

# The Blue Angel for shampoos, shower gels, soaps and other so-called “rinse off” cosmetic products (DE-UZ 203)



[www.blauer-engel.de/en/uz203](http://www.blauer-engel.de/en/uz203)

- low impact on bodies of water
- requirements for renewable raw material
- limits on packaging waste



## Reliable orientation for sustainable purchasing

The Blue Angel - the German government's environmental label - has been setting independent and credible standards for environmentally friendly, healthy and durable products and services since 1978. The Blue Angel is Germany's best-known environmental label. This gives you a clear competitive advantage and the trust bonus that the ecolabel enjoys in the public sector, the economy and among consumers. Its credibility and competence, its objective criteria, its independent awarding and its state anchoring increase your company and brand value.

## The benefits of the Blue Angel

As a company, you can use the Blue Angel to credibly demonstrate your environmental commitment and set yourself apart from the competition. With the Blue Angel for shampoos, shower gels, soaps and other so-called “rinse off” cosmetic products you can also show consumers that you:

- reduce the pollution of waste water and bodies of water by e.g. largely avoiding the use of not readily biodegradable ingredients and reducing the toxicity of the product to water organisms to a minimum,
- use renewable raw materials in surfactants that have been cultivated under sustainable conditions or which support sustainable cultivation,
- reduce packaging and thus waste to a minimum and simplify the recycling of the packaging.

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## Environmental-friendly cosmetic products

Around 790,000 tonnes of cosmetic products are produced every year in Germany. They can contain substances that are not readily biodegradable, are damaging to water organisms or accumulate in the environment or organisms. These substances can find their way into bodies of water via the waste water system. The Blue Angel helps to avoid the use of these environmentally damaging substances as far as possible and ensure that the products have the least possible impact on the environment and human health during their use and disposal. To ensure that the quality of the products does not suffer as a result, the Blue Angel also requires that the product's fitness for use is verified by an independent test.

## Criteria: What does the Blue Angel look for in cosmetic products?

- Use of renewable raw materials.
  - Surfactants must be primarily produced from renewable raw materials, meaning that the proportion of renewable carbon in the total carbon in the surfactant system must be 70%.
  - If raw materials produced from palm oil (kernel) are used, the sustainable cultivation of the oil plants on certified plantations must be verified.
- Requirements for the biodegradability of the ingredients.
  - Surfactants must be readily biodegradable under both aerobic conditions and anaerobic conditions.
  - There are special requirements for the biodegradability of synthetic polymers.
  - Only a limited amount of aerobically not readily biodegradable substances may be used.
- Limiting toxicity to aquatic organisms.
- Avoidance of substances that are damaging to health and the environment e.g. via:
  - Exclusion of hazardous substances above and beyond current legal requirements.
  - Strict requirements for preservatives, colouring agents and fragrances.
  - Exclusion of microplastics.
- Requirements for the packaging:
  - Limiting the weight of the packaging based on the amount of product.
  - Requirements for good recyclability.
  - The design should enable economical dosing and complete emptying of the packaging.

## Scope

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.

### Use of the label

The period of use of the label is limited to the duration of the award criteria. The exact period can be found in the current award criteria.

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### Application

The application and conclusion of contract takes place at RAL gGmbH  
E-Mail: [umweltzeichen@ral.de](mailto:umweltzeichen@ral.de)  
Tel.: +49 228 68895-190

### Costs

RAL gGmbH charges a one-off processing fee of 600 euros for the application. The annual fee is based on the annual turnover of the certified product. For example, if the turnover is between 1 and 2.5 million euros, the annual fee is 1,500 euros. Further information is available at [www.blauer-engel.de/en/costs](http://www.blauer-engel.de/en/costs).



Federal Ministry  
for the Environment, Climate Action,  
Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety

