditors) involved in the process of awarding the flustix RECYCLED seal must prove that they are neutral, independent and competent. This ensures consistent process quality and strengthen confidence in the process.

4.1 Requirements for certification bodies

The certification bodies must be accredited according to ISO/IEC 17065, have an accredited extension for the certification of the traceability and recycled content of plastics according to EN 15343 and have concluded a cooperation agreement with flustix for the award of the flustix RECYCLED seal. The accreditation must be relevant in connection with this certification scheme at the beginning of the recognition by flustix and subsequently extended by this certification scheme after recognition.

In addition, the certification bodies are obliged to participate regularly, but at least once a year, in flustix meetings in the form of experience exchange circles and/or flustix committees and/or flustix certification committees. This serves to ensure a uniform approach to the certification procedures and to adapt and further develop the certification scheme to the needs of the market and regulations.

If the certification body delegates audits to subcontractors, these subcontractors must comply with the requirements listed below and be contractually bound to the certification body.

A current list of the certification bodies recognised by flustix for the award of the flustix RECYCLED seal is available on the website www.flustix.com.

4.2 Requirements for inspection bodies

The inspection bodies must be accredited in accordance with ISO/IEC 17020 and be contractually bound to the commissioning certification body.

In addition, the inspection bodies are obliged to participate in meetings of flustix in the form of experience exchange circles and/or flustix committees and/or flustix certification committees on request / if required on a regular basis, but at least once a year, as are their auditors, who should participate in witness audits if necessary. This serves to ensure a uniform approach to the audits and to adapt and further develop the certification scheme to the needs of the market and regulations. A current list of the inspection bodies recognised by the certification bodies for the award of the flustix RECYCLED seal is available on the website www.flustix.com or from the certification bodies.

4.3 Requirements for auditors

The auditors must be appropriately qualified and fulfil the requirements of ISO 19011. They should be contractually bound to the commissioning certification body or inspection body.

Furthermore, the auditors are obliged to participate in meetings of flustix in the form of experience exchange circles and/or flustix committees and/or flustix certification committees on request / if required on a regular basis, but at least once a year, as well as in witness audits, if necessary. This ensures a uniform and competent approach to audits and supports the adaptation and further development of the certification scheme in line with market and regulatory requirements.

A current list of auditors recognised by the certification bodies is available from the certification bodies.

5 Product requirements

5.1 Supplier declaration and information on recycled content

The DIN EN ISO 14021 standard sets out requirements for supplier declarations in various areas of application, including the labelling of recyclates with the three-arrow symbol where applicable. According to this standard, information on the recycled content must be provided separately for the product and/or the packaging and may not be combined. The recycled content is calculated in accordance with the requirements of DIN EN ISO 14021 and is rounded to the nearest whole number in this certification scheme.

Based on the guidelines for self-declaration in accordance with DIN EN ISO 14021, this certification scheme defines the measures required to present the recycled content confirmed by an independent body using the flustix RECYCLED seal.

The proportion of recycled content must be shown separately in the certificate details and audit reports, stating the respective proportions of post-consumer recyclates (PCR) and post-industrial recyclates (PIR).

If it is not possible to clearly determine the proportions, the recycled content is reported as a total value; the method of determination must be documented in a comprehensible manner in the audit report.

5.2 Products intended for food contact

Products explicitly intended for food contact must provide appropriate evidence demonstrating that the recycled plastics used comply with the requirements of the relevant legal acts.

These include in particular:

- Proof of authorisation of the recycling process in accordance with Reg. (EU) 2022/1616
- Submission of a valid registration in the Union Register
- Positive opinion of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), where applicable
- Declaration of the intended use (Intended Use)
- Submission of a Declaration of Compliance (DoC) in accordance with the requirements of Reg. (EU) 2022/1616
- Compliance with the requirements of Reg. (EC) 2023/2006 on Good Manufacturing Practice

5.3 Operational performance requirements (audit criteria)

The audit criteria are standardised and divided into two categories that define the level of importance and accuracy that the respective facility must achieve for each requirement in order to successfully pass the certification process.

Category type 1

This is a mandatory requirement. The object of conformity must fulfil the required standards for type 1 categories in order to obtain certification. Minor deviations may be accepted under certain circumstances.

Category type 2

This is a preferred requirement. The object of conformity should achieve half conformity (of at least 50%) with the points of category 2.

6 Traceability requirements

6.1 General information

The traceability of recycled materials, such as plastics, is a crucial aspect of certification and a primary focus during the audit. According to ISO 22095:2020, traceability is defined as the ability to trace the history, use or location of a product. Traceability enables to track the movement of a product and its components through different stages of a process or operation.

The flustix certification scheme for recycled content focuses on the traceability systems established within a process or procedure. It assesses the chain of custody along the entire value chain of the recycled material to ensure that traceability is maintained.

For products intended for food contact, the origin of the recycled materials used must be clearly documented. Supplier certificates must confirm that the plastics used comply with the requirements of Reg. (EU) No. 10/2011 and originate exclusively from authorised recycling processes in accordance with Reg. (EU) 2022/1616. Traceability must be ensured up to the original source of the food-contact input.

6.2 Supplier declarations / certificates

Traders involved in the flow of goods are treated as follows:

- Traders with physical storage (e.g. interim storage, transshipment, repackaging) are subject to the full certification requirements. They must undergo an audit to demonstrate proper segregation, labelling and documentation of the recycled materials.
- Traders without physical storage (brokers, pure trading entities) are covered through a document review, provided that they trade exclusively in certified material and fully forward the corresponding supplier certificates. They must be clearly identified within the supply chain.
- For products intended for food contact, it must be ensured that traders may only form part of the supply chain if they work exclusively with inputs from authorised recycling processes in accordance with Reg. (EU) 2022/1616. For traders with storage, the full certification requirement applies; for brokers without storage, the obligation of complete documentation applies.

6.3 Controlled mixing model

In the field of plastics recycling and compounding, it is common practice to mix recycled plastics with additives, masterbatches or virgin material to fulfil specific requirements. According to the CoC (controlled composting) model, as described in ISO 22095:2020, certification refers to recycled plastics when mixed with other materials or substances, resulting in a known proportion of recycled plastics in the final products. The focus is placed on the physical presence of the material or product.

The controlled blending model places emphasis on physical traceability, specifying a known percentage of recycled plastic in the final product. The organisations operating within the supply chain of the product or plastic must ensure that the physical input and output of the recycled plastic assessed during the audit is identified, monitored and documented. This model applies accordingly to other recycled materials.

6.4 Supplier attestations / certificates

The recognition of existing evidence supports market harmonisation, reduces avoidable administrative burdens and prevents additional barriers for companies within the supply chain. The objective is to strengthen the circular economy by allowing already qualified materials to be used further along the supply chain without repeated verification.

The certification offers applicants for initial certification the opportunity to gradually adapt to this chain of custody model. For initial certification, at least two thirds of the recycled material must come from a supplier with a valid supplier certificate. This percentage increases during the next two surveillance audits to 75% of the recycled input and finally to 100% of the recycled input. After this period, the recycled input from non-certified suppliers is no longer taken into account when calculating the recycled content.

6.4.1 Plastics

The supplier certificates to be recognised for recycled material deliveries must be based on testing systems that meet at least the requirements of DIN EN 15343:2008-02 on traceability and ISO 22095:2020-10 on the chain of custody system. To ensure full traceability of recycled materials

throughout the entire value chain, suppliers of recycled input must provide a valid supplier certificate. This certificate may be a flustix RECYCLED certificate or a certificate issued by another certification system recognised by flustix:

EuCertPlast and / or RecyClass

flustix recognises certificates from EuCertPlast and RecyClass for recycled plastics in the form of products, semi-finished products, granulates, flakes, pellets and similar forms that are produced by

EuCertPlast and/or RecyClass
c/o Plastics Recyclers Europe
Avenue de Broqueville 12
1150 Woluwe Saint-Pierre
BE-Brussels

have been issued. These certificates from EuCertPlast and/or RecyClass are recognised, provided they are valid at the time of the certification procedure and the award of the "flustix RECYCLED" seal. In such cases, auditing of the recycling and/or production site may be waived.

In addition, the Blue Angel – DE-UZ 30a “Products Made from Recycled Plastics” (award criteria of the German Environment Agency; certification awarded by RAL gGmbH, Fränkische Straße 7, 53229 Bonn, Germany) may be recognized as suitable evidence of the declared recycled content, provided that the requirements of the applicable award criteria are fulfilled and the recycled content is documented in a transparent and traceable manner.

The certification body shall assess on a case-by-case basis whether the submitted evidence can be considered equivalent within the meaning of this certification program.

Blue Angel – Recycled Plastics

flustix recognizes the Blue Angel – DE-UZ 30a “Products Made from Recycled Plastics” as suitable evidence of the declared recycled content, provided that the requirements of the respective award criteria are met and the recycled content is transparently documented.

Award criteria authority: German Environment Agency (Umweltbundesamt)

Awarded by:

RAL gGmbH
Fränkische Straße 7
53229 Bonn
Germany

Recognition is granted on the condition that the certificate is valid at the time of the certification process and that the declared recycled content is clearly documented.

PolyCert Europe

flustix recognises certificates from selected members of the PolyCert Europe association for recycled plastics in the form of products, semi-finished products, granulates, flakes, pellets or similar, which are produced by selected members of the PolyCert Europe association.

PolyCert Europe
Avenue de Cortenbergh 71
BE-1000 Brussels

have been issued. These are recognised by flustix, provided they are valid at the time of the certification process and the award of the "Flustix RECYCLED" seal. In such cases, auditing of the recycling and/or production site can be waived.

The selected members of PolyCert Europe currently include the

- **Certification system of BQA and certification system "QA-CER Recycled Content"** (Belgian Quality Association), Technology Park 7, 9052 Zwijnaarde, Belgium
- **Certification system of AENOR** (Asociación Española de Normalización y Certificación), C/Génova 6, 28004 Madrid, Spain

Additional certifications can be recognised by flustix after the respective certification scheme has been checked for equivalence with other recognised schemes and the principles of DIN EN 15343 and ISO 22095:2020-10.

6.4.2 Fiber-based materials (paper and paperboard)

For fiber-based materials in the paper and paperboard sector, the following forms of evidence are recognized:

Blue Angel – Paper and Paperboard

flustix recognizes relevant Blue Angel award criteria for paper and paperboard (e.g., DE-UZ 14 for recycled paper as well as corresponding award criteria for packaging board and corrugated board) as suitable evidence of the declared recycled content, provided that the respective award criteria specify a defined minimum share of post-consumer recycled content and that this share is clearly documented.

Award criteria authority: German Environment Agency (UBA)

Awarded by:

RAL gGmbH
Fränkische Straße 7
53229 Bonn
Germany

Recognition is granted on the condition that the declared recycled content is transparently documented and can be clearly attributed to the material used.

FSC (Forest Stewardship Council)

flustix recognizes certificates issued by:

Forest Stewardship Council A.C.
Adenauerallee 134
53113 Bonn
Germany

provided that a valid Chain-of-Custody certificate is in place.

In particular, the following are recognized:

- FSC Recycled
- FSC Mix (with a percentage-based declaration of recycled content)

In the case of FSC Mix, the percentage of recycled content specified in the certificate shall be used as the basis for recognition within the scope of this certification scheme.

7 Audits (conformity check)

7.1 General information

The certification body uses auditors recognised by the body itself to conduct the required audits, which serve as the basis for the evaluation and certification of the products.

7.2 Definition of the process boundaries

Verification of the requirements defined in Section 4 is carried out within the specified process boundaries. The definition of the manufacturing process boundaries to be assessed depends on the origin and the type of waste.

7.2.1 Utilisation of waste after use

As part of this certification scheme, the process to be considered for the required audit is defined as follows:

- The process to be considered begins at the point of the recycling process or the further processing of a recycled material.
- All companies involved in the manufacturing process must be taken into account.
- Traders must be mandatorily included when defining the process boundaries.
 - Traders with storage are audited on site.
 - Traders without storage are included by means of document review, provided that complete traceability is ensured.

- For products intended for food contact, the certification body additionally verifies whether traders work exclusively with inputs from certified processes in accordance with Reg. (EU) 2022/1616.
- If the packaging of a product (or vice versa) is not part of the certification scope, the packaging company is likewise excluded from the certification. This must be clearly indicated within the supply chain. Nevertheless, the transfer of certain information may still be required in specific cases.
- If the recycled content changes regularly and requires adjustments, it is determined in consultation with the responsible auditor whether and what type of tests are required. This may include, for example, the submission of internal documentation or the performance of an audit. Alternatively, the lowest recycled content level can be declared.

7.2.2 Use of waste before use

As part of this certification scheme, the process to be considered for the required audit is defined as follows:

- The process to be assessed begins at the time where recycled material undergoes further processing.
- All companies involved in the manufacturing process must be taken into account.
- Traders who do not modify the intermediate products in any way will only be considered on the basis of a documentary traceability check. This must be labelled accordingly in the supply chain and traders are obliged to pass on information as part of this certification scheme.
- If the packaging of a product (or vice versa) is not part of the certification, the packaging company is also not included in the certification. This must be labelled accordingly in the supply chain. Nevertheless, it may be necessary to pass on information under certain circumstances.
- If fluctuating recycled content levels requires regular adjustments, it is determined in consultation with the responsible auditor whether and what type of tests are required. This may include, for example, the submission of internal documentation or the performance of an audit. Alternatively, the lowest recycled content level can be declared.

7.3 Audit types

7.3.1 Initial audit

The initial audit has the following objectives:

1. Determination of whether the calculation of the recycled content was carried out in accordance with the requirements of DIN EN ISO 14021, section 7.8.
2. Check whether the traceability requirements for plastics in accordance with DIN EN 15343 (see Appendix A) are met.
3. Determination of the proportion of waste before and after use in the recycled content.

For the initial certification, on-site audits shall be carried out in accordance with Section 5.3 of this certification scheme at all manufacturers / processors within the defined process boundaries, provided that the production sites are previously completely unknown. Conducting a remote audit in lieu of an

on-site assessment is permissible. The decision rests with the certification body and the technical expert.

If the applicant lists multiple manufacturers / processors or recyclers in the supply chain for the product to be certified, a sampling audit maybe carried out in consultation with the responsible auditor. In this case, the sample size is determined as the square root (\sqrt{n}) of the total number of manufacturer / processor sites and rounded up to the next t whole number.

For products intended for food contact, the certification body additionally verifies:

- Entry of the recycling plant in the Union Register
- Existence of a valid authorisation by the European Commission
- Compliance with process parameters and critical control points in accordance with the EFSA opinion
- Availability of a valid Declaration of Compliance (DoC) for all batches
- Performance of migration testing in accordance with Reg. (EU) 10/2011 and the relevant standards (e.g. EN 1186)

The audit is carried out in accordance with the specifications in section 8 of the certification scheme.

7.3.2 Monitoring audit

The annual surveillance audit has the following objectives:

1. Confirmation that the defined procedures are properly implemented and that the determination of the recycled content continues to comply with the requirements of the certification scheme.
2. Determination of the proportion of waste before and after use in the recycled content.

The annual surveillance audit is generally conducted as an on-site audit at one of the manufacturer's, processor's or recycler's sites. The exact location is selected in consultation with the auditor and can be determined on the basis of a sampling plan. Under these conditions, the sample size is determined as 0.6 times the square root (\sqrt{n}) of the number of producer / processor sites and rounded up to the next whole number. Conducting a remote audit in lieu of an on-site assessment is permissible. The decision rests with the certification body and the technical expert.

The surveillance audit is carried out in accordance with the specifications in section 8 of the certification scheme.

7.3.3 Supplementary audits

A supplementary test is carried out if additions, extensions or changes (see section 8.10.1) have been made to the process or product that could have an impact on the process for determining the recycled content. This may concern, for example, changes to the manufacturers involved in accordance with section 5.2 of the certification scheme, changes to the raw materials used or changes to the recycled content.

The type and scope of the supplementary audit are determined on a case-by-case basis by the certification body, possibly in consultation with the responsible auditor.

7.3.4 Special audits (audits for special reasons)

A special audit is carried out under the following circumstances:

- If defects are detected.
- After a production interruption of more than 12 months.
- At the request of the certification body, where justified.
- Upon written request of third parties if they have a particular interest in ensuring proper market practice in terms of competition or quality.

The type and scope of a special audit are determined by the certification body according to the respective purpose, possibly in consultation with the auditor in charge.

If deficiencies are identified during a special audit or if it is carried out due to a production interruption, the certificate holder shall bear the costs of the special audit 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.

7.3.5 Provisional initial certification (Provisional Certification)

Production facilities that have less than twelve months of production data at the time of the initial audit may be granted provisional certification. In this case, at least three months of continuous production data with at least three manufactured batches must be available.

Once provisional certification has been granted, a supplementary audit with complete data must be carried out within the following nine months in order to confirm full certification. If production has not yet started, alternative evidence can be provided in consultation with the certification body, such as test batches, test runs or documented material receipts.

7.4 Audit report

A flustix audit report shall be prepared for each audit conducted. The report serves to provide transparent and traceable documentation of the audit process and to assess compliance with the certification requirements.

The audit report shall include at least the following information:

- Identification of the audited company and the product
- Type and scope of the audit
- Applicable requirements and assessment criteria
- Key findings and verified evidence
- Evaluation of the level of conformity
- Any identified non-conformities and recommended corrective actions, if applicable

- Final assessment as the basis for the certification decision

The audit report shall be signed by the responsible auditor and submitted to the certification body for further evaluation.

8 Certification

Certification in accordance with this certification scheme comprises the inspection and evaluation of the system for determining the recycled content of a product by the certification body on the basis of audit reports from auditors recognised by the certification body. The processes for determining the recycled content are checked for compliance (conformity) with the requirements listed in section 4 and then continuously monitored.

The right to use the flustix RECYCLED seal as confirmation of the self-declaration in accordance with DIN EN ISO 14021 is conferred by the issue of a corresponding certificate.

8.1 Application for certification

The application for certification shall be submitted by the company that first places the respective product on the market or markets it under its own responsibility.

The application shall be made in writing and must include all information required for the conformity assessment. This includes, in particular, information on the product, the type of recycled material used, the origin of the material, and the relevant process and supply chain.

Upon receipt of a complete application, the responsible certification body shall review the documentation for completeness and plausibility. If additional information or clarification is required, the applicant shall be notified.

Following a positive preliminary review, the certification procedure shall be initiated and the subsequent process, including the audit scope and timeline, shall be defined.

8.2 Classification of types and sub-types

Certificates are issued in relation to individual products. Products that differ from each other in key certification-relevant characteristics, such as recycled content, design, etc., are defined as types or models. Certification-relevant characteristics are determined by the manufacturing process, the materials used (including raw materials and supply chain) as well as the manufacturers, distributors and production sites.

The certificate shall explicitly indicate whether the product is suitable for food contact.

- In the case of products intended for food contact, the certificate shall include the following statement:
'The certified product complies with the requirements of Regulations (EC) No. 1935/2004, (EU) No. 10/2011, (EU) No. 2022/1616, and Regulation (EC) No. 2023/2006.'
- In the case of products not intended for food contact, the certificate shall include the following statement:

'This product is not intended for food contact. Evidence of suitability for food contact has not been provided and is not part of the certification.'

For products consisting of a mixture of recycled and virgin material, differences in recycled content of more than 10 % absolute, if all other product characteristics are the same, are defined as separate types. This difference in the recycled content relates exclusively to the technical process and not to the general specification of the recycled content in the product.

Sub-types are usually defined for products that differ only in size, formal aspects or other non-certification-relevant features, such as the declaration of the recycled content in the product. These sub-types can be combined on one certificate if, for example, they have the same design but different sizes or colours.

8.3 Conformity assessment and deviations

The certification body conducts a conformity assessment based on the application documents submitted. In particular, the audit report and, where applicable, test reports are used to assess whether the product complies with the requirements of this certification program and the relevant provisions of DIN EN ISO 14021, and, in the case of plastics, also DIN EN 15343 (see Annex A). When assessing conformity with regard to the recycled content of plastics, the combination of standards DIN EN 15343:2008-02 and ISO 22095:2020-10 is primarily applied.

If deviations are found, the certification body notifies the applicant in writing. These deviations are described in two different categories:

1. **Major or critical non-conformities** affect the applicant's ability to meet the requirements of the certification scheme. There is significant doubt that effective process control is in place or that the traceability of the recycled content of products cannot be demonstrated. Multiple minor non-conformities related to the same requirement or issue constitute a major non-conformity. Non-compliance with more than 50% of the category 2 requirements constitutes a major non-conformity.
 - a) **Serious violations of the requirements of category 1** lead to the suspension of the certification procedure. The applicant will be informed of the corrective actions to be implemented within the time period specified by the certification body in order to resume the audit on site or, if possible, through the exchange of documents or other means such as a video link. This is to verify the correct implementation of the corrective actions. If the corrective actions are not implemented satisfactorily, the certification body may discontinue the certification procedure.
 - b) **Major deviations from the requirements of category 2** are noted as observations. These deviations should be corrected within a time period specified by the certification body. The implementation of the corrective actions can be verified by the exchange of documents or other means such as a video link. The certification body decides whether the corrective actions have been implemented correctly in order to finalise the certification procedure.

2. **Minor or non-critical deviations** do not limit the applicant's ability to meet the requirements of the certification scheme as a whole.
 - a) **Minor deviations from category 1 requirements** shall be documented and corrected within a time period specified by the certification body.
 - b) **Minor deviations from category 2 requirements** are noted as comments.

8.4 Certificate and right to use the seal

After the certification body has positively assessed the submitted application documents for conformity, it issues a certificate to the applicant. This certificate grants the applicant the right to use the flustix RECYCLED seal, which is provided with a unique license number and the information PCR, PIC or MIX. This seal can be used in combination with the three-arrow symbol and indicates the percentage of recycled content according to DIN EN ISO 14021, section 7.8.



Structure of the license number:	RCDX000
X:	Placeholder for Certification body abbreviation
Specify the type of recycled content:	PCR, PIR or MIX

Products that have received the right to use the flustix RECYCLED seal must always be labelled with the recycled content in percent and the corresponding license number. PCR, PIR or MIX must also be indicated. The flustix RECYCLED seal, the license number and the PCR, PIR or MIX marking may only be used for the certified product and must match the tested product.

One license number is issued per type. The same license number is issued for product variants (sub-types) of a type (see section 8.2).

In addition, the applicable General Terms and Conditions of the certification body must be observed.

8.5 Sub-Certificate

Upon application, a sub-certificate may be issued for a certified product if a company other than the main certificate holder places the product on the market or distributes it under its own responsibility, provided that the certification requirements continue to be fully met.

The sub-certificate shall clearly refer to the main certificate and shall apply only to products that correspond to the certified product type with regard to composition, verification of recycled content, and traceability.

The validity of the sub-certificate shall be limited to the validity period of the main certificate. If the main certificate expires, is suspended, or is withdrawn, the sub-certificate shall be affected accordingly.

A sub-certificate may also be issued to white-label manufacturers, fillers, or brand owners, provided that the certified product or certified component is used without modification and that no processing step is carried out by the sub-certificate holder that affects the recycled content, material composition, or traceability.

This applies in particular to fully certified packaging used without any physical or material alteration. In such cases, the sub-certificate holder acts solely as the distributor placing a certified product on the market.

Downstream brand owners or private-label holders are entitled to apply for their own sub-license on the basis of a valid sub-certificate issued to the supplier, provided that the certified product or certified component is used without modification.

The right to use the flustix RECYCLED label and to make claims regarding the recycled content arises exclusively upon conclusion of a separate sub-license agreement. This is subject to the condition that the certified product or certified component remains unchanged and that any claim is clearly limited to the certified component.

8.6 Publications

All certificate holders can be called up on a monthly basis via the website of the certification body or the flustix website at flustix.com/certified/. Manufacturers, users and consumers use this search function to obtain information about certified products.

The database records the name of the certificate holder and the associated website address, including further contact information referring to the certificate holder. In addition, the technical data of the certified product can be accessed.

8.7 Validity of the certificate

The certificate shall be issued with a defined validity period of six years. The validity period is specified on the certificate and is subject to continued compliance with the requirements of this certification program, including surveillance.

Upon expiry of the validity period or termination of the certification, the right to use the label for the affected products shall cease.

8.8 Renewal of the certificate

In order to maintain the certification beyond the period specified in the certificate, a current positive audit report must be submitted to the certification body in good time before the expiry date. The

sample size for these audits under these conditions is defined as $0.8\sqrt{n}$, where n is the number of manufacturer / processor sites and is rounded up to the next whole number. Conducting a remote audit in lieu of an on-site assessment is permissible. The decision rests with the certification body and the technical expert.

Proof of compliance with the requirements of section 4 of the certification scheme is provided in the form of an audit. This audit serves to determine whether the procedures continue to be applied correctly and whether the determination of the recycled content and the labelling of the product continue to meet the requirements of the certification scheme. The audit is carried out in accordance with the specifications in section 8 of the scheme.

8.9 Invalidation of the certificate

The certificate shall become invalid if the conditions for its maintenance are no longer fulfilled. In particular, expiration shall occur if the requirements of this certification program are permanently or materially not complied with.

Reasons for expiration may include, but are not limited to:

- Failure to undergo surveillance or surveillance not properly conducted
- Misuse or unauthorized use of the label
- Failure to meet essential certification requirements
- Loss of the conditions on which the certificate was originally granted

Upon expiration of the certificate, the right to use the flustix RECYCLED label shall also cease. Re-certification shall only be possible following completion of a new certification procedure in accordance with Section 8.1.

8.10 Changes / additions

8.10.1 Changes / additions to the product

The certificate holder shall be obliged to notify the certification body without delay of any changes or modifications to the certified product that may potentially affect compliance with the certification requirements.

Such changes include, in particular, modifications to the materials used, the type or origin of the recycled material, production or processing methods, and the companies involved in the supply or process chain.

Upon receipt of the information, the certification body shall assess whether and to what extent the reported change requires a renewed evaluation. Depending on the nature and significance of the change, this may require the review of additional documentation, a supplementary assessment, or an additional audit.

Changes that do not affect compliance with the certification requirements shall be documented and shall not result in an amendment to the existing certificate.

The certificate holder may also apply for an extension of the existing certificate to cover additional variants (subtypes) of the same product type. The certification body shall determine whether and to what extent additional evidence or supplementary evaluation is required. If the requirements are fulfilled, the variants shall be included in the certificate and shall be considered part of the certified product type.

If the evaluation determines that a change has a significant impact on the basis of certification, the certification body shall decide on the further course of action, including a possible amendment, suspension, or withdrawal of the certification. Certification may only be maintained after completion of the required assessment measures.

8.10.2 Change to the test basis

If the requirements, standards, or other assessment bases relevant to certification are amended, the certification body shall evaluate the relevance of such changes for existing certificates.

The certificate holder shall be informed of relevant changes and of any resulting requirements necessary to maintain the certification.

Where the continuation of certification requires additional evidence, adjustments, or assessments, the certification body shall determine the nature, scope, and deadlines for the required measures.

If the required measures are not completed within the specified timeframes, or if conformity cannot be demonstrated, the certification body shall decide on the further course of action, including the suspension or withdrawal of the certification.

8.11 Product defects

If indications arise that a certified product or the associated process or supply chain no longer complies with the requirements of this certification program, the certificate holder shall inform the certification body without delay and cooperate in the clarification of the matter.

The certification body shall assess the situation and may require appropriate evidence, corrective actions, and/or additional assessments. The nature and scope of such measures shall depend on the relevance of the non-conformity with regard to the verification of recycled content and traceability.

Until the matter has been resolved, the certification body may temporarily restrict or suspend the use of the label for the affected products.

If compliance with the requirements cannot be demonstrated within the time period specified by the certification body, or if a significant or repeated non-conformity is identified, the certification body shall decide on further measures, up to and including the withdrawal of the certification.

9 Self-monitoring by the manufacturer

The manufacturer must take appropriate quality assurance measures to ensure that the product characteristics confirmed during certification are maintained. This can be done by means of a factory production control (FPC) that is specifically orientated towards the product or production. In addition, measures can be taken as part of a quality management system (QM system) in accordance with the DIN EN ISO 9001 standard to ensure the quality of the products.

For products intended for food contact, the manufacturer shall additionally establish an internal quality assurance system in accordance with the principles of Good Manufacturing Practice as laid down in Regulation (EC) No. 2023/2006. This shall in particular include:

- Documentation and monitoring of the critical process parameters,
- Evidence of the performance of migration testing in accordance with Regulation (EU) No. 10/2011,
- Preparation and maintenance of a Declaration of Compliance for all relevant batches.

9.1 Involvement of intermediaries

The manufacturer or certificate holder shall be obliged to document intermediaries within the framework of internal monitoring.

- Intermediaries with storage facilities must provide evidence of a valid certificate.
- Intermediaries without storage facilities must ensure the complete transfer and archiving of supplier certificates and trade documents.

For market participants who exclusively source certified products or components and place them on the market without modification, and who do not perform any processing steps that affect the recycled content or traceability, reduced requirements for internal monitoring shall apply.

However, such market participants are required to hold a valid sub-license for each use of the flustix RECYCLED label or for any claim regarding recycled content made in the market. The reduced internal monitoring requirements do not replace the licensing obligation and do not constitute an independent authorization to use the certification claim.

For products intended for food contact, intermediaries without storage facilities shall only be accepted if they exclusively trade in materials originating from processes authorised in accordance with Regulation (EU) No. 2022/1616.

9.2 Factory production control (FPC) / Quality assurance

Factory production control is a continuous process in which individual manufacturers monitor the production process to ensure that the manufactured products meet the specified requirements.

To this end, they shall keep records that must be presented to the certification body or its authorised representative upon request. These records must contain at least the following information:

- Designation of the product and, if a manufacturer carries out several steps in the manufacturing process, the designation of the process step under consideration.
- The results of the review and, if applicable, a comparison with the specified requirements.
- Signature of the person responsible for the audit.
- Date of the recording.

Depending on which process step is carried out, different documentation and tests are required. In the case of materials that are not made of plastic, specific requirements may apply, which must be determined on a case-by-case basis in consultation with the certification body and, if necessary, the auditor. Some of the required documentation and tests are listed here:

1. Requirements for the quality system
2. Evaluation of suppliers
3. Requirements for the input materials
4. Inventory management
5. Process documentation
6. Composition of the raw materials
7. Requirements for the starting products
8. Subcontracting

The exact requirements and tests may vary depending on the process and material and must be determined in consultation with the certification body and, if necessary, the auditor.

9.3 Requirements for the quality system

Requirement	Category Type	Minor deviation	Required proofs
9.3.1 Business registration It is necessary for the organisation to have a valid registration document. Furthermore, the top management of the organisation's location must be identified.	1	no	yes
9.3.2 Quality management system Documented evidence is required to prove that a quality management system is in place. If available, a valid certificate for ISO 9001, ISO 14000 or EMAS issued by an authorised certification body must be available.	2	yes	yes
9.3.3 Education The personnel responsible for the inspection must be adequately trained to fulfil the inspection requirements. The training must ensure that the personnel are able to properly fulfil the tasks and responsibilities assigned to them. Contents of the training include:	2	yes	yes

Requirement	Category Type	Minor deviation	Required proofs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traceability requirements • Plausibility check • Documentation obligations • Process and material flows <p>The training courses must be updated annually and attendance documented.</p>			
<p>9.3.4 Register of complaints</p> <p>A complaints register is required and a process must be in place to ensure that any complaints arising in relation to the effective implementation of this certification are adequately addressed to enable improvements to be made.</p>	2	yes	no
<p>9.3.5 Records – REACH compliance and product testing</p> <p>Documentation must be available to demonstrate compliance with the test requirements and procedures for at least 12 months. These records should be available in the form of written documents, procedures or automated control systems.</p> <p>Documentation must be available to demonstrate that minimum internal procedures are in place to ensure compliance with the REACH Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006, including subsequent amendments. In addition, current analyses of the final products, not older than 12 months, shall be provided. Test results shall be made available to customers upon request.</p>	1	yes	yes
<p>9.3.6 Quality assurance</p> <p>Proof that quality control is in place for the compliant products.</p>	2	yes	no
<p>9.3.7 Communication about compliant products</p> <p>A surveillance audit must ensure that the monitoring, labelling, identification and marketing of compliant products is properly monitored and documented.</p>	2	yes	no

9.4 Supplier evaluation

Requirement	Category Type	Minor deviation	Required proofs
<p>9.4.1 Identification of suppliers</p> <p>The site should record the following information for each batch of recycled input supplied, as a minimum for each supplier with a valid supplier certificate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name and address of the supplier. • Code and period of validity of the supplier certificate. • A description of the recycled input provided. • Documentation of the purchase of recycled input. <p>These records serve to ensure the traceability and documentation of the origin and consumption of recycled material.</p>	1	yes	no
<p>9.4.2 Input data records</p> <p>The records and supplier certificate for recycled raw materials should be available throughout the material procurement process. The supplier's certificate and documentation should include a list of certified products that have the appropriate pre-consumer and post-consumer recycled content. This serves to ensure that the materials used in the production of certified products comply with the requirements of the certification scheme and are properly documented.</p>	1	yes	yes

9.5 Input requirements

Requirement	Category Type	Minor deviation	Required proofs
<p>9.5.1 Purchase specification</p> <p>Batches of certified recycled raw materials are purchased and processed according to a specification. This specification must be available for each accepted type</p>	1	yes	yes

Requirement	Category Type	Minor deviation	Required proofs
<p>of certified recycled raw material and must contain at least the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Material type (e.g. polymer type) • Product code (unique identification for each certified recycled raw material purchased) • Volume • Recycled content according to the supplier certificate <p>This information is important to ensure that the recycled raw materials used meet the requirements of the certification scheme and are properly documented.</p>			
<p>9.5.2 Recorded weights and dates of delivery</p> <p>To document weights and delivery dates, evidence and receipts are required to record the weight (at least from freight documents or, for example, big bag overviews), the product code and the delivery date of all incoming batches of recycled input. Existing weigh-bridge receipts must be recorded either by the supplier and/or the organisation and stored in physical or digital form.</p>	1	yes	yes
<p>9.5.3 Origin, source, sector and type of recycled input</p> <p>The origin of the material, whether pre- or post-consumer, must be traceable through documents and certification from the supplier. If available, the material source (such as household, commercial, industrial, etc.), the material sector (e.g. packaging, construction, WEEE, agriculture) and the specific product application (such as PET bottles, trays, etc.) must be supported by appropriate documents and supplier certificates. All of this information must be documented.</p>	1	yes	yes

9.6 Inventory management

Requirement	Category Type	Minor deviation	Required proofs
<p>9.6.1 Identification of stocks</p> <p>All incoming recycled inputs must have a product code that clearly links them to the supplier. For example, big bags can be labelled, assigned to specific storage locations or subject to unique batch assignments. Big bags can be stored with either the original product code or an internal electronic re-coding.</p>	1	no	yes
<p>9.6.2 Storage conditions</p> <p>Products and materials must be stored in enclosed or, at minimum covered facilities.</p>	2	yes	no
<p>9.6.3 Inventory management system</p> <p>A system must be in place to record all incoming and outgoing recycled input and output as well as the stock levels on site. The warehouse management system must also take into account, for example, regrind or intermediate steps that are reintegrated into the production process.</p> <p>The inventory is reconciled annually. Documentation must be available for this purpose. The organisation is obliged to prepare a summary that lists the remaining stock from the previous year, the preliminary products received, the preliminary products and products still in stock and the products sold.</p>	1	no	yes
<p>9.6.4 Inventory controls</p> <p>A physical stock check must be carried out and documented at least once a year to ensure that the stock specified in the stock management system is correct. These checks must be recorded and documented.</p>	1	no	yes

9.7 Process

Requirement	Category Type	Minor deviation	Required proofs
<p>9.7.1 Overview of the process</p> <p>A process description and an accompanying flow diagram are available and can be provided.</p>	1	yes	yes
<p>9.7.2 Incoming utilised input data records</p> <p>Documentation for the recycled input must be available. If different recycled material streams are processed, separate records must be maintained for each individual stream.</p>	1	yes	yes
<p>9.7.3 Physical identification of material flows</p> <p>Processing facilities must ensure that the certified recycled materials are fed through clearly documented and identified conveying routes (e.g. silos, conveying lines, pipe systems, mixing stations).</p> <p>Interfaces to other materials must be controlled in such a way that cross-contamination is prevented.</p> <p>All connections, material flows and control systems must be documented and made available for audit purposes.</p>	1	yes	yes
<p>9.7.4 Input records for contract processing</p> <p>Documentation on recycled inputs that are passed on to subcontractors for processing must be available. The corresponding requirements are defined in section 6.</p>	1	yes	yes
<p>9.7.5 Utilisation of internal returns (in-process side streams)</p> <p>Production residues (e.g. sprues, rejects, start-up material) that arise in the in-house manufacturing process and are reincorporated in the immediate process sequence can be included in the calculation of the recycled content, provided the following conditions are met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The original input contained certified recycled content. 	1	yes	yes

Requirement	Category Type	Minor deviation	Required proofs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traceability is fully batch-related and documented. Volume comparisons document the balance between input, recirculation and output. 			
<p>9.7.6 Input and output records</p> <p>Documentation must be prepared for all materials that are introduced into the process and produced through the process. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recycled input used Additives, masterbatches and untreated materials Scrap or regrind that is fed into the process Products produced and leaving the certified process Rejected products 	1	yes	yes
<p>9.7.7 Process documents</p> <p>Documentation must be created that shows the times at which the production process was active on a specific day, the quantities of recycled input used and the output generated. These records should be available for a period of at least 12 months (i.e. during the evaluation period). If this is not the case, the issuance of a provisional certificate is recommended.</p>	1	no	yes
<p>9.7.8 Metrological testing of the test equipment</p> <p>Methods and measures for selecting, monitoring and calibrating test equipment must be applied regularly if such equipment is available.</p> <p>Any deviations must be documented. The corrective measures taken must include both an investigation of the reasons for the deviations and steps to prevent such deviations in the future.</p>	1	yes	yes
<p>9.7.9 Volume reconciliation</p> <p>An overview of the material flows of the process in which recycled input is used to produce an output within a specified time period is required. Minor</p>	1	yes	yes

Requirement	Category Type	Minor deviation	Required proofs
<p>deviations should be explained. The output can be specified either in tonnes (t) or by number of products.</p> <p>If the output has been produced for less than one year or the documentation has been kept for less than one year, it is recommended to issue a provisional certification. In the case of production on demand (spot production), the plausibility check and control of the recipes must be carried out on the basis of the consumption data.</p> <p>The volume reconciliation is carried out using the mass balance rules in accordance with ISO 22095:2020-10, section 4.3 Controlled Blending Model.</p> <p>This includes comparing input, process returns and output for the respective defined observation periods.</p>			
<p>9.7.10 Traceability</p> <p>It must be demonstrated that appropriate steps have been taken to ensure traceability throughout the process in accordance with the EN 15342:2007 standard. The batches of recycled input and output can be traced at any point and location in the process. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on the incoming cargo • Incoming warehouse • Process (including production documentation, machine settings and traceability in relation to the injection moulding machines, where relevant) • Comparison of the total input of certified recycled material with the corresponding production output. • Documentation of all quantities of virgin material, additives, masterbatches and auxiliary materials supplied. • Consideration of losses, production waste and temporary storage. • Annual reconciliation of opening stock, goods receipts, stock levels and sales figures. 	1	no	yes

Requirement	Category Type	Minor deviation	Required proofs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plausibility checks as a mandatory part of the audit. <p>In addition, the plausibility check is carried out using the documented principles of DIN EN 15343:2008-02 Annex A and the ISO 22095 Controlled Blending Model.</p> <p>The documented material flows, stock levels and interim consumption are reconciled in a traceable manner.</p>			

9.8 Composition of the products leaving the certified process

The composition of the certified products must be documented in detail.

This includes

- Polymer base
- Percentage of recyclate (separated by PCR / PIR)
- Use of additives, masterbatches, fillers
- Weight proportions of all components

In the case of multi-layer products, all layers must be included in the mass balance.

Requirement	Category Type	Minor deviation	Required proofs
<p>9.8.1 Output specifications</p> <p>Specifications of the output in the sense of product descriptions (bills of materials) of the produced output must be available, including details such as polymer, colour, unit weight, product components and so on.</p>	1	no	yes
<p>9.8.2 Output description</p> <p>Description of the output by presenting the products, product groups or components that are taken into account within the scope of certification.</p>	1	yes	yes

Requirement	Category Type	Minor deviation	Required proofs
<p>9.8.3 Calculation of the recycled content</p> <p>The recycled content of a product or component is given as a percentage of the total weight and takes into account the following categories:</p> <p>Total product 100 % =</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Proportion of recycled content - pre-consumer) X % • (Proportion of recycled content - post-consumer) X % • (Other components such as virgin material, masterbatch, colourants, fillers, etc.) X % <p>Only components, products or product groups that use recycled input are considered in this calculation. The recycled input may contain a specific proportion of pre- and/or post-consumer material, which must be taken into account in the calculation.</p> <p>The calculation reflects the actual percentage of recycled content (both pre-and a post-consumption). The products or product groups are listed in the audit report and in the overview document with their respective percentage values.</p>	1	no	yes
<p>9.8.4 Plausibility check</p> <p>The documented output produced must correspond to the quantity of recycled input used. The plausibility of the following information must be verified:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Proportions in accordance with the product formulation 2. Verification of the purchased quantity of recycled input used 3. Control of the manufactured output 4. Purchases (in tonnes) minus stock (in tonnes) should be greater than consumption (in tonnes). 	1	no	yes

9.9 Output requirements

Requirement	Category Type	Minor deviation	Required proofs
<p>9.9.1 Output specifications</p> <p>The sales invoices for the output must contain at least the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name and address of the buyer • Date of invoicing • Product code and description of the sold output / output • Quantity of output 	1	no	yes
<p>9.9.2 Records of sales</p> <p>Documentation on the sales of the output must be available. Procedures for monitoring and controlling the determination of output must also be implemented.</p>	1	no	yes

9.10 Subcontracting

If processing steps are outsourced to subcontractors, these subcontractors must be verifiably integrated into the quality assurance system.

The same documentation, traceability and plausibility requirements apply to all process stages outsourced to subcontractors.

The documentation of input and output quantities and the recycled materials used must also be fully traceable at the subcontractor level and made available for audit purposes.

Requirement	Category Type	Minor deviation	Required proofs
<p>9.10.1 Control of processing by subcontractors</p> <p>The documentation must clearly show when recycled input was transferred to subcontractors for processing. At least the following details must be recorded:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The date on which the recycled input was handed over to the subcontractor for processing. 2. The name and address of the subcontractor performing the processing. 	1	no	yes

Requirement	Category Type	Minor deviation	Required proofs
3. The quality and quantity of recycled input transferred to the subcontractor for processing.			
<p>9.10.2 Certification of the subcontractor</p> <p>Processing carried out by subcontractors must take place in certified facilities. Copies of the respective subcontractor's certificates must be enclosed.</p> <p>Processing operations in non-certified companies are excluded from the calculation of the recycled content.</p>	1	no	yes
<p>9.10.3 Social Responsibility / Corporate Social Responsibility</p> <p>For production or supply chain sites located outside regions recognised as having adequate social and labour standards (European Union, North America, United Kingdom, Australia), evidence of a recognised social audit or certification is mandatory. The baseline references are the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the ILO Core Labour Standards. Acceptable evidence includes, in particular, SMETA, SA8000 or equivalent international standards, which are considered as additional audit criteria (Category Type 2).</p>	2	yes	yes

10 External monitoring by the certification body

External surveillance is carried out in the form of an audit in accordance with section 7.3.1 for initial certification, section 7.3.2 during periodic surveillance and section 8.7 for certificate renewal.

If the monitoring audits carried out identify the need to test additional bodies, additional documents can be requested from other manufacturers to confirm the recycled content.

The certification body carries out regular surveillance audits to ensure that the product complies with the standards specified in the certification scheme. The costs incurred by these tests are invoiced to the certificate holder after the surveillance measures have been completed.

10.1 General information

A central element of the certification is the continuous monitoring of the system throughout the entire validity period of the certificate. This monitoring takes place at annual intervals. The certification body uses surveillance audits to check and evaluate whether the requirements of this certification scheme are being followed accordingly.

10.2 Audits

During an on-site audit, the certification body or a third party commissioned by it checks the company's internal processes to ensure that they comply with the standards of the relevant standard and the certification scheme and that they are suitable for ensuring the accuracy of the specified recycled content. Conducting a remote audit in lieu of an on-site assessment is permissible. The decision rests with the certification body and the technical expert. A specific report is drawn up for each audit.

If the audit results are unsatisfactory, the certificate holder and/or the manufacturer must be informed immediately. It must then be determined between the certification body and the certificate holder and/or the manufacturer what additional measures must be taken to fulfil all requirements. If the certificate holder and/or manufacturer cannot implement the necessary measures within the agreed time, then:

- the certification procedure is stopped during an initial inspection,
- In the case of surveillance audits, the certificate may be temporarily suspended and finally revoked after an additional period,
- the renewal is not carried out in the case of renewal audits.

If production of the product is interrupted and this makes contractually agreed monitoring of the entire process impossible, the certification body must be informed immediately, stating the expected duration. The same applies to the resumption of production.

The manufacturer must appoint a responsible expert and nominate them to the certification body. The same applies to the deputy. Any change in this position must be reported to the certification body immediately in writing.

Representatives of the certification body shall have the right to enter the manufacturer's premises and storage facilities, including their distribution centres, at any time during working hours without prior notice and to take all measures necessary for surveillance. In addition, the representatives of the certification body must be able to inspect all product-relevant documents if required. This must be ensured by the applicant / certificate holder.

Appendix A Requirements for plastics

All documentation from the manufacturers / processors involved in the process must comply with the traceability requirements in accordance with DIN EN 15343 for plastics recycling. In particular, they must contain the necessary information in accordance with DIN EN 15343 Table 1 and DIN EN 15347 Table 1.

The documentation should be structured in a way that allows verification without requiring access to confidential business documents.

A 1 Product properties for plastics, metal, paper and cardboard, glass

Hazardous substances may not be used to manufacture products from recycled materials in accordance with the following regulations and directives:

- Regulation (EC) No. 1935/2004 on materials and articles intended to come into contact with food.
- Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 (REACH)
- Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 (CLP Regulation)
- TRGS 905 (Technical Rules for Hazardous Substances 905)
- TRGS 614 (Technical Rules for Hazardous Substances 614)
- Commission Delegated Directive (EU) 2018/740 (concerning aluminium)
- Commission Delegated Directive (EU) 2018/739 (concerning steel)
- Regulation (EC) No 333/2011 (concerning scrap metal)

For this purpose, a self-declaration from the manufacturer signed by the applicant is sufficient evidence.

A 1.1 Additional requirements for products intended for food contact

Products explicitly intended for food contact shall provide appropriate evidence demonstrating that the recycled plastics used comply with the requirements of the applicable legal acts. This shall in particular include:

- Evidence of the authorisation of the recycling process in accordance with Regulation (EU) No. 2022/1616,
- Submission of a valid registration in the Union Register,
- A positive opinion issued by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), where applicable,
- A declaration of the intended use,
- Submission of a Declaration of Compliance (DoC) in accordance with Regulation (EU) No. 2022/1616,
- Compliance with the requirements of Regulation (EC) No. 2023/2006 on Good Manufacturing Practice.

A 1.2 Requirements for intermediaries

Intermediaries taking ownership of the material shall mandatorily be included in the traceability system.

- Intermediaries with physical storage (e.g. transshipment, interim storage, repackaging) are subject to the full certification requirements and shall be verified by means of an audit.
- Intermediaries without physical storage (brokers, trading-only entities) are covered through a document review, provided they exclusively trade in certified material and fully forward the required supplier certificates.
- For products intended for food contact, intermediaries may only form part of the supply chain if they exclusively trade in inputs from recycling processes authorised in accordance with Regulation (EU) No. 2022/1616. In this case, intermediaries with storage shall be subject to full certification, while brokers without storage shall be obliged to maintain complete documentation.