



FAQs Cradle to Cradle™ Certified Certification

Which organizations are involved?

EPEA: Conducts as an Accredited Assessor certification processes for their customers. The EPEA part is Material Assessment and Process Evaluation, if applicable a site visit, followed by handing over the Assessment Summary Report to C2CP II (see below), suggesting a Certification level.

MBDC: Conceived the first Certification Program in 2005 and licensed it in 2011 to the Cradle to Cradle Products Innovation Institute (C2CP II). MBDC conducts certification processes like EPEA for its customers and was until 2011 responsible as a 3rd party for doing Audits and issuing of Certificates for the EPEA Certifications.

C2CP II: In 2010 the Cradle to Cradle Products Innovation Institute (C2CP II), San Francisco, was established as Certifying Body, being responsible since 2011 for auditing and issuing of the Certificates as well as for organization of the Cradle to Cradle Certified™ certification program worldwide.

Further: According to an option in the certification program several additional Assessors" were accredited by the C2CP II.

What can be certified?

The Certification program was developed for products, not including food, beverages, companies, persons or services. Regarding the product ingredients there are several chemicals („Banned Chemicals“, see „Banned List“) which, if part of a product, prevent its Certification. Furthermore products will not be certified if not consistent with the *Cradle to Cradle*® principles.

If a customer intends to certify more than one product and the products are very similar (big overlap in components, same production process) the Certification can be carried out as a Group-Certification, resulting in 1 Audit and 1 Certificate. This saves costs, but it has to be taken into account that changes in one product affects the whole group Certificate.

In which documents can I find information?

On the EPEA-website www.epea.com you can find the following documents (partially as links) which inform you about principles and procedure of Cradle to Cradle® Certification

- Cradle to Cradle Certified™ Product Standard (Link)
- General information on Cradle to Cradle Certified™ Certification (“flyer”)
- Step by step introduction how to apply for a Cradle to Cradle Certified™ Certification
- FAQ's
- Selected templates for collection of data

On the C2CP II website (<http://c2ccertified.org>) a lot of additional information about the Cradle Certified™ Certification can be found.



What are the steps in a Certification Process?

There are four steps in a Certification Process. In brackets: who is responsible for the step in a usual Certification Process when applied at EPEA.

1. Material Assessment (EPEA)
Assessment of all ingredients of a product according to the ABC-X categorization
2. Process Evaluation (EPEA)
Data about the process flow, inputs, energy, social responsibility and water of the production process(es), partially also process chemicals.
Site visit
3. Audit (C2CPII)
C2CPII as an independent 3rd party checks whether the Certification is in line with the original Certification Program.
4. Issuing of the Certificate and signing of a license agreement with the customer (C2CPII)

If it is not sure whether my product is suitable for Certification: What to do?

EPEA can offer a Quick Scan which results in a statement whether the product can be basically certified or not and whether it is appropriate to start the formal Certification process. Please note that in a Certification further requirements have to be fulfilled which are not investigated during a Quick Scan.

What kind of data do I have to deliver to EPEA for Certification?

A crucial point is the definition of the product. This means knowing all ingredients described by chemical name with CAS number, down to a concentration of 100 ppm (some exceptions). Furthermore, data about the production process (flow chart, in- and output of chemicals or process inputs, recycled input, energy for production, emission situation and strategy, social fairness, water management) are also required.

How far do I have to go into the production process?

Data about the main manufacturing steps have to be gathered („main manufacturing step“). It is not necessary to gather data about the production of pre-products (e.g. when a t-shirt is to be certified, data is needed about the processes of spinning, weaving, dyeing, tailoring and finishing treatments but not about the production of the dyes). Some exceptions will be mentioned if applicable in the particular case, see the Cradle Certified™ Certified Product Standard.

Where can I gather these data?

Either the applicant supplies the data himself or he has to ask his supplier(s).



What to do if my supplier does not give us information due to confidentiality?

It is up to the customer to encourage his supplier(s) to get in touch and to cooperate directly with EPEA. Subsequently EPEA can sign a Secrecy Agreement (Non Disclosure Agreement) with a supplier so that he can deliver confidential data directly to EPEA. This is called the “know-how-trustee”-model, and EPEA acts as the know-how-trustee. If a supplier does not see a beneficial role in the Certification, the applicant may look for another supplier who is cooperative.

How long will the whole process for applying the Cradle to Cradle Certification last?

From delivery of all necessary data by the customer and/or the supplier it will take approximately 6-8 weeks to carry out the assessments by EPEA and to issue the Certificate by C2CPH. If a customer intends to certify a larger number of products at a certain time this time line can be longer. Another factor is whether a site visit can be arranged within this time frame.

How long is a Certificate valid?

For two years, then there is a Re-Certification necessary or the product is listed out.

What does a Certification cost?

Costs mainly depend on the number of ingredients to be assessed, plus on the number of processes and audits and the expense of the site visit. The costs can only be estimated in detail when the exact or approximate numbers of ingredients are known, otherwise only an estimation is possible.

C2CPH invoices their costs separately, so you will receive 2 invoices (from EPEA and C2CPH). The fee schedule of the C2CPH is publicly available on their website.

How does a Re-Certification proceed?

A Re-Certification is usually less complex than an initial certification, but requires a review of the facts. If nothing has changed, the applicant confirms this and applies for Re-Certification. EPEA develops a new Assessment Summary report and gives a suggestion to the C2CPH. EPEA charges usually EPEA at 3000 €. C2CPH will charge separately 500 € per year as license.

If something has changed, additional or new Assessments are necessary or other additional work has to be done e.g. due to changes in the Certification Standard, this will be charged by EPEA according to the time spent by EPEA scientists on this. If many things have changed, it has to be considered whether a new Certification is necessary.

What is the relationship between EPEA and MBDC?

Michael Braungart is the founder of EPEA and co-founder of MBDC. Both organizations are separate companies, but cooperate in certain projects. Information provided within the Non Disclosure Agreements are respected by both companies individually, so there is no exchange of confidential customer related data between MBDC and EPEA.

**Is the Certification valid all around the world?**

Together with the Certificate, customers have to sign a license agreement with C2CPII about the usage of the logo. This will be prepared by C2CPII. The Certificates are valid worldwide, according to the requirements of the license agreement. MBDC owns the trademark C2CPII is licensed for use of the certification mark.

The standard of Certification as well as all policies e.g. about costs are published on the website of C2CPII (<http://www.c2ccertified.org/resources/collection-page/cradle-to-cradle-certified-resources>), further information on available the EPEA -Website www.epea.com.

Where can I look if I want to see what kind of products are already certified?

There is an official list of certified products worldwide on the C2CPII website (<http://c2ccertified.org>, <http://www.c2ccertified.org/products/registry>)

Does EPEA check the data which are delivered by the customer?

The Cradle to Cradle Certified™ Certification System is based on credibility and not on control. The applicant confirms with his signature the values of the content. In several cases analytics will be required, among others if recycled inputs are concerned. Details are described in the Cradle to Cradle Certified™ Product Standard.

Additionally EPEA visits the production plant of the customer for an initial Certification in order to develop a deeper understanding of the process and to answer questions. This will establish a direct contact which will facilitate the assessment of data and information.

Is there any service for customers located in Asia?

EPEA has an office in Taiwan which can support Asian customers.
