

BLUE ANGEL

The German Ecolabel



Low-Emission Flooring Underlays

DE-UZ 156

Basic Award Criteria

Edition February 2011

Version 1.3

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

Flooring underlays may have significant environmental impact during the entire life cycle of the product. That is why the requirements for award of the Blue Angel eco-label refer to both the substances and materials used during the manufacturing process and to the period of use and the disposal of used underlays as well as to the transportation packaging for new underlays.

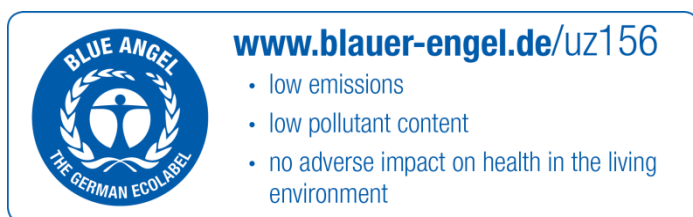
Besides, flooring underlays cover large indoor surfaces and that is why from health and environmental perspectives the lowest-possible emissions from these products are of great value to the user. Here, the Blue Angel eco-label lends itself as an excellent guide to low-emission products. Also, a professional installation of the flooring underlays and the use of further low-emission products for the entire floor structure (e.g. floor coverings according to DE-UZ 38, floor covering adhesives and other installation materials according to DE-UZ 113, sealants according to DE-UZ 123) play an important role in environmental and health protection.

For evaluating the emissions from flooring underlays the concept of these Basic Criteria has been developed along the lines of the evaluation scheme established by the "Ausschuss zur gesundheitlichen Bewertung von Bauprodukten" (Committee for Health-Related Evaluation of Building Products) - a federal and länder expert committee representing German environmental and health authorities.

1.3 Objectives of the Environmental Label

The Blue Angel for low-emission flooring underlays may be awarded to products which beyond meeting all legal requirements –

- are manufactured by the use of environmentally less damaging substances and materials,
- do not pose a health risk in the living environment and
- do not contain any hazardous substances that would seriously hamper recycling.



2 Scope

These Basic Criteria apply to flooring underlays for installation below laminate, parquet and other solid floor coverings as well as textile floor coverings.

They shall apply to underlays made of the following materials (also in mixtures):

- wood fibers
- rubber granules
- cork granules
- paperboard
- polyethylene, polystyrene foam
- polyurethane

Flooring underlays requiring a building authority approval must have such approval. The Environmental Label Jury may include additional underlays at the suggestion of the German Umweltbundesamt (Federal Environmental Agency).

Compliance Verification:

The applicant shall submit the official building authority approval notification for the flooring underlay.¹

3 Requirements

The Blue Angel eco-label shown on page 1 may be used for the labelling of products under paragraph 2, provided that they meet the requirements set forth hereinafter:

¹ This requirement need not be met for the time being. Building authority approvals for flooring underlays will be granted from 2012. Until approval is granted the applicant for award of the Blue Angel eco-label shall confirm that Building Authority Approval has been applied for. The Blue Angel eco-label will be awarded under reserve. Upon receiving the approval the applicant shall hand it in. Should the building authority approval be denied the Blue Angel eco-label will be revoked.

3.1 Manufacture

3.1.1 General Substance Requirements

The products must not contain as constituents any substances with the following properties (i.e. substances that remain in the final product where they perform a certain function):

[1] substances which are identified as particularly alarming according to the Chemicals Regulation REACH (EC/1907/2006) and which have been incorporated into the list drawn up in accordance with Article 59 (1) of the REACH Regulation (so-called "list of candidates"), as amended at the time of application².

[2] substances which according to the criteria of Regulation (EC) No. 1272/2008³ (or Directive 67/548/EEC) are assigned the following H Phrases (R Phrases) listed in Table 1 or which meet the criteria for such classification.⁴

Table 1: H and R Phrases applicable to the Award of the Blue Angel Eco-Label

Regulation (EC) 1272/2008 (GHS Regulation)	Directive 67/548/EEC (Dangerous Substance Directive)	Phrase
Toxic Substances		
H300	R28	Fatal if swallowed
H301	R25	Toxic if swallowed
H304	R65	May be fatal if swallowed and enters airways
H310	R27	Fatal in contact with skin
H311	R24	Toxic in contact with skin
H330	R26	Fatal if inhaled
H331	R23	Toxic if inhaled
H370	R39/23/24/25/26/27/28	Causes damage to organs
H372	R48/25/24/23	Causes damage to organs
Carcinogenic, Mutagenic and Reprotoxic Substances:		
H340	R46	May cause genetic defects.
H350	R45	May cause cancer.

² For the current version of the List of Candidates please go to:

http://echa.europa.eu/chem_data/authorisation_process/candidate_list_table_en.asp.

³ Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008, short: GHS Regulation (Globally Harmonized System), that has come into force on January 20, 2009, replaces the old Directives 67/548/EEC (Dangerous Substances Directive) and 1999/45/EC (Dangerous Preparations Directive). According to the said regulation, substances are classified, labelled and packed until December 1, 2010 according to Directive 67/548/EEC while mixtures (formerly preparations) are classified, labelled and packed until June 1, 2015 according to Directive 1999/45/EC. Thereafter the GHS Regulation shall be applied. The new indications of danger (H Phrases) as well as the hitherto applicable R Phrases shall be indicated for substances until the 1st of June 2015.

⁴ The harmonized classifications and labelling 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 according to the new system using H Phrases; Table 3.2 lists classifications and labellings according to the old system using R Phrases. Moreover, a comprehensive classification and labelling inventory will be made publicly available on the ECHA website from December 1, 2010 which will also include the manufacturers' self-classifications of hazardous substances.

Regulation (EC) 1272/2008 (GHS Regulation)	Directive 67/548/EEC (Dangerous Substance Directive)	Phrase
H350i	R49	May cause cancer by inhalation.
H360F	R60	May damage fertility.
H360D	R61	May damage the unborn child.
H360FD	R60/61	May damage fertility. May damage the unborn child.
H360Fd	R60/63	May damage fertility. Suspected of damaging the unborn child.
H360Df	R61/62	May damage the unborn child. Suspected of damaging fertility.
H362	R64	May cause harm to breast-fed children.
Water-Hazardous Substances		
H400	R50	Very toxic to aquatic life.
H410	R50/53	Very toxic to aquatic life with long-lasting effects.
H411	R51/53	Toxic to aquatic life with long-lasting effects.
Other Health and Environmental Hazards		
EUH059	R59	Hazardous to the ozone layer.

[3] substances which are classified in TRGS 905⁵ as:

- ♦ carcinogenic (K1, K2)
- ♦ mutagenic (M1, M2)
- ♦ reprotoxic (R_F1, R_F2)
- ♦ teratogenic (R_E1, R_E2);

[4] substances which are classified in the MAK Value List⁶ as:

- ♦ carcinogenic working materials, category 1 or category 2
- ♦ germ-cell mutagenic working materials, category 1 or category 2

Exempt from these requirements are:

- process-related, technically unavoidable impurities below the consideration limits for mixtures.
- monomers or additives which turn into polymers during the manufacture of plastics or are chemically (covalently) bound to the plastic if their residual concentrations are below the consideration limits for mixtures.

⁵ TRGS 905 List of carcinogenic, mutagenic or reprotoxic substances. Last amended in May 2008, as amended.

⁶ MAK and BAT Value List, Senate Commission for the Testing of Health-Endangering Working Materials, last amended by Communication 46 (2010), as amended.

Compliance Verification:

The applicant shall declare compliance with the requirements according to Annex 1 to the Contract pursuant to DE-UZ 156.

3.1.2 Plasticizers

No plasticizing substances from the class of phthalates may be used in the manufacture of flooring underlays.

Compliance Verification:

The applicant shall declare compliance with the requirement in Annex 1 to the Contract pursuant to DE-UZ 156. In the event of detection, the content of phthalates shall be determined by extraction of a sample and subsequent analysis by use of GC/MS. The quantitative determination of the target substances is achieved by using an internal standard and a reference compound. The flooring underlays shall not contain more than 0.1 percent by mass of phthalates as impurities.

3.1.3 N-Nitrosamines in Rubber Underlays

Carcinogenic N-nitrosamines according to TRGS 552⁷ may not be detectable in rubber underlays (detection limit: 3.6 µg/kg, determination limit: 11 µg/kg.)

Compliance Verification:

The applicant shall submit a test report according to the DIK-Arbeitsvorschrift „Methoden zur Bestimmung von N-Nitrosaminen in der Luft, Vulkanisaten und Vulkanisationsdämpfen (DIK Working Regulations „Methods for determining N-nitrosamines in the air, vulcanized materials and vulcanized steam – DIK: Deutsches Institut für Kautschuktechnologie (German Institute for Rubber Technology))“⁸ prepared by one of the following accredited testing laboratories (Institutes equipped with GC/TEA - Gas Chromatography/Thermal Energy Analyzer - for the analysis of carcinogenic N-nitrosamines. Additional testing laboratories capable of performing these tests may be added to the list upon approval by the German Umweltbundesamt (Federal Environmental Agency).):

- Deutsches Institut für Kautschuktechnologie e.V., Hannover (DIK - German Institute for Rubber Technology, Hanover)
- SGS INSTITUT FRESENIUS GmbH, Taunusstein.

3.1.4 Recyclate Materials in Rubber Underlays

The use of recyclate materials for the manufacture of flooring underlays shall not be permitted. The following materials shall be exempt from this rule:

- Waste wood - Category A I according to the Altholzverordnung (German Waste Wood Ordinance)⁹

⁷ TRGS 552 N-nitrosamines. Last amended in May 2007, as amended.

⁸ DIK Working Regulations published in: R.Liekefeld, R.H. Schuster, G. Wünsch; Kautschuk, Gummi, Kunststoff (Natural Rubber, Rubber, Plastics), 1991, 44, 514.

⁹ Verordnung über Anforderungen an die Verwertung und Beseitigung von Altholz (Altholzverordnung – AltholzV)- (Waste Wood Ordinance) (Ordinance on the Requirements Pertaining to the Recovery and Disposal of Waste Wood) dated 15 August 2002 (Federal Law Gazette I p. 3302). Last amended by Article 2 of the ordinance of 9 November 2010 (Federal Law Gazette I p. 1504).

- Waste paper grades 1.02 and 1.04 according to EN 643¹⁰

Upon approval by the German Umweltbundesamt (Federal Environmental Agency) additional materials may be added to the list.

This shall not apply to production scrap from the manufacturing of underlays.

Compliance Verification:

The applicant shall declare compliance with the requirement in Annex 1 to the Contract pursuant to DE-UZ 156.

3.1.5 Use of Blowing Agents in Foam Underlays

No halogenated organic compounds may be used as blowing agents (e.g. fluorinated hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) or partially halogenated hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs)) in the manufacture of foam underlays.

Compliance Verification:

The applicant shall declare compliance with the requirement in Annex 1 to the Contract pursuant to DE-UZ 156 or submit a corresponding declaration from the pre-suppliers (Annex 2 to the Contract pursuant to DE-UZ 156).

3.1.6 Colorants

No azo dyes or pigments that may release one of the amines listed in Directive 2002/61/EEC¹¹ or TRGS 614¹² may be used as colorants.

No colorants (i.e. pigments or dyes) may be used which contain, as constituents, mercury, lead, cadmium or chromium(VI) compounds.

Compliance Verification:

The applicant shall establish compliance with the requirement by submission of a declaration from the colorant supplier (Annex 3 to the Contract pursuant to DE-UZ 156).

3.1.7 Origin of Wood for Wood Fibre Underlays

The wood used in the manufacture of wood fibre underlays must come from certified forests managed in an economically viable, environmentally appropriate and socially beneficial manner. It must not come from illegal logging and trade or from forests that need to be protected for ecological and/or social reasons. The wood fibres shall meet the criteria of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and must be certified accordingly. The PEFC Certification Scheme (PEFC - Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification Schemes) is recognized as equivalent to FSC for wood harvested from forests located in the European economic area (EU and EFTA).

¹⁰ DIN EN 643: Paper and board - European list of standard grades of recovered paper and board, 03/2002.

¹¹ 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 (azocolourants).

¹² TRGS 614 - Restrictions on the use of azo dyes that may be decomposed into carcinogenic aromatic amines, last amended in March 2001, as amended.

Compliance Verification:

The applicant shall name the type of wood and indicate the geographic origin of the wood used in accordance with Annex 1 to the Contract pursuant to DE-UZ 156. Moreover, the applicant shall submit the corresponding certificates.

3.1.8 Formaldehyde in Wood Fibre Underlays

Food fibre underlays may be manufactured using wood-based materials bearing the DE-UZ 76 Blue Angel eco-label. Wood-based materials without the DE-UZ 76 Blue Angel may only be used if they do not exceed in their raw state, i.e. prior to machining and coating, a formaldehyde steady-state concentration of 0.1 ppm in the test chamber.

Compliance Verification:

The applicant shall name the manufacturer and product designation of DE-UZ 76 Blue Angel eco-labelled wood-based materials in accordance with Annex 1 to the Contract pursuant to DE-UZ 156. For wood-based materials that have not yet been awarded the DE-UZ 76 Blue Angel the applicant shall submit a test certificate confirming the material's classification into emission class E1.

3.1.9 Requirements for Paper Underlays**3.1.9.1 Recovered or Waste Paper**

Board underlays shall be manufactured from recovered paper classified as low, medium and kraft-containing waste papers (categories 1, 2, 4 and special grades 5 – except for the individual grades 4.01 and 4.07).

Recovered paper is the umbrella term for papers and boards recovered after use or processing. Unprinted scrap paper shall not be considered as recovered or waste paper.

The specifications of the different waste paper grades are listed in Appendix B to the Basic Award Criteria DE-UZ 56 (Recycled Board).

Compliance Verification:

The applicant shall declare compliance with the requirement in Annex 1 to the Contract pursuant to DE-UZ 156 and indicate the percentages of the recovered paper fibres in accordance with Survey A in Annex 1 to the Contract pursuant to DE-UZ 156. The applicant shall submit a product sample per article group.

3.1.9.2 Chemical Auxiliaries

No chemical auxiliaries which contain, as constituent, glyoxal or formaldehyde or split off formaldehyde may be used in the manufacture of board underlays.

Compliance Verification:

The applicant shall declare compliance with the requirement in Annex 1 to the Contract pursuant to DE-UZ 156

3.1.9.3 Processing of Waste Papers

The processing of waste papers for the manufacture of board underlays shall be done without the use of chlorine, halogenated bleaching chemicals and poorly biodegradable complexing

agents, as, for example, ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA) and diethylenetriaminepentaacetic acid (DTPA). No optical brighteners may be added for product manufacture and refinement.

Compliance Verification:

The applicant shall declare compliance with the requirement in Annex 1 to the Contract pursuant to DE-UZ 156 and name the bleaching agents and complexing agents used in Survey B included in Annex 1 to the Contract pursuant to DE-UZ 156.

3.1.9.4 Additives

The use of additives for the manufacture of board underlays shall only be permitted if required for compliance with relevant serviceability or safety requirements.

Compliance Verification:

The applicant shall declare compliance with the requirement in Annex 1 to the Contract pursuant to DE-UZ 156 and give the designation and function of the additives in Survey C. The applicant shall indicate the total quantity of all additives per kilogram of product.

3.1.9.5 Anti-Slime and Preservation Agents

Only those substances may be used as anti-slime or preservation agents for the manufacture of board underlays which are listed in the 36th Recommendation of the Plastics Commission of the Bundesinstitut für Gesundheitlichen Verbraucherschutz und Veterinärmedizin (Federal Institute of Consumer Health Protection and Veterinary Medicine), (as amended), and which are listed as biocidal products in Annex II to Commission Regulation (EC) No1048/2005¹³. Where new (non-listed) substances are used licensing under the Biocidal Products Act shall be required.¹⁴

The following substances may not be used:

- Sodium hexafluorosilicate [16893-85-9]
- N-[α -(1-nitroethyl)benzyl] ethylenediamine [14762-38-0]
- Mixture of
 - ♦ Tris-(hydroxymethyl)-nitromethane, [126-11-4]
 - ♦ 5-chloro-2-methyl-4-isothiazolin-3-one and [26172-55-4]
 - ♦ 2-Methyl-4-isothiazolin-3-one [2682-20-4]
- Tetramethylthiuram disulfide [137-26-8]

¹³ Commission Regulation (EC) No 1048/2005 of 13 June 2005, Official Journal No L 178/1 of 09/07/2005, amending Commission Regulation (EC) No 2032/2003 of 4 November 2003 on the second phase of the 10-year work programme referred to in Article 16(2) of Directive 98/8/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the placing of biocidal products on the market (Official Journal No L 307/1 of 24/11/2003).

¹⁴ The Biocidal Products Directive 98/8/EC concerns the placing on the market of biocidal active substances and biocidal products. After 1st September 2006 only those existing biocidal active substances may be used which appear on the "final list of existing biocidal active substances" in Annex II to Commission Regulation EC No. 1048/2005. The 10-year review programme is expected to run until 13 May 2010. Thereafter, the respective biocidal products will require approval according to the German Biocidal Products Act.

Compliance Verification

The applicant shall name in Annex 1 to the Contract pursuant to DE-UZ 156 the anti-slime and preservation agents used according to the IUPAC designation and give the quantity per kilogram of product.

3.2 Use

3.2.1 Indoor Air Quality

The products under paragraph 2 must not exceed the emission values listed in Table 2 in the test chamber following the „Vorgehensweise bei der gesundheitlichen Bewertung der Emissionen von flüchtigen organischen Verbindungen (VOC und SVOC) aus Bauprodukten“ (health risk assessment process for emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs and SVOCs) from building products) developed by the Ausschuss zur gesundheitlichen Bewertung von Bauprodukten (AgBB) (Committee for Health-Related Evaluation of Building Products)¹⁵. The requirements are aimed at limiting the contribution of floor coverings to the content of volatile organic compounds in the indoor air in an average-sized living room with an air change rate of 0.5 per hour after 28 days to 300 µg/m³.

Table 2: Emission Requirements

Compound or Substance	3rd Day	Final Value (28th Day)
Total organic compounds within the retention range C ₆ – C ₁₆ (TVOC)	< 1000 µg/m ³	< 300 µg/m ³
Total organic compounds within the retention range > C ₁₆ – C ₂₂ (TSVOC)	-	< 30 µg/m ³
Carcinogenic substances ¹⁶	< 10 µg/m ³ total	< 1 µg/m ³ per single value
Total VOC without LCI ¹⁷	-	< 100 µg/m ³
R value ¹⁸	-	< 1
Formaldehyde [ppm]	-	< 60 µg/m ³ (0.05 ppm)

The test may be stopped from the 7th day after loading if the required final values of day 28 are reached prematurely and if, compared with the measurement of day 3, no rise in the concentration of any of the detected substances has been observed.

¹⁵ AgBB Evaluation Scheme, May 2010. Published on the homepage of the German Umweltbundesamt (Federal Environmental Agency): <http://www.umweltbundesamt.de/bauprodukte/agbb.htm>, as amended.

¹⁶ Substances classified according to para. 3.1.1 General Substance Requirements Nos 2 and / or 3.

¹⁷ LCI = Lowest Concentration of Interest; cf. AgBB evaluation scheme (Footnote 15)

¹⁸ R value = Total of all quotients (C_i / LCI_i) ≤ 1 (where C_i is the substance concentration in the chamber air, LCI_i = LCI value of the substance), cf. AgBB evaluation scheme (Footnote 15)

Compliance Verification:

The applicant shall submit a test certificate according to Part II of the "Grundsätze des DIBt zur gesundheitlichen Bewertung von Bauprodukten in Innenräumen" (DIBt Guidelines for health-risk assessment of building products in indoor environments)¹⁹, on the basis of DIN EN ISO 16000-9²⁰ confirming compliance with this requirement. The test shall be carried out according to the requirements for resilient floor coverings with the edges of the test sample left uncovered. The test report shall be prepared by a testing laboratory accredited by BAM for this test (Appendix to the Basic Criteria DE-UZ 120).

The applicant shall submit a test protocol as specified in Annex 2 to the BAM-Test Method²¹ for determining the emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) for award of the Blue Angel eco-label according to DE-UZ 113.

The applicant shall hold the annual test reports to the DIBt available and submit them to RAL gGmbH upon request.

3.2.2 Serviceability

The flooring underlays must meet the usual quality requirements for serviceability. For this purpose, the products must meet the requirements of the relevant product standards. With respect to walking noise and impact sound the product shall meet the "state-of-the-art" requirements.

Compliance Verification:

The applicant shall declare compliance with the requirements in Annex 1 to the Contract pursuant to DE-UZ 156.

3.3 Recycling and Disposal**3.3.1 Halogens**

With a view to recycling and disposal no halogenated organic compounds (e.g. as binders, flame retardants) may be used in the manufacture of flooring underlays.

Compliance Verification:

The applicant shall declare compliance with the requirements in Annex 1 to the Contract pursuant to DE-UZ 156. In the event of detection, the content of the halogens fluorine, chlorine and bromine shall be determined by combustion analysis (total dissolution). As a fraction of tolerable impurities the content of the above-mentioned halogens may not exceed 1 gram per kg.

¹⁹ DIBt (Deutsches Institut für Bautechnik - German Institute for Structural Engineering), Grundsätze zur gesundheitlichen Bewertung von Bauprodukten in Innenräumen (DIBt Guidelines for health-risk assessment of building products in indoor environments), Part II: Bewertungskonzepte für Spezielle Bauprodukte (Evaluation schemes for specific building products), as of October 2008, http://www.dibt.de/de/data/Aktuelles_Ref_II_4_6.pdf, as amended.

²⁰ DIN EN ISO 16000 Indoor Air - Part 9: Determination of the emission of volatile organic compounds from building products and furnishing - Emission test chamber method, 04/2008, as amended.

²¹ Official Journal of BAM - Bundesanstalt für Materialforschung und -prüfung (Federal Institute for Materials Research and Testing) Volume 33 (2/2003), p.160 et seq.

3.3.2 Flame Retardants

If flame retardants are used the following ones may be used: inorganic ammonium phosphates (diammonium phosphate, ammonium polyphosphate etc.), other dehydrating minerals (aluminium hydroxide or the like), or expandable graphite.

Compliance Verification:

The applicant shall declare compliance with the requirement in Annex 1 to the Contract pursuant to DE-UZ 156.

3.4 Declaration and Consumer Information

The manufacturer shall provide a clear product declaration giving the following details either on the packaging or on a label. Alternatively, the manufacturer shall provide the dealer with the required information documents for presentation to the customer, on request.

- Identification of manufacturer or supplier company,
- Product name and material,
- Product details (composition),
- Traceability information, e.g. lot/batch number,
- Colour/pattern data (if applicable),
- Building authority approval
- Length, width and thickness or covered surface for rolls or - with respect to tiles - tile dimensions as well as the area in square meters contained in one pack.

A short version of the following instructions and recommendations shall be enclosed with the product, including a note about how the customer may obtain a more detailed version (e.g. upon request to the manufacturer, reference to the manufacturer's website).

- Installation instructions and information including recommendations for the use of other Blue Angel eco-labelled low-emission building products to be used in the floor structure (e.g. low-emission floor covering adhesives, surfacers and fillers according to DE-UZ 113), laminate and parquet floor coverings according to DE-UZ 38),
- Disposal instructions for packages and product residues (e.g. return and recycling options),
- Notes and information on sound insulation and possible improvements.

Compliance Verification:

The applicant shall declare compliance with the requirement in Annex 1 to the Contract pursuant to DE-UZ 156 and submit the corresponding product information (e.g. technical data sheet).

3.5 Advertising Statements

Advertising statements shall not include any notes such as „ecologically safe building material“ or those which would play down risks in terms of Article 23, para. 4 of Directive 67/548/EEC, as, for example, „non-toxic“, „non-hazardous to health“.

Compliance Verification:

The applicant shall declare compliance with the requirement in Annex 1 to the Contract pursuant to DE-UZ 156 and submit a Technical Data Sheet.

4 Applicants and Parties Involved

Distributors 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.

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, 2019. They shall be extended by periods of one year each, unless terminated in writing by March 31, 2019 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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