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Saudi Standards, Metrology and Quality Org(SASO)



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Circular Economy — Chain of Custody for Recycling (Mass Balance Model)

الاقتصاد الدائري سلسلة التتبع لإعادة التدوير (نموذج توازن الكميات)

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Foreword

The National Circular Economy Committee of Saudi Standards, Metrology and Quality Organization (SASO) has prepared the Saudi Standard *Circular Economy — Chain of Custody for Recycling (Mass Balance Model)* ” based on relevant ADMO, International and National foreign Standards and references.

DRAFT

Introduction:

The transition toward a circular economy represents a fundamental enabler for achieving environmental sustainability and optimizing resource efficiency within the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. In alignment with national directives for integrated waste management and the strategic objectives of the National Waste Strategy, this standard strengthens the principles of circularity by promoting the recovery, recycling, and valorization waste and scrap.

Accordingly, the National Technical Committee for the Circular Economy plays a pivotal role in advancing Saudi Arabia's shift toward a more sustainable and resource-efficient future. Through its initiatives, the committee seeks to develop and adopt internationally aligned standards that foster responsible production, minimize waste generation, and drive innovation across industrial sectors.

In conclusion, the committee's objective is to establish a comprehensive framework for the sustainable management of recycled materials through systematic recycling practices that enhance material recovery, reduce reliance on primary raw resources, and mitigate environmental impacts. It underscores the importance of adopting efficient collection, sorting, and processing methods that ensure product quality, traceability, and adherence to environmental and safety requirements.

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1. Scope

This section specifies primarily a Chain of Custody (CoC) Standard for Entities to quantify the recycled content of their products and/or materials using mass balance CoC model. This CoC Standard applies to (Collectors, Sorters, Recyclers, Converters, and Retailers) in KSA (Figure 1), ensuring traceability, safe recycling and adherence to the requirements set forth by this Standard.

- This Standard serves as a framework for advancing robust, tailored CoC mechanisms within the KSA recycling industry.
- For the purposes of this Standard, the Recycling CoC – Mass Balance Model encompasses the systematic tracking, verification, and documentation of recycled materials as they move through the Entities of the recycling CoC, ensuring transparency, accountability, and traceability of recycled materials.
- This Standard applies to the following:
 - Products and/or materials containing mechanically and/or chemically recycled content, including pre- and/or post-consumer recycled content of any type (e.g., plastic, metal, paper and cardboard, glass, etc.).
 - Commingled waste materials generated by waste producers and managed by waste collectors and sorters.
 - Recyclables materials, scrap, and secondary raw materials produced from recyclables

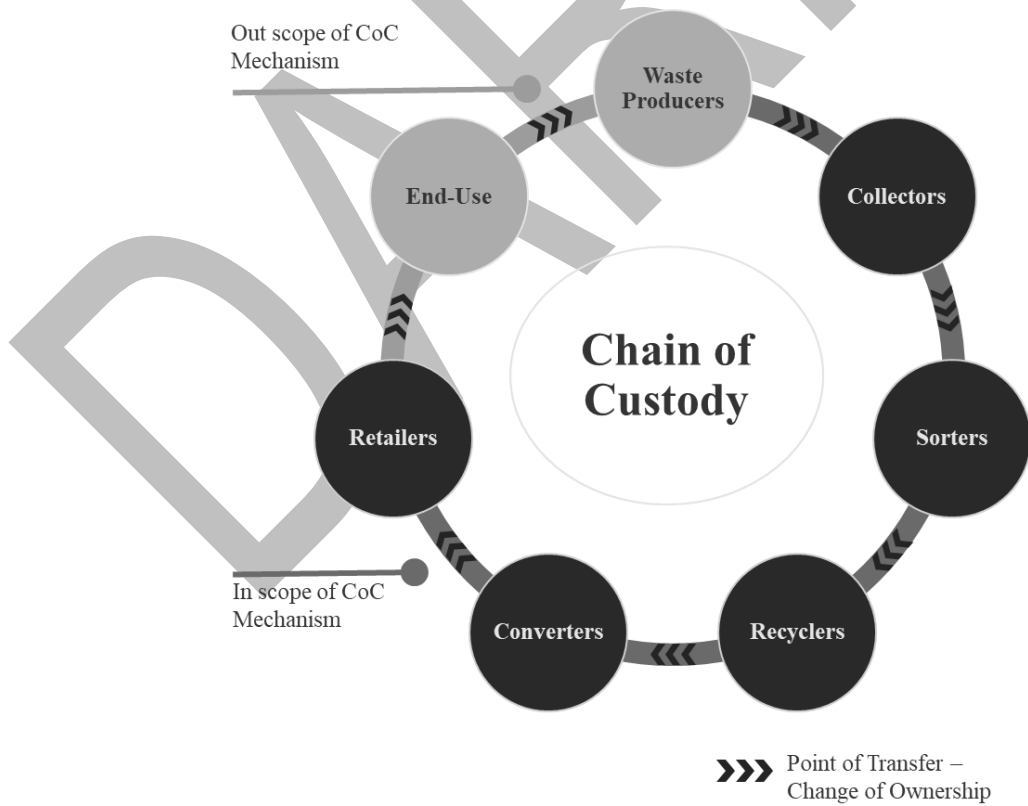


Figure 1 Stages of the Recycling Chain of Custody

- The following Entities who take physical possession or legal ownership of the recyclables and / or recycled products and/or materials are in scope: *
 - Waste Producer**
 - Collectors,
 - Sorters,
 - Recyclers,
 - Converters, and
 - Retailers.

** This Standard is not applicable to End-Users.*

*** This Standard applies only to Waste Producers with active engagement in Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Scheme.*

1.1 Limitations

- This Standard does not address safety, health, and performance concerns, if any, associated with its use.
- This Standard does not address any environmental impact tradeoffs that may be associated with every life-cycle phase of the product(s). Therefore, there may be environmental impact tradeoffs associated with a certified product.

2. Conformance

2.1 Conformance To The Standard

- To maintain CoC within a supply chain, all Entities undergoing certification must apply this standard in full.:
- The Entities shall undergo an audit against this Standard by a SASO-approved certification body following the SASO requirement for partial authorization to provide conformity assessment services.
- To support conformance with this Standard, the Entities can consult its certification body to leverage data collected from other recognized third-party certification standards. Recognized third-party certification standards include, but are not limited to the following:
 - Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)
 - International Sustainability & Carbon Certification (ISCC)
 - REDcert2
 - Recycled Claim standard
 - Aluminum Stewardship Initiative (ASI)
 - Global Organic Textile standard (GOTS) Certification
 - Marine Stewardship Council (MSC)

2.2 Complaints And Appeals

- An Entity has the right to appeal a certification decision within 30 days of receiving the final report. Appeals shall be submitted to the certification body for evaluation and resolution.
- Complaints shall be handled directly by the approved certification body. If a satisfactory resolution is not found, a complaint may be elevated to SASO.

3. Normative References

The following documents are essential to the application of this Standard. For the dated documents, only the versions with the dates indicated are applicable to this document; for the undated documents, only the latest version (including all the amendments) is applicable to this Standard.

- National Waste Management Law and Implementing Regulations.
- Royal Decree No. M/10 Dated 1392-03-03 for The Saudi standards, Metrology and Quality Organization (SASO) establishment.
- Council of Ministers order No. 457, date 11/8/1440 AH for The National Center for Waste Management establishment.
- Saudi standards, SASO – Certificates of Conformity
- Saudi Product Safety Program (SALEEM) SABER Platform
 - Registering a Product Conformity Certificate, SABER Platform
 - Registering a Conformity Certificate Issued by the Authority, SABER Platform
 - Issuing a Shipment Certificate, SABER Platform
- Commission Decision of 3 May 2000 establishing a list of wastes (2000/532/EC).

4. Terms and Definitions

For the purpose of this Standard, the definitions set out in National Waste Management Law and Implementing Regulations must be considered. The following definitions apply in this Standard and do not replace the definitions in the National Waste Management Law and Implementing Regulations:

Term	Definition
Affidavit	A written sworn statement of facts voluntarily made by a person authorized to do so by law.
Allocated Recycled Content	An amount of recycled content assigned to a particular product based on a mass balance allocation.
Audit	Third-party evaluation conducted by an approved certification body against this Standard. An audit includes the review of documents and records (e.g., procedures, BOM, conversion factor, etc.), interviews, and observations.
Bill of Materials (BOM)	A list of the recycled and virgin materials, and quantities of each needed to manufacture a final product.
Certification Body	SASO approved third-party organization authorized to conduct independent audits to assess conformance with this Standard.
Certified Product	Final product, recycled materials, or recyclables for which an Entity has demonstrated full conformance to the requirements of this Standard.
Chain of Custody	The process by which inputs and outputs and associated information are transferred, monitored, and controlled as they move through each step in the relevant supply chain.
Claim	Oral, written, implied, or symbolic representation, statement, or advertising presented to the public or buyers of products that relates to a product's environmental benefit.
Collection	Collecting waste from designated storage containers of various sizes and types using trucks and machinery designated for such purpose.
Collectors	Entities that are responsible for collecting waste from designated storage containers of various sizes and types using trucks and machinery designated for such purpose.
Consignment	Refers to a batch of the waste concerned which is intended for delivery from a producer to another holder and may be contained in either one or several transport units, such as containers
Content	Proportion, by mass, of a type of recycled material in or allocated to a product.
Conversion Factor	The mass fraction of inputs converted to outputs in a system boundary.
Converters	Converters take recycled materials and transform them into new products. This step often involves significant manufacturing processes.

Term	Definition
Entities	An entity undergoing certification that physically handles, transports, produces, or converts pre-consumer and/or post-consumer recycled material.
Law	MWAN waste management law
Manufacturer	Organization or individual responsible for the production of a product.
Manufacturing Site	The physical location where the production of a product occurs.
Mass Balance Model	A chain of custody model in which materials or products with a set of specified characteristics are mixed with materials or products without that set of characteristics. Mass balance can be implemented using a percentage method or a credit allocation method.
Mass Balance Allocation	Also referred to as system allocation or mass balance system in other industries. It is the credit allocation method in which inputs are converted to credits upon entering a system boundary and credits (and associated claims) are accounted as outputs leaving the system. Credits entering and leaving the system are reconciled on a mass basis or other accepted unit conversion.
Post-Consumer Material	Material generated by households or by commercial, industrial, and institutional facilities in their role as end-users of the product that can no longer be used for its intended purpose. This includes returns of materials from the distribution chain.
Pre-Consumer Material	Material diverted from the waste stream during the manufacturing process. Excluded is the reutilization of materials such as rework, regrind, or scrap generated in a process and capable of being reclaimed within the same process that generated it.
Private Label	A certification label issued by the certification body to an entity who purchases a certified product for the purpose of selling the product as a private label product, with only label and/or packaging modifications.
Product	An item with defined materials, function, and styles, which may be associated with a specific stock-keeping unit.
Product Category	A grouping of products that have similar key material bases and serve similar functions.
Records	Any information in written, visual, or electronic form that documents the activities undertaken by an Entity to demonstrate conformance with this Standard.
Recycled Content	Amount, by mass, of recycled material in or allocated to a product or packaging. Only pre-consumer and post-consumer materials are considered as recycled content or allocated recycled content.
Recycler	Entities that are responsible for the process of transforming specific waste components into usable materials for the purpose of recovering such components or using them as raw materials in manufacturing processes

Term	Definition
Recycling	The process of transforming specific waste components into usable materials for the purpose of recovering such components or using them as raw materials in manufacturing processes
Retailers	Retailers are businesses that sell products directly to consumers. They play a crucial role in the recycling chain by influencing consumer behavior, offering sustainable products, and facilitating recycling initiatives.
Scrap	Also known as secondary material. Rejected or discarded material generated by a manufacturing process. Examples of scrap include material from manufacturing equipment such as startup/shutdown material, side/end trimmings, material generated from sanding, off-spec/non-conforming product, etc.
Sorters	Entities that are responsible for manually or automatically separating waste components, such as paper, glass, metals, and the like, in transfer stations or sorting and treatment facilities for the purpose of recycling or treatment
Sorting	Manually or automatically separating waste components, such as paper, glass, metals, and the like, in transfer stations or sorting and treatment facilities for the purpose of recycling or treatment.
Standard	When capitalized, refers to this Standard.
Supplier	Organization that supplies a material, product, or service to the entity undergoing certification.
System Boundary	The geographical and/or site(s)-specific area in which the mass balance system is applied.
Traceability	The ability to trace materials and/or products sequentially throughout a manufacturing process and/or value chain in a way that is verifiable through objective evidence.
Transportation	Transporting waste using approved means of transportation to transfer stations, treatment or sorting facilities, or designated landfills
Treatment	The use of physical, biological, or chemical means; a combination of such means; or other means to change the properties of waste in order to reduce its size, make it easier to reuse or recycle, extract certain products therefrom, or remove organic pollutants and other pollutants, for the purpose of reducing particular waste components or benefiting therefrom, or eliminating their potential harm to humans or the environment.
Waste	All discarded or disposed of materials that have a direct or indirect impact on public health or the environment.
Waste Management	Managing any activity or practice related to waste, such as waste collection, transportation, sorting, storage, treatment, recycling, import, export, and safe disposal, including the aftercare of waste disposal sites
Waste Producer	A person who produces the waste classified under MWAN Waste Management Law.

5. Management Systems And Documentation

5.1 Traceability Procedure

- The Entities shall have a documented procedure(s) to demonstrate traceability for the materials and/or products within the scope of the audit (Figure 2).
- The procedure(s) shall be specific to the mass balance CoC model and shall include the traceability data (Table 1), detailed in the following annexes:
 - Annex I: Traceability Data Requirements for Collectors.
 - Annex II: Traceability Data Requirements for Sorters.
 - Annex III: Traceability Data Requirements for Recyclers.
 - Annex IV: Traceability Data Requirements for Converters.
 - Annex V: Traceability Data Requirements for Retailers.

Table 1 Examples of Traceability Data Requirements

Entity	Data to collect (mandatory – M)	Data to share (mandatory – M)	Data to record
Collectors, Sorters, Recyclers, Converters, Retailers	From Previous Entity • Dataset_1 • Dataset_2 • Dataset_n From Next Entity • Dataset_1 • Dataset_2 • Dataset_n	From Previous Entity • Dataset_1 • Dataset_2 • Dataset_n From Next Entity • Dataset_1 • Dataset_2 • Dataset_n	• See details in the corresponding Annex below.

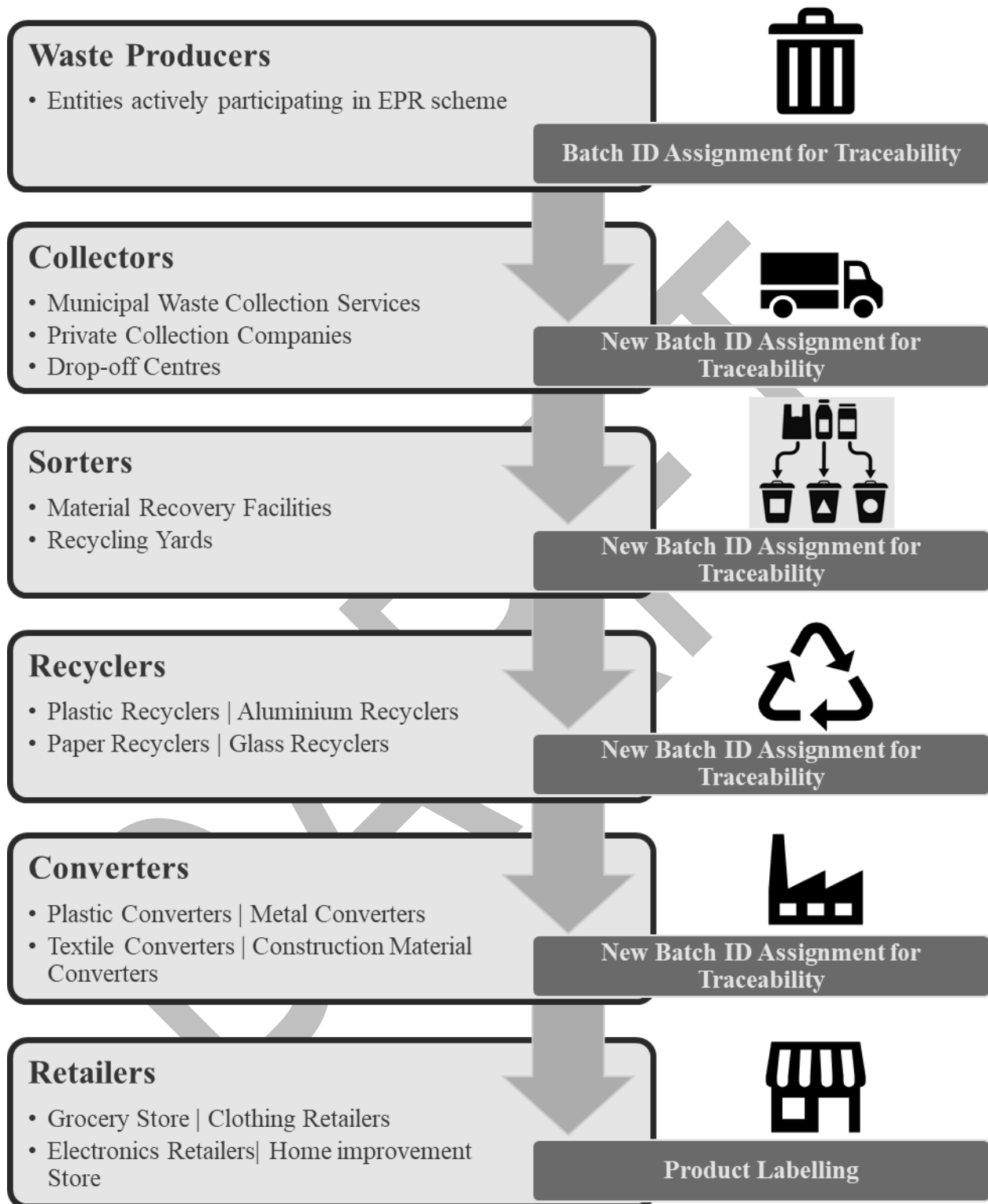


Figure 2 Data Flow for CoC Management Systems and Documentation

5.2 Bill Of Materials

- The Entities shall provide a bill of materials (BOM) or other comparable document that contains at least the following detail to determine the allocated recycled content in the final product. An example is illustrated in Table 2*:

** The format of the BOM can vary; however, it must contain the necessary data to enable the certification body to perform calculations accurately.*

- Recycled / virgin materials type,
- Recycled / virgin materials supplier name (only required for recycled material(s)),
- Classification (i.e., pre-consumer, post-consumer, or virgin),
- Dry weight of the final product (e.g., grams, kilograms, pounds), and
- Dry weight of recycled materials in the final product (e.g., grams, kilograms, pounds).

Table 2 Example BOM for a Product with Multiple Recycled and Virgin Materials

Materials Type	Recycled / Virgin Material Supplier Name	Classification (pre-consumer, post-consumer, virgin)	Dry weight of the Final Product Units (e.g.: g, kg, lbs)	Dry Weight of Recycled Materials in the Final Product Units (e.g.: g, kg, lbs)
Aluminum	Supplier A	Post-Consumer	150.00	120.00
PET Plastic	Supplier B	Post-Consumer	10.00	8.00
Cardboard	Supplier C	Post-Consumer	500.00	400.00
HDPE Plastic	Supplier D	Pre-Consumer	90.00	60.00
Glass	N/A	Virgin	500.00	0.00

5.3 Supplier Verification & Validation

- The Entities shall maintain and implement a procedure for supplier selection criteria.
- The Entities shall maintain supplier information, material supplied, and source of material.
- The Entities shall provide the certification body with signed supplier affidavit form(s) or valid sustainability declaration(s) (i.e., a certificate from a sustainability standard that verifies content claims) for at least 95% of total eligible recycled material or

secondary material, by dry weight of material supplied or allocated (as applicable to the product category). Suppliers may be contacted by the certification body to confirm the characteristics of the material supplied and its qualifications as recycled material.

5.4 Supplier Records

- The Entities shall maintain records of both current and past suppliers for a minimum of 5 years for all recycled material purchased.
- Records to be maintained include, at minimum:
 - Supplier records: invoices, bills of lading, delivery receipts, and supplier affidavits or sustainability declarations.
 - Certification records: audit reports, certificates, corrective action plans.

6. Requirements For Mass Balance Chain Of Custody Model

Mass balance allocation is the credit allocation method used in this Standard to implement a mass balance CoC model. The mass balance model allows mixing of materials and products with recycled content with other materials (e.g., virgin content) within a defined system boundary.

6.1 Required Minimum Content

- To be eligible for certification under this Standard, the product shall contain at least 5% allocated recycled content in the final allocated product, calculated as follows:

$$\% \text{ Allocated Recycled Content} = \frac{\text{Mass of Allocated Content}}{\text{Total Mass of the Final Product}} \times 100\%$$

6.2 Mass Balance Procedure

- The Entities shall maintain a documented mass balance procedure. The procedure shall contain:
- The manufacturing site's geographical boundaries.
 - A defined system boundary (Section **خطأ! لم يتم العثور على مصدر المرجع.**)
 - A material flow (material input and output) that shows a material flow connection between the origin of the input and the material receiving the allocated recycled content credit when leaving the system (i.e., output); and
 - A process for managing its mass balance accounting system.

- The mass balance accounting system shall track all inputs and outputs within the system boundary, including the following:
 - For inputs:
 1. Date material was received,
 2. Incoming shipment records,
 3. Supplier identity,
 4. Composition and quantity of received material(s), and
 5. Quantity of credits added to the mass balance accounting system, refer to section 6.4.
 - For outputs:
 1. Conversion factor(s),
 2. Identity of the output material or product receiving the allocated recycled content,
 3. Quantity of allocated recycled content,
 4. Quantity of credits retired from the mass balance accounting system, refer to section 6.5.
 5. Date the credit(s) were allocated, and
 6. Outgoing shipment records. *

** Shipping records shall include quantity shipped and must connect credits used to the certified material or product carrying a claim.*

6.3 Defining The System Boundary

- The Entities shall clearly define the system boundary to monitor the recycled content input and output entering and leaving the mass balance system.
- The system boundary may span one or more sites and processes (Figure 3). Examples of system boundaries include:
 - A single facility within one manufacturing site; or
 - Multiple facilities within one manufacturing site that are physically connected, such as by pipelines.

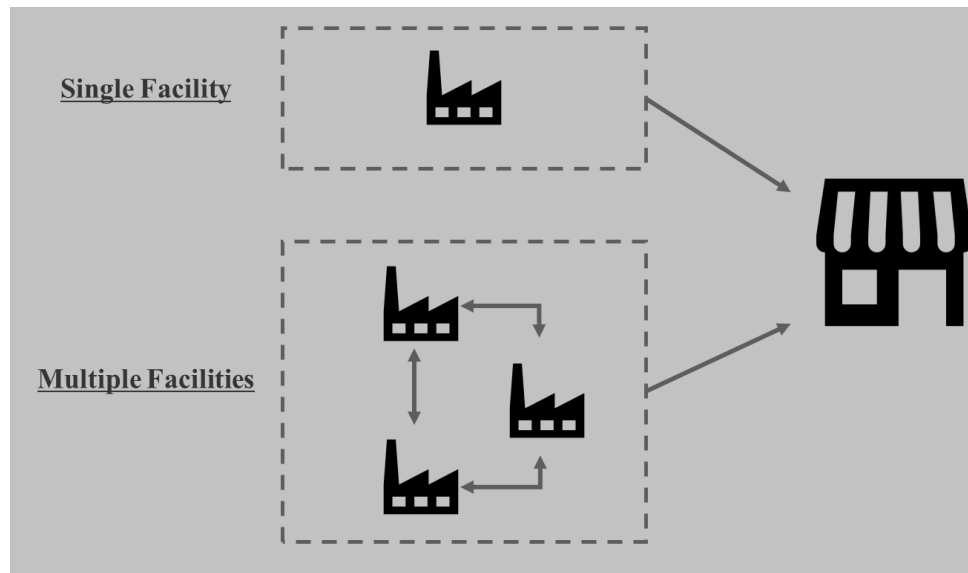


Figure 3 System Boundary

6.4 Inputs: Recycled Content Entering The System Boundary

- When recycled materials or products enter the system boundary, the mass of input material shall be converted into credits that are recorded into a mass balance accounting system using a specified unit conversion.
- Credits shall be in the following units of measure:
 - Mass: Credits may be in the form of mass of input material. For example, grams of input material are transformed into equal credits in grams.
- The mass balance accounting system cannot use multiple units of credit, i.e., only one unit of credit is allowed in each system.
- Credits can be held in stock for the next period or transferred virtually between any sites that are wholly or majority owned (i.e., >50% ownership) by the same company or part of a group of companies held by the same parent company

6.5 Outputs: Allocated Recycled Content Leaving The System Boundary

- Credits shall be retired from the mass balance accounting system and allocated to materials and/or products leaving the system boundary (i.e., outputs) that will carry the associated allocated recycled content claim(s). Older credits in the accounting system should be withdrawn before newer credits.
- The allocation of recycled content to outputs shall take into account technical feasibility – a proven ability to produce the output from the recycled content input within the system boundary.

- To determine the allocation of recycled content to the final product (i.e., mass of allocated recycled content), a conversion factor is applied to account for all processing system losses (e.g., losses from processing inefficiency, yield losses, scrap/waste, waste used as fuel) as follows:

$$\text{Mass of Allocated Recycled Content} = \text{Credit Units} \times \text{Conversion Factor}$$

- The conversion factor is calculated as follows:

$$\text{Conversion Factor} = \frac{\text{Sum of mass of all outputs}}{\text{Sum of mass of all inputs}}$$

6.6 Reconciliation Period

- Reconciliation of credits shall be performed by the Entity on at least a 3-month schedule. An extension, not to exceed 12 months, may be approved by the certification body if requested based on the site's production and distribution schedule.
- Credit accounts may incur a temporary negative balance but shall have a zero or positive balance at the end of the reconciliation period.
- Unused credits may be carried over to the next reconciliation period. Credits do not expire as long as the client's certification remains valid.

7. Claims And Labelling

7.1 General Conformance Requirements

- All claims language and/or certification label (i.e., logo) usage, including private labels, shall:
 - Be reviewed and approved by the certification body prior to use,
 - Conform to the certification body's labeling and language requirements, and
 - Comply with SASO conformity requirements through SABER Platform.
- Any claims made by the Entities in connection with this Standard shall only be in reference to its own certification

7.2 Claims Options

- All claims made in relation to this Standard, including on the certificate, in association with the certification label, and in marketing material, shall contain a reference to the description of claim option and the mass balance CoC model, see Table 3 خطأ! لم يتم خطاً! لم يتم خطأ! لم يتم العثور على مصدر المرجع. for example claims language.

Table 3 Example Claims Language by Claim Option for Mass Balance Chain of Custody Model

Description of Claim Options	Mass Balance CoC Claim
Minimum Recycled Content: a claim based on the lower end of a percentage range (e.g., if a certified product's recycled content ranges from 20-60% due to production or supply variability).	"...Minimum 20% Mass Balanced Pre-Consumer Recycled Polycarbonate Content..."
Total Recycled Content: a claim based on the sum of all recycled materials in a certified product.	"...Total 75% Mass Balanced Post-Consumer Recycled Polycarbonate and Polyethylene Content..."
Made With: a claim based on the minimum, total, or average recycled content of a particular material in a final product (i.e., the Entity wishes to make a material-level claim).	"...Made With 75% Mass Balanced Pre-Consumer Recycled Glass Material..."

* The example claims in Table 2 do not represent all variations of claims that are allowable for the Standard.

Annex I(Normative)**Annex I. Traceability Data Requirements for Collectors**

Entity	Data to collect (mandatory – M)	Data to share (mandatory – M)	Data to record
Collectors	From Waste Producers - Quantity & Unit of measure (M) - Waste source stream (M) - Waste type (M) - Waste source type (M) From Sorters - Receiver identifier (M) - Ship to location (M)	With Waste Producers - Not applicable With Sorters - Item identifier (M) - Item description (M) - Quantity & Unit of measure (M) - Ship date (M) - Shipment identifier (M) - Sender identifier (M) - Ship from location (M) - Collection method (M) - Certification details - Certification identifier - Certification start date - Certification end date	- All data to the left - Receipt date (for inputs) - Location

Annex Ii(Normative)**Annex Ii. Traceability Data Requirements For Sorters**

Entity	Data to collect (mandatory – M)	Data to share (mandatory – M)	Data to record
Sorters	From Waste Collectors - Quantity & Unit of measure (M) - Waste source stream (M) - Waste type (M) - Waste source type (M) From Recyclers - Receiver identifier (M) - Ship to location (M)	With Waste Collectors - Not applicable With Recyclers - Item identifier (M) - Item description (M) - Quantity & Unit of measure (M) - Ship date (M) - Shipment identifier (M) - Sender identifier (M) - Ship from location (M) - Sorting method (M) - Results of composition analysis (M) - Certification details - Certification identifier - Certification start date - Certification end date	- All data to the left - Receipt date (for inputs) - Location

Annex Iii (Normative)**Annex Iii. Traceability Data Requirements For Recycler**

Entity	Data to collect (mandatory – M)	Data to share (mandatory – M)	Data to record
Recyclers	From Sorters • Item identifier (M) • Item description (M) • Quantity (M) • Unit of measure (M) • Sender identifier (M) • Sorting method (M) • Results of composition analysis (M) • Certification details • Certification identifier • Certification start date • Certification end date From Converters • Receiver identifier (M) • Ship to location (M)	With Sorters • Ship to location (M) With Converters • Item identifier (M) • Item description (M) • Quantity & Unit of measure (M) • Ship date (M) • Shipment identifier (M) • Sender identifier (M) • Ship from location (M) • Recycled content claim • Mass balance period • CoC mass balance allocation method • Recycling method (M) • Content declaration (M) • Results of composition analysis (M) • Certification details • Certification identifier • Certification start date • Certification end date	• All data to the left Receipt date (for inputs) Location

Annex Iv (Normative)

Annex Iv. Traceability Data Requirements For Convertors

Entity	Data to collect (mandatory – M)	Data to share (mandatory – M)	Data to record
Converters	From Recyclers - Item identifier (M) - Item description (M) - Quantity & Unit of measure (M) - Ship date (M) - Shipment identifier (M) - Sender identifier (M) - Ship from location (M) - Recycled content claim - Mass balance period - CoC mass balance allocation method - Recycling method (M) - Content declaration (M) - Results of composition analysis (M) - Certification details - Certification identifier - Certification start date - Certification end date From Retailers - Receiver identifier - Ship to location	With Recyclers - Ship to location (M) With Retailers - Item identifier (M) - Item description (M) - Quantity & Unit of measure (M) - Ship date (M) - Shipment identifier (M) - Sender identifier (M) - Ship from location (M) - Converting method (M) - Content declaration (M) - Results of composition analysis (M) - Certification details - Certification identifier - Certification start date - Certification end date	- All data to the left - Receipt date (for inputs) - Location - Recycled content claim - Mass balance period - Mass balance allocation method - Converting method - Results of composition analysis - Certification details - Certification identifier - Certification start date - Certification end date

Annex V (Normative)**Annex V. Traceability Data Requirements For Retailers**

Entity	Data to collect (mandatory – M)	Data to share (mandatory – M)	Data to record
Retailers	From Converters • Item identifier (M) • Item description (M) • Quantity & Unit of measure (M) • Unit of measure (M) • Sender identifier (M) From End-Users • Not applicable	With Converters • Ship to location (M) With End-Users • Item identifier (M) • Item description (M) • Quantity & Unit of measure (M) • Ship date (M) • Sender identifier (M) • Ship from location (M)	• All data to the left • Receipt date (for inputs) • Location