

# The Blue Angel for reusable systems for outdoor “to-go” sales of food and beverages (DE-UZ 210)



[www.blauer-engel.de/en/uz210](https://www.blauer-engel.de/en/uz210)

- reduces waste
- reusable
- recyclable



## 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 outdoor “to-go” sales of food and beverages you can also show consumers that you:

- make a significant contribution to conserving valuable resources, especially wood and plastic, as well as water and energy,
- reduce the amount of waste in communes and reduce littering in the environment,
- offer a more environmental-friendly alternative to disposable packaging - also for events.

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## Environmental-friendly reusable systems for outdoor “to-go” sales of food and beverages

In 2022, almost 14 billion meals and drinks were sold in packaging in the food service industry in Germany. Less than one percent of this packaging was reusable. At the turn of the year 2022/2023, Germany introduced an obligation to offer reusable packaging for takeaway food and drinks in the German Packaging Act (Verpackungsgesetz). Although a survey conducted in 2023 indicated that three quarters of those questioned had heard of this obligation to offer reusable packaging for takeaway food and drinks, the takeaway and to-go sector is only switching over to reusable packaging very slowly: Reusable packaging accounted for just 1.6 percent of the market at the beginning of 2024. In addition to the consumption of resources and the associated environmental impact, the high volume of waste generates additional burdens for municipal waste management companies. Another problem is the pollution caused by the careless littering of roads, parks or the countryside with disposable crockery and other waste. An alternative to this are reusable systems, i.e. services that provide reusable sales packaging and its components from a pool on loan to food and beverage vendors, offer reusable lids and organize the delivery and return of used or damaged containers.

## Criteria: What does the Blue Angel look for in reusable systems for outdoor “to-go” sales of food and beverages?

- Containers must have a service life of at least 500 wash cycles, lids a service life of at least 100 wash cycles.
- Determination of the circulation number.
- The reusable packaging system provider obliges the food and beverage vendors to only hand out reusable sales packaging to customers in exchange for an appropriate deposit (at least 1 Euro).
- A logistics concept that includes information on transport, returns, washing facilities and logistics optimization strategies for the next 5 years.
- Reusable sales packaging must be taken back by the system provider at the end of its life and sent for highquality mechanical recycling.
- For events lasting several days, containers and, if applicable, lids must be cleaned within a maximum radius of 100 km and used several times at the event.

## 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

- of Regulation (EG) No. 1935/2004 on materials and articles intended to come into contact with food,
- of DIN EN ISO/IEC 17025,

and sets standards for ecologically sustainable reusable systems for outdoor “to-go” sales of food and beverages.

### 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

