

# **BLUE ANGEL**

**The German Ecolabel**



## **Environmentally Acceptable Pipe Cleaners**

**DE-UZ 024**

**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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Version 1 (04/2009): First Edition, Expiry date: December 31, 2013  
Version 2 (01/2013): Prolongation for 4 years without any change, until 31.12.2017  
Version 3 (01/2017): Prolongation for 4 years without any change, until 31.12.2021  
Version 4 (01/2021): Prolongation for 2 years without any change, until 31.12.2023

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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

Chemical pipe cleaners mainly consist of strong alkalis such as sodium- or potassium hydroxide and salts such as sodium nitrite and sodium hypochlorite. These substances contribute to the salinization of our water bodies. Moreover, chlorinated hydrocarbons may form in waste waters and water bodies. Simultaneous use of pipe cleaners and acid sanitary cleaners may furthermore cause the formation of health-endangering irritant gases.

Mechanical pipe cleaning devices (spiral, plumber's helper or the like) help to replace chemical pipe cleaners.

## 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 non-chemical pipe cleaners for use as household appliance, e.g. pipe-cleaning spirals, other mechanical pipe-cleaning appliances and similar devices.

## 3 Requirements

The Environmental Label shown on page 1 may be used for the marking of pipe cleaners under para. 2, provided that they comply with the following requirements.

- Waste pipe stoppages must be removed without the use of chemical additives.
- As regards design and handling, the pipe cleaning devices must comply with the relevant provisions and technical directions.

### **Compliance Verification**

*Applicant shall declare compliance with the requirements under para. 3 and present the instructions for use.*

## **4 Applicants and Parties Involved**

Manufacturers or 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, 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 (manufacturer/distributor)
- Brand/trade name, product description
- Distributor (label user), i.e. the above-mentioned marketing organisations.

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