

**BLUE ANGEL**

**The German Ecolabel**



**Non-Toxic Pest Control and Prevention**

**DE-UZ 34**

**Basic Award Criteria**

**Edition January 2017**

**Version 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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## Table of contents

1	Introduction .....	4
1.1	Preface .....	4
1.2	Background .....	4
1.3	Objectives of the Blue Angel Eco-Label .....	4
1.4	Basic Legal Provisions .....	4
1.5	Definitions .....	5
2	Scope .....	5
2.1	Agents and techniques .....	5
2.2	Electroacoustic devices .....	5
3	Requirements .....	5
3.1	Biocides .....	5
3.2	Efficacy .....	5
3.3	Rules and regulations .....	6
3.4	Information .....	7
4	Applicants and Parties Involved .....	7
5	Use of the Environmental Label .....	7
	Appendix A Testing Laboratory .....	9

**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

Biocidal products and plant protection agents are not the only means to prevent and control pests. Pests can also be prevented and controlled by using products or techniques without any toxic effects. Therefore, these techniques are an efficient alternative to chemical pest control methods and help reduce the effects of biocides and plant protection agents on human health and environment. Moreover, resistant pests can be killed and the building-up of resistance can be prevented.

## 1.3 Objectives of the Blue Angel Eco-Label

The Blue Angel eco-label for "Non-toxic indoor pest control and prevention" is to signal to those concerned that - in comparison with others - the eco-labelled products or techniques give higher priority to precautionary environmental and health protection.

As a voluntary label, the Blue Angel's task is to motivate manufacturers to choose pest control products and techniques that particularly take into account environmental and health aspects. Manufacturers of products and techniques containing neither biocides nor plant protection agents can use the Blue Angel eco-label as a good means to stress this aspect of their product in a simple way.

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



## 1.4 Basic Legal Provisions

It shall be a matter of course for the facilities that produce the Blue Angel eco-labelled products to comply with current laws and regulations.

## 1.5 Definitions

**[1] Biocides:** Biocidal products are active agents and preparations intended to deter, render harmless or destroy in the non-agrarian sector harmful organisms (pests like moths, woodworms, mice etc.) by chemical or biological means.

**[2] Plant protection agents:** Plant protection agents are chemical or biological products intended to protect plants or plant products from harm caused by animals (e.g. insects or rodents) or from diseases, such as fungal infestation. This also includes products used to control plants, such as unwanted crop weeds.

**[3] Corneal reflex:** Eyelid closure reflex

## 2 Scope

### 2.1 Agents and techniques

These Basic Criteria apply to non-toxic agents and techniques to control or destroy noxious arthropods and rodents.

This includes the following pests:

- hygiene pests (arthropods), such as cockroaches, ants, mosquitoes, bugs, fleas, ticks and others,
- material pests (except for wood pests in built-in timber), such as clothes moth, carpet beetle, bacon beetle and others,
- noxious rodents, such as rats and mice.

### 2.2 Electroacoustic devices

These Basic Criteria do **not** apply to electroacoustic pest control (expulsion) devices.

## 3 Requirements

The Environmental Label shown on page 1 may be used for the marking of products and techniques under paragraph 2, provided that they comply with following requirements:

### 3.1 Biocides

The products and techniques must not contain/use any biocidal agents or plants protection agents.

#### **Compliance Verification**

*The applicant shall declare compliance with the requirements*

### 3.2 Efficacy

The products and techniques must meet the efficacy requirements under Section 18 Infektionsschutzgesetz (IfSG) (German Infectious Diseases Protection Act) and be an effective means to control and deter pests. Provided that the target organisms do not fall within the scope of the German Infectious Diseases Protection Act the efficacy criteria set out in the Biocidal Products Regulation (EU) 528/2012 shall apply.

As regards their killing effect, rodent traps must also be consistent with the German Animal Welfare Act. The criterion for evaluating the killing effect in accordance with animal welfare shall be the time from setting off the trap to the onset of irreversible unconsciousness in the experimental animals. The eyelid closure reflex test can be used to assess whether or not an experimental animal is still conscious. There are two levels of compliance with animal welfare standards. A Class A trap is classified as consistent with animal welfare while a Class B trap is classified as adequately consistent with animal welfare.

The threshold limits set for the onset of irreversible unconsciousness are as follows. They must not be exceeded:

	<b>Lower timespan</b>	<b>Upper timespan</b>
Class A („consistent with animal welfare“)	30 s	60 s
Class B („adequately consistent with animal welfare“)	60 s	120 s
Limit values	≥ 80 % of the experimental animals used	≥ 90 % of the experimental animals used

### **Insect screens/fabrics**

On the basis of insect screens/fabrics that have already been tested and relevant bibliographical references the efficacy of such products is to be regarded as a function of the mesh size of the insect screen with the maximum spacing ranging from 1.5 to 2.25 mm. That is why efficacy testing by an independent testing institute shall not be mandatory for insect fabrics.

### **Compliance Verification**

*The applicant shall declare compliance with the requirements and submit an approval according to Section 18 Infektionsschutzgesetz (IfSG) (German Infectious Diseases Protection Act) or a comparable confirmation of efficacy for biocide-free and pesticide-free products and techniques. A comparable confirmation could be, for example, efficacy test reports prepared by a qualified testing laboratory.*

*As regards rodent traps, the applicant shall not only submit the confirmation of efficacy but also a document proving that the trap kills in accordance with animal welfare.*

### **3.3 Rules and regulations**

Products and techniques for biocide-free and pesticide-free pest control shall be implemented and used, giving due consideration to industrial safety and accident prevention regulations as well as to the rules governing safety, occupational health and industrial hygiene.

### **Compliance Verification**

*With regard to pest control techniques the applicant shall submit a description of the technical installations, rooms and/or equipment used for treating the objects as well as a certificate issued by a qualified testing laboratory confirming that they are suited for the intended use.*

### **3.4 Information**

The Instructions for Use or the description of the technique shall include a list of the controllable pests.

Such list shall include only those pests for which compliance has been verified in accordance with para. 4.1.

If - thanks to expert knowledge, experience or general scientific expertise - the testing laboratory confirms an additional broader effect of the product or technique in the test report the pests or pest groups named in such report may be included in the Instructions for Use.

The Instructions for Use / the label shall indicate where to set the traps, so only the given target organisms (pests) are captured, but not protected species under the Federal Act for the Protection of Nature (Bundesnaturschutzgesetz). This could, for example, relate to the nature of the bait and in particular to the site of the trap.

#### **Compliance Verification**

*The applicant shall present an informative product description, the Instructions for Use and, if so requested, a sample.*

## **4 Applicants and Parties Involved**

Manufacturers and distributors of agents and techniques 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, 2025. They shall be extended by periods of one year each, unless terminated in writing by March 31, 2025 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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## **Appendix A    Testing Laboratory**

Testing Laboratory according to Section 18 Infektionsschutzgesetz (IfSG) (German Infectious Diseases Protection Act) for noxious rodents and articulate animals in the field of the health protection.

Umweltbundesamt (Federal Environment Agency)  
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