

The Blue Angel for low-emission panel-shaped materials (construction and furnishing panels) for interior construction (DE-UZ 76)



Information for manufacturers and the retail trade

www.blauer-engel.de/en/uz76

- low emissions
- wood from sustainable forestry
- no adverse impact on health in the living environment

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 panel-shaped materials to demonstrate to customers that you

- use environmentally-friendly materials, such as waste wood, recycling-material or wood from sustainable forestry,
- use low-emission materials that do not affect indoor air quality,
- minimize environmental and health impacts throughout the entire life cycle of the product.

Environmentally-friendly interior construction with the Blue Angel

The Blue Angel certifies the following composite panels for interior use:

- Chipboards, fibreboards, medium-density fibreboards (MDF)
- Plywood panels
- Solid wood panels
- OSB panels
- Wood-cement panels
- High-pressure decorative laminates (HPL)
- Boards from expanded glass



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Low-emission and environmentally friendly

Panel-shaped materials may cause an environmental impact during their production, use and disposal. Moreover, since composite panels are often installed on large indoor surfaces the lowest possible emissions from these products would be of great benefit to the users for health and environmental reasons.

The Blue Angel eco-label considers the whole life cycle of the panels and promotes the use of environmentally friendly materials from sustainable forestry, waste wood or recycled materials. Substances that are harmful to the environment or health may not be used. In addition, the life cycle assessment of the product must be carried out and published. Compliance with strict emission limits is verified through recognized methods by independent testing laboratories.

Criteria: What does the Blue Angel look at when it comes to composite panels?

- Use of at least 70 percent by weight wood from sustainable forestry or waste wood
- Exclusion of hazardous substances, e.g. carcinogenic compounds
- Availability and publication of a life-cycle assessment
- Strict requirements on emissions into indoor air
- Avoidance of substances, that prevent the environmentally friendly disposal
 - » Exclusion of halogenated organic substances
 - » Strict regulation of flame retardants and biocides

Compliance verifications

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, use of the environmental label and costs

RAL gGmbH is responsible for handling the applications and concluding the contracts (contact: Dr. Susanne de Boor, E-mail: susanne.deboor@ral.de, Tel.: 0228 - 688 95-150). 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

