

BLUE ANGEL

The German Ecolabel



Wet Cleaning Services

DE-UZ 104

Basic Award Criteria

Edition April 2009

Version 4

The Environmental Label is supported by the following four institutions:



Federal Ministry
for the Environment, Nature Conservation
and Nuclear Safety

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

There are, principally, four methods of cleaning in commercial textile care:

- dry cleaning on the basis of the organic solvent perchloroethylene (PER).
- dry cleaning on the basis of organic hydrocarbons
- wet cleaning using water a solvent
- commercial laundry.

Wet cleaning in bathes (pre-cleaning, main-cleaning and rinsing bath) does without the use of organic solvents. Only water may be used as solvent. Within the scope of this Environmental Label service undertakings must comply with these requirements.

1.3 Objectives of the Environmental Label

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



2 Scope

These Basic Criteria apply to wet cleaning services for the treatment of personal textile or leather outerwear and home textiles which use water as only solvent for the cleaning process.

3 Requirements

The Environmental Label shown on page 1 may be used for the marking (distinction) of cleaning service undertakings under para. 2, provided that they fulfill the following requirements.

3.1 Instrumental Requirements for Wet Cleaning Systems

For the best possible protection of the goods undergoing cleaning the following instrumental requirements must be fulfilled:

- The special wet-cleaning washing machine must have a minimum drum volume of 100 litres.
- The wet-cleaning machine must have a programmable control system, a temperature control device as well as a dosing device for the washing agents.
- Dryers used for the wet-cleaning process must be equipped with a temperature-limiting and a time-limiting device as well as with a humidity measurement device.

Compliance Verification

For compliance with requirement 3.1 the applicant shall submit a declaration of the manufacturer of the wet cleaning system.

3.2 Water and Energy Consumption

For normal outerware with easily removable soiling the water consumption of wet cleaning systems must not exceed 12 litres per kg of cleaned goods.

For washing and drying programmes the energy consumption of all-electric wet cleaning systems for heating purposes must not exceed 0.5 kWh of electric current per kg of goods to be cleaned and 0.2 kWh of electric current per kg of goods to be cleaned for driving and auxiliary units.

For washing and drying programmes the energy consumption of steam-heated wet cleaning systems must not exceed 0.7 kg of steam per kg of goods to be cleaned and 0.2 kWh of electric current per kg of goods to be cleaned for driving and auxiliary units.

All other units used for drying purposes shall be named together with the energy consumption data (kWh per kg of cleaned goods).

Compliance Verification

The applicant shall declare compliance with the above requirement 3.2 and present a description of the wet-cleaning process applied. The applicant shall submit technical data sheets describing the process, especially water consumption data (litres of water per kg of cleaned goods) and energy consumption data in relation to the washing temperature, water consumption and the type of the goods to be cleaned. In addition, technical data sheets shall be submitted for all other units used.

3.3 Cleaning Agents

3.3.1 Solvents

Cleaning must be done without the addition of organic solvents to the bathes (pre-cleaning, main cleaning and rinsing bath).

Compliance Verification

The applicant shall declare compliance with the above requirement 3.3.1.

3.3.2 Spotting

Neither substances classified in water-endangering class 3 (WGK 3), nor halogenated organic compounds nor any preparations containing the latter may be used for stain removal during pre-spotting. Hydrocarbon-containing solvents and other halogen-free solvents may only be used on

the basis of a good professional practice of pre-spotting and after-spotting. After-spotting must be done without the use of halogenated organic compounds or preparations containing the latter.

Compliance Verification

The applicant shall declare compliance with the above requirement 3.3.2.

3.3.3 Exclusion of Ingredients

Only those washing and cleaning agents according to Section 2, para. 1, WRMG (Wasch- und Reinigungsmittelgesetz - Washing and Cleaning Agent Act) may be used which do not contain any of the following ingredients:

- Phosphate
- APEO (alkylphenol ethoxylates)
- Optical brighteners
- Nitro-musk compounds
- Phosphonates > 1 weight per cent
- NTA as complexing agent > 1 weight per cent
- Organic compounds containing chlorine except for conservation purposes, colour fixation etc. < 0,1 per cent
- Organic compounds containing fluorine.

Fluorocarbon resins shall be exempted from this general ban.

Compliance Verification

For each washing and cleaning agent the applicant shall present a declaration of the manufacturer of washing and cleaning agents confirming compliance with the requirements under para. 3.3.3. The applicant shall name the types of washing and cleaning agents used together with the respective quantities (g/kg of cleaned textiles), i.e. the applicant shall give the UBA Application Nos. for all washing and cleaning agents used (including impregnating agents) according to Section 2, WRMG.

3.4 Waste Water

The resulting wastewater load which - apart from the washed-out impurities - contains textile cleaning and finishing agents must comply with the requirements of the Indirekteinleitverordnung (German Ordinance on Indirect Charging) or the respective municipal wastewater regulations.

Compliance Verification

The applicant shall declare compliance with the above requirement under para. 3.4.

3.5 Voluntary Commitment

The operator of a wet cleaning system shall undertake to apply wet cleaning processes to all personal textile and leather outerwear and home textiles if they are suitable for wet cleaning, unless the customer explicitly asks for dry cleaning.

Compliance Verification

The applicant shall declare compliance with the above requirement under para. 3.5.

4 Applicants and Parties Involved

Undertakings offering wet cleaning services 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 June 30, 2023.

They shall be extended by periods of one year each, unless terminated in writing by March 31, 2023 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 (service undertaking)
- Brand/trade name, product description
- Distributor (label user), i.e. the above-mentioned marketing organisations.

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