

OCEAN BOUND PLASTIC



NEUTRALITY SUBPROGRAM OBP PLASTIC PRODUCERS & USERS STANDARD



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Reference Documents

This Standard shall be used together with the following complementary documents:

- OBP-DEF-GUI: OBP Program Definitions & Annexes
- OBP-TEM-GUI: OBP Program Templates
- OBP-LOG-GUI: OBP Logo Uses and Claims Guidelines
- OBP-FAQ-GUI: OBP Frequently Asked Questions
- OBP-REM-GUI: OBP Remote and Supervised/Shadow Audit Guidelines
- OBP-ROS-GUI: OBP Recognition of other Standards and Audits
- OBP-FEE-CON: OBP Fees Structure

All documents are available on the “document center” section of the OBP Program website (www.obpcert.org)

Revisions and Updates

This Standard will be revised if required, to incorporate improvements or clarifications that will not change substantially the content of the Standard and its requirements. Further significant revision schedule will be communicated on the OBP Program website. Please send any comment you have regarding the Standard to [contact\(at\)obpcert.org](mailto:contact(at)obpcert.org)

Revision history

Date	Version	Changes
8 th Sept. 2020	V1	Initial Release
13 th May. 2020	V1.1	• 2. Definition of OBP Credits and update of the OBP Neutralization Certificate definition (additions <i>in italic</i>). • 5.4.c) reference to OBP Credits (additions <i>in italic</i>).
8 th Sept. 2021	V1.2	• Changes from the previous revision (<i>in Italic</i>) have been formatted in normal text. • Incorporation of the option 5.3d, allowing for OBP Positive Claims.



		• Reformulation of requirement 5.4a. • Modification of requirement 5.4c. • Incorporation of requirement 5.4d. • Reformulation of requirement 5.5a. • Reformulation of requirements of chapter 5.6 to ensure coherence with the possibility of making OBP Positive Claims. • Incorporation of chapter 5.7 and corresponding requirements. • Reformulation of requirement 5.8b. • Definitions and annexes have been removed from the Standard and are now available in documents OBP-DEF-GUI or OBP-TEM-GUI.
8 th Sept. 2026	V1.3	• Addition of a note concerning chapter 5.1

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1. INTRODUCTION

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 Plastic¹ (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 recyclable², its collection and Recycling can be encouraged by certifying its origin and traceability, giving it a higher market value with the OBP Recycling Subprogram. This chain of custody is certified using the OBP Collection Organization Standard, the OBP Recycling Organization Standard and the OBP Brand Standard depending on which step on the chain an organization is.

When OBP is not commercially recyclable³, its collection and final treatment can be encouraged by certifying the process with the OBP Neutrality Subprogram. In this model, Plastic producers or users can contribute to a better environment by removing a determined volume of plastic waste from nature through the acquisition of OBP Credits. This model is certified using the OBP Neutralization Services Provider Standard and the OBP Plastic Producers & Users Standard.

Organizations may certify themselves for one or both subprograms as they are complementary solutions. Working with both subprograms makes sense in terms of economic 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.

Organizations collecting OBP willing to provide enhanced social benefits to their employees and informal collectors (Independent Collectors), may additionally certify to the Social+ OBP Component.

¹ Ocean Bound Plastic, is, as defined in OBP-DEF-GUI, Plastic litter that will be carried away to oceans in particular by the effects of currents, winds, river flows or tides.

² Commercially recyclable OBP as defined in OBP-DEF-GUI, 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.

³ Not commercially recyclable OBP as defined in OBP-DEF-GUI, 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

Capital letters are used throughout the document to signal the words that are included in the definitions available in OBP-DEF-GUI. Acronym's significance is also available in the same OBP-DEF-GUI document.

3. SCOPE

This Standard is applicable to any Organization (for profit, not for profit, governmental or non-governmental) involved, or who wants to be involved in contributing to a better environment by removing a determined volume of plastic waste from nature for a determined scope of its Plastic production or activities and claiming to be certified as Ocean Bound Plastic Neutral or Positive.

A non-exhaustive list of Organizations who can apply to this Standard includes polymers and additives manufacturers, Plastic packaging and Plastic products manufacturers and Plastic packaging or product users.

Organizations that work nation-wide or internationally, and, have multiple sites that are distinct legal entities administrated by a central office and want to certify several operations may apply for a Multisite Certification following the requirements mentioned in ANNEX III of the OBP-DEF-GUI document.

This Standard can also be used to certify events, fairs and other temporary activities that wish to claim being OBP Neutral/Positive.

The Standard is applicable worldwide.

4. EFFECTIVE DATE

This certification Standard becomes effective on the release date and shall become compulsory to use on the 8th of December 2026. New certification applicants and already certified Organizations shall be assessed against this revision of the Standard from this date onwards.

5. REQUIREMENTS

5.1. LEGAL COMPLIANCE, CHILD LABOR, FAIR WORKING CONDITIONS⁴

- a) The Organization shall demonstrate compliance with national laws and requirements related with its operation.
- b) The Organization shall not use child labor in any way. The Organization shall demonstrate compliance with the national minimum age for employment and/or the age of completion of compulsory education, whichever is higher. In no case shall the Organization rely on work performed by children under the age of 14.
- c) The Organization shall not use forced or compulsory labor as defined by ILO convention 29 and shall especially forbid itself to create any condition that will generate an unfair dependence of workers towards the Organization (such as retaining identity documents, salaries, generating debts).
- d) The Organization shall have social policies in place ensuring that workers are at least paid minimum legal wages applicable.

5.2. QUALITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

- a) The Organization shall have or create a dedicated management system to ensure that it can maintain its compliance to the requirements of this Standard. One person within the Organization shall be appointed as quality manager to oversee the implementation of the Standard requirements. This person shall also be the main contact person with the Certification Body (CB) during Audits and their preparations.
- b) The Organization shall have procedures that can be made available to the CB to demonstrate its compliance with requirements of this Standard.
- c) The responsibilities to implement procedures shall be distributed to identified key personnel within the Organization under the supervision of the quality manager and these personnel shall receive adequate training to ensure they understand requirements of the Standard in its latest version.

⁴ Organizations and CBs shall check OBP-ROS-GUI document to evaluate the opportunity of recognition of other standards towards the compliance of the requirements of this section.

- d) The Organization shall keep documentation to prove conformity to the Standard requirements. The documentation of previous Audits must be kept for at least 4 years and presented to the auditor upon request. A non-exhaustive list of records to be kept includes methods and procedures, lists of Ocean Bound Plastic Neutral Scopes, reconciliation registers, annual weight summaries, Neutralization Certificates received/OBP Credits purchased, non-conformity records, training material, brand mark usage approvals.

5.3.OCEAN BOUND PLASTIC NEUTRAL SCOPE DEFINITION

- a) The Organization needs to define the Ocean Bound Plastic Neutral Scope (OBPN Scope). This can be for example: specific products, range or lines of products, the whole production of a plant, the whole company, or a specific event.
- b) The Organization shall demonstrate the Plastic consumption/production of the OBPN Scope. This consumption/production shall include all direct virgin and/or recycled Plastic usages and losses attributable to the OBPN Scope. Losses that are recycled within the OBPN Scope are not to be accounted for.
- c) The Organization shall have an annual forecast of Plastic consumption/production related to the OBPN Scope chosen. This forecast should cover the period of validity of the Scope Certificate⁵.

Examples of OBPN Scope definition:

For a shoemaker company, a possible OBPN Scope could be a specific flip flop model production. Production of each flip flop uses 250 grams of Plastic. The company has an annual forecast of 10 million pairs and 0.5% of the flip flop production is usually considered waste due to product non-conformities (this waste is not recyclable internally). For this case, the company shall purchase OBP Credits for $10E^6 \times 250E^{-6} \times 1.005 = 2512.5$ metric tons of OBP Credits to claim its flip flop production is Ocean Bound Plastic Neutral.

⁵ When the OBPN Scope is a temporary event, the timeframe should be adapted to the event duration (including pre and post event activities)

For a company producing outdoor furniture a possible OBPN Scope could be its whole product range. The company has no manufacturing sites and all its production is outsourced. In total, all subcontractors use 5489 metric tons of a mix of virgin and recycled plastic per year to manufacture all the company's products, including losses. The company will need to purchase OBP Credits for 5489 metric tons to be able to claim its outdoor furniture production is Ocean Bound Plastic Neutral.

- d) The Organization may choose to buy more OBP Credits than its OBPN Scope. In this case, it can make Ocean Bound Plastic Positive Claims if it purchases an amount of OBP Credits that is greater or equal to 120% of its OBPN Scope.

5.4.COMMITMENT TO FINANCE OBP NEUTRALIZATION

- a) The Organization shall have a Commitment to finance the Neutralization of OBP matching at least the forecast mentioned in 5.3c. This Commitment shall be materialized through at least one Contract⁶, with at least one supplier holding a valid Scope Certificate to the OBP Neutralization Services Provider Standard, or, with an OBP Credit Trader registered with ZPO.
- b) The Contract(s) shall be signed by a legal representative of both organizations, enforceable and executable at the time of Audit. Letter of intent, memorandum of understanding or similar non-binding agreements are not acceptable as Contract(s).
- c) The Contract(s) shall include the annual number of OBP Credits intended for purchase. This number of OBP Credits may be adjustable throughout the execution of the agreement to account for a higher or lower than forecasted production of the Ocean Bound Plastic Neutral Scope.
- d) Organizations may make financial arrangements with OBP Neutralization services providers to deliver upfront payments, but the OBP Credits will only be issued by the Neutralization services provider once evidence of the work done and conformity by the CB has been verified through issuing a Neutralization Certificate.

⁶ If the OBPN Scope is an event, the OBP Credit purchase for the forecasted amount of Plastic used shall take place before the event is held. If the event uses more Plastic than forecasted this additional amount shall be compensated post event as per requirement 5.4c.

5.5.SUBCONTRACTORS

The Organization may use for part or all the production process of the Ocean Bound Plastic Neutral Scope one or several Subcontractors.

- a) The Organization shall have an updated list of these Subcontractors, detailing which operations they are realizing on behalf of the Organization.
- b) Subcontractors shall sign a self-declaration of compliance with minimum social and environmental requirements as specified by this Standard. Copies of signed Subcontractor's self-declarations shall be kept by the Organization. A self-declaration template is available in the OBP-TEM-GUI document.
- c) The Organization needs to demonstrate via Documentary Evidence the amount of Plastic used, including losses, by its Subcontractors for the subcontracted works.

5.6.ANNUAL CONTROL SUMMARIES AND RECONCILIATIONS

- a) The Organization shall have a system in place allowing it to perform regular weight reconciliations of the Plastic it has used for the Ocean Bound Plastic Neutral Scope with the OBP Credits it has received, ensuring that the amount of OBP Credits is sufficient to cover for the Claims (OBP Neutral or OBP Positive) that the Organization is making. This reconciliation shall be performed periodically but should not exceed a 3-month period.
- b) If an Organization has received OBP Credits for a greater weight that it requires for its chosen scope and Claim (OBP Neutral or OBP Positive), it is allowed, but not obliged, to pass the excess amount over to the next reconciliation period.
- c) The Organization shall have available a table summary containing: (i) all certified Neutralization services providers/OBP Credit Traders they work with, including contact details, (ii) annual tonnage of OBP committed/financed per provider, (iii) OBP Credit blocks received.
- d) The total amount of OBP Credits received shall at least add up to the total tonnage of Plastic used for the Ocean Bound Plastic Neutral Scope.

- e) The Organization shall show evidence to prove they are the purchasers/receivers of the OBP Credits issued by the certified Neutralization services providers/OBP Credit Traders.

5.7. OBP CREDITS RETIREMENT

OBP Credits issued and retired are publicly registered in ZPO's registry on the OBP Program website to ensure full traceability and absence of double counting.

- a) The Organization shall ask the entity to whom they have purchased the OBP Credits or to ZPO directly to retire the OBP Credits as soon as the OBP Credits are used against an OBP Neutral or OBP Positive Claim.
- b) The Organization is allowed to retire the OBP Credits anonymously. In this case ZPO will only mark the OBP Credits as retired but will not make public the retirement details.

5.8. WASTE MANAGEMENT

- a) The Organization shall have enforced waste management procedures that prioritize reduction, reuse and Recycling of all its production wastes whenever possible.
- b) The Organization shall be able to provide evidence of the environmentally adequate final disposition of its Plastic waste ensuring that all reasonable precautions are taken to avoid that its Plastic waste may become abandoned in the environment or open air burned.

5.9. OBP TRADEMARKS AND LABELS USES

- a) Organizations are eligible to use the OBP promotional labels, provided they are certified with this Standard.
- b) The status of the Organization as certificate holder and OBP Neutral or OBP Positive product supplier, brand or Organization can be promoted with the OBP promotional labels in websites, social networking, business cards, printed material, promotional items (t-shirts, caps, banners, etc), or any other corporate communication the Organization sees fit.
- c) Organizations are eligible to use the On-Product Labels for products covered by the Ocean Bound Plastic Neutral Scope.

- d) The Organization shall refer to the reference document OBP-LOG-GUI before any public use of the OBP Logos is made. Organizations that do not comply with these guidelines may lose the right to use the OBP trademarks.
- e) The Organization shall request an approval of the intended artworks to its CB and shall keep a register of all the approved uses of the OBP promotional labels and On-Product Labels sent by the CB.
- f) The OBP and ZPO trademarks shall not be used: (a) in a way that could cause confusion, misinterpretation, or loss of credibility to the OBP certification scheme; (b) in a way that implies that ZPO endorses, participates in, or is responsible for activities performed by the Organization, outside the scope of certification; (c) to promote product quality aspects not covered by the OBP certification.