

# OCEAN BOUND PLASTIC

## CERTIFICATION PROGRAM OBP FEE STRUCTURE



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## **Revisions and Updates**

This document has been revised because of the changes made in the ZPO Initiative model. The existing OBP Fees have not been modified; new OBP Fees have been introduced for the new standards. If deemed necessary, a further revision will be made and published before the first anniversary of the document (8<sup>th</sup> of June 2021). The next following revision will be published on 8<sup>th</sup> of September 2022.

Please send any comment you have regarding this document to [contact\(at\)obpcert.org](mailto:contact(at)obpcert.org).

## **Revision history**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Version</b>	<b>Changes</b>
8 <sup>th</sup> June 2020	V1	Initial Release
8 <sup>th</sup> Sept. 2020	V2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>introduction in the scheme of the OBP Neutralization Services Provider and the OBP Plastic Producers &amp; Users Standards, the later replacing the OBP Financing Organization Standard which has been removed from the program.</li></ul>



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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

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<b>1. FOREWORDS</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>2. TERMS AND DEFINITIONS</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>3. CERTIFICATION FEES</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>4. OBP FEES</b> .....	<b>7</b>
4.1. OBP RECYCLING SUBPROGRAM .....	7
4.1. OBP NEUTRALITY SUBPROGRAM .....	8
4.2. DISCOUNTS FOR MULTIPLE CERTIFICATIONS.....	9
<b>5. OBP FEE VALIDITY</b> .....	<b>9</b>



# 1. FOREWORDS

The aim of Zero Plastic Oceans is to protect oceans from the continuous leakage of plastic waste from land-based activity by developing incentives and models that promote the collection of Ocean Bound Plastic<sup>1</sup> (OBP).

The **OBP Certification Program** was designed to encourage the removal of OBP from the environment by adding value in effectively collecting and treating it before it reaches oceans. The scheme is composed of two subprograms; the **OBP Recycling Subprogram**, and the **OBP Neutrality Subprogram**.

When OBP is commercially recyclable<sup>2</sup>, its collection and recycling can be encouraged by certifying its origin and traceability, giving it a higher market value. This model is certified using the OBP Collection Organization standard and the OBP Recycling Organization standard, for the OBP Recycling Subprogram.

When OBP is not commercially recyclable<sup>3</sup>, its collection and final treatment can be encouraged by certifying this process through the Ocean Bound Plastic Neutrality model. In this model, plastic producers or users offset the plastic consumption of a selected scope of production, by removing an equivalent volume from the environment through the acquisition of OBP Neutralization Certificates. This model is certified using the OBP Neutralization Services Provider standard and the OBP Plastic Producers & Users standard, for the OBP Neutrality Subprogram.

Organizations may certify themselves for one, or both subprograms as they are complementary solutions. Working with both subprograms makes sense in terms of economical efficiency, given all OBP is collected and marketed at once. It also makes sense from the environmental perspective, since it is only by addressing both, commercially and non-commercially recyclable OBP, that we will be able to make a real impact.

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<sup>1</sup> Ocean Bound Plastic, is, as defined in section 2, plastic litter that will be carried away to oceans in particular by the effects of currents, winds, river flows or tides.

<sup>2</sup> Commercially recyclable means that OBP is technically recyclable and that it can be sold locally to recyclers for a price that renders its collection attractive to waste pickers or collection organizations. Currently, especially in countries where OBP is leaking into the oceans, a significant portion of technically recyclable OBP is unfortunately not commercially recyclable.

<sup>3</sup> Not commercially recyclable means that OBP cannot be sold for an attractive price but also includes products or packaging which are technically not recyclable (because of the resin used, the mix of different materials or because they are too damaged).



## 2. TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

<b>Abandoned Plastic Waste</b>	Plastic waste is considered abandoned if it has been inappropriately disposed and it will not be collected by any municipal or private collection service.
<b>Approved Certification Body</b>	Independent body that has been approved by Zero Plastic Oceans to conduct audits against the requirements of one of the OBP Standard. The term <b>Certification Body</b> , or <b>CB</b> is also used in this document.
<b>Multisite Certification</b>	Certification option for a group of sites that have a contractual link between them. They must work under a central office and be administered using an internal control system. Specific details are found in annex of the respective Standards.
<b>Ocean Bound Plastic (OBP)</b>	Abandoned Plastic Waste that will eventually end up discharged in the ocean by the effect of winds, rainfall, river flow or tides. More specifically Ocean Bound Plastic is divided in three categories ( <b>OBP Categories</b> ).

**Potential Ocean Bound Plastic:** Abandoned Plastic Waste located within the range of 50km<sup>4</sup> from shore in communities or areas where waste management is inexistent or very inefficient. This definition excludes Plastic waste collected in landfills or managed dumps but allows for the collection within unmanaged dumps.

**Waterways Ocean Bound Plastic:** Abandoned Plastic Waste located within a river stream or within a distance of 200m from both sides of the river stream.

**Shoreline Ocean Bound Plastic:** Abandoned Plastic Waste found within 200m from the highest tide limit towards the land and 100m from the lowest tide limit towards the sea.

For Shoreline and Waterways OBP, exception to the 200m distance rule can be accepted by the Auditor if the Collection Organization can reasonably demonstrate that due to particular conditions of the site (rainfall, winds, inclination),

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<sup>4</sup> This reference is taken from the publication by Jenna Jambeck et al. in an article in Science published on 13 Feb 2015. This distance may evolve as new Scientific Publications further define Ocean Bound Plastic.

Abandoned Plastic Waste is carried away to rivers or seas from a greater distance.

There is no limitation of size, micro, mezzo and macroplastic collection models are acceptable provided they target OBP.

In this document OBP or Ocean Bound Plastic means all three categories of OBP, when needed, the specific category is otherwise specified.

**OBP Neutralization Certificate**

Document issued by the CB upon Organization's request that serves to prove to third parties that a given weight of OBP has been Neutralized. The term **Neutralization Certificate** is also used in this document.

**Organization**

Legal entity that is interested to become certified or is already certified to one to the OBP Standards.

**Plastic**

Synthetic or semi synthetic organic compounds that are malleable and can be molded into solid or flexible objects.

**Scope Certificate**

Organizations having successfully passed an audit performed by a Certification Body are given a Scope Certificate (SC) which specifies the activity, location and products it covers. The Organization shall renew their certification on an annual basis. The validity of the SC shall not be more than 12 months. The renewal date shall commence upon successful reassessment of the Organization by the CB; therefore, the Organization shall plan the renewal of its certification before the end of its validity.

**Small Collector**

Legal entity collecting Ocean Bound Plastic and selling it to an Organization certified to the OBP Collection Organization Standard or OBP Neutralization Services Provider Standard. Small Collectors can sell a maximum of 400 metric tons of OBP per year to one Organization only as member of a Supplier Group as detailed in annex of the respective Standards.

**Standard**

One of the OBP certification scheme Standards

**Supplier Group**

Group of Small Collectors linked contractually to a certified Organization to perform collectively the collection of OBP following the requirements as detailed in annex of the respective Standards.



### 3. CERTIFICATION FEES

The costs for Organizations willing to become certified are composed of 2 elements: i) inspection and certification fees, and ii) OBP fees.

Inspection and certification fees cover the services offered by an Approved Certification Body. These costs vary according to the human resources/man hours the CB needs to invest to verify compliance of the Organization with a specific Standard, which in turn varies according to project locations, sizes, complexity, etc. Fees for each Organization will be determined on a case by case basis and CBs will prepare proposals for the Organizations before an Audit takes place. Inspection and certification fees are handled independently by CBs directly with Organizations, this document only handles information regarding OBP fees.

The OBP fees cover costs for maintenance, support, development, updates and guidance of the whole OBP certification scheme by the non-for-profit Zero Plastic Oceans organization. This is an annual fixed fee structure for each Organization. This fee will be collected on ZPO`s behalf by the CB along with their inspection and certification fee with a clear identification on the invoice. CBs shall not take any commission on this fee, however if applicable the CB will add to this fee any legally required sale tax. The amount of the OBP fee destined for each Organization type is published and updated on the OBP website ([www.obpcert.org](http://www.obpcert.org)) through this document.



## 4. OBP FEES

Fees vary according to type of certification Standard used, and type of Organization. Fees are expressed in USD.

### 4.1. OBP RECYCLING SUBPROGRAM

#### 4.1.1. OBP FEES FOR THE OBP COLLECTION ORGANIZATION STANDARD

An Organization willing to become certified with the OBP Collection Organization Standard, will pay an OBP fee, additional to its inspection and certification fee, of US\$ 150 per year for a single site certification and US\$ 200 for a Multisite Certification.

In case the Collection Organization is composed of a Supplier Group it will pay an OBP fee of US\$ 150, plus an additional US\$ 5 per Supplier Group member up to 30 members and an additional US\$ 1 for any additional member above 30.

#### 4.1.2. OBP FEES FOR THE OBP RECYCLING ORGANIZATION STANDARD

An Organization willing to become certified with the OBP Recycling Organization Standard, will pay an OBP fee, additional to its inspection and certification fee, which varies according to its total annual turnover (or expenses for a non-for-profit Organization), and whether it is a multisite certification or not. Fees are shown in the table below.

RECYCLING ORGANIZATION TOTAL ANNUAL TURNOVER	OBP FEES	
	SINGLE CERTIFICATION	MULTISITE CERTIFICATION
UP TO US\$ 1,000,000	US\$ 150	US\$ 200
FROM US\$ 1 MILLION TO US\$ 100 MILLION	US\$ 250	US\$ 300
FROM US\$ 100 MILLION TO US\$ 1 BILLION	US\$ 350	US\$ 450
ABOVE US\$ 1 BILLION	US\$ 500	US\$ 700





## 4.1. OBP NEUTRALITY SUBPROGRAM

### 4.1.1. OBP FEES FOR THE OBP PLASTIC PRODUCERS & USERS STANDARD

An Organization willing to become certified with the OBP Plastic Producers & Users Standard, will pay an OBP fee, additional to its inspection and certification fee, which varies according to its total annual turnover (or expenses for a non-for-profit Organization), and whether it is a multisite certification or not. Fees are shown in the table below.

PLASTIC PRODUCER OR USER TOTAL ANNUAL TURNOVER	OBP FEES	
	SINGLE CERTIFICATION	MULTISITE CERTIFICATION
UP TO US\$ 1,000,000	US\$ 150	US\$ 200
FROM US\$ 1 MILLION TO US\$ 100 MILLION	US\$ 250	US\$ 300
FROM US\$ 100 MILLION TO US\$ 1 BILLION	US\$ 350	US\$ 450
ABOVE US\$ 1 BILLION	US\$ 500	US\$ 700

### 4.1.2. OBP FEES FOR THE OBP NEUTRALIZATION SERVICES PROVIDER STANDARD

An Organization willing to become certified with the OBP Neutralization Services Provider Standard, will pay an OBP fee additional to its inspection and certification fee, of US\$ 150 per year for a single site certification and US\$ 200 for a Multisite Certification.

In case the Organization is composed of a Supplier Group it will pay an OBP fee of US\$ 150, plus an additional US\$ 5 per Supplier Group member up to 30 members and an additional US\$ 1 for any additional member above 30.

Aditonally an OBP fee of US\$5 will be collected for the issuance and registry by ZPO of a Neutralization Certificate.



## 4.2. DISCOUNTS FOR MULTIPLE CERTIFICATIONS

An Organization willing to become certified to more than one OBP Standard will pay the full OBP fee on the most costly of the OBP Fees plus 50% of the OBP Fee of the other(s) Standard(s).

For examples:

- 1) An Organization willing to be certified to the OBP Collection Organization Standard and the OBP Recycling Organization Standard for a multisite certification with an annual turnover of US\$ 25 million will pay: US\$ 300 (Recycling Organization) + US\$ 150x0.5 (Collection Organization) = US\$ 375
- 2) An Organization willing to be certified to the OBP Collection Organization Standard with a Supplier Group of 45 members and to the Recycling Organization Standard with a single site and an annual turnover of US\$ 850,000 will pay: US \$ 315 (Collection Organization – 150+150+15) + US\$ 150x0.5 (Recycling Organization) = US\$ 390.

In case there are any doubts on the amount of the OBP Fee to pay, the CB and/or the Organization shall contact ZPO at [contact\(at\)obpcert.org](mailto:contact(at)obpcert.org) to get clarification on the OBP Fee.

## 5. OBP FEE VALIDITY

OBP Fees are valid starting 8<sup>th</sup> June 2020 until 31<sup>st</sup> of Decembre 2022.

