

# The Blue Angel for resilient floor coverings (DE-UZ 120)



Information for manufacturers and retailers

[www.blauer-engel.de/en/uz120](http://www.blauer-engel.de/en/uz120)

- low emissions
- low pollutant content
- no adverse impact on health in the living environment

## Reliable orientation for sustainable purchasing

The Blue Angel – the environmental label of the German federal government – has set stringent standards for environmentally friendly, healthy and durable products and services in an independent and credible way since 1978. The Blue Angel is Germany's most well-known environmental label. You can thus benefit from the clear competitive advantages and added level of trust that this environmental label enjoys in the economy and amongst consumers. The label's credibility and competence, its objective criteria, its institutionalised award process and its governmental links increase your corporate and brand value.

## The advantage of the Blue Angel

The Blue Angel allows you as a company to present your environmental management practices and product responsibility in a credible way and set yourself apart from your competitors. Furthermore, you can use the Blue Angel for resilient floor coverings to demonstrate to customers that you

- have pollutant and tests carried out in independent laboratories,
- use materials and substances that are less harmful to the environment.



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## Unbeatable product variety

Different substances can be used as materials for resilient floor coverings. Specifically, these award criteria apply to:

- Plastic floor coverings
  - Floor coverings made of natural and synthetic rubber
  - Linoleum floor coverings (unless the product falls within the scope of DE-UZ 176 "Low-Emission Floor Coverings, Panels and Doors for Interiors made of Wood and Wood-Based Materials")
  - Cork floor coverings (unless the product falls within the scope of DE-UZ 176)
  - Skirting boards made of plastic
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## Environmentally conscious living through healthy indoor climate

Healthy living is a trend and the Blue Angel has a clear focus when assessing the health effects of products used in indoor spaces in particular. Resilient floor coverings may have significant environmental impact during the entire life cycle of the product. That is why the requirements awarding the Blue Angel environmental label refer to the substances and materials used during the manufacturing process, the period of use and the disposal of used floor coverings as well as to the transportation packaging for new floor coverings. Besides, floor coverings usually cover large indoor surfaces and that is why the lowest-possible emissions from these products are of great value to the user. Here, the Blue Angel environmental label is an excellent guide to low-emission products. Blue Angel-labelled resilient floor coverings, such as, for example, rubber or cork floorings, emit very few pollutants to the indoor air of children's rooms, bedrooms and other rooms and, thus, do not affect the health of the inhabitants. Also, a professional installation of the flooring and the use of further low-emission products for the entire flooring structure (e.g. Low-Emission Floor Covering Adhesives and other Installation Materials according to DE-UZ 113, Low-Emission Sealants for Interior Use according to DE-UZ 123) play an important role in environmental and health protection.

### Criteria: What does the Blue Angel for resilient floor coverings take into consideration?

- Materials and substances that have low environmental impacts
- Strict limits for emissions
- Strict regulations for recycle materials
- Exclusion of hazardous materials such as carcinogenic substances or substances with long-lasting negative effects on water
- Avoidance of substances that are harmful to health and environment e.g. via
  - » Strict regulation of flame retardants
  - » Exclusion of PVC
  - » Exclusion of carcinogenic N-nitrosamines in rubber-based floor coverings
  - » Strict regulation of plasticizers (phthalates)
- Observance of statutory safety requirements
- High level of usability
- Environmentally-friendly sales packaging

### Compliance verification

Compliance with all requirements must be verified in accordance with the Basic Award Criteria – e.g. in the form of test reports, approved certificates or legally binding manufacturer declarations.

#### Application, use of the environmental label and costs

RAL gGmbH is responsible for handling the applications and concluding the contracts (E-mail: [umweltzeichen@ral.de](mailto:umweltzeichen@ral.de), phone: +49 228 68895-190). Use of the environmental label is limited to the period of validity of the Basic Award Criteria. The current Basic Award Criteria are valid until 31/12/2025. RAL gGmbH – the awarding body for the environmental label – will charge a one-off handling fee of 600 Euro for the application. The annual fee is based on the annual sales of the certified product. If the sales figures are, for example, between 1 and 2.5 million Euro, the annual fee will be 1,500 Euro. Further information is available at <https://www.blauer-engel.de/contribution-scheme>.

More Information: [www.blauer-engel.de/en](http://www.blauer-engel.de/en)

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