cradle to cradle products innovation INSTITUTE

CRADLE TO CRADLE CERTIFIED®
CIRCULARITY STANDARD
Version 5.0

Derived from the

CRADLE TO CRADLE CERTIFIED® PRODUCT STANDARD (Full Scope), Version 5.0

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For more information about the Cradle to Cradle Products Innovation Institute and the Cradle to Cradle Certified Products Program, visit www.c2ccertified.org.

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Foreword

The Cradle to Cradle Products Innovation Institute (C2CPII) is an independent, nonprofit organization dedicated to maximizing the positive impacts of products and materials. As the scheme owner and standard setting organization for Cradle to Cradle Certified®, C2CPII works to guide the efforts of leading organizations worldwide to apply the principles of material health, product circularity, clean air and climate protection, water and soil stewardship, and social fairness to product design and manufacturing. The standard provides designers, manufacturers, and suppliers with a framework for continually improving what products are made of and how they are made. Cradle to Cradle Certified is a respected mark of products and materials made for the circular economy.

The C2C Certified Circularity Standard, Version 5.0 was released on 10 February 2026.

The effective date of the C2C Certified Circularity Standard, Version 5.0 is 16 March 2026.

Further information about C2CPII, the Cradle to Cradle Certified Product Standard, the Material Health Certificate Standard, and the Circularity Standard is available at www.c2ccertified.org.

Inquiries regarding C2CPII, the Cradle to Cradle Certified Product Standard, the Material Health Certificate Standard, and the Circularity Standard may be directed to info@c2ccertified.org.

1 // INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose

The Cradle to Cradle Certified® Circularity Standard, Version 5.0 is intended to provide the means to assess and certify products in accordance with the requirements of the Cradle to Cradle Certified Product Standard (Full Scope) Version 5.0, Section 5, Product Circularity, while also complying with the Bronze level, list-based chemical restrictions in the Material Health category (see Section 3 of this document for more information).

See the Cradle to Cradle Certified Product Standard (Full Scope) Version 5.0 for more information on the history and background of the Cradle to Cradle Certified Products Program and the Cradle to Cradle Products Innovation Institute (C2CPII).

1.2 Standard Development

As a derivative standard, the Cradle to Cradle Certified Circularity Standard is developed in accordance with the Cradle to Cradle Certified Product Standard (Full Scope) as detailed in the Process for Development of the Cradle to Cradle Certified Product Standard.

1.3 Certification Levels

Similar to the Cradle to Cradle Certified Products Program, the Cradle to Cradle Certified Circularity Standard Program is based on the concept of continuous improvement and thus there are four possible levels of achievement: Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Platinum. To reach the desired achievement level in the Product Circularity category, the product must meet all of the requirements for that level, in addition to the requirements at all lower levels. The product's overall certification level for the C2C Certified Circularity Standard is equal to the lowest level achieved in the Product Circularity category (Bronze, Silver, Gold, or Platinum) and Packaging category (Bronze and Silver or Gold and Platinum).

The product's certification level is stated on the Circularity Certificate and in the Cradle to Cradle Certified Products Registry on the C2CPII website (www.c2ccertified.org).

1.4 Restrictions to Bronze Level Certification

At the Bronze level in Product Circularity, a company is starting out on the path to intentionally design a product for its next use and actively cycle it in its intended cycling pathway(s). A company must define the product's intended cycling pathway(s), identify potential cycling partners, begin to incorporate cycled and/or renewable content, and ensure at least 50% of the product by weight is compatible with the intended cycling pathway(s). The Bronze level of certification is designed to recognize a company's intent to further optimize the product design over time and actively cycle it.

As such, a product may be certified at the Bronze level for a maximum of six years (i.e., two, three-year certification periods), and must recertify at the Silver level or higher once the second, three-year Bronze certification has expired, or it will be delisted from the program. Alternatively, in cases where technical,

performance, or market barriers prevent the achievement of the Silver level in the Product Circularity category, the product may be recertified at the Bronze level if the applicant publicly discloses an explanation of the limitation(s) preventing achievement of the Silver level requirements.

1.5 Standard Supporting Documents

C2CPII develops and maintains documents to support implementation of the Cradle to Cradle Certified standards, including a Certification Manual and other standard reference documents. These documents are meant to educate and provide the necessary information for the certification community to have a robust understanding of the standard. These supporting documents are regularly updated to reflect the improvements made to the standard. All standard supporting documents are available on the C2CPII website at www.c2ccertified.org.

The Cradle to Cradle Certified Product Standard (Full Scope) Version 5.0 Certification Manual is the supporting document that contains the detailed information needed to fulfill each of the Version 5.0 standard requirements and is to be used in conjunction with the Version 5.0 standard document. The Certification Manual includes the following:

- Version 5.0 standard requirements: The requirements are listed in the same order as they appear in the Version 5.0 standard, with the same section numbers.
- Further Explanation: These sections provide information regarding how to meet each requirement, including links to resources, applicable test methods, and background information.
- Required Documentation: These sections list the information and documents that must be submitted with a certification application and at recertification to demonstrate compliance with the standard requirements.

Please see the Cradle to Cradle Certified Product Standard (Full Scope) Version 5.0 Certification Manual for more information.

1.6 Certification Process

Key steps in the process for obtaining a Cradle to Cradle Certified Circularity certification, certification program fees, program policies, and other resources are available on the C2CPII website (www.c2ccertified.org).

For all levels of certification, a final manufacturing facility site visit must be conducted as part of the certification process to verify that the standard requirements have been met. The manufacturing facility site visit requirements are provided in Appendix 1 of the Cradle to Cradle Certified Product Standard (Full Scope), Version 5.0 Certification Manual.

2 // PRODUCT ELIGIBILITY

2.1 Products Eligible for Certification

The product eligibility requirements in Section 2.1 of the Cradle to Cradle Certified Product Standard (Full Scope), Version 5.0 also apply to the Cradle to Cradle Certified Circularity Standard Program.

2.2. Products Not Eligible for the Bronze or Silver Achievement Level in Product Circularity

Eligible single-use plastic products and plastic packaging products (when certified as a separate product) are not eligible for certification at the Bronze or Silver achievement level in the Product Circularity category (i.e., they must meet the Gold or Platinum achievement level requirements in Product Circularity). The intent is to ensure alignment with the Cradle to Cradle principles for these typically non-circular product types. An exemption is made for plastic packaging that is part of a refill/reuse system (e.g., soap refill pouches), which may be certified at any achievement level in the Product Circularity category.

3 // STANDARD REQUIREMENTS

Cradle to Cradle Certified Circularity certification is awarded to a product when compliance with the following requirements in the Cradle to Cradle Certified Product Standard (Full Scope), Version 5.0 has been demonstrated to C2CPII through the formal certification process:

1. The requirements in Section 3.1, Certification Compliance Assurance;
2. The Bronze level requirements in Sections 4.2.1 and 4.2.2, Material Health;
3. The requirements for the desired achievement level in Section 5, Product Circularity; and
4. The requirements for the desired achievement level in Section 9, Packaging for Certified Products, if applicable.

Each Circularity certification is valid for three years. The product must be recertified by its expiration date to maintain its status as a certified product. As part of the recertification process, the product assessment must be updated and reviewed to ensure continued compliance with the standard requirements.

Note: Some requirements in the standard address activities that are also subject to regulation by local, state, or federal authorities. However, nothing contained in the Cradle to Cradle Certified Circularity Standard changes legal regulatory requirements or prescribes how compliance is to be achieved. Demonstration of compliance with certain key regulations is required in some sections of the standard, but this in no way changes the underlying regulatory requirements.

4 // DEFINITIONS

All definitions are identical to those contained within the Cradle to Cradle Certified Product Standard (Full Scope), Version 5.0.

5 // CHANGE LOG

Section	Change Summary	Date
-	Initial release	10 February 2026
Forward	Updated to clearly refer to C2CPII as the scheme owner	12 November 2026