



# 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](http://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](mailto:certification@biochar-international.org).

The *IBI Certified™ biochar seal* for biochar is presented in **Figure 1** below in both color and black-and-white:



Figure 1. Color and black-and-white images of the *IBI Certified™ biochar seal*.

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.

**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 seal* 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.**

<b>GOOD GROW IBI CERTIFIED™ BIOCHAR</b>	
BIOCHAR COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	United States
FEEDSTOCK COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	United States
FEEDSTOCK TYPE	Processed Feedstock
FEEDSTOCK COMPOSITION DECLARATION	poultry manure - 83%, wood chip bedding - 17%
<b>BASIC UTILITY PROPERTIES – CATEGORY A</b>	
Moisture (at time of analysis)	20% - DECLARATION
Organic Carbon (C <sub>org</sub> )	42% - CLASS 2 BIOCHAR
H:C <sub>org</sub>	0.6 - PASS
Total Ash	40% - DECLARATION
Total N	5.4% - DECLARATION
pH	7.5 - DECLARATION
Electrical Conductivity	7.3 dS/m - DECLARATION

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Liming	23% CaCO <sub>3</sub>
Particle Size Distribution	0.3% < 0.5mm;
	9.8% 0.5 – 1 mm;
	80.7% 1 – 2 mm;
	9.2% 2 – 4 mm
<b>TOXICANT ASSESSMENT – CATEGORY B</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
<b>ADVANCED ANALYSIS AND SOIL ENHANCEMENT PROPERTIES – CATEGORY C</b>	
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 m <sup>2</sup> /g- DECLARATION
External Surface Area	160 m <sup>2</sup> /g- DECLARATION
<b>Net Weight – 25 lbs (11.33kg)</b>	

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Good Grow Biochar Company
123 County Route 1
Centerville, Any State, USA
<b>Please see attached MSDS documentation for appropriate shipping, handling, and storage procedures.</b>

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.