

BLUE ANGEL

The German Ecolabel



Products made from Recycled Plastics

DE-UZ 30a

Basic Award Criteria

Edition March 2016

Version 3

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- Labelling 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

Paragraph 3.3 => Reference to Annex XVII to the REACH Regulation

Paragraph 3.4 => Reference to Table 3.1 of Annex VI to the CLP Regulation

Paragraph 3.4 => Supplementation of the footnote regarding the relationship of CLP

Regulation and TRGS 905

Paragraph 4.5 => Supplementation (clarification)

Version 01/2018: Prolongation without any change for 1 year until December 31, 2019

Table of Contents

1	Introduction.....	4
2	Scope	4
3	Requirements	5
4	Compliance Verifications.....	6
5	Applicants and Parties Involved.....	7
6	Use of the Blue Angel Eco-Label	7

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 The Environmental Label Jury has set up these Basic Criteria for Award of the Blue Angel Eco-Label in co-operation with the Federal Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety, the German Umweltbundesamt (Federal Environmental Agency) and considering the results of expert hearings conducted by RAL gGmbH. 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 Blue Angel eco-label may be granted for all products, provided that they meet the requirements specified hereinafter.

1.2 Post-consumer waste from private households, agriculture, trade and industry accounts by far for the greatest share of all plastic waste. So far, however, only a small percentage of this material is recycled by type of material. Since, from the ecological point of view, high-quality recycling by type of material is usually superior to all other forms of recycling more waste should - from the ecological point of view - be recycled by type of material. The aim of the Blue Angel eco-label is to support products manufactured this way.

2 Scope

These Basic Criteria apply to finished products¹ made from recycled plastics, provided that they substitute primary plastics in their field of application. Thus, among the products that may be awarded the Blue Angel are, for example: waste and recycling bins, palisades, fences, lawn grids as well as compost silos and composters.

Moreover, these Basic Criteria apply to plastic films or sheets made from recycled plastics (so-called „parent film“) designed for further processing (packing, printing etc.).

Recycled plastics within the meaning of these Basic Criteria are ground materials, film chips, granulates or agglomerates obtained from post-consumer products. This also includes PCR (post-consumer recycled) waste accumulating at the factory of the manufacturer.

The following materials shall be excluded from use in eco-labelled products:

- polyvinyl chloride (PVC)
- plastic waste containing polybrominated biphenyls (PBBs) and polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs) as flame retardants
- polyurethane propelled by means of fully or partially halogenated organic propellants

¹ Finished product: A product that has undergone all stages of the production process and is made available for further use on the market (for sale to downstream manufacturers or to the final consumer).

- production and processing waste (from non-PCR waste) as well as returned defective products.

3 Requirements

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

- 3.1** The percentage of post-consumer recyclate in the finished product or in the parent film shall be at least 80 weight percent.

The wheel system (wheels, rolls, brakes and axles) of waste and recycling containers in terms of DIN EN 840 shall be exempt from this requirement.

- 3.2** Post-consumer materials used to produce recyclates for the manufacture of blown films, for example for use in carrier bags, shall be subjected to a washing process during recycling².

- 3.3** If mixed plastic waste is used to manufacture finished products all products made thereof that will come in direct contact with soil and water must not have any adverse impact on the environment.

- 3.4** The requirements of Annex XVII, Item 23 of the REACH Regulation³ regarding the ban on the use of cadmium compounds, as amended, shall be complied with.

- 3.5** No substances⁴ may be added to the recyclate⁵ that are classified as:

a) carcinogenic substances of category 1A, 1B or 2 according to Table 3.1 of Annex VI of Regulation (EC) 1272/2008 or in TRGS 905⁶;

b) mutagenic substances of category 1A, 1B or 2 according to Table 3.1 of Annex VI of Regulation (EC) 1272/2008 or in TRGS 905;

c) reprotoxic substances of category 1A, 1B or 2 according to Table 3.1 of Annex VI of Regulation (EC) 1272/2008 or in TRGS 905;

² Provided that dry processing is confirmed in Annex 3 the applicant shall submit a detailed statement by the auditor on the input materials used and/or on the industrial manufacturing equipment available (see Annex 3, introduction to para. 3).

³ Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2006 concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH), establishing a European Chemicals Agency, amending Directive 1999/45/EC and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) No 793/93 and Commission Regulation (EC) No 1488/94 as well as Council Directive 76/769/EEC and Commission Directives 91/155/EEC, 93/67/EEC, 93/105/EC and 2000/21/EC; OJ L 396 p. 1

⁴ Terms as defined in Section 3, No. 1 or 4 of the publication of the revised version of the Chemicals Act of 20 June 2002; Official Law Gazette I 2002, 2090

⁵ Refers to recyclates, additives as well as other materials used in the finished product

⁶ TRGS 905, List of carcinogenic, mutagenic or reprotoxic substances, as amended - last amended and supplemented in March 2014. The more stringent classification shall be applicable.

d) persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic (PBT substances) or very persistent or very accumulative (vPvB substances) according to the criteria of Annex XIII to the REACH Regulation or of very high concern for other reasons and which have been included in the list (so-called List of Candidates) set up in accordance with REACH, Article 59, paragraph 1.

3.6 Moreover, no substances may be added that are labelled with the following R or H phrases in accordance with Table 3.2 of Annex VI to Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 or meet the criteria for such classification:

H 370 (R 39/23/24/25/26/27/28) Causes damage to organs

H 371 (R 68/20/21/22) May cause damage to organs

H 372 (R 48/25/24/23) Causes damage to organs

H 373 (R 48/20/21/22) May cause damage to organs

H 410 (R 50/53) Very toxic to aquatic life with long lasting effects

3.7 The products shall meet the relevant criteria for serviceability and safety.

3.8 The plastic parts shall be marked in accordance with DIN EN ISO 11 469.

3.9 Plastic film products, such as, for example, plastic carrier bags, shall show the valid registration number (UZ 30a/Contract Number) underneath the Blue Angel logo.

4 Compliance Verifications

4.1 Applicant's application for the Blue Angel eco-label shall be accompanied by a product description, product brochures and, in addition and if so requested by RAL gGmbH, a reference product (including a sample of the parent film used).

4.2 The applicant shall submit a certificate (including report) according to the EuCertPlast certification scheme (including a calculated and plausibility-checked verification of the post-consumer waste percentage) to verify the origin and composition of the recycled plastic materials used.⁷

Moreover, the applicant shall specify the qualitative and quantitative composition of the product applying for the Blue Angel eco-label, i.e. the portions of recycled and virgin plastics as well as the percentages of additives possibly used.

The records and results shall be reviewed at the place of production, checked for plausibility and confirmed as a test report in accordance with Annex 3 to the Contract pursuant to DE-UZ 30a by an independent expert body pursuant to para. 4.5.

The confirmation (Annex 3) to be submitted once a year shall be presented upon filing the initial application and thereafter each year no later than one year from the

⁷ see <http://www.eucertplast.eu>

date of the previous application. The annual confirmation shall be based on uninterrupted successive testing periods.

- 4.3** The additives used shall be identified by both their trade names and their chemical names. The applicant shall submit current Material Safety Data Sheets in German and in English for all additives or added preparations. Moreover, the applicant shall declare compliance with the respective obligations and restrictions required under the REACH Regulation (Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) of 18 December 2006.
- 4.4** The applicant shall declare compliance with the requirements of paras. 3.3, 3.4, 3.7, 3.8, 3.9 in Annex 1 to the Contract pursuant to DE-UZ 30a as well as with those of paras. 3.5 and 3.6 in Annex 2 to Contract pursuant to DE-UZ 30a.
- 4.5** An independent expert body is:
- an independent environmental verifiers according to Section 9, Umweltauditgesetz (Environmental Audit Act) for sector 38 (recycling, waste disposal) or
 - a publicly appointed expert according to Section 36 of the German Gewerbeordnung (Industrial Code) for the fields of waste recycling, waste technology, plastics recycling, plastics technology or packaging disposal, or
 - an environmental verifier according to Regulation ((EC) No 1221/2009, Article 2, Definition No. 20. If the environmental verifier is an organisation of environmental verifiers (i.e. not a natural person) the organisation shall separately list the names of the persons responsible for conducting the test.

5 Applicants and Parties Involved

- 5.1** Manufacturers of finished products made from plastic recyclates pursuant to paragraph 2 shall be eligible for application.
- 5.2** Parties involved in the award process:
- RAL gGmbH to award the Blue Angel eco-label,
 - the federal state being home to applicant's production site,
 - Umweltbundesamt (Federal Environmental Agency) which after the signing of the contract receives all data and documents submitted in application for the Blue Angel in order to be able to further develop the Basic Award Criteria.

6 Use of the Blue Angel Eco-Label

- 6.1** The terms governing the use of the Environmental Label shown on page 1 by the applicant are stipulated by a Contract on the Use of the Environmental Label to be concluded with RAL gGmbH.

6.2 Within the scope of such contract the applicant undertakes to comply with the requirements under paragraph 3 for as long as the Blue Angel eco-label is used.

6.3 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.

6.4 The applicant (manufacturer) shall be entitled to apply to RAL gGmbH for an extension of the right to use the eco-label to the product entitled to the label if it is to be marketed under another brand/trade name and/or other marketing organizations.

6.5 The Contract on the Use of the Environmental Label shall specify:

6.5.1 Applicant (manufacturer)

6.5.2 Brand/ trade name and product designation

6.5.3 Distributor (label user), i.e. the marketing organisation according to para. 6.4.

