IBI Certified™ Biochar Seal: Guidelines and Usage Requirements

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Introduction

About the IBI Biochar Certification Program

The IBI Biochar Certification Program is a voluntary, self-certifying, biochar certification program administered by the International Biochar Initiative (IBI). The purpose of the program is to provide biochar manufacturers (also referred to as biochar producers) the opportunity to certify their biochar(s) as having met the minimum criteria established in the IBI Biochar Standards. Biochar(s) certified through the IBI Biochar Certification Program are required to pass required tests using the test methods specified by the IBI Biochar Standards. Biochar testing is required to be carried out by independent laboratory(ies). IBI will allow biochar that successfully passes the testing criteria and all other applicable conditions of the IBI Biochar Standards to carry the IBI Certified™ biochar seal.

For the IBI Biochar Certification Program, IBI has created a one-dimensional seal consisting of a green oval encompassing IBI’s green tree/yellow sun/black biochar logo, with the words “IBI certified™ biochar” across the tree/sun graphic. Use of this seal on biochar packaging or consumer invoices indicates IBI certification of biochar content only.

Biochar manufacturers who participate in the IBI Biochar Certification Program agree to abide by the seal usage requirements specified in this document. IBI will grant biochar manufacturers who participate in the IBI Biochar Certification Program nonexclusive, nontransferable license to use the IBI Certified™ biochar seal in connection with the sale, promotion, advertising, and/or marketing of biochar that has been certified by IBI in accordance with the terms, conditions, and uses of this document and the IBI Biochar Certification Program Manual.

Note: the IBI Biochar Certification Program does not certify any other product, including a product mixed with biochar, nor does the IBI Biochar Certification Program certify biochar systems, processes, technologies, or equipment related to the production of biochar, whether proprietary or otherwise. The IBI Biochar Standards were deliberately created to be ‘technology neutral’. The IBI Biochar Certification Program does not address issues of sustainability, energy or greenhouse gas (GHG) balance, or life cycle analysis.

For more information on how to participate in the IBI Biochar Certification Program, please visit the program website at www.biochar-international.org/certification.
**IBI Certified™ Biochar Seal Usage Rules**

**General Requirements and Packaging**

The *IBI Certified™ biochar seal* can only be affixed on biochar that has been certified by IBI as part of its *IBI Biochar Certification Program*. This includes:

1. The use of the *IBI Certified™ biochar seal* on biochar on individual packaging, containers, wrapping, or on large boxes, crates, etc. used for transportation of products; or
2. The use of the *IBI Certified™ biochar seal* on documentation associated with *IBI Certified™ biochar* (e.g., invoice, packaging list, advertisement, brochure, etc.) where the use of the *IBI Certified™ biochar seal* refers to the *IBI Certified™ biochar(s)*.

Any *IBI Certified™ biochar seal* usage that can be perceived or understood by buyers or the public as referring to a specific biochar is considered on-product usage.

**Date of Production Requirement**

Manufacturers are required to date stamp their biochar, “Produced and Certified to Applicable *IBI Biochar Standards* on <<DATE>>.” This allows manufacturers to sell their product with the *IBI Certified™ biochar seal* at any time as long as the biochar was produced during the 1-year IBI biochar certification period of coverage.

**Blended Biochar Products Requirements**

Biochar manufacturers who also sell blended biochar products that contain *IBI Certified™ biochar* are required to display the following on their blended biochar products: “Made with *IBI Certified™ Biochar* (Certification Number <<insert certification number received from IBI>>)” along with the *IBI Certified™ biochar seal*. The words, “Made with” must not be less than 25% of the scale of the *IBI Certified™ biochar seal* – to ensure that there is absolutely no confusion regarding the contents of the package (i.e., that the package contains a blended biochar product and is not purely *IBI Certified™ biochar*).

**Graphic Requirements**

Manufacturers and/or sellers of products made with *IBI Certified™ biochar* can obtain high resolution graphic files for the black-and-white and color versions of the seal from the biochar manufacturer or directly from IBI, by submitting a request to certification@biochar-international.org.

The *IBI Certified™ biochar seal* for biochar is presented in Figure 1 below in both color and black-and-white.
IBI graphic requirements when using the IBI Certified™ biochar seal:

- **Minimum seal size:** The IBI Certified™ biochar seal should always be in appropriate proportion to the packaging/invoice in which it is displayed. The seal must be in appropriate scale relative to the brand logo.

- **Clear space around seal:** Text, photographs, or graphic elements must never crowd the IBI Certified™ biochar seal. It should be surrounded by at least ¼ inch of white space to maintain its visual integrity, including if it is displayed on a blended biochar, which would also require “Made with” to be displayed in conjunction with the IBI Certified™ biochar seal.

- **Clarification of IBI around seal:** Biochar manufacturers are permitted to educate their consumers regarding who/what IBI represents, in order to fully communicate the value of the IBI Certified™ biochar seal. The manufacturer may state, above or below the seal, the following: “IBI stands for International Biochar Initiative” and/or “More information about IBI at [www.biochar-international.org](http://www.biochar-international.org)” and/or “International Biochar Initiative (IBI) is the certifying authority for this IBI certified biochar(s)”.

- **Color and Greyscale biochar seals:** IBI will provide both a color and black-and-white version of the seal in the graphic files sent to biochar manufacturers upon IBI Biochar Certification Program approval.

- **Do not change the seal:** The seal must not be altered in any way (other than scaling):
  - Do not change the colors or shading of the seal.
  - Do not embellish, add to, or alter the seal in any way. Do not add your own tagline within the graphic design.
  - Do not alter the proportions of the seal or skew any of the seal elements.
  - Do not separate the graphic layers of the seal. For example, do not use the seal without the tree or the words “IBI certified biochar”.
  - Do not use color screen tints of the seal.

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IMPORTANT: Any biochar manufacturer in violation of IBI's certification regulations may be subject to enforcement actions as allowable by law, including suspension/revocation of the agreement to use the IBI Certified™ biochar seal.

Labeling and Biochar Information Requirements

As specified in the IBI Biochar Standards and in conjunction with IBI Certified™ biochar usage requirements, manufacturers of biochar that has been certified by IBI will be required to provide information about the feedstock and biochar in a standardized format as recommended by IBI. It is important that biochar characteristics, test categories, and feedstock origins be labeled in a uniform way to communicate useful and meaningful information to end-consumers.

Biochar manufacturers of IBI Certified™ biochar must attach a label, provide in a web-link, or otherwise include with all transactional documents, packaging, advertisements, or other commercial documentation associated with the biochar, information that contains all of the required test results (see Figure 2 below). This label is required to contain the following elements:

- biochar and feedstock country of origin(s), feedstock type, and composition declaration;
- results of tests for required Test Categories A and B; and
- (optional) results of test for optional Test Category C.

Figure 2. Sample label.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GOOD GROW IBI CERTIFIED™ BIOCHAR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOCHAR COUNTRY OF ORIGIN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEEDSTOCK COUNTRY OF ORIGIN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEEDSTOCK TYPE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEEDSTOCK COMPOSITION DECLARATION</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

BASIC UTILITY PROPERTIES – CATEGORY A

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property</th>
<th>Requirement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Moisture (at time of analysis)</td>
<td>20% - DECLARATION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organic Carbon (C_{org})</td>
<td>42% - CLASS 2 BIOCHAR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H:C_{org}</td>
<td>0.6 - PASS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Ash</td>
<td>40% - DECLARATION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total N</td>
<td>5.4% - DECLARATION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pH</td>
<td>7.5 - DECLARATION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electrical Conductivity</td>
<td>7.3 dS/m - DECLARATION</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Liming</td>
<td>23% CaCO₃</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Particle Size Distribution</td>
<td>0.3% &lt; 0.5 mm;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9.8% 0.5 – 1 mm;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>80.7% 1 – 2 mm;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9.2% 2 – 4 mm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Toxicant Assessment – Category B

**Germination Inhibition Assay**
- PASS

**Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs), total (sum of 16 US EPA PAHs)**
- 6 mg/kg - PASS

**Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs), B(a)P-TEQ basis**
- 0.2 mg/kg B(a)P-TEQ - PASS

**Dioxin/Furan (PCDD/Fs), WHO-TEQ basis**
- 0.02 ng/kg WHO-TEQ - PASS

**Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs), total (sum of 7 US EPA PCBs)**
- 0.2 mg/kg - PASS

**Arsenic**
- 10 mg/kg - PASS

**Cadmium**
- 1.2 mg/kg - PASS

**Chromium**
- 60 mg/kg - PASS

**Cobalt**
- 14 mg/kg - PASS

**Copper**
- 143 mg/kg - PASS

**Lead**
- 125 mg/kg - PASS

**Mercury**
- 0.5 mg/kg - PASS

**Molybdenum**
- 5 mg/kg - PASS

**Nickel**
- 25 mg/kg - PASS

**Selenium**
- 10 mg/kg - PASS

**Zinc**
- 320 mg/kg - PASS

**Boron**
- 20 mg/kg - DECLARATION

**Chlorine**
- 90 mg/kg - DECLARATION

**Sodium**
- 140 mg/kg - DECLARATION

### Advanced Analysis and Soil Enhancement Properties – Category C

**Mineral N (ammonium and nitrate)**
- 21 mg/kg - DECLARATION

**Total P&K**
- 3.1% P, 4.4% K - DECLARATION

**Available P**
- 16 mg/kg - DECLARATION

**Volatile Matter**
- 6.8% - DECLARATION

**Total Surface Area**
- 790 m²/g - DECLARATION

**External Surface Area**
- 160 m²/g - DECLARATION

**Net Weight**
- 25 lbs (11.33 kg)

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International Biochar Initiative
Good Grow Biochar Company  
123 County Route 1  
Centerville, Any State, USA

Please see attached MSDS documentation for appropriate shipping, handling, and storage procedures.

Other labeling requirements may be imposed by international, national, federal, provincial, state, or local laws and regulations. As needed, biochar producers should review applicable laws and regulations, confer with regulators, and consult with a qualified attorney.