

REGULATIONS

partners certification bodies

qualification requirements



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Note. This non-sworn translation is a useful tool for companies interested in certification. For any doubts, the original Regulations in Italian will prevail.



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1. Purpose and scope of application

The purpose of these regulations is the definition of the criteria and IPPR's requirements in the recognition of certification bodies (hereinafter referred to as CB) for the Plastic Second Life brand certification, in compliance with the requirements described in the "Regulation, certification and maintenance of the PSV and PSV-By-product certification".

In addition, indications are defined in relation to accreditation of the same bodies by Accredia.

2. Reference standards

In general the following standards are applicable to the PSV scheme:

- Rules on the environment and in particular the waste regulation (ex Decree-Law 152/2006).
- EN ISO 14021– Environmental labels and declarations - Self-declared environmental claims (Type II environmental labelling)
- EN ISO/IEC 17065: 2012 - Conformity assessment — Requirements for bodies certifying products, processes and services
- “Plan for the environmental sustainability of consumption in the public administration sector” (PAN) and consequent Minimum Environmental Criteria (Interministerial Decree of 11 April 2008, Ministerial Decree of 10 April 2013, CAM decrees referred to on the web page of the Ministry of Ecological Transition <https://www.mite.gov.it/pagina/i-criteri-ambientali-minimi#1>)

In particular, the following are applicable to the PSV program:

- Regulations for the certification and maintenance of the PSV certificate
- Ministerial Decree 8 May 2003 No. 203 and Procurement Code;
- Recycled content in materials and products: Ministerial Circular 4 August 2004 implementing Ministerial Decree 203/2003;
- Qualification of secondary raw materials: UNI-UNIPLAST standards 10667 series

For Food PSV:

- Decrees updating Ministerial Decree 21 March 1973 In particular: Decree 22 December 2005, No. 299 and Decree 12 December 2007, No. 270 (polypropylene and high density polyethylene boxes for fruit and vegetables); Decree 5 December 2013, No. 134 (bottles and trays in recycled PET).
- EU Regulation No. 1616/2022;
- EC Regulation No. 10/2011(functional barrier)

For PSV Bag:

- Law 28/12 and MISE Interministerial Decree of 18 March 2013.

Note: With regard to technical and/or binding dated references to the legislation, only the aforementioned edition applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document is valid (including updates).

For PSV-By-product:

- Rules on the environment and in particular the waste regulation (ex Decree-Law 152/2006);
- UNI 10667-1 - General information on secondary raw plastic materials and by-products of plastic materials.

3. Requirements for Certification Bodies

3.1 Accreditation and Certification Bodies

Accreditation activities are carried out by Accreditation Bodies that have signed the IAF MLA agreements.

Any CB accredited for the ISO/IEC 17065:2012 standard by an Accreditation Body signatory of the IAF MLA agreements may adhere to the PSV program, subject to recognition by IPPR for certification of the Plastic Second Life brand.

IPPR will give adequate information to those interested in the PSV mark in relation to the recognized CBs (e.g. IPPR portal).

3.2 Recognition by IPPR

The CB that intends to join the PSV program will send a formal request to IPPR.

Recognition is possible if:

- the CB accepts to be accredited for the PSV and PSV-By-product program (EN ISO / IEC 17065) at Accredia following the issue of 10 certificates.
- the CB has valid accreditation for the EMS and QMS schemes in compliance with the EN ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015 standards (or EC Regulation No.1221/2009 and subsequent amendments - Emas in compliance with the EN ISO/ IEC 17021-1:2015 and EMAS Regulation (EC) No. 1221/2009) for the IAF 14 and IAF 24 sectors (NACE 22 and NACE 38 for EMAS);
- the CB has signed a contractual agreement with IPPR.

3.3 Obligations for CBs – communications between IPPR and CB

For the measures taken about the certifications issued or being issued, affecting the status of the PSV and PSV-By-product brand licensee recognition, the Certification Bodies shall communicate their decisions in writing to IPPR, within 10 days from the date the decision is taken. With the same procedures and timing, IPPR communicates any measures taken about the licensees.

The recognized CB is obliged to:

- wait for the authorization from IPPR before proceeding with the inspection activities at the brand licensee companies;
- accept Internal Audits by IPPR at the brand licensees' companies, expressly providing this activity as a contractual obligation with its client;
- accept Internal Audits by IPPR at its facility, ensuring the availability of the necessary resources with a view to full transparency and collaboration;
- send IPPR, whenever requested, the documents regarding the PSV certification (e.g. inspection report, technical report ...);
- always send the certificate of conformity issued to the customer for every modification made, within 10 days of the decision;
- publish the certificate issued to the customer (or related data) on its website, specifically stating the certified products;
- communicate the data referred to in the previous point to Accredia for publication in its databases;
- communicate to IPPR the data collected during the inspections relating to the annual mass balance (last full calendar year), indicating the total quantity, expressed in kilograms, of recycled material/by-product used in the production of the products subject to PSV and PSV-By-product certification;
- publish in an official manner on its site any sanctions (e.g. suspension) imposed on the certified client, informing IPPR formally;
- pay IPPR the contractually defined royalties;
- communicate to IPPR any variation related to its accreditation.

3.4 Communications between IPPR and Accredia

For the measures taken about the Certification Bodies, affecting the status of accreditation or recognition, IPPR and Accredia communicate, in writing, the decisions taken, within 10 days from the date when they take them.

Accredia will provide IPPR with a copy of the audit report performed at IPPR partner Certification Bodies.

4. Certification process and certification maintenance

The certification body performs the certification process, maintenance and extension of the certification in accordance with the rules set out by the EN ISO/IEC 17065:2012 standard. Also with regard to the sanctions against the licensees of the PSV and PSV-By-product brand.

The aforementioned process will be carried out in compliance with what is described in the "Regulations for the certification and maintenance of the PSV and PSV-By-product certification".

In this regard, the CB defines and applies the appropriate documented procedures.

4.1 Auditor

IPPR has created the Register of Plastic Second Life Auditors. Only registered entities can be called to carry out auditing tasks for the PSV and PSV-By-product brand.

The auditor wishing to obtain the qualification must perform a minimum of two inspections under the supervision of an already qualified auditor who will document the results to the CB and, upon request, to IPPR.

If the audit team does not have sufficient experience, it is possible to use a technical expert.

For the purpose of obtaining the qualification, the following are considered mandatory requirements:

- the qualification as Head of the Inspection Group (ISO 9001 or ISO 14001 or EMAS)
- technical competence on products made of plastic materials (IAF 14/NACE 22)
- technical expertise on plastic waste and its recycling (IAF 24/NACE 38)
- competence on environmental legislation - Decree-Law 152/2006
- competence on the regulations concerning plastic in contact with food (for PSV food inspections).

The recognition of skills takes place on the basis of the inspector's professional experience (at least two years in the plastics industry and recycling sector).

The aforementioned competence cannot be acquired through the participation in an audit.

IPPR creates a special register of auditors. The IPPR-registered auditor can be appointed by any CB partner.

The Auditor's qualification is solely the responsibility of the CB that uses him/her.

The relationship between the CB and the auditor is regulated by a regular contract for continuous professional services, copy of which the CB must send to IPPR.

The above-mentioned contract defines the technical, economic and behavioural conditions of the relationship between the CB and the auditor, confidentiality constraints and absence of conflicts of interest included.

Records relating to staff skills are managed in a documented and controlled manner.

4.1.1 Continuous monitoring of the performance and maintenance of the qualification

The CB undertakes to monitor, with a specific three-year plan, the work of its auditors and to ensure with documentary evidence the continuous updating of their skills, in particular in the case of changes to the rules of the PSV and PSV-By-product brand certification.

IPPR may request the results of the aforementioned monitoring to confirm the inspector's qualification.

The Certification Body is obliged to notify IPPR of any complaint attributable to the inspector's performance. The aforementioned complaint, in accordance with IPPR, will be processed according to the procedure used by the accredited certification body.

IPPR reserves the right to carry out auditor's monitoring during the planned inspections.

5. Certification resolution

The person who makes the decisions on certification (release, extension, reduction, etc.) will have the same skills requested from the auditor. The CB must ensure the existence of the skills required by the PSV and PSV-By-product certification (plastics, recycled plastics, applicable product and environmental regulations) and the skills involved in conducting inspections.

The CB must guarantee the independence and absence of conflict of interest for those who decide on the certification procedure.

6. Certificate of conformity

The certificate of conformity issued in accordance with the provisions of IEC EN ISO/IEC 17065:2012 is printed on the IPPR format, with the IPPR and the CB logo and is signed by a party appointed by the Certification Body for this purpose, according to its own regulatory provisions.

Since PSV is a certification program recognized by PolyCertEurope, the certificate of conformity can also bear the PolyCertEurope logo.

In order to guarantee traceability in respect of confidentiality along the entire supply chain, the CB, as notified by IPPR, may allow the information relating to the production site acquired by the CB not to be stated on the certificate. For this purpose, the CBs may sign specific confidentiality agreements.

The certificate is sent to the customer in a single copy.

Copy of the certificate must be sent to IPPR.

7. CB staff responsible for managing certification procedures

The CB must ensure the presence of the skills related to the PSV certification program.

The following knowledge is required:

- plastics and relative processes;
- recycled plastics;
- product and environmental regulations applicable to the scheme;
- competence in conducting PSV and PSV-By-product audits.

Records relating to staff skills are managed in a documented and controlled manner.

8. Monitoring of the CB partners

IPPR reserves the right to monitor PSV brand certifications through:

- any checks on the market;
- two-year internal audits at the partner CB's structure;
- monitoring of the PSV and PSV-By-product auditors' inspection reports;
- audits by Accredia. IPPR may request the relative audit report from Accredia.

9. IPPR measures on maintaining the partner qualification

9.1 Suspension

IPPR may suspend the partner qualification for a period not exceeding three months when:

- the CB receives from Accredia a suspension of the accreditation itself;
- for breach of contract with IPPR;
- it carries out activities in contrast or in competition with IPPR's institutional purposes;
- does not implement the changes to the certification process deriving from IPPR's decisions or from specific obligations deriving from technical or legal regulations.

9.2 Revocation

IPPR may revoke the partner status when:

- in the three months of suspension the CB did not resolve the causes that had generated it
- the CB receives the cancellation of the accreditation itself from Accredia.

9.3 Waiver

The CB may waive the status as IPPR's partner, within the terms indicated in the agreement signed upon recognition of the qualification.

9.4 Termination of the relationship with IPPR and non-competition agreement

At the end of the relationship with IPPR, the CB will allow the transfer of the certifications issued to another IPPR's partner CB and indicated by IPPR itself.

The CB also undertakes not to activate certification programs concerning the recycled/by-product content and traceability of plastics during the partnership and in any case within the twelve months following the termination of the IPPR partner status.