

BLUE ANGEL

The German Ecolabel



**Finished products made from recycled paper
for office and school supplies**

DE-UZ 14b

Basic Award Criteria

Edition January 2018

Version 2

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

The use of recycled paper and cardboard to manufacture recyclable products for office and school supplies contributes to the preservation of resources, especially ecosystems such as forests, and to a reduction in waste, especially when using recovered paper from household and commercial collections for the manufacture of the base paper or cardboard.

The environmental pollution directly associated with the cellulose and pulp production is avoided.

In a comparison of their impact on ecological systems, those paper products made from recovered paper perform significantly better in terms of their use of resources, waste water load and water and energy consumption than paper products made from virgin fibres that use wood as a source of fibrous raw materials – when the products have comparable performance characteristics.

Some products covered by these Basic Award Criteria currently do not yet reliably comply with the requirements for recyclability in accordance with Paragraph 3.8. However, recyclability is very important for the subsequent life cycles of the paper products. The Environmental Label Jury thus expects that the requirement for the recyclability of the products (in accordance with Paragraph 3.8 of these Basic Award Criteria) will be developed further during the term of validity. It plans to change the current optional requirement in Paragraph 3.8 into an obligatory requirement during the next update.

1.3 Objectives of the Environmental Label

Following benefits for the environment and health are stated in the explanatory box:



2 Scope

These Basic Award Criteria apply to finished products from recycled paper (certified according to DE-UZ 14a¹) and recycled cardboard (certified according to DE-UZ 56) that are primarily intended for office and school supplies.

The scope of the Basic Award Criteria thus includes²:

- Exercise books
- Writing pads, flip-chart pads, painting and drawing pads
- Ring binder dividers
- Labels
- Sticky memo notes
- Tinted drawing paper, tinted drawing card
- Presentation cards, index cards
- Notebooks
- Memo cubes
- Unprinted postcards³
- Unprinted envelopes, padded envelopes⁴
- Invoice sheets, form books
- Tokens
- Desk pads
- Colouring books
- Office calendar⁵
- Gift paper

3 Requirements

3.1 Use of fibrous raw materials

The paper used for the products must be certified in accordance with DE-UZ 14a, while cardboard used for the product must be certified in accordance with DE-UZ 56. Accordingly, all of the paper fibres in the product according to Paragraph 2 must have been sourced 100% from recovered paper. In the case of finished products according to Paragraph 2, a tolerance limit of 5% of other materials such as plastic, metal, etc. is permitted, based on the total mass of the product.

Recovered paper is the umbrella term for paper and cardboard that is collected after use or processing. Refer to DIN EN 643⁶ for specifications about the different types of recovered paper.

¹ Previously RAL-UZ 14.

² It is possible for other products to be approved upon application and after consultation between RAL and the UBA.

³ With the exception of the Blue Angel logo and trading information: Order number, guide lines for address, small company logo.

⁴ With the exception of the Blue Angel logo and trading information: Order number, guide lines for address, small company logo.

⁵ Decorative calendars, such as e.g. image, art and photo calendars, fall under the scope of RAL-UZ 195 for printed matter.

⁶ The valid version in each case.

Compliance Verification

The recycled paper or recycled cardboard used for the product, its manufacturer and the relevant contract numbers shall be stated by the applicant in Annex 1. The applicant shall submit a product sample as Annex 2.

3.2 Azo dyes and pigments in colourants

No azo dyes or pigments that can cleave to any of the amines named in 2002/61/EC⁷ or TRGS 614⁸ may be added to the product as colourants.

| Substance | CAS no. |
|--|----------|
| biphenyl-4-ylamine / 4-aminobiphenyl / xenylamine | 92-67-1 |
| benzidine | 92-87-5 |
| 4-chloro-o-toluidine | 95-69-2 |
| 2-naphthylamine | 91-59-8 |
| o-aminoazotoluene / 4-amino-2',3-dimethylazobenzene / 4-o-tolylazo-o-toluidine | 97-56-3 |
| 5-nitro-o-toluidine | 99-55-8 |
| 4-chloroaniline | 106-47-8 |
| 4-methoxy-m-phenylenediamine | 615-05-4 |
| 4,4'-methylenedianiline / 4,4'-diaminodiphenylmethane | 101-77-9 |
| 3,3'-dichlorobenzidine / 3,3'-dichlorobiphenyl-4,4'-ylenediamine | 91-94-1 |
| 3,3'-dimethoxybenzidine / o-dianisidine | 119-90-4 |
| 3,3'-dimethylbenzidine / 4,4'-bi-o-toluidine | 119-93-7 |
| 4,4'-methylenedi-o-toluidine | 838-88-0 |
| 6-methoxy-m-toluidine / p-cresidine | 120-71-8 |
| 4,4'-methylene-bis-(2-chloro-aniline) / 2,2'-dichloro-4,4'-methylene-dianiline | 101-14-4 |
| 4,4'-oxydianiline | 101-80-4 |
| 4,4'-thiodianiline | 139-65-1 |
| o-toluidine | 95-53-4 |
| 2-aminotoluene | 95-53-4 |
| 4-methyl-m-phenylenediamine | 95-80-7 |
| 2,4,5-trimethylaniline | 137-17-7 |
| o-anisidine / 2-methoxyaniline | 90-04-0 |
| 4-amino azobenzene | 60-09-3 |
| 4-Amino-3-fluorophenol* | 399-95-1 |
| 6-Amino-2-ethoxynaphthalene* | - |

* Azo dyes that can break down into this amine are not known. Analytical proof is not required here.

⁷ Directive 2002/61/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 July 2002 amending for the nineteenth time Council Directive 76/769/EEC relating to restrictions on the marketing and use of certain dangerous substances and preparations (azo dyes)

⁸ <https://www.baua.de/DE/Angebote/Rechtstexte-und-Technische-Regeln/Regelwerk/TRGS/TRGS-614.html>

Compliance verification

The applicant shall verify compliance with the requirement by submitting declarations from the suppliers of the chemical additives in accordance with Annex 4. The declarations must be signed by the head of product development at the relevant company or a comparable technical department. In addition, the relevant safety data sheets in accordance with Regulation (EC) No. 1272/2008 (CLP Regulation) must be provided in digital form (not as an email attachment) (Annex 3). The safety data sheets may not be older than 2 years.

3.3 Heavy metals

The following heavy metals must not be added to dyes, toners, printing inks and varnishes as a constituent component (dye, pigment, siccative): lead, cadmium, chromium VI, cobalt, mercury, nickel, and copper compounds with the exception of copper phthalocyanine.

Compliance verification

The applicant shall verify compliance with the requirement by submitting declarations from the suppliers of the chemical additives in accordance with Annex 4. The declarations must be signed by the head of product development at the relevant company or a comparable technical department. In addition, the relevant safety data sheets in accordance with Regulation (EC) No. 1272/2008 (CLP Regulation) must be provided in digital form (not as an email attachment) (Annex 3). The safety data sheets may not be older than 2 years.

3.4 Requirements for dyes, toners, printing inks, surface finishing agents, coating materials and adhesives

The minimisation principle applies to dyes, toners, printing inks, surface finishing agents, coating materials and adhesives. They should only be used in the quantities required to fulfil certain functions. Varnishes may only be used to protect the jackets/cover sheets of exercise books or calendars, drawing books and notebooks⁹.

It is not permitted to add any dyes, toners, printing inks, surface finishing agents, coating materials and adhesives which according to the criteria of Regulation (EC) No. 1272/2008¹⁰ are assigned the following H Phrases named in the table or which meet the criteria for such classification¹¹ or are classified as carcinogenic, mutagenic or reprotoxic in the currently valid version of TRGS 905¹². The requirement relates to the labelling of the substance or mixture and not to the individual substances they contain.

⁹ The use of foils of any type is prohibited.

¹⁰ Regulation (EC) No. 1272/2008 on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures (CLP Regulation).

¹¹ The harmonized classifications and labellings of dangerous substances can be found in Part 3 of Annex VI to Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 (GHS Regulation). Table 3.1 lists classifications and labellings using H Phrases; the GHS Regulation can be found, for example, at: <http://www.reach-info.de/ghs>.

¹² Directive 67/548/EEC on the approximation of laws, regulations and administrative provisions relating to the classification, packaging and labelling of dangerous substances, see: http://www.baua.de/nr_16812/de/Themen-von-A-Z/Gefahrstoffe/TRGS/pdf/TRGS-905.pdf

| EC Regulation 1272/2008 (CLP Regulation) | Wording |
|--|--|
| Toxic substances | |
| H300 | Fatal if swallowed. |
| H301 | Toxic if swallowed. |
| H304 | May be fatal if swallowed and enters airways. |
| H310 | Fatal in contact with skin. |
| H311 | Toxic in contact with skin. |
| H330 | Fatal if inhaled. |
| H331 | Toxic if inhaled. |
| Carcinogenic, mutagenic and reprotoxic substances | |
| H340 | May cause genetic defects. |
| H341 | Suspected of causing genetic defects. |
| H350 | May cause cancer. |
| H350i | May cause cancer if inhaled. |
| H351 ¹³ | Suspected of causing cancer. |
| H360F | May damage fertility. |
| H360D | May damage the unborn child. |
| H360FD | May damage fertility. May damage the unborn child. |
| H360Fd | May damage fertility. Suspected of damaging the unborn child. |
| H360Df | May damage the unborn child. Suspected of damaging fertility. |
| H361f | Suspected of damaging fertility. |
| H361d | Suspected of damaging the unborn child. |
| H361fd | Suspected of damaging fertility. Suspected of damaging the unborn child. |
| Other potential hazards | |
| H362 | May cause harm to breast fed children. |
| H370 | Causes damage to organs. |
| H371 | May cause damage to organs. |
| H372 | Causes damage to organs through prolonged or repeated exposure. |
| H373 | May cause damage to organs through prolonged or repeated exposure. |
| H400 | Very toxic to aquatic life. |
| H410 | Toxic to aquatic organisms. |
| H411 | Toxic to aquatic organisms with long-lasting effects. |
| H412 | Harmful to aquatic organisms with long lasting effects. |
| H413 | May cause long lasting harmful effects to aquatic organisms. |
| EUH059 | Hazardous to the ozone layer. |
| EUH029 | Contact with water liberates toxic gas. |
| EUH031 | Contact with acids liberates toxic gas. |
| EUH032 | Contact with acids liberates very toxic gas. |
| EUH070 | Toxic by eye contact. |

¹³ Except titanium dioxide, because its classification only applies to inhalable powders.

Compliance verification

The applicant shall verify compliance with the requirement by submitting declarations from the suppliers of the chemical additives in accordance with Annex 4. The declarations must be signed by the head of product development at the relevant company or a comparable technical department. In addition, the relevant safety data sheets in accordance with Regulation (EC) No. 1272/2008 (CLP Regulation) must be provided in digital form (not as an email attachment) (Annex 3). The safety data sheets may not be older than 2 years.

3.5 Hydrocarbons in printing inks

In order to avoid unhealthy impurities during the reuse of paper fibres, the following requirements should be fulfilled during the printing of products according to Paragraph 2:

- In the case of aliphatic hydrocarbons, only those substances with a chain length of C10 to C20 may be used. In addition, the following high-molecular compounds without solvent properties may be used if they have a carbon number greater than C30 and the proportion of those with a carbon number of C20 to C30 does not exceed a maximum of 1.5%: microcrystalline waxes, Vaseline, polyolefin waxes, paraffin waxes or Fischer-Tropsch waxes.
- Only those printing inks in which less than 1 % by mass of aromatic hydrocarbons sourced from mineral oil are used as constituent ingredients may be used. In addition, the defined limit values for PAH that are regulated in EU Regulation No. 1272/2013 are valid. This requirement also applies if the paper products are designed using colour or are dyed-through with colour.

Compliance verification

The applicant shall verify compliance with the requirement by submitting declarations from the suppliers of the chemical additives in accordance with Annex 4. The declarations must be signed by the head of product development at the relevant company or a comparable technical department. In addition, the relevant safety data sheets in accordance with Regulation (EC) No. 1272/2008 (CLP Regulation) must be provided in digital form (not as an email attachment) (Annex 3). The safety data sheets may not be older than 2 years.

3.6 Diisobutyl phthalate (DIBP)

No adhesives containing DIBP may be used to manufacture products according to Paragraph 2.

Compliance verification

The applicant shall verify compliance with the requirement by submitting declarations from the suppliers of the chemical additives in accordance with Annex 4. The declarations must be signed by the head of product development at the relevant company or a comparable technical department. In addition, the relevant safety data sheets in accordance with Regulation (EC) No. 1272/2008 (CLP Regulation) must be provided in digital form (not as an email attachment) (Annex 3). The safety data sheets may not be older than 2 years.

3.7 Products for children

Products according to Paragraph 2 that are primarily produced for children must also comply with the requirements in DIN EN 71-3 "Safety of toys".

Compliance verification

The applicant shall declare compliance with the requirements in Annex 1 to the contract.

3.8 Recyclability

The finished products¹⁴ should be deinkable and any adhesive applications on the products should be removable. The product should comply with the recyclability requirements of the European Paper Recycling Council (EPRC).

The applicable test methods are INGEDE Methods 11¹⁵ and 12¹⁶ for evaluating the recyclability of printed matter:

- Deinability test (version July 2018)
- Testing of adhesive applications (version January 2013).

The evaluation of the recyclability of the product is carried out in accordance with the guidelines of the EPRC using deinking scorecards for deinkability¹⁷ and the removability of adhesive applications¹⁸.

Redispersible adhesives are exempt from the test according to INGEDE 12.

However, the removability of the adhesive must be verified in accordance with INGEDE Method 12 for adhesive labels that are designed to be printed on in printing companies.

Compliance verification

The applicant shall declare compliance with the requirements in Annex 1 to the contract. In addition, the applicant shall verify compliance with the requirements by submitting a test report from an independent testing institute for deinkability (Annex 5) and the removability of adhesive particles (Annex 6) in which compliance with the requirements is confirmed by the testing institute.

Verification that the adhesive is water-based and redispersible shall be provided in the form of a declaration from the adhesive manufacturer (Annex 4).

Further information on the deinkability and removability of the adhesives can be found in Annex 1 to the Basic Award Criteria for DE-UZ 195¹⁹.

4 Applicants and Parties Involved

Manufacturers of final 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.

¹⁴ This does not apply to paper and kraft paper that has been made out of unbleached recovered paper from the kraft process for classification groups 4 and 5 according to DIN EN 643.

¹⁵ <http://www.ingede.com/ingindx/methods/ingede-method-11-2018.pdf>

¹⁶ <http://www.ingede.com/ingindx/methods/ingede-method-12-2013.pdf>

¹⁷ <http://www.paperforrecycling.eu/download/178/>

¹⁸ <http://www.paperforrecycling.eu/download/633/>

¹⁹ https://produktinfo.blauer-engel.de/uploads/raluz_uz/UZ-195.zip

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, 20yy. They shall be extended by periods of one year each, unless terminated in writing by March 31, 20yy 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 (manufacturer)
- Brand/trade name, product description
- Distributor (label user), i.e. the above-mentioned marketing organisations.

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