



# ZERO WASTE CERTIFICATION

## What is SCS Zero Waste Certification?

Companies around the world are implementing environmental and economic practices to improve operations, increase revenue, and lower their environmental impact. They are then turning to sustainability certifications such as Zero Waste to communicate these beneficial changes, build upon their environmental, social and governance (ESG) brand equity and improve their corporate responsibility profiles. Certification can be used to communicate an organization's journey towards eliminating landfill-bound waste generation at its facilities. To help companies communicate how they reduce, recycle and re-use their waste, the SCS Zero Waste Standard provides 3rd-party assurance for waste diversion at the facility level. The annual assessment captures the amount of waste diverted from landfill as a percentage of total waste generated.



## What makes the SCS Zero Waste Certification different?

Based on the SCS Zero Waste Certification Standard, SCS' Zero Waste Certification harmonizes business practicality and certification integrity. The facility-by-facility certification allows for on-site sampling, which reduces the cost of certification while maintaining the rigor of the facility-level certification through document review. The actual diversion percentage achieved at each facility over a twelve-month period is certified and the claim is reflected on the certificate. Facilities achieving 99% diversion are certified as "Zero Waste".

A key differentiator of the SCS Zero Waste Certification is that a facility can be recognized under the standard by demonstrating diversion of 50% waste or more, even without achieving 99% diversion. This common-sense approach allows the business to demonstrate progress on their waste diversion goals.

This certification also allows for a diversion of hazardous waste to count towards overall diversion, as well as allowing for the use of waste-to-energy as a diversion method for more than 25% of total diversion, on a case-by-case basis.



## Steps to Certification

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### Application Process and Onboarding

SCS scopes the company to check that facilities meet the minimum requirements for participation in the standard. If yes, then a work order is sent. Once signed, next steps are discussed, and audit dates are set.

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### Document Review Audit

Includes review of management program documents, diversion plan, waste diversion calculator, traceability documents (supporting evidence such as invoices, bills of lading, affidavits), and training plan.

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### Verification Audit

Includes interviews with management, workers, check of waste management infrastructure.

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### Report Issuance and Corrective Action

Findings are disclosed to the company. Auditor submits report to SCS for technical review. Company submits action plan and evidence to close non-conformities.

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### Certification

Once non-conformities are closed and technical review is complete, SCS will issue a certificate thereby certifying the diversion percentage achievement of the facility. The exact waste diversion claim will be reflected on the certificate.

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### Annual Verification Audit

A recertification audit is later planned to cover the next 12-month period.

For more information contact:

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