

# The Blue Angel for Underwater coatings and other anti-fouling systems (DE-UZ 221)



[www.blauer-engel.de/en/uz221](http://www.blauer-engel.de/en/uz221)

- low level of harmful materials
- effective anti-fouling protection
- water friendly



## 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 reusable systems for environmentally friendly underwater coatings and other anti-fouling systems you can also show consumers that you:

- actively contribute to reducing the release of hazardous substances into the aquatic environment,
- take ship fuel efficiency and reduced fuel consumption into account,
- adhere to high environmental standards throughout the manufacturing process,
- demonstrate a strong commitment to the sustainable protection of aquatic ecosystems.

## Environmental-friendly underwater coatings and other antifouling systems

Antifouling coatings prevent aquatic organisms from attaching to ship hulls. In doing so, they help limit the spread of non-native species, maintain vessel performance, and optimize energy consumption. However, as these coatings typically contain biocides, they can lead to a significant release of harmful substances into the aquatic environment. For this reason, the Blue Angel ecolabel for underwater coatings and other anti-fouling systems not only considers the materials used in production, but also places strong emphasis on environmentally responsible performance during the use phase. By promoting non-biocidal alternatives, environmental risks are reduced while ensuring comparable effectiveness and ecological compatibility.

# Criteria: What does the Blue Angel look for in underwater coatings and other antifouling systems ?

- Avoidance of substances hazardous to human health and the environment, for example through:
  - excluding the use of biocides in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 528/2012, with the use of in-can preservatives (PT 6) being strictly regulated.
  - restricting the use of volatile organic compounds (VOCs).
  - prohibiting the use of pigments or siccatives containing lead compounds; alkylphenol ethoxylates (APEOs); plasticising substances from the group of phthalates or organophosphates; oximes; per- and polyfluorinated chemicals (PFAS); polyvinyl chloride (PVC); organotin compounds; epoxy resins; or nanomaterials.
  - avoiding eroding or self-polishing coatings in order to prevent the intentional release of plastic particles such as microplastics.
  - applying strict requirements to the use of silicone oils.
  - using copper and zinc oxide only in exceptional cases and at low concentrations.
- assessing the ecotoxicological properties of the final product.
- providing product-type-specific evidence of effectiveness.

## Scope

Compliance with all requirements must be proven in accordance with the award criteria - for example by means of test reports, recognized certificates or legally binding manufacturer declarations.

## The Blue Angel goes hand in hand with the requirements

- current environmental policy standards,
- compliance with the legal provisions of European and German chemicals legislation,
- in particular Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 (REACH, Annexes XIV and XVII), Regulation (EU) 2019/1021 on persistent organic pollutants (POP Regulation, Annex I), and Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 (CLP Regulation),

and sets standards for ecologically sustainable underwater coatings and other anti-fouling systems.

### 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.

[www.blauer-engel.de/en/uz221](http://www.blauer-engel.de/en/uz221)



### 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

