

# **BLUE ANGEL**

**The German Ecolabel**



## **Returnable Bottles and Glasses**

**DE-UZ 2**

**Basic Award Criteria**

**Edition January 2011**

**Version 5**

## The Environmental Label is supported by the following four institutions:



The Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety is the owner of the label. It regularly provides information on the decisions taken by the Environmental Label Jury.



The German Environmental Agency with its specialist department for "Ecodesign, Eco-Labeling and Environmentally friendly Procurement" acts as office of the Environmental Label Jury and develops the technical criteria of the Basic Criteria for Award of the Blue Angel.



The Environmental Label Jury is the independent, decision-making body for the Blue Angel and includes representatives from environmental and consumer associations, trade unions, industry, the trade, crafts, local authorities, academia, the media, churches, young people and the German federal states.



The RAL gGmbH is the awarding body for the Environmental Label. It organises the process for developing the relevant award criteria in independent expert hearings – which involve all relevant interest groups.

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**This document is a translation of a German original. In case of dispute, the original document should be taken as authoritative.**

# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Preface

In cooperation with the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, the German Environmental Agency and considering the results of the expert hearings conducted by RAL gGmbH, the Environmental Label Jury has set up these Basic Criteria for the Award of the Environmental Label. RAL gGmbH has been tasked with awarding the Environmental Label.

Upon application to RAL gGmbH and on the basis of a Contract on the Use of the Environmental Label to be concluded with RAL gGmbH, the permission to use the Environmental Label may be granted to all products, provided that they comply with the requirements as specified hereinafter.

The product must comply with all the legal requirements in the country in which it is to be marketed. The applicant shall declare that the product meets this requirement.

## 1.2 Background

Marking with the eco-label will help the consumer more easily distinguish the actual returnable bottle from a beverage packaging with a deposit on it according to the German Packaging Ordinance but which is designed for one-time use only.

Considering the overall environmental burden, returnable bottles usually have advantages against all one-way packaging, especially if transportation can be minimized.

In addition to this, returnable packaging helps further the aim of waste avoidance and sustainable consumption.

By naming the regional producer or the filling station on the product consumers are put in the position of choosing products with short transportation distances. Short transportation distances also mean lower energy consumption as well as lower exhaust emissions and reduced noise nuisance.

## 1.3 Objectives of the Environmental Label

The purpose of this Environmental Label is to promote the use of returnable bottles and returnable glasses.

Therefore, following benefits for the environment and health are stated in the explanatory box:



## 2 Scope

These Basic Criteria apply to;

- a) returnable bottles for all sorts of beverages,
- b) returnable bottles or glasses for foods as listed in Appendix A to the Basic Criteria of DE-UZ 2.

## 3 Requirements

- [1]** The Environmental Label shown on page 1 may be used for the marking of bottles and glasses under para.2
- ♦ the repeated use of which is guaranteed by the fact that bottles and glasses (deposit bottles and deposit glasses) may be returned by the consumer,
  - ♦ which do not have lead-containing bottle caps or seals
- and
- ♦ which do not bear gold-bronze-containing labels.

### **Compliance Verification**

*Upon application, the applicant shall submit a declaration to RAL stating that only those bottles and glasses will be marked with the Environmental Label*

- ♦ *the repeated use of which is guaranteed by fact that bottles and glasses (deposit bottles and deposit glasses) may be returned by the consumer*
  - ♦ *the caps or seals of which do not contain any lead*
- and*
- ♦ *the labels of which do not contain any gold bronze.*

- [2]** Label or tape must clearly indicate the filling station and the postal code in connection with the Environmental Label.

### **Compliance Verification**

*The applicant shall submit the prospective design of label or tape indicating the filling station and postal code.*

- [3]** It is recommended to observe the following ecological rules for optimization of the use of returnable bottles (and glasses):
- ♦ Reduction of the amount of glue on labels and neck tapes,
  - ♦ Reduction of the size of labels and neck tapes in proportion to the total container surface,
  - ♦ Use of halogen-free sealing compounds for seals,
  - ♦ Use of heavy-metal-free printing inks and varnishes.

### **Compliance Verification**

*The applicant shall take notice of the recommendations for ecological optimization.*

- [4]** Returnable glasses for foods according to para.2.b) must be reusable independent of the manufacturer, i.e. affiliation with a returnable glass pool required.

### **Compliance Verification**

*The applicant for deposit glasses according to para. 2.b) shall furnish proof of his affiliation with the returnable glass pool.*

## **4 Applicants and Parties Involved**

Bottling companies of products according to Paragraph 2 shall be eligible for application.

Parties involved in the award process are:

- RAL gGmbH to award the Blue Angel Environmental Label,
- the federal state being home to the applicant's production site,
- Umweltbundesamt (German Environmental Agency) which after the signing of the contract receives all data and documents submitted in applications for the Blue Angel in order to be able to further develop the Basic Award Criteria.

## **5 Use of the Environmental Label**

The use of the Environmental Label by the applicant is governed by a contract on the use of the Environmental Label concluded with RAL gGmbH.

Within the scope of such contract, the applicant undertakes to comply with the requirements under Paragraph 3 while using the Environmental Label.

Contracts on the Use of the Environmental Label are concluded to fix the terms for the certification of products under Paragraph 2. Such contracts shall run until December 31, 2024. They shall be extended by periods of one year each, unless terminated in writing by March 31, 2024 or March 31 of the respective year of extension.

After the expiry of the contract, the Environmental Label may neither be used for labelling nor for advertising purposes. This regulation shall not affect products being still in the market.

The applicant (manufacturer) shall be entitled to apply to RAL gGmbH for an extension of the right to use the ecolabel on the product entitled to the label if it is to be marketed under another brand/trade name and/or other marketing organisations.

The Contract on the Use of the Environmental Label shall specify:

- Applicant (bottling company)
- Brand/trade name, type of bottle/glass
- Distributor (label user), i.e. the above-mentioned marketing organisations.

**Appendix A Current list of foods that may be filled into returnable glasses according to para. 2.b):**

- baking agents
- sandwich spreads
- ready meals or semi-ready meals
- gelling agents
- honey
- yoghurt and similar dairy products
- cocoa
- nut cream
- sour cream
- whipping cream
- mustard
- soya sauce
- tofu, tempeh
- seasonings