

Standard Products Catalogue ICRC/IFRC

Sustainable information sheet

Product: Food parcel

The below table is based on the Sustainable Criteria list available at:

<https://itemscatalogue.redcross.int/green--2/sustainable-procurement--25/sustainable-criteria--112/information-sheet-sustainable-procurement--SUSTAINABLE.aspx>

Environmental aspects	Achievements
Use long lasting products and materials, to minimize the replacement and allow the second life.	Not applicable for the food itself. Second life for the packaging is considered.
Use long lasting products	Not applicable for food.
Recycling the raw material of the product	Metal tins, carton boxes and plastic bottle can be collected and recycled.
Using recycled or re-used materials to make the product	All carton box manufacturers are including recycled cardboard (68% recycled carton in 2018. Source: US-EPA).
Reduced weight and volume compared to equivalent preceding products	Not applicable for food. Packaging is reduced to the minimum, no filling material, no space left.
Seek equipment that is energy efficient	Fresh crops only, especially for pulses and cereals, that reduces the cooking time.
Use materials with reduced effect on environment due to their intrinsic nature	Food does not include GMOs seeds. 20% Palm oil is RSPO certified. The quality of the food avoids rotten food at reception. Testing of purity, moisture, contamination, etc, ensures required quality. Tests are described in the specification.
No (or reduced) polluting with minimum use of toxic chemicals, CFCs ozone and other pollutants	Move from white cardboard boxes to brown boxes to reduce pollution generated by bleaching the cardboard. Use only black ink apart from the red cross logo. No other color inks on the kit box. Red logo is for security purposes, to ensure our products are recognized as humanitarian goods

100% biodegradable material when biodegradability in the environment is foreseen	Cardboard and paper are biodegradable or can be burned.
Use of materials and products that can have a second life in a different usage	Tins, bottles, and carton boxes can be reused as containers for various usages. Re-closing system for oil bottle and for ghee container are facilitating that re-use. Strong cardboard, five plies, allows reuse of the carton box.
Use equipment that have a high rate of reparability when applicable	Not applicable
When products are made up of several types of material, particularly plastics and metals, the ease of disassembly is taken into consideration. Particularly relevant for electronic and electrical products.	Each plastic and cardboard packaging component is 100% made of one material only.
Minimum packaging. Reducing the packaging to the minimum although enabling the product to survive poor handling. Optimize palletization and TC loading.	<p>The individual packaging is reduced to the minimum. The food parcel is designed to be packed in the smallest volume. The carton boxes fit standard pallets and standard containers.</p> <p>Removed plastic bags after improving the oil bottle caps quality to stop leakages, with a Snap-On system to replace the previous aluminum foil.</p> <p>To reduce the use of plastic, each commodity is in one pack only, not several small packs as before.</p> <p>Ready to ship weight/volume ratio is adapted to ISO standard transport containers (TC): 2.2 tons per m3 that is adapted to sea and road transport.</p>
Favour manufacturing processes that facilitate pollution control. Proper waste management in the production site	<p>The raw material is produced by large industrial plants where international regulations on pollution should apply.</p> <p>Audited by our services.</p>
Manage sourcing in a way that reduces the environmental impact and facilitates the application of social standards	<p>The components are produced by large industrial plants where international regulations on pollution should apply and social standards are up to the legal requirements or above. Audited by our services.</p> <p>Food is purchased as much as possible locally or regionally, before purchasing internationally, as far as the local and regional markets allow this. This reduces the transport impact.</p>

Social aspects	
Ethical standards	
The ICRC/IFRC code of conduct for purchasing strives to ensure the ICRC highest ethical standards and ethical standards from our suppliers too. Each person undertaking any purchasing activity in the ICRC signs this document.	The lead buyers are applying the Codes of Conduct and Ethics, ensuring the ethical standards are respected along the supply chain. Audited by internal services.
The ICRC/IFRC Ethical Purchasing policy is being implemented. Criteria on working conditions, hygiene and security, safety, child labour, and environmental concerns are assessed in the manufacturing units. Position on Ethical Policy for Purchasing (icrc.org)	The manufacturing plants have been validated, ensuring the ethical standards are respected. Audited by our services.
Social impact: labour and deontological practices, Health and safety, hardship working conditions, etc.	The manufacturing plants have been validated, ensuring the social standards are respected. Audited by our services.

Economic impact, value for money	
Maximum durability, reparability, reusability, recyclability and upgradeability:	Packaging material is reusable and recyclable. The packed volume is reduced to the minimum.
Use long lasting products and materials, to minimize the replacement and allow the second life.	Not applicable
Reparability is also considered during the design of the product.	Not applicable
Seek products that enable updated and improve performance.	Not applicable
Anti-fraud policy ICRC/IFRC policy to prevent fraud and corruption for all staff members and external partners	The anti-fraud policy guaranties the proper application of the product specification through a well-controlled purchasing process, a transparent and reliable quality control, and tight supervision of the inspection companies in particular during factory visits. Audited by internal services.