

The Blue Angel for low-emission upholstered furniture (DE-UZ 117)



Information for manufacturers and retailers

www.blauer-engel.de/en/uz117

- low emissions
- low pollutant content

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 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 low-emission upholstered furniture to demonstrate to customers that you

- carried out emission- and odour tests in independent laboratories,
- manufactured using materials that place less burden on the environment,
- manufactured in an environmentally friendly manner – this especially applies to leather, textiles and upholstery materials.



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Armchair, sofa or rather an office chair?

These Basic Award Criteria apply to ready-to-use upholstered furniture for use indoors according to DIN 68880 that are not primarily – more than 50% by volume – made from wood and/or wood-based materials (chipboards, coreboards, fibreboards, veneer-faced panels, whether uncoated or coated) and would thus come under the scope of the environmental label DE-UZ 38 “Low-emission products made of wood and wood-based materials”. These Basic Award Criteria also apply to upholstered furniture that can sometimes be used for sleeping. Upholstered furniture (bed mattresses) that are primarily designed for sleeping come under the scope of the environmental label DE-UZ 119.

Low-pollutant and environmentally friendly sitting

A living room without upholstery – unthinkable. Some upholstered furniture can be significant sources of pollutants in indoor environments because of their large surfaces and their long service life. Pollutants that may adversely affect the environment and human health usually come from upholstery materials, cover fabrics, or the leather. The Blue Angel for low-emission upholstery indicates that – starting from its production through its entire service life to its recycling and disposal – the piece of furniture causes less impact on environment and health than comparable products without the Blue Angel environmental label.

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

- Materials and substances that have low environmental and health impacts
- Strict regulations of the origin of timber
- Strict limits for emissions
- Examination of the odour properties
- Exclusion of hazardous materials such as carcinogenic substances
- Avoidance of substances that are harmful to health and environment e.g. via
 - » Strict regulation of flame retardants, preservatives, dyes, pigments, extractable heavy metals
 - » Exclusion of chlorparaffins/chloralkanes, perfluorinated and polyfluorinated chemicals (PFC), alkylphenol ethoxylates and alkylphenols (APEO), organotin compounds, nanomaterials
 - » Exclusion of hexavalent chromium in leather
 - » Strict thresholds for biocides in cover fabrics made of vegetable natural fibres, wool and other animal fibres
 - » Strict thresholds for dimethylformamide in artificial leather
 - » Strict thresholds for permethrin in cover fabrics made of wool and other animal fibres
 - » Strict thresholds for chlorophenols, butadienes, nitrosamines and carbon disulphid in latex foam
 - » Exclusion of the use of halogenated organic compounds
 - » Strict regulations of plasticizers (phthalates and organophosphates)
- Availability of spare parts

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.

Application, label use and costs

RAL gGmbH is responsible for handling the applications and concluding the contracts (contact: Nicole Markiton, E-mail: nicole.markiton@ral.de, Tel.: 0228 - 688 95-151). 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 31/12/2022. 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>.

More Information: www.blauer-engel.de/en

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