Transition to Version 3 of the Cradle to Cradle Certified℠ Product Standard

I. Purpose

The Cradle to Cradle Certified℠ Products Program continuously evolves to maintain standards that reflect the growing body of knowledge around Cradle to Cradle thinking and the need for higher standards to meet the demands of increasing global threats to human health, resources, and the climate. This policy outlines the procedure for transition from certification under Version 2.1.1 (V2.1.1) of the Cradle to Cradle Certified℠ Program Standard, to Version 3 (V3).

II. Policy Statement

The Cradle to Cradle Products Innovation Institute (C2CPII) will begin certifying new products under V3 of the Cradle to Cradle Certified℠ Standard beginning January 1, 2013 (pending finalization of V3). This date will apply to all new product certification assessments (i.e., those products that are not currently Cradle to Cradle Certified℠ under V2.1.1).

Product certification assessments that were contracted (i.e., assessments already underway) prior to January 1, 2013 and products that are currently Cradle to Cradle Certified℠ under V2.1.1 will be allowed to certify and re-certify under V2.1.1 until January 1, 2015 (i.e., a two year ‘grandfathering’ period). Appeals to re-certify under V2.1.1 after the 2 year ‘grandfathering period’ will be reviewed on a case by case basis by C2CPII staff, and may be granted based on sufficient evidence that an applicant will not be able to retain their current certification level if re-certified under V3 despite a good faith effort to do so over the course of the ‘grandfathering period’.
III. Applicability

This transition policy applies to all current and future Cradle to Cradle Certified™ Products Program participants.

IV. Definitions

a) **Cradle to Cradle Certified™ Products Program** – The Cradle to Cradle Certified™ Products Program guides product manufacturers and designers in making safe and healthy products for our world through product assessment and optimization against the Cradle to Cradle Certified™ Product Standard. The Program is administered by the C2CPII.

b) **Cradle to Cradle Certified™ Product Standard (the Standard)** – The Cradle to Cradle Certified™ Product Standard is a multi-attribute, continuous improvement, quality Standard that guides product manufacturers and designers in making safe and healthy products for our world. The Standard contains the requirements that a product must meet to be considered a Cradle to Cradle Certified™ product. These requirements are outlined in the *Cradle to Cradle Certified™ Products Program Guidance Document*.

c) **Cradle to Cradle Products Innovation Institute (C2CPII)** – The Cradle to Cradle Products Innovation Institute administers the Cradle to Cradle Certified™ Products Program, conducts training and accreditation for Assessors in the program, and reviews product assessment results for the purposes of awarding certification.

V. Procedure

A. General Description

The Cradle to Cradle Certified™ certification mark is licensed by C2CPII from McDonough Braungart Design Chemistry (MBDC). As an initial condition of the exclusive license granted to C2CPII to issue certificates and sub-license the Cradle to Cradle Certified™ trademarks based on completion of a product certification assessment, MBDC has provided C2CPII with a newly revised version of the Cradle to Cradle Certified™ Standard, Version 3 (V3). The C2CPII will begin certifying products under V3 of the Cradle to Cradle Certified™ standard beginning January 1, 2013 (pending finalization of the V3 standard).

Products that are currently Cradle to Cradle Certified™ under V2.1.1 will be allowed to certify and re-certify under V2.1.1 until January 1, 2015 (i.e., a two year ‘grandfathering’ period). Appeals to re-certify under V2.1.1 after the 2 year ‘grandfathering period’ will be reviewed on a case by case basis by C2CPII staff, and may be granted based on sufficient evidence that an applicant will not be able to retain their current certification level if re-certified under V3 despite a good faith effort to so over the course of the ‘grandfathering period’.

B. Implementation

a) **New Certification Assessments** – New product certification assessments started on or after January 1, 2013 will be conducted according to the V3 standard (pending finalization of the V3 standard). This applies to products that are not currently Cradle to Cradle Certified™ under V2.1.1.
Policies and Procedures

Cradle to Cradle Products Innovation Institute

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Product certification assessments that were contracted (i.e., assessments already underway) prior to January 1, 2013 will be allowed to complete their certification under V2.1.1, if desired.

b) Re-Certification – Products certified under V2.1.1 as of January 1, 2013 will be allowed to certify and re-certify under V2.1.1 until January 1, 2015 (i.e., a two year ‘grandfathering’ period); however, application for re-certification under V3 can happen at any time. Certification holders should work with their Assessor for guidance and next steps.

Appeals to re-certify under V2.1.1 after the 2 year ‘grandfathering period’ will be reviewed on a case by case basis by C2CPII staff, and may be granted based on sufficient evidence that an applicant will not be able to retain their current certification level if re-certified under V3 despite a good faith effort to so over the course of the ‘grandfathering period’.

Manufacturers must submit a request for exemption from the two-year ‘grandfathering’ period to the C2CPII at least 90 days prior to their certification expiration date. The C2CPII policy for complaints, disputes, and appeals will apply to any requests for exemption from the ‘grandfathering period’. The final decision to exempt the manufacturer will be made by the C2CPII.

VI. Supporting documents and references

Certification Program for Products Cradle to Cradle Certified™, Version 3, Executive Summary
Certification Program for Products Cradle to Cradle Certified™, Version 3, Guidance Manual
Certification Program for Products Cradle to Cradle Certified™, Version 3, Chemical Profiling, Material Assessments, and Overall Product Evaluation
C2CPII Policies and Procedures: Complaints, Disputes, and Appeals