

BLUE ANGEL

The German Ecolabel



Lead-free Products

DE-UZ 67

Basic Award Criteria

Edition May 2009

Version 4

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 Objectives of the Environmental Label

The heavy-metal lead and its compounds are among the substances most toxic to the environment.

The extensive use of lead seals for brace fasteners and lead containing weights for sport fishing contributes to an uncontrolled entry of lead into the environment.

Awarding the Environmental Label to lead-free products is to inform about environmentally acceptable alternative products and to reduce the impact of heavy metals.

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



2 Scope¹

These Basic Award Criteria apply to:

- crimp and brace seals
- weights for sport fishing

3 Requirements

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

- a) The products must not contain any lead or cadmium.

¹ At the suggestion of the Umweltbundesamt (Federal Environmental Agency) the Environmental Label Jury may extend the scope if additional alternative lead-free products are available in conventional heavy-metal product groups.

Exempted are natural and production-induced impurities contained in the raw materials.

- b) The products under para.2 may contain ingredients requiring marking according to "Gefahrstoffverordnung" (Ordinance on Hazardous Substances), as amended, only if their content does not exceed 50% of the limit concentrations listed in Annex I, Nos. 2.1 and 2.2, to the Ordinance on Hazardous Substances.
- c) The usual serviceability and safety requirements must be complied with.

Compliance Verifications

- *The applicant shall give the chemical composition of the product naming all ingredients and their weight percentages according to Annex 2 and present Safety Data Sheets.*
- *The applicant shall declare compliance with the requirement under para. 3.3.*

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, 2021. They shall be extended by periods of one year each, unless terminated in writing by March 31, 2021 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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