

# The Blue Angel for disposable diapers (DE-UZ 208)



Information for manufacturers and retailers

[www.blauer-engel.de/en/uz208](http://www.blauer-engel.de/en/uz208)

- tested for harmful substances
- free from cosmetic additives
- pulp from sustainable forestry

## 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 disposable diapers to demonstrate to customers that you

- Avoid harmful or unhealthy substances
- Only use pulp from sustainably certified sources and from factories that have particularly energy-efficient and low-emission manufacturing technologies
- Avoid cosmetic additives (e.g. odour binders, lotions and fragrances)



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## Scope

The award criteria include disposable diapers designed for use in infants, children, adolescents or adults. Examples include panty nappies, diaper briefs, swimming nappies and pants.

## Environmentally friendly diapers

In Germany about ten million diapers are used and thrown away every day. This high number goes hand in hand with high raw material and energy consumption for production and causes 154,680 tons of waste annually. The products labelled with the Blue Angel environmental label meet these challenges by exclusively allowing sustainably produced wood as a raw material for cellulose. In addition, strict requirements are placed on energy-efficient and low-emission pulp production.

For the user, wearing disposable diapers means daily direct skin contact with the products, so that even the smallest amounts of harmful chemicals can have negative effects. For this reason, the Blue Angel imposes strict requirements for all materials permitted in certified products, as well as a detailed exclusion list of harmful and unhealthy substances. Compliance with these requirements must be proven by extensive chemical tests on the end product.

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## What does the Blue Angel pay attention to with disposable diapers?

- 100% of the wood used for pulp production comes from sustainable forestry
- strict limit values for process parameters in pulp production
  - » waste water emissions and exhaust air
  - » energy and bleach consumption
- extensive exclusion of hazardous substances, such as
  - » carcinogenic substances, halogen-containing polymers, heavy metals, acrylamide and natural latex in the plastics used
  - » optical brighteners
  - » additives such as lotions, mineral oil components, fragrances, odour binders, which can potentially trigger allergies
- avoidance of substances harmful to health and the environment, e.g. through
  - » strict regulation of residual monomers, water-soluble extracts, polyurethane and elastane, polyamides and silicones in the plastics used
  - » strict regulation of adhesives
  - » minimization of dyeing and printing
- high usability and quality
- high demands on the sales packaging

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## Verification

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

### Application, label use and costs

RAL gGmbH is responsible for handling the applications and concluding the contracts (contact: Henrike Buttner, E-mail: [henrike.buttner@ral.de](mailto:henrike.buttner@ral.de) phone: 0228 - 688 95-154). 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 31/12/2021. RAL gGmbH – the awarding body for the environmental label – will charge a one-off handling fee of 400 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 1,300 Euro. Further information is available at <https://www.blauer-engel.de/contribution-scheme>.

Status: September 2019

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

