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Sustainable Product Standards© Teaching Guide

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Value of Sustainable Product Standards

Sustainable Product Standards Defined

Critical Sustainable Product Standard Elements

- Consensus & transparent
- Require life cycle assessment
- Uses credible certification
- Specifies renewable energy & conventional energy reduction
- Defines environmental, social and economic performance criteria

Key Sections of Sustainable Product Standards

- Environmental performance criteria
- Social equity performance criteria
- Economic performance criteria
- Public health & environmental protection
- Energy
- Materials
- Manufacturing facility & company
- Reuse & reclamation achievement
- Product labeling

Certified Sustainable Product Example

Sustainable Product Standard Uses

Frequently Asked Questions

References

Appendices

1. Public Preferences and Demand for Sustainable Products
2. Benefits of Sustainable Products
3. What Are Sustainable Products & Life Cycle Assessment?
4. Benefits & Costs of Sustainable Product Communications in the Different Market Sectors
5. Legal Requirements and Enforcement

Value of Sustainable Product Standards:

- Facilitate wise choices for product designers, manufacturers and purchasers
- Help further sustainable material use through scientific rigor
- Support selection of materials using holistic comparison process
- Advance sustainable product design & improvement
- Establish priorities for investments in product improvement & technology

1. **Sustainable Product Standards Defined:** Approved, published and precise criteria addressing environmental, social and economic aspects of a given product type.

2. **Critical Sustainable Product Standard Elements are:**

- Consensus and transparent - Collaborative and open democratic process and public record. American National Standards Institute Essential Requirements define this process. Voluntary Consensus Standards have regulated the building industry since 1898. Approved consensus sustainable product standards reduce risk and uncertainty for large purchasers and the capital markets.
- Requires life cycle assessment (LCA) - Evaluates the global supply chain / all product stages & multiple environmental benefits. ISO compliant LCAs are required or actual environmental impact data for all product stages (Raw materials extraction, Transportation, Manufacturing, and Use / Reuse or final product disposition).
- Uses credible certification – Comprehensive third party certification must have a manufacturer legally binding certification, public disclosure of basis of certification, third party auditing by qualified professionals, and recertification & decertification.
- Specifies renewable energy and conventional energy reduction - Green-e power renewable power credit for manufacturing facility & suppliers and credit for convention energy use reduction from a baseline for manufacturing facility and suppliers. Highest weighted component to combat irreversible dangerous climate change and expected 20% annual rise for about 10 years in conventional energy costs (Consensus Climate Neutral Building Standard 2006).