

The Blue Angel for low-emission textile floor coverings (DE-UZ 128)



Information for manufacturers and retailers

www.blauer-engel.de/en/uz128

- low emissions and odours
- low pollutant content
- no adverse impact on health in the living environment

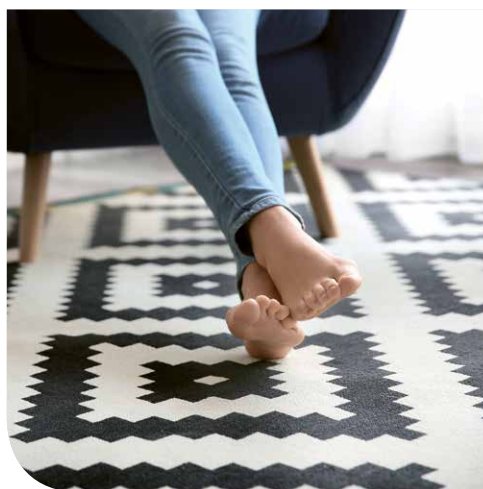
Reliable orientation for sustainable purchasing

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 textile floorings to demonstrate to customers that you

- have pollutant and odour tests carried out in independent laboratories,
- use materials and substances that are less harmful to the environment,
- comply with socially acceptable production conditions.



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The healthier alternative

These Basic Award Criteria apply to textile floor coverings according to DIN ISO 2424.

Environmentally conscious living through healthy indoor climate

Healthy living is a growing trend and the Blue Angel sets a clear focus when assessing the health effects of products for indoor use. Textile floor coverings may cause environmental impacts throughout their entire life-cycles. That is why the requirements for award of the Blue Angel eco-label refer not only to the materials and substances used during manufacture but also to the period of actual use and the disposal of the products. Because of their large surface area, floor coverings have a particularly high potential for affecting the indoor air quality. By awarding the environmental label to textile floor coverings – in addition to resilient floor coverings – the Blue Angel draws the consumer's attention to a health-compliant alternative in this product sector. Here, the Blue Angel is an excellent guide to low-emission products.

Since it is not only substance emissions but also odour emissions that may cause health impacts the sensory test is an important element in evaluating the different products for indoor use. Also, a professional installation of the flooring and the use of further low-emission products for the entire flooring structure (e.g. Low-Emission Floor Covering Adhesives and other Installation Materials according to DE-UZ 113) play an important role in environmental and health protection.

Criteria: What does the Blue Angel for textile floor coverings take into consideration?

- Strict limits for emissions
- Strict 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 and preservatives
 - » Exclusion the use of plasticizers (phthalates) and alkylphenol ethoxylates
 - » Strict regulation of dyes and pigments
 - » Strict regulation of pesticides in natural fibres
- Exclusion the use of microbistatic, microbicidal or fungicidal finish
- Strict regulation of moth and beetle proofing by wool and other animal fibres
- Exclusion of halogenated organic compounds
- High level of usability
- Socially acceptable production conditions for hand-made carpets

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 31/12/2020. 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>.

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

