

The Blue Angel for textiles (DE-UZ 154)

Information for manufacturers and retailers



www.blauer-engel.de/en/uz154

- environmentally friendly production
- low level of harmful materials
- durable

Reliable orientation 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 public sector, 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 advantage of 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 textiles to demonstrate to customers that you:

- observe high environmental standards in the manufacturing process,
- improve occupational safety and social conditions in manufacturing,
- avoid harmful chemicals in the end product,
- ensure proven serviceability and fitness for use, and
- use residual materials and recyclates.

Unbeatable variety of materials:

- Natural fibres (Cotton, flax, hemp, linen, jute, kapok, nettle, ramie, wool, alpaca, cashmere and silk, as well as natural fibres from residues from food and agricultural production)
- Synthetic fibres (polyacrylic, elastane, elastolefin, polyamide, polyester, polylactide and polypropylene)
- Regenerated cellulose fibres (lyocell and viscose)
- Recycled fibres from various textile or non-textile wastes

Unbeatable product variety:

The following products made from at least 90 weight percent textile fibres can be certified with the Blue Angel:

- Textile clothing and textile accessories
- House and home textiles
- Functional clothing
- Bed linen
- Bedding (e.g. pillows and duvets)
- Cleaning textiles: woven or non-woven textiles
- Fibres, yarn, woven fabrics, knitted or crocheted fabrics and nonwovens (including textile composites)

Handbags, bicycle bags, backpacks and school bags can already be certified with at least 70 percent textile fibres by weight.



© Vaide Seskauskiene / shutterstock

Ecological and fair - right from the start

The Blue Angel criteria for textiles consider the entire manufacturing process and reflect all processes relevant to the environment and health. At its core the Blue Angel is an ecolabel, but consumers are also increasingly scrutinising working conditions in production. Therefore, in addition to the classical environmental requirements social aspects for textile production are taken into account.

Criteria: What does the Blue Angel for textiles take into consideration?

- Use of natural fibres from controlled biological cultivation or biological animal husbandry
- Use of tested synthetic and regenerated fibres, including recycled fibres
- Avoidance of substances that are harmful to health and environment e.g. via
 - » Strict requirements for the degradability of textile auxiliaries
 - » Strict regulation of flame retardants
 - » Exclusion of perfluorinated and polyfluorinated chemicals (PFCs)
 - » Strict regulation of biocides
 - » Strict regulation of softening agents (phthalates)
 - » Strict limits for heavy metals
- Reduction of wastewater emissions, as well as emissions to air
- Requirements for energy and water consumption
- Proven serviceability and fitness for use
- Occupational safety and social conditions in manufacturing

Compliance verification

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.

The Blue Angel goes hand in hand with the requirements of ...

- the Partnership for Sustainable Textiles
 - the ZDHC-MRSL – Zero Discharge of Hazardous Chemicals – Manufacturing Restricted Substances List
 - the BVT (Best Available Techniques) of the Textile Industry
- and sets standards for future eco-design requirements.

Application, label use and costs

RAL gGmbH is responsible for handling the applications and concluding the contracts (E-mail: umweltzeichen@ral.de, Service hotline: +49 (0)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 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>.

Further information www.blauer-engel.de/en

January 2023