

BLUE ANGEL

The German Ecolabel



Fabric Towel Rolls Supplied in Towel Dispensers

DE-UZ 77

Basic Award Criteria

Edition June 2008

Version 5

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 (06/2008): First Edition, Expiry date: December 31, 2012
 Version 2 (01/2012): Prolongation for 4 years without any change, until 31.12.2016
 Version 3 (01/2016): Prolongation for 4 years without any change, until 31.12.2020
 Version 4 (03/2018): Editorial changes
 Version 5 (01/2020): Prolongation for 1 year without any change, until 31.12.2021

Table of contents

1	Introduction.....	4
1.1	Preface	4
1.2	Background	4
1.3	Objectives of the Environmental Label	4
2	Scope	4
3	Requirements	5
3.1	Product:	5
3.1.1	Reuseability.....	5
3.1.2	Hygiene	5
3.1.3	Portioning	5
3.1.4	Subsequent utilization.....	5
3.1.5	LMBG and Arbeitsstätten-Verordnung	5
3.2	Cleaning Process	5
3.2.1	Washing of the fabric towel rolls.....	5
3.2.2	Substances and Risk Category	6
3.2.3	Prohibition of precleaning	6
3.2.4	Commandment on washing with soft water	6
3.2.5	Fresh-water consumption	6
3.3	Prohibition of biocide substances	6
4	Applicants and Parties Involved.....	7
5	Use of the Environmental 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 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

For hygiene, serviceability and environmental reasons fabric-towel rolls are to be recommended for drying and follow-up cleaning after hand washing at public facilities and company washrooms.

Fabric towel rolls distinguish themselves by a long service life (80 - 100 cycles), good hygiene properties and subsequent usability (e.g. as polishing cloths and cleaning rags).

Modern laundries distinguish themselves by low water consumption, environmentally acceptable use of washing agents and recirculation of the washings. In addition, the long service life of fabric towels and their subsequent usability, for instance as cleaning rags, help to reduce the volume of waste.

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 systems made up of cotton towel rolls and towel dispensers which meet the following requirements for fabric towel rolls and cleaning processes.

Other strengthening fibres shall be permissible up to a maximum content of 35%.

3 Requirements

The Environmental Label may be used for the marking of the systems pursuant to para.2, provided that the following requirements are complied with:

3.1 Product:

3.1.1 Reuseability

The fabric towel rolls must be reusable for at least 80 times and must be obtainable from a towel dispenser.

3.1.2 Hygiene

The used part of a towel must be pulled back into the towel dispenser after a single use.

3.1.3 Portioning

One fabric towel roll must be good for at least 80 "towel portions".

3.1.4 Subsequent utilization

Worn or torn fabric towel rolls must be forwarded to subsequent utilization (for example as cleaning rags).

3.1.5 LMBG and Arbeitsstätten-Verordnung

These fabric towel rolls must meet the requirements as laid down in LMBG (Lebens-mittel- und Bedarfsgegenständegesetz) (Law on foodstuffs and commodities), Directive on recognition, prevention and fighting of hospital infections (former BGVV - Federal Institute for Consumer Health Protection and Veterinary Medicine) (provided that they are used in the corresponding working zones) as well as in the regulations of the Arbeitsstätten-Verordnung (Working Places Ordinance).

3.2 Cleaning Process

3.2.1 Washing of the fabric towel rolls

Washing and cleaning agents as defined in Section 2, para.1, Wasch- und Reinigungsmittelgesetz - WRMG (Act on Washing and Cleaning Agents), may be used for the washing of the fabric towel rolls at laundries only if they are free from the following substances:

- phosphates
- APEO (alkyl phenol ethoxylate)
- EDTA (ethylene diamintetra acetate)
- optical brighteners
- soft rinsers
- phosphonates with a content of > 1.0 weight per cent.
- bleaching agents on chlorine basis
- NTA with a content of > 1 weight per cent.
- halogenic organical compounds.

3.2.2 Substances and Risk Category

The washing agents must not contain any substances listed in Risk Category 3 of water-endangering substances (Catalogue of water-endangering substances).

3.2.3 Prohibition of precleaning

Precleaning of the washing with the help of solvents pursuant to Annex 52 to "Abwasserverordnung (AbwV) zum Wasserhaushaltsgesetz" (WHG) (Reprocessing effluents Regulation pertaining to the Water Supply Act) shall not be permitted.

3.2.4 Commandment on washing with soft water

Washing is to be done with soft water in order to minimize the use of tensides.

3.2.5 Fresh-water consumption

Fresh-water consumption must not exceed 8m³ per ton of dry washing for laundries reusing the water and 10 m³ per ton of dry washing for all other laundries.

3.3 Prohibition of biocide substances

The entire cleaning process and after-treatment of the fabric towel rolls must be done without any agents containing biocide substances.

Excluded from this prescription are:

- in the inserted preparations contained pot preservatives for the purpose of conservation
- Bleaching agents on oxygen basis

Compliance Verifications

- *The applicant shall submit Instructions for Use.*
- *The applicant shall declare compliance with the requirements under paras.3.1.1 to 3.1.5.*
- *The applicant shall describe how used and torn fabric towel rolls are reutilized.*
- *The applicant shall indicate the UBA Registration No. (UBA = Federal Environmental Agency) for all washing and cleaning agents used.*
- *The applicant shall present declarations for the fulfillment of para 3.2.1 for the washing and cleaning agents of the supplier or producer. In the declaration all washing and cleaning agents must be named with trade name and the UBA Registration No..*
- *The applicant shall declare compliance with the requirements in paras.3.2.2 - 3.2.5 and shall explain the cleaning process.*
- *The applicant shall declare compliance with the requirement in para 3.3.*

4 Applicants and Parties Involved

Suppliers of systems 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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