

The Blue Angel for low-emission interior wall paints (DE-UZ 102)



Information for manufacturers and the retail trade

www.blauer-engel.de/en/uz102

- low emissions
- low level of harmful materials

Reliable guidance 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 advantages offered by 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 interior wall paints to demonstrate to customers that you

- use raw materials and substances that place less burden on the environment during the production process,
- produce preservative-free interior wall paints, which prevents allergic reactions in presensitised people,
- provide information for the protection of consumers on the container and the technical data sheet.



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Environmentally friendly wall paints

The Blue Angel for Low-Emission Interior Wall Paints certifies emulsion paints, silicate emulsion paints and primers for wall paints that are intended for use as interior wall and ceiling paints. You will find detailed information on the products that are covered by the scope of this label in the Basic Award Criteria for UZ 102.

Preservative-free and low in pollutants and emissions

Wall paints are used to cover large surfaces indoors. Therefore, it is important that these products have low emissions and are also not harmful to human health in other ways. The Environmental Label Jury established new criteria for interior wall paints at its meeting in December 2018. The most important new requirement is that interior wall paints with the Blue Angel are no longer permitted to use preservatives containing biocidal substances. Above all, this serves to protect people who are allergic to preservatives. Paint manufacturers must provide analytical verification of compliance with this requirement.

Criteria: What does the Blue Angel for interior wall paints take into consideration?

- Exclusion of hazardous materials such as carcinogenic substances or substances with long-lasting negative effects on water
- The interior wall paints may not contain preservatives with biocidal ingredients
- Avoidance of substances that are damaging to health and the environment e.g. via
 - » Stringent limits on heavy metals
 - » Excluding alkylphenol ethoxylates (APEO), as well as perfluorinated and polyfluorinated chemicals (PFC)
 - » Strict regulation of softening agents (phthalates and organophosphates)
 - » Strict limits on isothiazolinones and formaldehyde
- Demanding limits on volatile organic compounds (VOC) and semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOC)
- The provision of information for the protection of consumers and the environment on the container and the technical data sheet

Compliance verifications

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, 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 31/12/2027. 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

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