



Product Description

Adhesive tapes are used for binding or insulating objects, and include pressure-sensitive adhesive (PSA) tapes, such as transparent tape, packing tape, electrical tape, and masking tape.

Mission

The mission of The Sustainability Consortium (TSC) is to improve the sustainability of products when they are made, purchased, and used, with a focus on manufacturers and the retail buyers who decide what products to carry in stores. The information in this document is drawn from our detailed research on known and potential social and environmental impacts across product life cycles. TSC acknowledges that other issues exist, but we have included here those that are most relevant to the decision making of retail buying teams and manufacturers. The topics are listed alphabetically for ease of reading; the order does not represent prioritization or other criteria.

Sustainability Insights



Managing the Supply Chain

Workers

Workers may be exposed to dust, noise, harmful chemicals, or other industrial hazards. To help ensure worker health and safety and labor rights, manufacturers should have a documented health and safety management plan, including a chemical management plan where needed, and provide safety training and personal protective equipment to workers. Manufacturers should procure materials from suppliers that address worker health and safety and labor rights transparently and should perform audits when needed.



Use of Resources

Climate and Energy

Manufacturing of synthetic resins, plastic films, and pulp products used in adhesive tapes consumes significant amounts of electricity and energy, leading to greenhouse gas emissions. Manufacturers should procure from suppliers that help abate these impacts by measuring, tracking, and reporting energy use and greenhouse gas emissions, with a focus on reduction. They should also perform preventative maintenance on equipment, replace inefficient equipment, use renewable energy sources, and encourage efficient energy behaviors throughout their operations.

Disposal and End-of-Life

Sticky residues and tape left behind by adhesives on recyclable materials can hinder recycling, and burning of tapes and their adhesives can release air pollutants that are harmful to humans and the environment. Manufacturers should use tapes and adhesive materials in their products that are compatible with end-of-life treatment.

Packaging

Packaging design should be optimized to ensure that packaging performs its essential functions of containment and protection while minimizing use of materials, energy resources, and environmental impacts across the life cycle of the packaged product. Under-packaging and over-packaging can both lead to increased impacts. These impacts may be mitigated by using more energy-efficient manufacturing, creating packaging materials from renewable resources, designing packaging to be recyclable, and encouraging consumer recycling.

Pollution

Various operations used in manufacturing some plastic and pulp or paper tape products can release compounds into the environment that can pollute the water and air. Manufacturers should implement best available practices and technologies to abate these emissions and consider substitute materials when appropriate.