

The Blue Angel for low-emission flooring underlays (DE-UZ 156)



Information for manufacturers and retailers

www.blauer-engel.de/en/uz156

- 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 flooring underlays 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.



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The hidden helper for your living environment

Flooring underlays are products installed under laminate, parquet or carpet floorings. Their purpose is to absorb the impact sound, even out uneven subsurfaces and, by the way, combat cold feet. The Blue Angel certifies low-emission flooring underlays from the following materials (and mixtures thereof):

- wood fibres
 - rubber
 - cork
 - pulp
 - polyethylene
 - polystyrene
 - polyurethane
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Flooring underlays - versatile, tested for pollutants and environmentally friendly

The materials are as different as are the respective environmental requirements for awarding the Blue Angel. That is why the criteria of the environmental label refer not only to the substances and materials used during the manufacturing process, but also to the period of use and the disposal as well as the packaging of underlays. In order to guarantee a health-oriented floor structure, all individual components – from adhesive to cover layer, including sealants – must be low emission.

Criteria: What does the Blue Angel for low emission flooring underlays take into consideration?

- Strict limits for emissions
- Strict examination of the odour properties
- Strict regulations of the origin of timber (for laying underlays made of wood fibres)
- Exclusion of hazardous materials such as carcinogenic substances or substances with long-lasting negative effects on water
- Strict regulations for recycle materials
- Avoidance of substances that are harmful to health and environment e.g. via
 - » Strict regulation of colorants, flame retardants and blowing agents
 - » Exclusion of the use of plasticizers (phthalates and organophosphates)
 - » Exclusion of carcinogenic N-nitrosamines in natural materials, e.g. rubber
 - » Strict regulation for paper underlays, e.g. the requirements for recovered paper, chemical additives, biocides and preservatives
 - » Exclusion of chlorine, halogenated bleaching chemicals and poorly biodegradable complexing agents in paper underlays
- Exclusion of halogenated organic compounds

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>.

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

