

BLUE ANGEL

The German Ecolabel



Laundrettes

DE-UZ 173

Basic Award Criteria

Edition October 2012

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.

If you require further information please contact:

RAL gGmbH

RAL UMWELT

Fränkische Straße 7

53229 Bonn

Tel: +49 (0) 228 / 6 88 95 - 0

E-Mail: umweltzeichen@ral.de

www.blauer-engel.de

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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 washing process in a laundrette can be roughly divided into the following steps:

- Loading the machine with the dirty laundry;
- Adding the washing detergent;
- Washing the dirty laundry in a washing machine;
- Drying the washed laundry in a dryer.

According to estimates made by the experts, it can be assumed that on average approx. 90% of the energy consumption in a laundrette can be attributed to the washing machines and dryers, as well as to the provision of hot water. Therefore, energy-efficient appliances are required to achieve environmentally-friendly operation in a laundrette.

1.3 Objective of the environmental label

The environmental label should identify laundrettes that stand out due to the following environmental characteristics:

- low energy consumption;
- low water consumption;
- provision of information on environmentally-friendly washing and drying.

This will make a contribution to climate protection and save resources.

Because it is difficult for consumers to identify those laundrettes that are particularly environmentally friendly, labelling with the Blue Angel eco-label will provide meaningful assistance.

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



2 Scope

These Basic Award Criteria apply to laundrettes defined as follows:

A laundrette is a commercial business (with or without personnel) that provides customers with the premises and the appliances to wash, spin, dry and, if offered, iron their own laundry **themselves** in exchange for payment.

The Environmental Label will be issued to laundrettes that are characterised by having a fixed location and a unique name.

If an operator has multiple laundrettes that are distributed across multiple locations and/or laundrettes that are operated independent of one another, the Environmental Label must be applied for separately for each laundrette.

3 Requirements

The Environmental Label illustrated on the first page may be used for labelling of laundrettes pursuant to Paragraph 2, provided that the following requirements are complied with:

3.1 Requirements placed on the appliances in laundrettes

3.1.1 Washing machines

In order to achieve the highest and most effective level of preservation for the products in the cleaning system, the following requirements must be met by the appliances:

- The majority of the washing machines in the laundrette must have a load capacity (load ratio of 1:9 - 1:10) of between 5-8 kg and a g-factor of at least 300.
- Additional appliances with larger load capacities are permitted; whereby the above named load ratio is to be taken as standard.
- The appliance must have a programmable control system, a temperature control system and cold and hot water connections.

Compliance Verification

The applicant shall declare their compliance with the requirement. In order to comply with these requirements, the applicant will provide a technical data sheet (Annex 2).

3.1.2 Dryers

- The majority of the dryers in the laundrette must have a load capacity (load ratio of 1:20 – 1:25) of between 8-15 kg.
- Additional appliances with larger load capacities are permitted; whereby the above named load ratio is to be taken as standard.

Compliance Verification

The applicant shall declare their compliance with the requirement. In order to comply with these requirements, the applicant will provide a technical data sheet (Annex 2).

3.2 Consumption values for the washing machines

The minimum requirements for energy consumption¹ and water consumption refer in each case to the standard programme "normal laundry 60°C" (e.g. cotton and/or colour laundry) and with the maximum load (with a load ratio between 1:9 – 1:10)"

3.2.1 Energy consumption

- a) The average value for all appliances with a recommended maximum load capacity of ≤ 8 kg: Energy consumption per kg of laundry ≤ 0.14 kWh
- b) The average value for all appliances with a recommended maximum load capacity of > 8 kg: Energy consumption per kg of laundry ≤ 0.16 kWh

3.2.2 Water consumption

- a) Appliances with a recommended maximum load capacity of ≤ 8 kg: Water consumption per kg of laundry ≤ 10 litres
- b) Appliances with a recommended maximum load capacity of > 8 kg: Water consumption per kg of laundry ≤ 13 litres

Compliance Verification

The applicant shall declare their compliance with the requirement. In order to comply with these requirements, the applicant will also submit a declaration from the appliance manufacturer relating to the energy consumption (kWh/kg laundry) and water consumption (litres of water/kg laundry) for the previously defined standard programme with the maximum load capacity for all washing machines (disclosed separately according to a and b - appliances) in the laundrette (Annex 3).

3.3 Energy consumption for dryers

The minimum requirements for energy consumption refer in each case to the standard programme "normal laundry" (e.g. cotton and/or colour laundry), with 50% residual moisture at 0% and with the maximum load (with a load ratio between 1:20 – 1:25)"

- a) Average value for all appliances with a recommended maximum load capacity of ≥ 8 kg and ≤ 15 kg: Energy consumption per kg of laundry $\leq 0,65$ kWh

Compliance Verification

The applicant shall declare their compliance with the requirement. In order to comply with these requirements, the applicant will also submit a declaration from the appliance manufacturer relating to the energy consumption (kWh/kg laundry) for the previously defined standard programme for all dryers in the laundrette (Annex 3).

¹ Hot water connection (temperature 70°C)

3.4 Washing detergent

3.4.1 Exclusion of ingredients

The laundrette operator must only offer washing and cleaning detergent in accordance with Article 2, Paragraph 1 of the WRMG² that do not contain the following ingredients:

- Phosphate;
- APEO (Alkylphenol ethoxylate) and/or APEO derivatives;
- Nitro musk compounds and polycyclic musk compounds;
- Phosphates with a proportion of > 1.0 percent by mass;
- EDTA (ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid) and its salts;
- NTA (nitrilotriacetic acid) with a proportion of > 1.0 percent by mass;
- Chlorinated organic compounds;
- Fluorinated organic compounds.

Compliance Verification

The applicant shall declare their compliance with the requirement. The applicant must provide a declaration from the washing and cleaning detergent manufacturer about their compliance with the requirements (Annex 4) for all of the washing and cleaning detergents offered in the laundrette.

3.4.2 Washing detergent dosage

The washing detergent must only be dispensed by the laundrette operator in the relevant dosage per washing cycle based on the size of the machine, the water hardness and the degree of soiling (volume of washing detergent corresponds to normal soiling) that is required to clean the laundry.

Compliance Verification

The applicant shall declare their compliance with the requirement and provide documentation about the dosage of washing detergent (Annex 5).

3.5 Waste water

The waste water produced that contains both the dirt washed from the laundry and also washing detergent must correspond to the relevant requirements of the Indirect Discharge Ordinance (Indirekteinleiter VO) and the relevant municipal by-laws.

Compliance Verification

The applicant shall declare their compliance with the requirement.

3.6 Information for the customer

The energy consumption of the appliances is dependent on the user behaviour. The operator of the laundrette obligates themselves to provide washing and drying information, as well as washing instructions for the customer. These must provide corresponding information on the following points:

² Washing and Cleaning Detergent Law – WRMG; law about the environmental compatibility of washing and cleaning detergents, 29 April 2007;
http://www.bmu.de/files/pdfs/allgemein/application/pdf/wrmg_gesamt.pdf

- Recommendation about how to fill the drum optimally;
- Recommendation to sort the laundry according to the type of fabric (e.g. whites, colours, fine fabrics);
- Recommendation to use a low washing temperature (30°, 40° or max. 60° C);
- Recommendation to use the correct dosage of washing detergent;
- Information about the difference between household and commercial washing detergent;
- Recommendation to dispense with the use of fabric softener;
- Recommendation not to dry the laundry too much:
- In the event of defects or requests, the customer should have the opportunity to contact the laundrette operator (e.g. via a service centre, emergency telephone or also personnel on site etc.)

Compliance Verification

The applicant shall declare their compliance with the requirement and provide examples of the customer information (Annex 6)

3.7 Hygiene requirements

- The cleaning of the appliances will be carried out in accordance with the hygiene requirements.
- In addition, customers will be offered hand towels and the possibility for washing their hands.

Compliance Verification

The applicant shall declare their compliance with the requirement and provide documentation about the hygiene requirements (Annex 7).

4 Applicants and Parties Involved

Operators of laundrettes 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 (Operator of laundrettes)
- Brand/trade name, product description
- Distributor (label user), i.e. the above-mentioned marketing organisations.

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