

GG203-14

202 (New), 505.2.2

Proponent: Richard Krock, representing The Vinyl Institute (rkrock@vinylinfo.org)

Revise as follows:

505.2.2 Recycled content building materials. Recycled content building materials shall comply with one of the following:

1. Contain not less than 25 percent combined post-consumer and preconsumer recovered material, and shall comply with Section 505.2.3.
2. Contain not less than 50 percent combined post-consumer and preconsumer recovered material.
3. For products that are made of plastic and that comply with Section 505.2.3, contain not less than 2 percent combined post-consumer and pre-consumer recovered material.
4. For products that are made of plastic, contain not less than 25 percent combined post-consumer and pre-consumer recovered material.

Add new definitions as follows:

SECTION 202 DEFINITIONS

POLYMERIC MATERIAL. A material or product that is composed of, in-whole or in-part, polymers that are created by the process of polymerization or the joining together of organic chemical structures (monomers), derived from natural or synthetic raw materials, to form large molecules containing many repeating organic chemical units. Polymeric materials are generally categorized as thermoplastic or thermosetting, and can be formulated to contain additives including inorganic or organic chemical fillers, fibers, reinforcements, pigments, and non-polymeric ingredients depending on the end use application of the product.

PLASTIC. See "Polymeric material"

Reason: The additions submitted in this change move closer to the intent of **driving recycle content up in building materials** and to **count all recycle content in a building**. The primary reason offered in support of this code change is that Section 505.2.2 creates an arbitrary hurdle of a minimum of 25% recycle content which is impractical for most polymeric material building products. The change proposed above removes this subjectivity and credits all recycle material incorporated into a product in some way.

In support of this change, it is important to understand that each type and grade of polymeric recycle material can only be used with that same type and grade of virgin material for processing and finished part performance reasons. For instance, polyethylene recyclate should not be mixed into PVC polymer materials, or nylon recyclate should not be mixed into ABS polymer materials if acceptable physical properties or cosmetic appearances in the finished product are necessary.

Additional support of the proposed change is that recognition in certain polymeric products standards where incorporating recycle content is prohibited in order not to impair the end use performance and durability of the product. For example, certain ASTM standards for polymeric pressure pipe and fittings, currently do not allow recycled content other than in-plant regrinds. Using recycled content other than in-plant regrinds would be very difficult for polymeric pressure pipe because of the extensive long term strength testing scheme assumes the use of virgin material or regrinds of the exact same formulation. Recognizing that plumbing is excluded from this section's requirements, the ASTM restriction illustrates the care that needs to be taken by any polymeric product producer when using recycle content material.

This proposed change recognizes and rewards those polymeric product manufacturers that document formulations and process streams from consistent sources of recycled plastic materials in order to incorporate recycle content into their products.

Recycle content credit for all building materials is an important objective in order to drive **landfill avoidance**, and this contributes to the sustainability efforts in the building industry. Achievable thresholds for all types of building materials are necessary for this to be accomplished.

Cost Impact: Will not increase the cost of construction. No increase in cost of construction is expected.

GG203-14 : 505.2.2-KROCK796
