International Symposium and Expert Meeting

Vietnam Green Label and Green Public Procurement

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CONTENTS

1. Vietnam Green Label
2. Green Public Procurement in Vietnam
Vietnam Green Label

- **Purpose of establishment**
  Enhancing sustainable use of natural resources and environmental protection by encouraging patterns of environmental-friendly production and consumption certified by the Vietnam Government

- **History**
  Was established in 2009 (Decision No. 253/QD-BTNMT of the Minister of Natural Resources and Environment)

- **Main characteristics**
  - Governmental ecolabeling scheme (owned by Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment)
  - Type 1 Eco Labelling (voluntary, life cycle assessment)
Organization Structure

Minister of Natural Resource & Environment (MONRE) and Vietnam Environment Administration (VEA)
- Approving Criteria Development Plans
- Promulgating Vietnam Green Label criteria
- Granting Certification
- Monitoring the use of Vietnam Green Label

Technical Committee (TC) (formed by VEA-MONRE)
- Surveying demands and market
- Drafting Criteria
- Assessing technical parts of registration dossiers

Vietnam Green Label Program Consulting Council (VGLPCC) (formed by MONRE)
- Defining the product/service category
- Revising draft criteria

Vietnam Green Label Office (formed by MONRE)
- Receiving registration dossier
- Fulfilling logistic for TC and VGLPCC
- Drafting Criteria Development Plans
- Conducting communication activities
- Consulting relevant stakeholders
Vietnam Green Label Criteria

- Paper office
- Laptop
- Batteries
- Printer
- Ceramic building materials
- Hair care products
- Solid soap
- Architectural coating products
- Power laundry detergent
- Hand dishwashing detergent
- Biodegradable plastic shopping bag
- Synthetic paper food packaging
- Fluorescent lamp
- Toner cartridge
Example of Vietnam Green Label Criteria

1. Definition, objectives and applicable entities

1. Definition:
Office paper includes various kinds of paper products used for printing, photocopying, writing and other purposes of use in stationary in public buildings, schools and other manufacturing and trading establishments.

2. The environmental impacts of office paper are likely to cause degradation of ecosystems due to logging as raw materials for paper production, causing air and water pollution due to emissions of toxic chemicals and nutrients from the manufacturing process; waste generated from the disposal of the product after use.

2. Objectives:
a) To encourage the sustainable production and consumption; enhance the competitiveness of the products certified with Vietnam Green Label in the market;
b) To reduce the impacts on the forest ecosystems due to exploitation of natural forests for paper production;
c) To reduce water pollution caused by emissions of toxic chemicals and nutrients into the aquatic environment in the paper production process;
d) To save natural resources through increased recycling and paper use.

3. Applicable entities:
Office paper mentioned as prescribed in this section.

II. Interpretation of terms

FSC certification (Forest Stewardship Council) is granted to wood and forests which satisfy the requirements related to environmental, community, social, and economic criteria. This kind of certification is offered by FSC accredited certification agencies.

III. Vietnam Green Label Criteria for office paper

1. Raw materials for paper production
At least 50% of the raw material (wood, bamboo, etc) for the paper production process must originate from plantations that are periodically allowed to exploit and not be natural forest. Besides, the forest plantations do not affect the natural forest area, or papermaking raw materials must originate from FSC certified forests.

2. Paper production process:
2.1. Comply with national technical regulations on emissions and environmental protection.
2.2. Do not use the following chemicals:
2.2.1. The bleaches containing halogens or chlorine gas;
2.2.2. The non-ion surfactants APEO (alkylphenol ethoxylates) and their salts for removing ink from paper (in recycling paper);
2.2.3. The pigments and dyes containing: 4-amino-2-methyl-6-pyridine, brominated; 4-chloro-5-ethyl-2-naphthol; 2-naphthol; 2-amino-4-nitrosoaniline; 4-chloroaniline; 2,4-diaminodiphenyl; 4,4’-diaminodiphenyl ether; 3,3’- dichloroaniline; 3,3’-diaminobenzidine; 3,3’-dinitrobenzidine; 3,3’-dinitroguanidine; 4-nitrophenol; 4-nitroaniline; 4-nitroaniline; heavy metals such as copper (Cu) (excluding copper phthalocyanine), lead (Pb), chromium (Cr), cadmium (Cd), nickel (Ni) and aluminum (Al).
2.2.4. The surface coating of the paper containing acrylates.
2.2.5. The chemicals in the list of chemicals banned from import and export, under the Decision No.5/2006/QD-BCN dated April 7, 2006 of the Ministry of Industry and the Decision No. 40/2006/QD-BCN dated December 1, 2006 of the Ministry of Industry.
2.2.6. The chemicals in the list of chemicals banned as prescribed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment.
2.2.7. The chemicals are likely to cause cancer that listed in the list of chemicals of the Group 1 and Group 2A as prescribed by IARC (use the list of chemicals following the link: http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Classification/).
2.3. The following chemicals used do not exceed:
2.3.1. The amount of EDTA (ethylene diamine tetraacetic acid), DTPA (diethylene triamine pentaacetic acid) used do not exceed 2.5 kg over one ton of pulp.
2.3.2. The surfactants used for removing ink from paper (in recycling paper) are 100% biodegradable.
2.3.3. The pigments and dyes containing metals with concentrations do not exceed the prescribed limits: For Ag: 100 ppm; for As: 50 ppm; for Ba: 100 ppm; for Ca: 20 ppm; for Cu: 500 ppm; for Cr: 100 ppm; for Cr2O3: 250 ppm; for Co: 2500 ppm; for Hg: 4 ppm; for Hf: 1000 ppm; for Ni: 200 ppm; for Pb: 100 ppm; for Se: 20 ppm; for Sb: 50 ppm; for Sr: 250 ppm; for Zn: 1500 ppm.
Vietnam Green Label Criteria

New drafting Vietnam Green Label criteria (expected to issue in 2017)

LED light

Copiers
Products and Companies Certified with Vietnam Green Label

Certified products (54 products)

- Fluorescent bulbs of Dien Quang Lamp Joint Stock Company (46)
- Coating used for construction of Jotun Paint Vietnam Co, Ltd (04)
- Printers of Fuji Xerox Asia Pacific Pte Ltd. (02)
- Motorcycles battery of GS Battery Viet Nam Co., Ltd (02)
Examples of Vietnam Green Label Certified Products

- Fuji Xerox DocuPrint P355d - Printer
- Jotun Majestic True Beauty Sheen Coating used for construction
- Dien Quang Compact fluorescent light bulbs
- GS Motorcyles Battery
Example of Vietnam Green Label Certificate
Vietnam Green Label Criteria Development

1. Defining the product/service category by Vietnam Green Label Program Consulting
2. Drafting criteria by Technical Committee
3. Consulting Stakeholders (enterprises, consumers, experts)
4. Revising draft criteria by Vietnam Green Label Program Consulting Council
5. Promulgating criteria by Minister of Environment and Natural Resources
Circular 41/2013/TT-BTNMT providing procedures for certification of ecological labels for environment – friendly products

**Vietnam Green Label Certification Process**

**Enterprises** → **Applying** → **Vietnam Green Label Office**

- Yes: 20 days
- No: **Review & Audit**
  - Yes: 5 days
  - No: **Submit to VEA**

RESULT & LICENSING
Vietnam Green Label Fees

- No application fee
- No license fee
Vietnam Green Label

Website: http://vea.gov.vn/
Recent trend in Vietnam: Concept of “green growth” and “sustainable consumption and production” has slowly introduced to governmental policies and regulations

- Prime Minister’s Decision No. 1393/QD-TTg approving Vietnam Green Growth Strategy (2012)

Main tasks:
- Promoting ecolabelling and public communicating on environmental-friendly products.
- Studying to promulgate regulations on green public expenditure, including investment expenditure and recurrent expenditure of the state budget must prioritize the procurement and use of eco-labeled goods, goods capable of recycling.
Recent trend in Vietnam: Concept of “green growth” and “sustainable consumption and production” has slowly introduced to governmental policies and regulations

- **Prime Minister’s Decision No. 76/QD-TTg approving National Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production by 2020, with a vision to 2030**

**Main tasks:**

- Assessing market potential and the ability to supply environmentally friendly products of export enterprises of Vietnam; carrying out researches on export opportunities and participation in global value chains for key export products of Vietnam when these key export products are certified with Vietnam Green Label, energy-saving label.

- Supporting trading promotion, market access for products certified with Vietnam Green Label, energy-saving label and others.

- Continuing to implement Viet Nam Green Label Program, certification of energy-saving label and other eco-labels; promoting the evaluation and certification of environmental friendly products and services.
Vietnam Green Public Procurement: Legal framework

- Law on Procurement No.43/2013/QH13
- Law on Environmental Protection No. 55/2014/QH13
- Decree No 63/2014/ND-CP guiding the implementation of Law on Procurement
- Decree No. 19/2015/ND-CP guiding the implementation of Law on Environmental Protection
Law on Environmental Protection No.55/2014/QH13

Article 44

1. Agencies, organizations, family households or individuals shall be responsible for producing and consuming eco-friendly products and services.

2. The Head of state budget-funded institutions shall bear their responsibility for preferring eco-friendly products and services that have been recognized as ecolabels under legal regulations.

3. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment shall direct and cooperate with communications agencies in performing the advertisement and promotion activities for such eco-friendly products and services.
Decree 19/2015/ND-CP guiding the implementation of Law on Environmental Protection 2014

Article 47
1. The Heads of state budget-funded agencies and units are responsible for putting a high priority on public procurement of the kinds of product specified in Clause 12 and Clause 13 of Appendix III of this Decree. The Ministry of Finance shall take lead and coordinate with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment in developing the regulations on public procurement of environmentally friendly products as specified in this paragraph.

2. Organizations and individuals shall give priority to purchase of environmentally friendly products under the guideline of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment.

APPENDIX III: LIST OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACTIVITIES ELIGIBLE FOR INCENTIVES AND SUPPORTS
12. Production of environmentally friendly products certified with the Vietnam Green Label by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment; recycled and disposed waste products that certified by the authorized state management agency.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Challenges in Vietnam Green Public Procurement</th>
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<td>Inconsistency between Law on Procurement and Law on Environmental Protection</td>
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<td>Few existing Vietnam Green Label product categories and certified products</td>
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<td>Lack of implementation plan of GPP after promulgation</td>
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Inconsistency between Law on Procurement and Law on Environmental Protection

**Law on Environmental Protection**
Green public procurement include the consumption of products certified with the Vietnam Green Label

**Law on Procurement**
Sustainable criteria (social and environmental) are not listed as the main criteria for evaluating the tenderer
Vietnam Green Public Procurement

Ministry of Finance

Department of Public Assets Management

Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment

Department of Policy and Legal Affairs (under VEA)

Drafting Circular on procurement of environmentally friendly goods and products using the State Budget
Vietnam Green Label and Green Public Procurement

- No existing GPP system but have basic governmental policies and regulations for GPP
- GPP criteria = Vietnam Green Label criteria

**Way forwards**

1. Develop more ecolabel criteria for products in high demand of the Government
2. Prepare guidelines and training for government’s bodies in implementing the regulation on public procurement of environmentally friendly products (international experiences)
Thank you for your attention!

For further information

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