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BNQ

**Bureau de normalisation
du Québec**

CAN/BNQ 3840-100/2023

Recycled Plastic Content Products

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STANDARD

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CAN/BNQ 3840-100/2023

Recycled Plastic Content Products

Produits à contenu de plastique recyclé



Bureau de normalisation du Québec

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333, rue Franquet, Québec, Quebec G1P 4C7

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FOREWORD

This document was developed in compliance with the Standards Council of Canada (SCC)'s Requirements and Guidance for standards development organizations and approved as a National Standard of Canada by the SCC. Its publication was approved by a Standards Development Committee, whose members were:

Suppliers

BERGERET, Aurélie	Polystyvert
BUSSIÈRE, Virginie	Pyrowave
CONLEY, Nancy	Nova Chemicals
DESJARDINS, Mathieu	NexKemia Petrochemicals (Éco-Captation)
ESSADDAM, Adel	Loop Industries
GOBEIL, Keyven	ReVital Polymers
LI, Lucie Ying	Modix Plastique
LUJAN-RUBIO, Lorena	BASF

Users

BORNIN, Dave	Winpak
BOURJEILY, Pierre-Luc	TC Transcontinental Packaging
CHAMPOUX-GUIMOND, Marie-Anne	Keurig Canada
CÔTÉ, Francis	IPL North America
CÔTÉ, Jean-François	Soprema
EVEREST, Rick	CKF (Scotia Investments Family of Companies)
GRISÉ, Érik	Cascades

HOWE, Crystal

Ice River Sustainable Solutions

KADLUBOWSKI, Bryan

Procter & Gamble

General Interest

BENABIDÈS, Pierre (Chair)

Lichens

DEVONISH, Alexander

Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)

GADOURY, Normand

Éco Entreprises Québec (ÉEQ)

SAHELI, Pooneh

Ministry of Environment and Climate Change
Strategy — Government of British Columbia

SEAMAN, Christa

Chemistry Industry Association of Canada
(CIAC) — Plastics Division

ST-GODARD, Jo-Anne

Circular Innovation Council

VASILE, Cosmin

Ministère de l'Environnement, de la Lutte contre
les changements climatiques, de la Faune et des
Parcs (MELCCFP) — Gouvernement du Québec

Coordination

GINGRAS, Denis (Standards Developer)

Bureau de normalisation du Québec (BNQ)

Linguistic Review

TREMBLAY, Carole (Editor)

Bureau de normalisation du Québec (BNQ)

The collaboration or the participation of the following people is also worthy of mention:

ARMSTRONG, Sarah Jane

Ministère de l'Environnement, de la Lutte contre
les changements climatiques, de la Faune et des
Parcs (MELCCFP) — Gouvernement du Québec

BECHARD, Keith

Revital Polymers

BONTE-GELOK, Shelly

Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and
Parks (OMECP) — Resource Recovery Policy
Branch — Government of Ontario

BROUARD, Solenne

Polystyvert

COTTENYE, Nicolas	Polystyvert
CURRAN, Aine	The Vinyl Institute of Canada
DAS, Sanket	Chemistry Industry Association of Canada (CIAC) — Plastics Division
DOUCET, Jocelyn	Pyrowave
DUONG, Tu Van	Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (OMEC) — Resource Recovery Policy Branch — Government of Ontario
FERRON, Jordane	Éco Entreprises Québec (ÉEQ)
KRÜGER, Christian	BASF
LAVALLEY, Shannon	Circular Innovation Council
LEBEUF, Pierre André	Soprema
MANTAGARIS, Elena	Chemistry Industry Association of Canada (CIAC) — Plastics Division
McKAY, Thomas William	BASF
MILNE, Monty	The Vinyl Institute of Canada
PERSAUD, Tribu	The Vinyl Institute of Canada
PRESCOTT, Erin	Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy — Government of British Columbia
SEGUIN, Mathieu	TC Transcontinental Packaging
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VENNE, Gilles	NexKemia Petrochemicals (Éco-Captation)

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RECYCLED PLASTIC CONTENT PRODUCTS

INTRODUCTION

Plastic resins are major components of our modern societies. Their mechanical and chemical properties, including being lightweight and durable, make them ideally suited for a multitude of essential applications. Plastic resins have consequently come to serve as a key material in thousands of manufactured products across virtually all sectors of the economy, including automotive, electronics, construction, medical, and food and beverage, among others.

However, the vast majority of plastic packaging and products used by consumers and businesses in Canada today are never recycled. Thus, the proliferation of plastic items of all sorts has resulted in an important and growing challenge, and it has become urgent to ensure that reclaimed plastic is sustainably and efficiently managed through collection, sortation, and recycling to prevent pollution and to protect the environment.

In this context, ensuring that plastic materials find a useful second life as part of a circular economy represents an important environmental and economic opportunity. In addition, in Canada, citizens, governments, and industries alike are embracing this shift away from a linear economic model towards a more circular one. Increasing the use of recycled content in new products is one key strategy to achieve circularity.

As organizations strive to include an increased proportion of recycled plastic content in manufactured products, and as governments consider mandating the use of recycled content in certain products, it is crucial to have a standard method for calculating and verifying recycled content in products. Hence, a robust standard as well as the implementation of certification rules will ensure a level playing field for industries that will adopt it and will also provide confidence to consumers for product claims and labelling for recycled content.

This standard on recycled plastic content products aims to support and encourage positive change throughout the plastic value chain, including by the population, industries, and governments, to ensure that plastics remain in use in a circular economy, out of landfills, incinerators and, most of all, out of the environment.

1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this standard is to specify the requirements for determining the content of recycled plastic introduced into the production process of the end product. It establishes the basis for calculating the recycled plastic content of end products, expressed as a percentage of mass.

This standard defines the procedures for tracing recyclates entering the supply chain and establishes requirements for third-party verification of recycled content claims and recycled content marking and labelling of the products.

Finally, this standard establishes the basic requirements for classifying a product based on its origin (pre-consumer material or post-consumer material) and treatment (mechanical or chemical).

2 **SCOPE**

This standard applies to any products containing a claimed recycled plastic content of at least 5%, which is either credited according to the Chain of Custody (CoC) mass balance model or actual physical recycled content.

This standard is not intended to determine the mechanical, physical and chemical qualities and properties of a product, nor the adequacy of the product's constraint performance with respect to the legal requirements issued by authorities in the jurisdictions for which the end product is intended. In addition, this standard does not address the safety, health, and performance aspects associated with the use of products made with recycled plastic.

This standard applies to all organizations performing plastics recycling (recyclers), plastics sorting (sorting centres), plastics processing (packers) and plastics transforming (converters) as well as brand owners whose products contain plastics, that incorporate them into a new product using the following processes, among others:

- a) injection moulding;
- b) spinning;
- c) blowing;
- d) extrusion;
- e) thermoforming;
- f) rotational moulding;
- g) repelletizing;
- h) chemical processes such as purification, depolymerization, conversion.

This standard has been developed to be used as a reference document in connection with the conformity assessment of applicable products.

NOTE — Conformity assessment is defined as the systematic review of the level to which recycled plastic content products meet the specified requirements.