

**B-1**

## **BiomassPla Identification System**

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**Japan BioPlastics Association**

## Preface

From the perspective of preventing global warming and given the importance of reducing consumption of fossil resources, the Japan BioPlastics Association (hereafter referred to as the JBPA, formerly known as the Biodegradable Plastics Society (BPS)), has formulated a system for identifying products made of biomass-based plastics.

The BiomassPla Identification System is a system that certifies products that conform to the identification standards prescribed by the JBPA as “BiomassPla”, biomass-based plastics products and authorizes the use of the BiomassPla logo (specified separately), in order to ensure that general consumers can easily identify biomass plastics products. The term BiomassPla as used here refers to plastic products that contain at least a specified quantity of substances derived from renewable organic resources as a constituent element of the plastic. The JBPA’s identification system has the objective of creating greater understanding of biomass-based plastics among general consumers, and promoting the popularization of biomass plastics.

[Explanation of Terms]

- **Biomass-based plastics**

High-polymer materials obtained from raw materials that can be obtained through chemical or biological synthesis from raw materials that contain substances derived from renewable organic resources.

(Excludes chemically unmodified non-thermoplastic natural organic high-polymer materials.)

- **BiomassPla** Products that contain biomass-based plastics and that conform to the identification standards prescribed by the JBPA.

- **Biomass-based plastic ratio**

The proportion of the total weight consisting of components derived from biomass in the composition of the biomass-based plastic contained in the raw material and product (percentage by weight).

- **Products** Items traded and used, and which are generally recognized as being made from plastic.

- **Materials** Items used to produce a product and which exist in that product.  
However, in the case of products made using a manufacturing technique that uses chemical reactions, these reaction products are also classified as materials.

- **Components** Materials consisting of single substances.

- **Inorganic materials (components)**

Materials and components made solely from inorganic substances.

Natural inorganic materials: Inorganic materials that are natural substances and have only undergone physical handling.

Synthesized inorganic materials: Inorganic materials that have undergone chemical handling in their synthesis.

• **Organic materials (components)**

Materials and components other than inorganic materials (components).

Natural organic materials (compounds): Organic materials that are materials or components that exist naturally.

• **Positive list (PL)**

A list of materials and components that have been deemed to be appropriate substances from which to produce products that conform to the requirements for biomass plastics. The list includes biomass-based plastics and compounds and films containing biomass plastics.

• **Logo**

An identification logo awarded to BiomassPla accredited by the JBPA.

**1. Identification Standards**

- (1) None of the constituent materials (components) of BiomassPla shall be substances on the separate list of prohibited substances.
- (2) Biomass plastics must satisfy the JBPA’s standards for inclusion on the PL.
- (3) All of the constituent materials (components) of BiomassPla must, as a general rule, be disclosed to the BPS’s Identification Committee (hereafter referred to as “this committee”).
- (4) BiomassPla must be plastic products that contain at least 25.0% (by weight) components derived from biomass in the composition of the biomass-based plastic.
- (5) The use of compounds that contain lead, cadmium, mercury or hexavalent chromium is prohibited. Even if these are not used intentionally, the content of these specified toxic substances in the product must not exceed the values given in Appendix 1.
- (6) Even if the overall product does not satisfy the conditions for accreditation as BiomassPla, use of the logo on the part of BiomassPla may be permitted, if it satisfies Item 5 “Standards for Acceptance of Use of the Symbol on Limited Parts”.
- (7) If identifying a substance as BiomassPla, the registration number must, as a general rule, be quoted.
- (8) This committee’s operational criteria must be adhered to in the identification of BiomassPla.

Appendix 1 Maximum Permissible Concentrations of Specified Toxic Substances (Threshold Values)

Toxic substances	Maximum permissible concentrations (ppm)
Lead	1,000
Cadmium	100
Mercury	1,000
Hexavalent chromium	1,000

These have been determined with reference to EU directives (the RoHS (Restriction of Hazardous Substances) directive and the ELV (End-of-Life Vehicle) Directive).

## **2. Standards for the Operation of the logo**

- (1) The decision of this committee with regard to the identification of BiomassPla will be final. Those wishing to use the logo must comply with the instructions of this committee regarding the identification of the relevant BiomassPla.
- (2) Those wishing to use the logo must submit an application form to provide this committee with advance notification of the usage details and obtain permission to use the logo.
- (3) Those who have received permission to use the logo must submit the relevant product to this committee.
- (4) The period of validity for use of the logo is three years from the date on which permission to use it is granted. However, this does not apply if an application to continue using the logo is made during the period of validity.
- (5) If the usage details relating to the symbol change, advance notification of the details of the change must be submitted to this committee.
- (6) If the details of the composition (components, configuration) of the BiomassPla have changed and, as a result, differ from the content of the product that has been authorized by this committee to use the logo, use of the logo on the product concerned must be suspended immediately. However, this does not apply if a new application is submitted for permission to use the logo, providing the details of the change in advance, or this committee is contacted with these details in advance and its approval secured.
- (7) With regard to biomass-based plastic products that appeal to customers on the basis of their biodegradability but which are biodegradable in a way that does not conform to the Biodegradable Plastics (GreenPla) identification standards, producers of such products may be required to take steps to avoid confusing consumers.
- (8) If the “biomass-based plastic ratio” of BiomassPla is indicated on the logo, it should be displayed in a manner that conforms to the provisions stipulated separately.
- (9) If questions arise regarding the use of the logo, this committee should be consulted and its instructions provided.
- (10) If it is recognized that a question has arising regarding the content of matters recorded in the documentation introducing products on the market that have secured approval to use the logo, the party that submitted the application regarding the relevant product is required to respond to inquiries from the Logo Management Subcommittee within three months and is obliged to clear up any questions raised.
- (11) In relation to the previous item, if a response is not received within three months, the Logo Management Subcommittee may invalidate the relevant company’s license to use the logo. In this case, this committee will notify the logo user of the revoking of its permit to use the logo and publish this fact on the website of the JBPA.
- (12) All other matters relating to the use of the logo are the responsibility of the party that has received permission to use the logo

(13) In the event that an applicant resigns its membership of this association, its permission to use the logo will be invalidated from the date on which it cancels its membership. This committee will publish this fact on the website of the JBPA.

### **3. Applications to Use the Logo**

(1) Those wishing to receive permission to use the logo for the first time, or wishing to change the content of the application regarding a product that has already acquired the right to use the logo, must submit an application that complies with this committee's identification standards and operational standards.

(2) JBPA full members, supporting members and logo members (including time-limited symbol members) can apply to use the logo in line with the following requirements.

i) All constituent materials (components) of the BiomassPla for which the application is being submitted shall be specified on the application form (Form X-2), along with the quantities thereof.

ii) The measured values or rationally estimated values of specified toxic substances (Appendix 1) contained in the BiomassPla for which the application is being submitted shall be specified on the application form (Form X-2). If providing measured values, an analytical report detailing such matters as the method of measuring the content shall be appended; if providing estimated values, the rational grounds for these shall be clearly demonstrated.

Note: If no measured values for specified toxic substances are available at the time of the application to use the logo, it is possible to apply after consulting this committee (provisional measure).

iii) If there are any special notes concerning the method of forming (processing) the BiomassPla for which the application is being submitted, these shall be stipulated on the application form (Form X-2).

iv) Details concerning the use and scope of use shall be stipulated on the application form (Form X-2).

v) The applicant shall attach the materials requested in ii) to the application form (Form X-2) and submit it to this committee along with a sample of the BiomassPla for which the application is being submitted.

vi) The results of the screening process will be notified to the applicant by means of a license to use the logo issued by this committee (or, in the event that permission is denied, the reasons for denial will be stipulated).

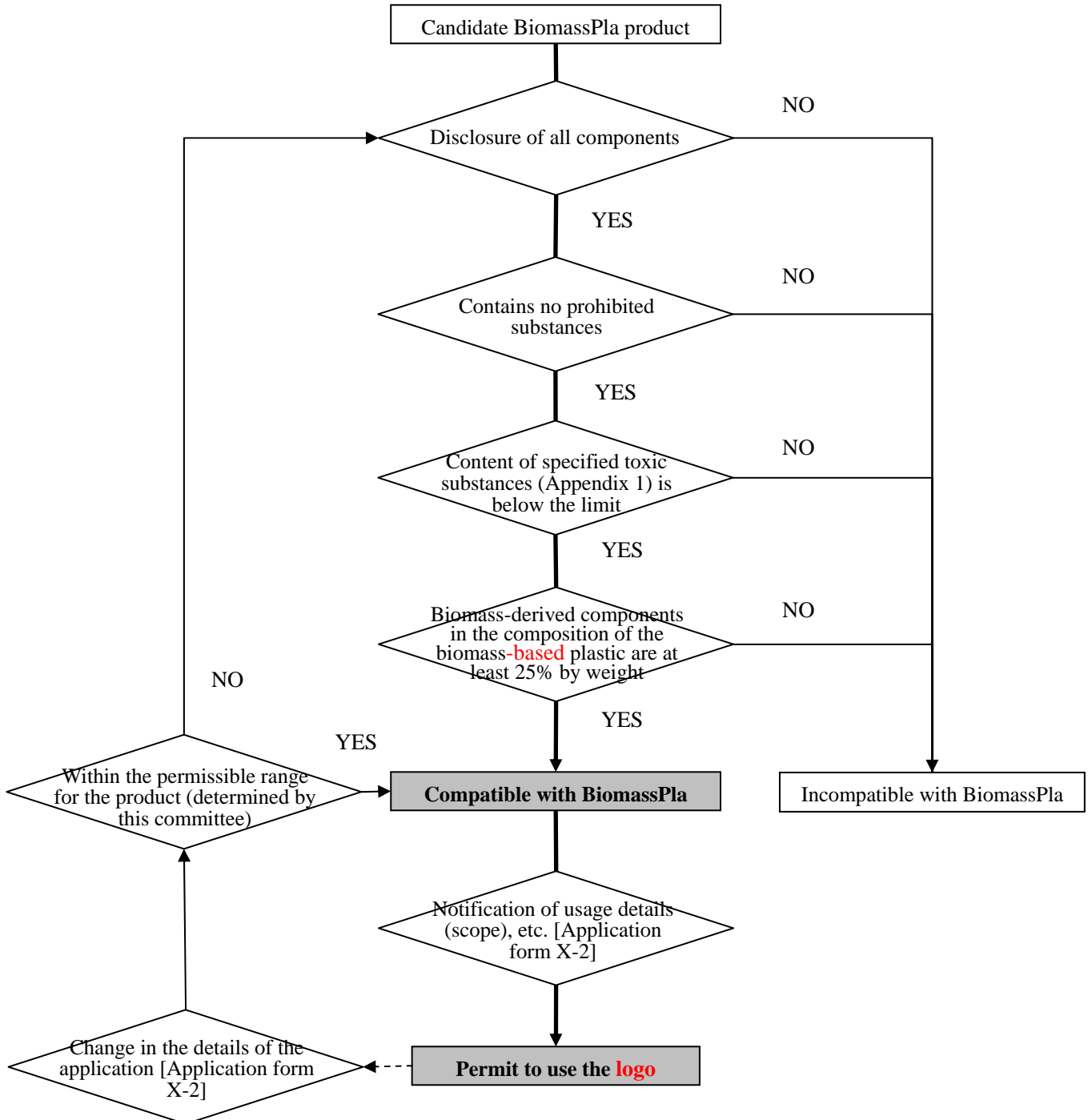
(3) The application form, appended documents and submitted BiomassPla will be stored by this committee under the strictest security, and confidentiality relating to the content of the application will be strictly observed. However, BiomassPla (product names) that use the logo may be introduced on the JBPA website.

### **Reference**

Annex materials    Form X-2

#### 4. BiomassPla Compatible with Identification

The question of whether or not BiomassPla is compatible with identification by this committee will be ascertained by means of the following flow chart.



## **5. Standards for Acceptance of Use of the Logo on Limited Parts**

Even if a product as a whole does not achieve the standards for accreditation as BiomassPla, if it is easy to identify and physically separate the part of BiomassPla from the other parts, permission can be granted for the use of the logo on the BiomassPla part.

Applicants must verify at the time of application that it is easy to identify and separate the part in question.

Those who are permitted to use the logo must clearly indicate to which part the logo is applicable (and to which parts it is not).