

7 Water Stewardship

7.1 Water Stewardship Guidelines

Required for Silver, Gold, and Platinum certification levels.

Applicant shall create or adopt a set of principles or guidelines that illustrate the facility's strategies for protecting and preserving the quality and supply of water resources. Examples include:

- World Business Council for Sustainable Development – Water Principles (<http://www.wbcscd.ch/web/publications/sinkorswim.pdf>) pg. 11
- Hannover Principles: Design for Sustainability – Water (<http://www.gemi.org/water/resources/hannover.htm>)
- Water Management Principles of the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection from the Government of British Columbia (http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wsd/plan_protect_sustain/water_conservation/wtr_cons_strategy/basics.html)

7.2 Water Audit

Required Gold and Platinum certification levels.

Applicant shall perform a water audit for the manufacturing facility. This means that all water flows associated with product manufacture/assembly are fully characterized. This includes characterizing water source(s), water usage, and quality of water discharges according to the following:

Water Source(s):

- Describe the types of water sources the facility(ies) relies upon.
- Determine whether or not the facility is located within or adjacent to a RAMSAR listed wetland (http://www.ramsar.org/index_list.htm).
- Define the watershed. Locate and report the watershed within which the facility operates (<http://cfpub.epa.gov/surf/locate/index.cfm>). Document the following information:
 - See “Assessment of Watershed Health.” Does the facility withdraw or discharge effluent to a water source that is listed as impaired by the EPA, state or local authorities? What are the water concerns for the area and how does the facility impact these concerns? For more information on Source Water, see the EPA website: <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/protect/sitemap.html>.
 - Ask the local or regional water authority whether the facility is considered a major or minor user of water relative to other users in the watershed region.
- In view of the global nature of this certification program, specific methodological adaptations in other countries might be applicable.

Water Usage:

- How much water is used per unit of product produced?
- What measures have been taken to conserve water resources?

Water Discharges:

- Meets or exceeds EPA and state water quality regulations as required under EPA's National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES).
 - Major facilities: Cannot be listed as being in Significant Noncompliance (SNC).
 - Minor facility(ies): Cannot be listed by states as being in violation of NPDES permits using the same definition as that of SNC violators. (each state will use its own term for "non-major" violators).
 - Any facility(ies) documents that they have not been designated as SNC or as a non-major chronic violator by its state for a period of two years prior to application date.
- List permit # and name of designated water coordinator for the facility(ies).
- In view of the global nature of this certification program, specific methodological adaptations in other countries might be applicable.

7.3 Innovative Conservation Measures

Required Platinum certification level only.

Applicant shall demonstrate that the facility responsible for final assembly/manufacture has implemented and provided documentation of conservation measures taken in last five years to reduce consumption of domestic and sanitary water (express as units liters/kg or gal/lb of all finished product).

7.4 Innovative Discharge Measures

Required Platinum certification level only.

Applicant shall demonstrate that the facility responsible for final assembly/manufacture has implemented innovative projects for reclaiming, recycling or preserving the quality of water resources. Document any novel methods or processes employed for improving the quality of water resources (e.g., constructed wetlands, green roofs, and composting toilets).