



ACT

FOR MANUFACTURERS



A Call To ACTION

ACT is the world's first eco-nutrition label for laboratory products. Developed by the 501c3 non-profit My Green Lab, the ACT label provides consistent, comprehensive, easily-understandable information that researchers and procurement specialists can use to assess and ultimately reduce environmental impact.

The ACT label does not certify that a product is sustainable. Like nutrition labels on food products, the ACT label certifies sustainable product attributes and provides the information necessary for customers to choose more sustainable products.

Recognized by the Sustainable Purchasing Leadership Council, the International Living Future Institute, and the International Institute for Sustainable Laboratories, the ACT label has become the standard for transparency in the laboratory products industry. It's also becoming the standard at research institutions. The University of California, MIT, Harvard, Cleveland Clinic, Duke, CU Boulder, University of Georgia, University of Virginia, University of Alabama, Birmingham, and Emory have taken steps to integrate the ACT label into their procurement processes.

It's not surprising that the ACT label has gained recognition and traction so quickly. People have seen that it has the potential to reduce emissions by over 100 million mtCO₂e annually through waste reduction alone. That's enough to fully offset the carbon emissions from 5,000,000 Americans.

Ready to join the call to ACTION? Learn more about the ACT label process below.



The ACT Label Process

All products participating in the ACT program undergo an extensive desktop audit. The ACT auditing body, Sustainability Made Simple, LLC has over 15 years' experience developing third-party verification processes and procedures as well as auditing the environmental claims of products.

Sustainability Made Simple has created programs in conjunction with entities like the US Green Building Council, International Living Future Institute, Clean Production Action and UL Environment, and is now working with My Green Lab to accelerate sustainability in laboratory environments through the ACT label assessment.

My Green Lab verifies the work of Sustainability Made Simple, and no labels are released until all parties – Sustainability Made Simple, My Green Lab, and the product manufacturer – are in agreement.

Due to the sensitive and proprietary nature of the material requested for the audit, all ACT assessments are performed under a mutual NDA.

The time required to undergo an ACT assessment varies based on the amount of information already available about the product. Most audits take 2-6 months, pending data availability.

ACT.

The Environmental Impact Factor Label

Manufacturing

Manufacturing Impact Reduction

Renewable Energy Use

Responsible Chemical Management

Shipping Impact

Product Content

Packaging Content

User Impact

Energy Consumption

Water Consumption

Product Lifetime

End of Life

Packaging

Product



Product ACTributes

Products are typically characterized on the basis of functionality or features. The ACT label uses a different approach, instead taking the environmental impact perspective to define the core characteristics of a product. These characteristics are known as 'product attributes', and the ACT label is also known as a multiproduct attribute label. The key product attributes that are assessed as part of the ACT label assessment are:



Manufacturing Impact Reduction

An evaluation of the manufacturing facilities to determine whether steps have been taken to reduce energy, water, or waste in the manufacturing process



Energy & Water Use

A determination of the amount of energy and water consumed by the product when it is in use at a customer site



Responsible Chemical Management

An assessment of the product's chemistry and chemical management system with respect to human health impacts



Lifetime Rating

A determination of the product's usable lifetime and durability



Shipping

An assessment of the impact of shipping the product from the manufacturing location to the distribution site



Product Disposal

An evaluation of the end-of-life options for the product. Each product component may be assessed separately for products with multiple components (e.g. polypropylene cap and PET tube)



Product Content & Packaging Content

An evaluation of sustainable content in either of the product or its packaging



Packaging Disposal

An evaluation of the end-of-life options for product packaging. Each part of the packaging may be assessed separately for packaging that contains multiple components (e.g. styrofoam cooler, cardboard box)

It's All in the Family

ACT pricing is determined by product family.

Equipment Pricing

The initial cost for an equipment product family is \$5,925 for the first EU, UK, and US labels. Additional products within that family are \$300 each. The initial cost for a related product family is \$1,500 for the first EU, UK, and US labels.

It is possible to obtain an ACT label for a product in a specific region (US or EU/UK). In this case, the initial cost for an equipment product family is \$3,950. Additional products within that family are \$150 each, and the initial cost for a related product family is \$1,000.

Consumable/Chemical Pricing

Because consumables and chemicals do not have an energy/water component, the cost of these labels is less. The initial cost for a consumable/chemical product family is \$4,400 for the first EU, UK, and US labels. Additional products within that family are \$300 each. The initial cost for a related product family remains the same, \$1,500 for the first EU, UK, and US labels.

As with equipment, it is possible to obtain an ACT label for a product in a specific region (US or EU/UK). In this case, the initial cost for a consumable/chemical product family is \$2,950. Additional labels within that family are \$150 each, and the initial cost for a related product family is \$1,500.

Are We Related?

Not sure whether a product falls under an existing product family, a related product family, or belongs to a new product family? Assuming one product already has an ACT label, use the questions below to help determine how a product may be related.

- ① Is the product manufactured in the same facility? Y / N
- ② Does the product have the exact same chemistry – including CAS numbers – by weight? Y / N
- ②a For equipment products, does the product have the same RoHS compliance certifications and is managed under the same Environmental Management System?
- ③ Is the product distributed from the same location? Y / N
- ④ Is the sustainable content in the product the same, as a percentage-by-weight? Y / N
- ⑤ Is the sustainable content in the packaging the same, as a percentage-by-weight? Y / N
- ⑥ Does this product consume the exact same amount of energy during its use? Y / N
- ⑦ Does this product consume the exact same amount of water during its use? Y / N
- ⑧ Is this product's useful life the same? Y / N
- ⑨ Is the product's composition the same such that options for its disposal remain the same by weight? Y / N
- ⑩ Is the packaging composition the same such that options for its disposal remain the same by weight? Y / N

If you answered yes to all 10 questions, this product belongs to an existing product family.

If you answered yes to at least 9/10 questions, this product belongs to a related product family.

If you answered yes to fewer than 8/10 questions, this product belongs to a new product family.





Thought Leaders Wanted. It's Time to ACT.

Join leading manufacturers and research institutions in transforming the life sciences industry.

For more information or to begin the ACT process, or to join the ACTivist 50, contact My Green Lab at act@mygreenlab.org.