



Organics Council®

Terms and Definitions

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Part 1: Directive terms

'Approved' indicates an action or option which has been granted, approved and/or recommended by the regulatory body.

'Can' indicates a potentially permissible action or option, depending on the context.

'Cannot' indicates an absolutely prohibited action or option.

'May' indicates a potentially permissible action or option, depending on the context.

'Must' or **'Shall'** identifies a requirement that the subject has the obligation to satisfy.

'Permitted' indicates an action or option which has been permitted, depending on a defined context, by the regulatory body.

'Prohibited' indicates an action or option which has not been sanctioned or is banned by the regulatory body.

'Should' defines a recommendation that is strongly advised but not mandatory.

Part 2: Acronyms and abbreviations

A

ADI: acceptable daily intake

ASL: Organics Council[®] Approved Substance List

AUC: area under the curve

B

BADGE: bisphenol A diglycidyl ether

BFDGE: bisphenol F diglycidyl ether

BOD₅: biochemical oxygen demand

BPA: bisphenol A

BPS: bisphenol S

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Note: if not specified, then an Organics Council[®] definition

C

CAA: Clean Air Act

CBA: cost-benefit analysis

CCP: critical control point

CEN: European Committee for Standardization

CLP: classification, labelling and packaging

CoC: chain of custody

COD: chemical oxygen demand

CP: control point

CPA: cleaner production assessment

E

EC: European Commission

ECF: elemental chlorine-free

EFSA: European Food Safety Authority

EIA: environmental impact assessment

EIS: environmental

EMS: environmental management system

EPA: Environmental Protection Agency

EPD: Environmental Product Declaration

ERA: environmental risk assessment

EU: European Union

F

FCM: food contact material

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Note: if not specified, then an Organics Council® definition

FDA: Food and Drug Administration

FGHGs: fluorinated greenhouse gases

FSA: Food Standards Agency

FSC: Forest Stewardship Council

G

GHS: Globally Harmonised System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals

GMP: good manufacturing practice

GRAS: generally recognised as safe (according to the FDA)

GRASS: Organics Council® generally recognised as safe substance

H

HDPE: high-density polyethylene

HEPA: high-efficiency particulate air

HRA: hazard and risk assessment

I

ISO: International Organisation for Standardisation

L

LCA: life-cycle assessment

LOAEL: lowest-observed-adverse-effect level

LOTO: lockout-tagout

M

MEC: minimum explosible concentration

MIPS: material input per unit service

MSDS: material safety data sheet

N

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Note: if not specified, then an Organics Council® definition

NECs: national emission ceilings

NIAS: non-intentionally added substances

NOAEL: no-observed-adverse-effect level

NP: nanoparticle

O

OC: the Organics Council®

OEL: occupational exposure limit

OM: overall migration

OML: overall migration limit

P

PCF: process chlorine-free

PDR: product description report

PE: polyethylene

PEFC: Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification

PEL: permissible exposure limit

PET: polyethylene terephthalate

PP: polypropylene

PPE: personal protective equipment

PSDS: product safety data sheet

Q

QA/QC: quality assurance and quality control

QMS: quality management system

R

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** EU directive definitions and terms

Note: if not specified, then an Organics Council® definition

RDI: recommended daily intake

REACH: Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals

RRP: recommended retail price

S

SDS: safety data sheet

SM: specific migration

SML: specific migration limit

T

TADI: temporary acceptable daily intake

TCF: totally chlorine-free

TDI: tolerable daily intake

TLV: threshold limit value

TSS: total suspended solids

TWA: time-weighted average

U

UV: ultraviolet

W

WARM: Waste Reduction Model

Part 3: Glossary of all other terms

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Note: if not specified, then an Organics Council® definition

A

Accreditation*: third-party review and assessment for the certification of an organisation's conformity with an established standard or set of standards.

Accreditation body: a corporate entity of the Organics Council[®] which upholds Organics Council[®] regulation compliance and approves certification bodies to audit and issue to goods and services processors the approval licences that declare their processes, products and services are in conformity with Organics Council[®] circular economy and organics regulations.

Acidic food: final food good with a pH of 4.6 or below and a water activity greater than 0.85.

Active and intelligent materials: substances or materials that are intended to interact with food contents and designed to release or absorb substances or to have some other active role in the contents' quality or appearance.

Additive: a substance intentionally added to achieve a physical or chemical effect during processing of the finished product or article.

Adhesive migration testing: migration testing of adhesives, sealants or any other bonding material intended for use in food contact materials or articles.

Aggregated exposure: the sum of unconjugated substances in the body, irrespective of the route through which these entered the body.

Anisotropic: when the physical properties of a material vary according to the orientation of the material's fibres.

Antifungal treatment: a chemical, physical or other method for destroying fungi or inhibiting their growth.

Approved additive: any substance utilised as an additive present in the Organics Council[®] Approved Substance List [\[link\]](#).

Approved substance: any substance present in the Organics Council[®] Approved Substance List [\[link\]](#).

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Area under the curve (AUC): the area under the toxin concentration versus time curve is used as a measure of exposure in toxicology, biopharmaceutics and pharmacokinetics.

Article: additional article to the final product that is in any way attached, related to or associated with the product and intended to come into contact with it.

Artisan craftsmanship goods: goods made or created by a skilled craft worker or group of workers, with a maximum of five staff members per single entity, and those goods may be subject to Organics Council® regulation compliant simplified audit.

Atmospheric emissions: gas, suspended-particle or vapour-phase emissions produced as a result of industrial activity and released into the atmosphere.

Attribute*: the characteristics or elements of products or services that determine the type of extent of their short- and long-term impacts on the environment and/or human health.

Audit*: a systematic, independent and documented process for obtaining evidence and evaluating it objectively to determine the extent to which predetermined criteria are fulfilled.

Auditor*: a person with a demonstrated ability to apply the knowledge and skills necessary to conduct an audit, performing to a protocolled system in a transparent, fair and honest manner and according to the standards defined by the certifying body.

Audit schedule: the document to be filled during processor inspection, defining the information and data to be collected, as well as the criteria for establishing level of conformity or non-conformity, so as to review whether the final product, processor systems and conduct are in compliance with Organics Council® regulations.

B

Benefit*: An environmentally, economically or socially positive outcome.

Bioaccumulate: the concentration and collection of a substance or material inside living organisms and biological systems.

* EPA sustainability definitions and terms

** EU directive definitions and terms

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Bio-based resource: any substance, material or other resource intentionally made from substances derived from living (or once living) organisms. These materials are sometimes referred to as 'biomaterials', but this term also has other meanings.

Biodegradable: any material that is capable of undergoing anaerobic or aerobic decomposition, due to the activity of bacteria or other living organisms, in a shorter time period than expected with non-biodegradable material.

Biodegradable waste:** any waste that is capable of undergoing anaerobic or aerobic decomposition.

Biofuel: fuel produced with organic matter from combustible oils produced by plants. Examples of biofuel include alcohol, black liquor from the papermaking process, wood and soybean oil.

Biological diversity: according to the Convention on Biological Diversity, Article 2, Use of Terms, 2007, the variety of living organisms found in terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems, as well as the ecological complexes of which they are part. This includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems.

Biomass: according to the Convention on Biological Diversity, Article 2, Use of Terms, 2007, the total mass of living organisms in a given area or volume.

Biomaterial: any substance, material or other resource intentionally made from substances derived from living (or once living) organisms; any substance, material or other resource of ecological benefit; any substance, material or other resource that is biodegradable.

Biopolymer: a polymer that is produced by a living organism, such as cellulose.

Branded product: a product with a unique and specific brand name, term, design, symbol, or other feature that distinguishes the manufacturing company or specific product from alternative products.

Breakdown product: any substance produced as a result of degradation or ageing of any chemicals present in the product formulation, processing or the finished product.

BS ISO: British and International Standards that all countries use as a basis for their own guidance. BS (British Standard) indicates that the standards have been adopted in the UK.

* EPA sustainability definitions and terms

** EU directive definitions and terms

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By-product*: a secondary or incidental product of a manufacturing process (e.g., scrap or emissions).

C

Carbon sequestration: according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the various processes through which carbon is removed from the atmosphere and stored in soil, biomass, geological formations and oceans.

Carcinogens: any substance, radionuclide or radiation that promotes carcinogenesis (the formation of cancer).

Certification*: third-party confirmation (or the process leading to confirmation) that products, processes or persons have demonstrated fulfilment of specific requirements.

Certification body: an individual or corporate entity that is accredited by the Organics Council[®] to carry out the audit and certification to Organics Council[®] regulations of processes, goods and services.

Certified food contact material (FCM) or article: any certified product or material, as defined by the current Organics Council[®] regulations or based upon those certification body Standards, complying with all requirements of the certification body for food contact materials and articles and labeled with the authorised certification body's logo or symbol.

Certified forest management: a third-party evaluation system that sets and measures forestry sustainability, as well as providing forest owners and managers with independent recognition of their responsible management practice.

Certified product or article: any certified product or material, as defined by the current Organics Council[®] regulations or based upon those certification body Standards, complying with all requirements of the certification body for products and articles and labeled with the authorised certification body's logo or symbol.

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Certifiee: an individual or corporate entity that seeks to have its processes, goods or services certified by an Organics Council[®] accredited certification body to attest that these are in conformity with Organics Council[®] circular economy and organics regulations.

Certifier*: an organisation that assesses an entity's compliance with a standard or set of criteria and issues a certificate if deemed successful.

Chain of Custody (CoC)*: the tracing of a product or commodity through a supply chain to determine whether the product meets the criteria of an eco-label and to verify that the certified product is identifiable.

Chemical substance: any chemical ingredient (monomer or other starting substance) or mixture of ingredients used for the manufacturing of plastic products or articles (e.g., solvent, polymerisation or processing aid, colourant, filler etc.).

Circular economy: systems supporting sustainable production that has no negative impact on the environment, workers, consumers or the general public, while benefiting economies, communities and industries. Resources are kept in use for the maximum time possible, extracting maximum value during use, with end-of-life recycling or conversion to recover and regenerate products and materials; circular economy products meet all organic production principles.

Class P1 respirators: according to the Harmonised European Standards for Personal Protective Equipment (EC Personal Protective Equipment Directive (89/686/EEC)), respirators for use against particles. Low efficiency protection level.

Class P2 respirators: according to the Harmonised European Standards for Personal Protective Equipment (EC Personal Protective Equipment Directive (89/686/EEC)), respirators for use against particles. Medium efficiency protection level.

Class P3 respirators: according to the Harmonised European Standards for Personal Protective Equipment (EC Personal Protective Equipment Directive (89/686/EEC)), respirators for use against particles. High efficiency protection level.

* EPA sustainability definitions and terms

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Cleaner production assessment (CPA)*: a methodology used to systematically identify and evaluate cleaner (less polluting, less toxic and less wasteful) production opportunities and facilitate their implementation.

Closed-loop production*: a production system in which any industrial output is capable of being recycled to create another product.

Closed respirometer system: a closed chamber system for the assessment of the characteristics and extent of respiration that works by determining rates of carbon dioxide production (V_{CO_2}) and oxygen consumption (V_{O_2}) in individuals.

Combustible dust: combustible particulate solids suspended in the air, regardless of particle size or shape.

Combustible particulate solid: a combustible solid material formed of distinct particles.

Commercial user: any individual, operator or organisation using a product or article designated for commercial purposes.

Competent authority:** the authority member States designate as responsible for performing [regulatory] duties.

Compliance/conformance audit*: a check to verify whether an entity meets the applicable standards of a program.

Component: any part, material, ingredient or element constituting part of the final product or article.

Composite materials: a material synthetically formed from two or more constituent materials, generally resulting in a final material with significantly different properties compared to the individual raw components.

Composition:** the description of the nature and proportions of different substances found within a material.

Compostability: assessment of the level of biodegradability or ability to safely and relatively quickly be broken down into simpler substances through biological means and disappear into the environment, referring specifically to solids biodegrading into the soil.

* EPA sustainability definitions and terms

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Conformity assessment*: a methodology used to demonstrate that specified requirements for a product, process, system, person or body are fulfilled.

Constituent: ingredient used to make a material or product.

Contaminant: a biological, chemical, physical or radiological substance that is not intentionally added to the final product but is present due to unavoidable, accidental or unexpected reasons. If present in sufficient concentration, this substance can adversely affect living organisms through the air, water, soil and/or food.

Corporate social responsibility: the commitment by businesses to act ethically in all aspects of their activities. Businesses must acknowledge responsibility for their actions and encourage through their activities a positive impact on the environment, consumers, employees, communities and stakeholders, while contributing to economic development.

Corrective action reports*: reports issued during certification evaluations or audits that require entities to make specific changes in order to meet criteria.

Cost-benefit analysis (CBA)*: an estimate of the total equivalent money value of the benefits and costs of a project to the community. A CBA is used to establish whether a given project is worthwhile.

Cost of ownership*: a financial estimate designed to help consumers and enterprise managers assess direct and indirect costs related to the purchase of any capital investment.

Cradle-to-cradle manufacturing*: an approach to the design of products that seeks to be as waste-free as possible. All materials used are designated as either technical nutrients, which are non-toxic synthetic materials that are reused in continuous cycles, or biological nutrients, which can be disposed of into natural environments to decompose into the soil.

Critical control point (CCP): a point, step or procedure at which controls can be applied and a hazard can be prevented, eliminated or reduced to an acceptable level, based on pre-designated critical limits.

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Critical limits: the maximum and minimum values to which a biological, chemical or physical parameter must be controlled at a critical control point to prevent, eliminate or reduce a potential hazard to an acceptable level of risk or occurrence.

Critical product compliance breach: any breach in final product conformity to the defined specifications, parameters and critical control points that may result in a risk to the health of the user, consumer, general public or environment. It indicates a serious failure in one or more aspects of production and requires immediate product recall action.

Critical safety breach: any breach in safety standards in the workplace, during processing, manufacturing or transport of the certified product or goods, that may result in a risk to the health of a workforce member, the product user, consumer, general public or environment. An immediate investigation is required, with process and policy assessment to ensure that the risk of repeat occurrence is removed.

Cumulative energy requirements analysis*: a process to quantify the primary energy requirement for products and services from a lifecycle perspective.

Customer: any individual, operator or organisation purchasing and using the product or article, private and commercial, in finished and unfinished state.

D

Deforestation: the permanent clearing of a portion of forest for other uses, such as agriculture and urban development.

Degradation product: substance released because of a deleterious change in the material as a result of some form of stress the material is subject to (e.g., heat, light, highly acidic or oily substance exposure, ageing etc.).

Direct contact food contact material: any food contact material designed to be in direct contact with food goods.

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Distributor: any individual, operator or organisation that acts as an intermediary entity between the producer of a product and another entity in the distribution channel or supply chain, such as a retailer, wholesaler, converter or processing manufacturer, including who carries the certification body's labelling and packaging activities but does not process a product content itself.

E

Eco-efficiency analysis*: an assessment aimed at maximising the economic efficiency of a production process while minimising its impact on the environment.

Eco-label*: a visual communication tool that indicates environmentally preferable products, services and companies that meet specific standards. Different types of eco-labels include pass, fail, tiered, multi-attribute and single attribute.

Ecological footprint*: the total amount of land, food, water, and other resources used by, or the total ecological impact of, a person's or organisation's subsistence. It is usually measured in acres or hectares of productive land.

Eluate:** the solution obtained by a laboratory leaching test.

End user: any individual or organisation intended to be using the final product or article.

Endocrine-disrupting substances: substances that can interfere with endocrine systems and disrupt hormone-controlled and developmental systems.

EN ISO: European and International Standards that all countries use as a basis for their own guidance. EN (European Norm) indicates that the standards have been adopted in Europe.

Environmental claim*: any statement, assertion or visual display about the environmental aspects of an organisation, product or process.

Environmental impact assessment (EIA)*: the process of identifying and evaluating the consequences of one economic activity on the environment and, when appropriate, mitigating those consequences. EIAs are used as an aid to public decision-making on larger projects.

* EPA sustainability definitions and terms

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Environmental impact statement (EIS)*: a document required by the National Environmental Policy Act for certain actions that significantly affect the quality of the human environment. An EIS is a tool for decision-making; it describes the positive and negative environmental effects of a proposed action, and it usually also lists one or more alternative actions that may be chosen instead of the action described in the EIS.

Environmentally preferable products*: products or services that have a lesser or reduced effect on human and environmental health compared to competing products or services that serve the same purpose. This comparison involves the impacts of a product or service's raw materials, manufacturing, packaging, distribution, use, reuse, operation, maintenance and disposal.

Environmental management system (EMS)*: a framework that helps a company achieve its environmental goals through consistent control of its operations. The assumption is that this increased control will improve the environmental performance of the company. The EMS itself does not dictate a level of environmental performance that must be achieved; each company's EMS is tailored to the company's business and goals.

Environmental performance indicators*: indicators that describe the impact of products or processes on living and non-living natural systems, including ecosystems, land, air and water.

Environmental Product Declaration (EPD)*: a declaration of a product's performance with regard to different environmental parameters during the product's life cycle. An EPD requires the gathering of quantified environmental data for a product with pre-set categories of parameters (raw material, energy use etc.). It also includes additional product and company information.

Epoxy derivatives: non-intentionally added substances deriving from chemical reactions of synthetic thermosetting polymers containing epoxide groups.

European Food Safety Authority (EFSA): the body responsible for providing scientific advice and public communication on risks associated with the food chain. EFSA is an EU-funded agency that operates independently of the European legislative and executive institutions (Commission, Council and Parliament) and the EU member States.

Eutrophication*: the process by which a body of water or ecosystem acquires a high concentration of organic matter with potentially damaging consequences.

* EPA sustainability definitions and terms

** EU directive definitions and terms

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Exporter: any individual, operator or organisation exporting raw materials, components, ingredients, substances, intermediate or final materials, final products or final packaged products into the marketable area.

Exposure assessment: the process of finding out how people come into contact with a hazardous substance, how often and for how long, as well as how much of the substance they are in contact with.

External exposure: the amount of substance with which the body comes into contact before it is absorbed through skin, lungs or gastrointestinal tract.

F

Fibre saturation point (FSP): The equivalent moisture level where only water bound within wood cells remain and all free water has been dried out. FSP varies depending on the wood species.

Final food contact material or article (FCMs): final, finished food contact material or article intended to be in direct contact with food goods, in the condition seeking certification.

Final product manufacturer: any individual, operator or organisation responsible for the use of component products or articles for the formation of a final product.

First, second and third party*: these terms describe a person or organisation's relationship to a product or organisation. The first party is the organisation itself, and it provides the object. The second party is usually a person or organisation that the first organisation interacts with. The third party is a person or body that is independent of the first and second parties.

Food contact material (FCM): all materials and articles intended to come into contact with food, such as packaging and containers, kitchen equipment, cutlery and dishes.

Food simulant: a standard, agreed-upon chemical mixture of defined properties that simulates or resembles key food categories, types and groups.

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Forest Stewardship Council (FSC): an international non-profit, multi-stakeholder organisation established in 1993 to promote responsible management of the world's forests. The FSC sets standards on forest products, along with certifying and labelling them as eco-friendly.

Fossil-fuel resources: any substance, material or resource formed from hydrocarbon deposits derived from the accumulated remains of ancient plants and animals, creating a high-energy content resource.

Functionality: the ability of the product or article to serve its purpose practically and effectively.

G

Globally Harmonised System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS): an internationally accepted standard system for harmonised hazard classification and chemical hazard communication.

Gravimetric method: a standard set of methods used in analytical chemistry for the quantitative determination of an analyte based on the mass of a solid.

Green design*: the design of products, services, buildings or experiences that are sensitive to environmental issues and achieve greater efficiency and effectiveness in terms of energy and materials use.

Greenhouse gas (GHG) emission factors: activity data, defined as data on emissions taking place as a result of any aspect of a product's life cycle during a given period of time, emission factors being the average emission rate of a given GHG for a given source, relative to units of activity.

H

Harmonisation*: a process whereby national or regional standards and requirements are aligned, including product and manufacturing standards and conformance assessment requirements.

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Harmonisation does not necessarily require that standards be identical in each jurisdiction, but rather that they be consistent or compatible.

Harmonised standards*: standards approved by different standardising bodies that establish interchangeability of products, processes and services, or mutual understanding of test results or information provided according to these standards.

Hazard: a source of potential harm or risk to health or safety.

Hazard and risk assessment (HRA): a scientifically based process consisting of four steps: hazard identification, hazard characterisation, exposure assessment and risk characterisation.

Hazard group code: according to annex III to Council Directive 91/689/EEC based on the criteria laid down by annex VI to Council Directive 67/548/EEC, hazard group codes are defined codes to be applied to waste by the waste producer, based on the properties that make them hazardous, to categorize the waste for appropriate handling and management.

Hazardous waste: any waste with one or more hazard group codes applied.

Heat stress index: the relationship between the amount of evaporation (or perspiration) required under thermal conditions and the maximum ability of the average person to perspire in order to cool body temperature safely.

High-density polyethylene (HDPE): polyethylene produced with small amounts of short-chain branching of ethylene molecules with a density greater than 0.941 grams per cubic centimetre.

High-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter: also called high-efficiency particulate absorber, it is a type of air filter. According to the US National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, it must trap 99.97 percent of dust particles that are 0.3 microns or more in diameter. Nine different grades are recognised, based on three different levels of efficiency (95, 99 and 99.97 percent) and three levels of resistance to filter degradation (N, R and P). N means not resistant to oil, R is oil-resistant, and P is oil-proof.

High-level work hazards: any hazard identified by the hazard risk assessment as major or unacceptable (e.g., not minor).

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High water mark: a marker that identifies the maximum level reached by the sea at high tide, or by a lake or river in time of flood.

Hygiene standards: the required hygiene standards to avoid damage to or contamination of products or the potential injury to workers, the general public and the environment. Depending on product type, will either refer to good manufacturing practice hygiene standards or the relevant food safety standards.

Hygroscopic: where water may be attracted to and bound by a substance or material, at defined humidity and temperature.

I

Impact*: the adverse or beneficial effect or output of an activity, product or substance on the environment or human health.

Importer: any individual, operator or organisation importing or delivering raw materials, components, ingredients, substances, intermediate or final materials, final products or final packaged products into the marketable area.

Incident report: a form to be filled in case of any incident in the workplace that exposes a worker or any other person to danger or poses a serious risk to a person's health or safety.

Industrial plastic waste: industrial scrap material such as factory regrind and plant scrap.

Inert waste:** waste that does not undergo any significant physical, chemical or biological transformations. It will not dissolve, burn or otherwise physically or chemically react, biodegrade or adversely affect other matter with which it comes into contact in a way likely to give rise to environmental pollution or harm human health. The total leachability and pollutant content of the waste and the ecotoxicity of the leachate must be insignificant and, in particular, not endanger the quality of surface water and/or groundwater.

Ingredient: any component, part or element combined in the production, processing or manufacturing of products.

Input-output analysis*: an economic tool used to measure the impacts of an existing, proposed or anticipated business operation, decision or event on the economy.

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Intended market: the market where the product or service is sold.

Intermediate customer: the initial or first-point purchaser (not the final purchaser of the product from the licensee).

Intermediate food contact material: any food contact material or product in the intermediate stages of manufacturing that has its final formulation but is not yet in its finalised form.

Intermediate processor: any individual, operator or organisation manufacturing raw materials, ingredients and products required as a production input.

Intermediate product: any product in the intermediate stages of manufacturing that has its final formulation but is not yet in its finalised form.

Intermediate production materials: materials applied in the intermediate stages of product manufacturing.

Internal exposure: the total amount of substance which is present in the body irrespective of its form (i.e., the sum of conjugated plus unconjugated).

Internal waste disposal sites:** landfill where a producer of waste is carrying out its own waste disposal at the place of production.

International Organization for Standardization (ISO) Standards*: standards developed by an international body in order to establish requirements, specifications, guidelines or characteristics that can be used consistently to ensure that materials, products, processes and services are fit for their purpose. Two examples of ISO standards are ISO 14001 for environmental management systems and ISO 50001 for energy management systems. Individual countries use ISO standards as a basis for their own guidance. Standards may be preceded by an acronym showing which country or region has adopted the standards.

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J

K

L

Landfill:** a waste disposal site for the deposit of waste onto or into land (i.e., underground), including internal waste disposal sites (i.e., landfill where a producer of waste is carrying out its own waste disposal at the place of production) and permanent sites (i.e., more than one year) are used for temporary storage of waste.

Landfill-free*: all waste (or at least 90 percent) generated from operations is reused, recycled or converted to energy.

Landfill gas:** all the gases generated from the landfilled waste.

LD50: lethal dose, 50%. It represents the individual dose required to kill 50 percent of a test sample.

Leach: the process where any soluble substance contained within a material will drain, release or escape, contaminating materials, goods or individuals in direct contact.

Leachate:** any liquid percolating through the deposited waste and emitted from or contained within a landfill.

Licensee: individual or organisation which seeks to certify or already has its products certified by a certification body that permits the use of the certifying body authorised logo.

Licensor: organisation or individual authorised by the Organics Council[®] to audit individuals or organisations for the conformity with the required standards and use of the certifying body authorised logo on products and services.

Life cycle*: consecutive and interlinked stages of a product system, from raw material acquisition or generation of natural resources to final disposal. Life-cycle stages include raw material extraction, manufacturing/production, transportation, use and disposal/recycling.

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Life-cycle assessment (LCA)*: compilation and evaluation of the inputs, outputs and potential environmental impacts of a product system throughout its life cycle. The comprehensive examination of a product or service's environmental aspects and potential impacts throughout its lifetime, including raw material extraction, transportation, manufacturing, use and disposal.

Life-cycle cost*: all costs associated with the defined life cycle of a product, including capital costs, installation costs, operating costs, maintenance costs and disposal costs. This definition does not include external costs (i.e., those not borne directly by the entity that owns and operates a product/service, such as environmental costs to society at large).

Life-cycle thinking*: a concept that integrates existing consumption and production strategies. Life-cycle approaches help avoid shifting problems from one life-cycle stage to another, from one geographic area to another and from one environmental medium (e.g., air, water, soil) to another.

Liquid waste:** any waste in liquid form, including waste waters but excluding sludge.

Living wage: the income needed to provide a reasonable and minimum standard of living in the specific region; this should be adjusted to compensate for inflation.

Lockout-tagout (LOTO) systems: defined in the Canadian standard CSA Z460-13 Control of Hazardous Energy: Lockout and Other Methods as the 'placement of a lockout device on an energy-isolating device in accordance with an established procedure'. A lockout device is 'a mechanical means of locking that uses an individually keyed lock to secure an energy-isolating device in a position that prevents energisation of a machine, equipment, or a process'. Tagout is a labelling process that is always used when lockout is required. The process of tagging out a system involves attaching or using an information tag or indicator (usually a standardised label) that includes the following information:

- why the lockout/tagout is required (repair, maintenance etc.);
- time of application of the lock/tag;
- the name of the authorised person who secured the tag and lock to the system.

Note: only the authorised individual who placed the lock and tag onto the system is the one who is permitted to remove them. This procedure helps make sure the system cannot be started up without the authorised individual's knowledge.

* EPA sustainability definitions and terms

** EU directive definitions and terms

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Lowest-observed-adverse-effect level (LOAEL): lowest concentration or amount of a substance causing an adverse effect on the morphology, functional capacity, growth, development or lifespan of an organism compared to normal organisms of the same species, under defined conditions of exposure.

M

Major product compliance breach: any breach in final product conformity to the defined specifications, parameters and critical control points that, despite not posing a risk to the health of the user, consumer, general public or to the environment, indicates a serious failure in some aspect of production and requires immediate action.

Major safety breach: any breach in safety standards in the workplace, during processing, manufacturing or transport of the certified product or good, that may result in a risk to the health of a workforce member, while no risk is present to the product user, consumer, general public or to the environment. An immediate investigation is required, with process and policy assessments to ensure that risk of repeat occurrence is removed.

Manufacturer: any individual, operator or organisation responsible for primary production manufacture. See also 'final product manufacturer'.

Manufacturing aid: any substances not intended as an ingredient or component, but required as an ingredient or component to fulfil a certain technological purpose during manufacturing, which may result in the unintentional but technically unavoidable presence of residues of the substance or its derivatives in the final product.

Material:** prepared form of a substance, or of a combination of substances, suitable for use in a manufacturing process; it can be metallic, organic or mineral.

Material and substance flow analysis*: mapping of the total use, recycling and disposal of a specific material or substance in a defined region.

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Material input per unit service (MIPS)*: the weighted cradle-to-grave material inputs of a good, as defined per units of services obtainable. This concept can be used to measure the eco-efficiency of a product or service. The calculation takes into account materials required to produce a product or service. The total material input is divided by the number of service units. For example, in the case of a passenger car, the number of service units is the total number of passenger-miles during the whole life span of the vehicle. The lower the material input per mile, the more eco-efficient the vehicle.

Migration: the transfer of chemical contaminants from materials into the surrounding area or materials, substances, goods or individuals in direct contact. Migration depends upon the physico-chemical properties of the migrating substance, the material and object or subject contaminated.

Migration analysis: the method to determine the extent of chemical transfer from a product or associated article to consumers or the environment. Chemical detection and quantification requires specific analytical methods for each chemical of interest, specially developed for each product or simulant type and fully defined in the product's hazard and risk assessment.

Minimum explosible concentration (MEC): The minimum concentration of atmospherically suspended combustible dust required to cause an explosion, measured in mass/unit volume.

Minor product compliance breach: any breach in final product conformity to the defined specifications, parameters and critical control points that, despite not posing a risk to the health of the user, consumer, general public or to the environment, indicates a minor failure in some aspect of production and requires immediate investigation. The product may still be viable for sale as a discounted, non-specification product.

Minor safety breach: any breach in safety standards in the workplace, during processing, manufacturing or transport of the certified product or goods, that while not posing a risk to the workforce member, product user, consumer, general public or to the environment, could have caused minor or potential harm and therefore may indicate the need for improved safety standards, policies or training.

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Monomer: any substance or molecule that can be bonded to other identical molecules through any type of polymerisation process to form a polymer. This includes substances to manufacture polymers, natural or synthetic macromolecular substances used in the manufacture of modified macromolecules, substances used to modify existing natural or synthetic macromolecules.

Multi-attribute*: a type of eco-label or standard that captures a number of environmental attributes or life-cycle attributes or impacts of a product.

Municipal waste:** waste from households, as well as other waste which, because of its nature or composition, is similar to waste from households.

Mutagen: a physical or chemical agent that changes the genetic material of an organism, increasing the frequency of mutations above the natural background level.

N

Nanocomposites: materials that incorporate nanosized particles into the matrix of a standard material, altering its properties due to the addition of nanoparticles or nano-components, and creating a multiphase material where one of the phases has a dimension smaller than 100 nanometres (nm) or contains structures having nanoscale repeat distances between the different phases that make up the material.

Nanomaterial: material that may contain particles or constituents with a dimension smaller than 100 nanometres (nm) or containing structures having nanoscale repeat distances between the different phases that make up the material, or material produced by nanotechnology.

Nanoparticle: a particle with two or three dimensions within the nanoscale, between 1 and 100 nm.

Non-certified food contact material or article: any food contact material or article other than certified food contact materials and articles as defined in terms of the current Standards.

Non-certified product or article: any product or article other than certified products and articles as defined in terms of the current Standards.

* EPA sustainability definitions and terms

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Non-compliance: Failure to act in accordance with Organics Council® Regulations or the specified standards of the certification body, whether:

- a. deliberate;
- b. accidental;
- c. incidental.

Non-conforming goods: goods that do not meet the predefined specifications and parameters as per the product description report, critical control points and quality assurance and quality control checks.

Non-critical control points: a point, step or procedure at which controls can be applied, to prevent, eliminate or reduce any minor hazard or non-conformity aspect that does not compromise the safety of the finished product for public or environmental health.

Non-direct food contact packaging material: a final, outer layer of material intended for non-direct food contact packaging purposes. It will have the wording 'not intended for food contact' printed on the surface.

Non-hazardous waste: waste not classifiable with any hazard group codes.

Non-intentionally added substances (NIAS): chemical substance present in a product, despite having not been deliberately added during the production process, for a technical reason, including (but not limited to) contaminants, impurities and by-products of the manufacturing processes.

Non-specification goods: goods that do not meet the defined product specifications as per product description report.

Nonvolatile substances: a substance that does not readily evaporate into gas phase under standard or existing conditions, exhibiting a low vapour pressure and a slow rate of evaporation.

No-observed-adverse-effect level (NOAEL): greatest concentration or amount of a substance, found by experiment or observation, which causes no detectable adverse alteration of morphology, functional capacity, growth, development or lifespan of the target organism under defined conditions of exposure.

* EPA sustainability definitions and terms

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Note: if not specified, then an Organics Council® definition

O

Offsetting scheme: an action to improve environmental quality or to reduce environmental impact, performed in order to compensate for or offset an emission or polluting process performed elsewhere.

Open-loop recycling*: a recycling process in which materials from old products are made into new products in a manner that changes the inherent properties of the materials.

Organic: in terms of a substance or processing input, it is from a biological or natural origin, where feasible, and it is approved by the Organics Council®; in terms of food goods, it is produced to conform at least with EU organics statutory regulations; in terms of non-food goods, it is produced to conform with at least EU organics statutory regulations where present, or otherwise in conformity with Organics Council® Regulations and its accredited certification body standards.

Organoleptic compliance testing: taste and odour assessments, with chemical analysis performed following any positive organoleptic effect identification to identify and quantify any substances responsible for organoleptic changes. Compliance is based on predefined specifications in the product description report, hazard and risk assessment and quality assurance and quality control protocols.

Overall migration limit: a measure for the inertness of a material which identifies the total level of migration of all substances into an object or subject in contact with the material, based on toxicological data. Analytical techniques are used to identify the presence of these substances in potentially contaminated individuals, goods or areas.

Oxidising agents: a substance that oxidises something, especially chemically (by accepting electrons).

Oxo-biodegradable: defined by CEN/TR 1535–2006 as the ‘degradation resulting from oxidative and cell-mediated phenomena, either simultaneously or successively’. It requires chemical instigation or initiation.

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Oxo-biodegradable plastics: plastics made from conventional polymer resins with added substances (normally metal salts) to initiate and accelerate degradation processes. Full degradation requires biodegradation processes.

P

Parts: any substance, material or component representing an amount or section which, when combined with others, makes up the product or article.

Permanent waste storage site:** site used for more than one year for temporary storage of waste, but excluding:

- facilities where waste is unloaded in order to permit its preparation for further transport for recovery, treatment or disposal elsewhere;
- storage of waste prior to recovery or treatment for a period less than three years as a general rule;
- storage of waste prior to disposal for a period less than one year.

Persistent pollutants: any substance, material or compound that is resistant to the normal environmental processes of chemical, biological and photolytic degradation. Therefore has a high risk of bioaccumulation.

Pollution prevention*: practices that reduce or eliminate the creation of pollutants through increased efficiency in the use of raw materials, energy, water and other resources, or through the protection of natural resources by conservation, including:

- reduction in hazards to public health and the environment associated with the release of such substances, pollutants and contaminants;
- reduction in the amount of any hazardous substance, pollutant or contaminant into the environment prior to recycling, treatment or disposal.

Polyethylene: plastic based on polymers of ethylene or copolymers of ethylene with other monomers, with ethylene being in the greatest amount by mass.

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Polymer: a substance with a molecular structure built up chiefly or completely from a large number of similar units bonded together.

Polypropylene: plastic based on polymers of propylene or copolymers of propylene with other monomers, with propylene being in the greatest amount by mass.

Post-consumer plastic waste: any plastic that has entered the stream of commerce, served its intended purpose and that can be diverted for recycling. This includes residential, commercial and institutional plastic waste.

Post-consumer waste: any product waste that has entered the stream of commerce, served its intended purpose and can be diverted for recycling. This includes residential, commercial and institutional consumer waste.

Primary food contact article: the first and primary layer of food contact articles, in direct contact with food contents.

Primary food contact material: the material utilised as the first and primary layer of food contact material, in direct contact with food contents.

Primary product packaging: the material utilised as the first and primary layer of product packaging, in direct contact with the product.

Processing aid: any substances not intended as a component or ingredient by itself, nor required as an ingredient or component for manufacturing, but intentionally used in the processing of raw materials, products or associated articles to fulfil a certain technological purpose during treatment or processing, and which may result in the unintentional but technically unavoidable presence of residues of the substance or its derivatives in the final product.

Processor: end-user final or intermediate product constituency input producer or distributor to intermediate or end user or seller to end user, private or commercial.

Product: clearly identified manufactured item, in its finished form, that comes into contact with the general population as a final product, or a component part of a manufactured item.

Product-in-use evaluation: assessment to confirm the product's suitability and safety.

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Product life cycle: the period of time over which an item is developed, produced, brought to market, sold, used, disposed of and potentially recycled.

Product recall (also referred to as 'product withdrawal'): a request to return a product after the discovery of safety issues or product defects that might endanger the consumer or put the maker/seller at risk of legal action.

Product stewardship*: a product-centred approach to environmental protection that calls on those in the product life cycle (e.g., manufacturers, retailers, users and disposers) to share responsibility for reducing the environmental impacts of products.

Production aid: any substances not intended as an ingredient or component, nor required as an ingredient or component for manufacturing, but intentionally used in the processing of raw materials, products or associated articles, to fulfil a certain technological purpose during production in the form of treatment or processing, which may result in the unintentional but technically unavoidable presence of residues of the substance or its derivatives in the final product.

Production region: the statutory, geographical and economic region where production occurs.

Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC): an international, non-profit, non-governmental organisation that promotes sustainable forest management through independent third-party certification. It is considered the certification system of choice for small forest owners.

Public user: any individual, operator or organisation who has purchased and is utilising the final packaged product or article for private needs.

Q

Quality management system (QMS): a formalised and accredited system that documents processes, procedures and responsibilities for achieving quality policies and objectives, as well as maintaining quality in production and manufacturing.

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Quarantine: a period of forty days or more, as hazard and risk assessment deems necessary, where a restraint upon the movement, storage or transport of goods is required in order to prevent the spread of contaminated stock, disease or pests. It also refers to the place where those items under quarantine are kept.

R

Raw material: basic substance in its natural, modified or semi-processed state, used as an input to a production process for subsequent modification or transformation into a finished good.

Recall protocol: a protocol to identify products requiring recall and a detailed procedure for the immediate recall. It must be annually tested.

Recommended retail price (RRP): the sale price per unit recommended by the manufacturer as a guidance price. Also referred to as manufacturer's suggested retail price (MSRP).

Recovered content: a measure of how much recycled material is recovered. This includes acquisition and reuse of waste from sourcing of natural resources to final disposal.

Recyclable material: any material treated, designed or processed to allow the reuse of used or waste products. It may involve the addition of additives or additional processing steps to be suitable for recycling.

Recycled: a substance, material or product reclaimed from waste material and reused, sometimes with a minor portion of virgin material, to produce products, with both pre- and post-consumer recycled content.

Recycled material: any material processed and reused or containing used or waste products. It may contain mixed materials, contaminants or additives, and it may require additional processing steps to be suitable for reuse.

Recycling*: the process of converting waste into a reusable material or returning a material to a previous state in a cyclic process.

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Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH): a regulation of the European Union to improve the protection of human health and the environment from industrial activities and chemical exposure.

Remanufacturing*: a form of product recovering that involves rebuilding, repairing and/or restoring parts or an instrument to match the same consumer expectations as new machines.

Reproduction-disrupting substances: substances that have a toxic effect on some aspect of reproductive processes.

Residual content of substance: the remaining content of residual substances detectable in a product, transferred by migration or present as a raw material contaminant.

Residual monomer testing: analytical assessment of monomers capable of reacting chemically with other molecules to form a dimer, trimer or polymer, or some basic unit of a molecule, either the molecule itself or some structural or functional subunit of it remaining.

Responsible person: any individual or corporate entity that assumed the responsibility to conform to the regulations of this document when processing goods or services, or acting as an agent for such processors of goods or services, marked to be in compliance with Organics Council[®] regulations and/or its accredited certification body standards.

Retailer: any individual, operator or organisation trading in the final packaged product, for supply to the final consumer only.

Reverse vending: the process of returning or collecting used products for recycling or reuse.

Rigid packaging: plastic that has a modulus of elasticity in flexure or, if that is not applicable, then in tension, greater than 700 MPa under stated conditions.

S

Secondary food contact article: the second layer of food contact articles in non-direct or indirect contact with the food contents. It is designed for potential and likely direct contact with food.

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Secondary food contact material: the material forming the second layer of food contact articles in non-direct or indirect contact with food contents. Designed for potential and likely direct contact with food.

Secondary packaging: packaging used to contain several individually wrapped products.

Secondary processor: any individual or organisation manufacturing or processing the final product only, for storage, distribution or labelling.

Secondary product packaging: the material forming the second layer of packaging in non-direct or indirect contact with the product. It is designed for potential and likely direct contact with the product.

Second-party certified or verified*: the assessment of an entity against a standard by an organisation that has an interest in the entity but is not the producer of the standard.

Semi-rigid packaging: plastic that has a modulus of elasticity in flexure or, if that is not applicable, then in tension, between 70 MPa and 700 MPa under stated conditions.

Shelf life: the maximum length of time that a product can be kept pre-sale, before it becomes too old for sale.

Simplified audit schedule: an audit schedule list of minimum requirements that apply to artisan craftsmanship goods, or services that rely solely upon such goods, to gain circular economy certification and as specified by the accredited certification body. Goods production must be performed by hand and using traditional techniques. Goods must be made using grown or farmed inputs and/or substances present in ASL database, and evidence sustainable qualities of all inputs and processes based on site inspection and/or appropriate third party certification, as well as finished product safety tests where requested by the accredited certification body.

Specific migration limit (SML): the amount that should not be exceeded of a chemical substance transferred from material to its contents or user. The limit is normally expressed in mg/kg. It may be expressed in mg/dm² for films and for containers of total capacity less than 0,5 litre or more than 1 litre.

Substance: matter with a specific composition and specific, unchanging properties. It includes pure elements, molecules and compounds.

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Supply chain: the different steps (from source to product distribution) that products go through, from harvest to end product.

Sustainability*: a concept based on the principle that humans depend on the natural environment for survival and well-being, and that humans and nature can exist in productive harmony. Sustainability is all the conditions ensuring that human impact on the environment is sufficiently mitigated in pursuit of the protection of natural resources and of future generations' access to water, material, resources and social and economic requirements.

Sustainable manufacturing*: sustainable manufacturing (also called sustainable design or green design) is the creation of manufactured products through economically sound processes that minimise negative environmental impacts while conserving energy and natural resources. Sustainable manufacturing also promotes employee, community and consumer safety.

Sustainable procurement*: a process for buying products with a reduced environmental impact compared to similar products.

T

Temporary acceptable daily intake (TADI): according to the US Department of Health and Human Services, value for the acceptable daily intake proposed for guidance when data are sufficient to conclude that use of the substance is safe over the relatively short period of time required to generate and evaluate further safety data, but are insufficient to conclude that use of the substance is safe over a lifetime. Note: a higher-than-normal safety factor is used when establishing a TADI, and an expiration date is established by which time appropriate data to resolve the safety issue should be available.

Teratogen: any substance or agent that can disturb the development of an embryo or fetus, potentially causing birth defects or resulting in a termination of pregnancy outright.

Tertiary food contact article: the third or outermost layer of food contact articles in non-direct or indirect contact with food contents. It is designed for potential direct contact with food.

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Tertiary food contact material: the material forming the third or outermost layer of food contact articles in non-direct or indirect contact with food contents. It is designed for potential direct contact with food.

Tertiary product packaging: the material forming the third layer of packaging in non-direct contact with the product. It is not designed for direct contact with the product. It is generally considered packaging used to protect and transport the product between stores.

Tolerable daily intake (TDI): according to the US Department of Health and Human Services, estimate of the amount of a potentially harmful substance (e.g., a contaminant) in food or drinking water that can be ingested daily over a lifetime without appreciable health risk. Note: acceptable daily intake is normally used for substances not known to be harmful, such as food additives.

Tolerable risk: probability of suffering disease or injury that can, for the time being, be tolerated, taking into account the associated benefits and assuming that the risk is minimised by appropriate control procedures.

Tolerance: adaptive state characterised by diminished effects of a particular dose of a substance (the process leading to tolerance is called 'adaptation'), or dose that an individual can tolerate without showing an effect.

Toxic: able to poison or harm an organism. Toxic substances can cause adverse health effects. According to the US Department of Health and Human Services, a toxic dose is a specific quantity of a substance which may be expected, under specific conditions, to do damage to a given living organism.

Traceability audit: processed to ensure immediate identification of information about how a product was made or the inputs and processed used, as well as tracking products and all inputs based on batch number. As a minimum, logs must link stock batch number with production date, production site, quality assurance and quality control or process monitoring data, input batch numbers, date of input receipt and supplier, date of dispatch and destination.

Transition period: The time period from the date of first application for certification, to the successful completion of certification process. During this time the processor seeking certification

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must act in compliance with Organics Council[®] regulations, lasting for up to three years, subject to continuous and successful processor annual licence renewal.

Transparency*: a measure of increased accountability and decreased corruption in which a business reports on its production, audits, quality management, conformity, ethics and performance results through accessible systems.

U

Unauthorised additive: any substance used as an additive that is not listed in the Organics Council[®] Approved Substance List [link].

Unauthorised food contact material or article: any food contact material or article other than certified materials or articles as defined in terms of the current Standards.

Unauthorised product or article: any product or article other than certified products or articles as defined in terms of the current Standards.

Unauthorised substance: any substance that is not listed in the Organics Council[®] Approved Substance List [link].

Unbranded product: a product manufactured for the purpose of rebranding or to possess no unique or specific brand name, term, design, symbol or other feature that distinguishes the manufacturing company or specific product from alternative products.

Underground waste storage**: a permanent waste storage facility in a deep geological cavity, such as a salt or potassium mine.

Unintentional by-product: any substance unintentionally present due to being produced by interactions between any chemicals present in the product formulation or processing of the product.

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Unreacted monomers: remaining monomers, acting as impurities and unintended constituents of polymer materials, which do not react during the polymerisation reaction and remain in the composition of the polymer and resulting food contact material.

Unreacted oligomers: remaining oligomers, a molecular complex that consists of a few monomer units, in contrast to a polymer, where the number of monomers is, in principle, not limited, acting as impurities and unintended constituents of polymer materials, which do not react during the polymerisation reaction and remain in the composition of the polymer and resulting food contact material.

Ultraviolet (UV): light in the form of electromagnetic radiation with wavelengths from 10 nm to 400 nm.

V

Validated testing body: any organisation or body approved to perform testing for product conformity purposes. It must be approved as a validated body according to Organics Council[®] regulations.

W

Waste:** according to Directive 75/442/EEC, any substance or object which the holder disposes of or is required to dispose of, excluding:

- (a) radioactive waste;
- (b) waste resulting from prospecting, extraction, treatment and storage of mineral resources and the working of quarries;
- (c) animal carcasses and the following agricultural waste: faecal matter and other substances used in farming;
- (d) waste waters, with the exception of waste in liquid form;

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(e) gaseous effluents emitted into the atmosphere.

Waste Reduction Model (WARM): a tool created by the US Environmental Protection Agency to assess the greenhouse gas emissions of a baseline and an alternative waste management method for handling solid waste.

Waste-to-energy*: a recovery process in which waste is incinerated or otherwise turned into steam or electricity and used to generate heat, light or power through the process of combustion.

Waste-to-profit*: the process of using one company's waste or by-product as the input or raw material for another company, thereby increasing business profits and decreasing waste; also referred to as 'by-product synergy'.

Waste treatment:** the physical, thermal, chemical or biological processes, including sorting, that change the characteristics of the waste in order to reduce its volume or hazardous nature, facilitate its handling or enhance recovery.

Water activity (a_w): in food goods, it refers to the ratio between the vapour pressure of the food and the vapour pressure of distilled water under identical conditions. A water activity of 0.85 = a vapour pressure that is 85 % of the pressure of pure water. A water activity above 0.95 provides enough water to allow growth of microbes and reducing the available moisture can inhibit the growth of organisms. In the USA, if the water activity of food is controlled to 0.85 or less, it is not subject to regulation 21 CFR Parts 108, 113, and 114.

Widely recycled material: material accepted by more than half of the recycling industry (by number of entities), where such statistics exist, or more than half of the local market of individual country municipalities.

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