

BLUE ANGEL

The German Ecolabel



Garden tools

DE-UZ 206

Basic Award Criteria

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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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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

In areas worthy of protection (e.g. residential and recreation areas), many affected people consider noise generated by equipment for gardening and landscaping (hereinafter called garden tools) to be significant noise pollution. The objective of awarding the environmental label to low-noise and low-pollution garden tools is thus primarily to reduce noise emissions.

The Blue Angel environmental label identifies those garden tools with state-of-the-art noise reduction technology that have noise emissions below the legal requirements. As combustion engine powered tools with the latest technical features do not meet the necessary requirements for the award of the environmental label, these tools are no longer contained within the scope of the latest Basic Award Criteria. Specific noise requirements for tools with electric motors (mains or battery powered) are valid in each case.

In addition, the garden tools awarded with the Blue Angel environmental label must also comply with other important product criteria. For example, the use of substances harmful to the environment and human health in the materials used for the tools must – as far as technically possible – be excluded. Battery-powered tools must use rechargeable batteries that are low in pollutants and have a long service life.

1.3 Objective of the environmental label

The Blue Angel environmental label for garden tools may be awarded to products featuring the following environmental properties:

- Particularly low noise emissions
- Long battery life and availability of replacement batteries
- Reduced level of harmful substances in the rechargeable batteries
- Tool materials low in pollutants
- Durable, easy to repair and recyclable design

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



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- low noise
- high battery quality
- low level of harmful materials

1.4 Compliance with legal requirements

The observance of relevant existing laws and legal requirements is a prerequisite for those products awarded with the environmental label. In particular, the following legal requirements must be observed:

- *The German Equipment and Machinery Noise Prevention Ordinance (Geräte- und Maschinenlärmschutzverordnung) (32nd BImSchV)¹ for the implementation of EU Directive 2000/14/EC² (Outdoor Directive)*
- *The German Product Safety Act (ProdSG)³ for the implementation of EU Directive 2006/42/EC⁴ (Machinery Directive)*
- *The German Battery Act (BattG)⁵ for the implementation of the EU Directive 2006/66/EG⁶*
- *Commission regulation (EU) No. 1103/2010⁷ for defining the rules for labelling the capacity of rechargeable batteries*
- *The German Electrical and Electronic Equipment Act (ElektroG)⁸ and the German Material Ordinance for Electrical and Electronic Equipment (ElektroStoffV)⁹ for the implementation of EU Directive 2012/19/EC¹⁰ (WEEE Directive) and 2011/65/EC¹¹ (ROHS Directive)*

¹ 32nd ordinance for the implementation of the German Federal Emissions Protection Law (Bundesimmissionsschutzgesetz) from 29 August 2002, BGBl. I S. 3478, last amended by Article 83 VO 31. August 2015 (BGBl. I S. 1474, 1488)

² Directive 2000/14/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 8 May 2000 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the noise emission in the environment by equipment for use outdoors, last amended by Directive 2005/88/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 December 2005

³ Law for making products available on the market (Gesetz über die Bereitstellung von Produkten auf dem Markt) from 8 November 2011, BGBl. I S. 2178, last amended by Article 435 VO 31. August 2015 (BGBl. I S. 1474, 1538)

⁴ Directive 2006/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2006 on machinery, and amending Directive 95/16/EC OJ EC No. L 157/24)

⁵ German Battery Act from 25 June 2009, BGBl. I P. 1582), which was last amended by Paragraph 1 of the law from 20 November 2015 (BGBl. I S. 2071)

⁶ Directive 2006/66/EC of the European parliament and of the Council of 6 September 2006 on batteries and accumulators and waste batteries and accumulators, Official Journal of the European Union L339, P. 39, 2007, No. L139 P.40

⁷ Commission regulation (EU) No. 1103/2010 of 29 November 2010 establishing, pursuant to Directive 2006/66/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, rules as regards capacity labelling of portable secondary (rechargeable) and automotive batteries and accumulators

⁸ Law for the sale, return and environmental disposal of electrical and electronic equipment from 20 October 2015 (BGBl. I S. 1739), last amended by Article 3 of the Ordinance of 20 October 2015 (BGBl. I S. 1739)

⁹ Material Ordinance for Electrical and Electronic Equipment of 19 April 2013 (BGBl. I S. 1111)

¹⁰ Directive 2012/19/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 4 July 2012 on waste electrical and electronic equipment (**W**aste of **E**lectrical and **E**lectronic **E**quipment)

¹¹ Directive 2011/65/EU on the restriction of the use of certain hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment (*Restriction of Hazardous Substances*). Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/863 of 31 March 2015 amending Annex II to Directive 2011/65/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the list of restricted substances has added further substances to the list of prohibited substances in Annex II. The restriction of the use of these substances comes into force on 22 July 2019.

- *The substance requirements defined by the EU Chemicals Regulation REACH (1907/2006/EC)¹² and Regulation (EC) No. 1272/2008¹³*

2 Scope

These Basic Award Criteria are valid for those tools with electric motors (mains or battery powered) for gardening and landscaping that are listed in the following sections:

Chain saws, hedge trimmers, lawnmowers, electric scythes and trimmers, scarifiers, shredders and pole pruners.

Definitions for the tools can be found in Appendix A to the Basic Award Criteria.

Modular tools (drive unit + replaceable tools) can also be labelled with the environmental label if all of the tool combinations applied for comply with the requirements.¹⁴

3 Requirements

The products named under Paragraph 2 can be labelled with the environmental label illustrated on the first page of these Basic Award Criteria if they comply with the following requirements.

3.1 Noise emissions

The evaluation of noise emissions for garden tools that come under the scope of these Basic Award Criteria is based on the labelling¹⁵ of the A-weighted sound power level in dB according to Article 11 of Directive 2000/14/EC. The A-weighted sound power level L_{WA} must be determined and stated as an individual noise emission value in accordance with the tool-specific testing methods stated in Table 1. The labelled A-weighted sound power level L_{WA} must not exceed the relevant test value stated for each tool in Table 1.

Table 1: Test values for the operating noise of garden tools

Type of garden tool	Tool-specific testing method	Test value for the stated and labelled A-weighted sound power level L_{WA} in dB
Chain saws	DIN EN 62841-4-1	99
Hedge trimmers	DIN EN 62841-4-2	93
Lawnmowers	DIN EN 60335-2-77	

¹² 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

¹³ Regulation (EC) No. 1272/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2008 on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures, amending and repealing Directives 67/548/EEC and 1999/45/EC, as well as amending Regulation (EC) No. 1907/2006

¹⁴ The scope may be expanded in this regard if ratified by the Environmental Label Jury.

¹⁵ The labelling of the guaranteed sound power level is described in Annex IV of Directive 2000/14/EC.

Type of garden tool	Tool-specific testing method	Test value for the stated and labelled A-weighted sound power level L _{WA} in dB
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cutting width < 40 cm • Cutting width > 40 cm 		88 91
Electrical trimmers and scythes	DIN EN 50636-2-91	91
Scarifiers	DIN EN 50636-2-92	92
Shredders	DIN EN 50434	92
Pole pruners	DIN EN 62841-4-1	95

Compliance verification:

The applicant shall declare compliance with the requirements in Annex 1, submit a test report from a testing institution accredited for the corresponding process in accordance with ISO 17025 or from a testing institution (notified body) according to Article 15 of 2000/14/EC (Annex 2) and confirm the labelling of the stated A-weighted sound power level as Annex 3 according to Article 11 of Directive 2000/14/EC (e.g. in the form of a photo).

3.2 Requirements for rechargeable batteries

These requirements exclusively refer to rechargeable batteries that are components of battery-powered garden tools.

3.2.1 Removeability of the rechargeable batteries

It must be possible for the user to remove or separate the rechargeable battery from the tool without damaging it. The tools must not be damaged by removing the rechargeable battery.

Compliance verification:

The applicant shall declare compliance with the requirements in Annex 1 and submit the corresponding pages of the product documentation in Annex 13.

3.2.2 Labelling of the capacity of the rechargeable battery

The rated capacity in ampere hours (Ah) in accordance with the rules contained in Regulation (EU) No. 1103/2010 must be clearly, legibly and permanently labelled on the rechargeable battery. In addition, the capacity of the rechargeable battery must be stated in the product documentation.

Compliance verification:

The applicant shall declare compliance with the requirements in Annex 1 and submit corresponding images of the rechargeable battery in Annex 4 and the relevant pages of the product documentation in Annex 13.

3.2.3 Testing the capacity of the rechargeable battery (rated capacity)

The capacity of the rechargeable batteries must be measured in accordance with the currently valid version of the EN 61960 standard based on the first discharging/charging cycle (discharged at 0.2 amps) in accordance with Section 7.3.1 "Discharge performance at 20 °C (rated capacity)"

for three rechargeable batteries (according to EN 61960 Table 4 "Sample size") and it must not be less than 100% of the rated capacity stated by the manufacturer. The required steps may be repeated up to four times to fulfil the requirements.

Compliance verification:

The applicant shall declare compliance with the requirements in Annex 1 and submit a test report as Annex 5 verifying that three rechargeable batteries have been analysed and all three comply with the requirements.

The test report must be completed by a testing laboratory that fulfils the requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories according to DIN EN ISO/IEC 17025. Test reports completed by the applicant are recognised as being of an equivalent standard when the testing laboratory used for the measurements is accredited by an independent body as an SMT laboratory (supervised manufacturer testing laboratory).

3.2.4 Low level of self-discharge (charge retention)

The rechargeable batteries must display a low level of self-discharge. Three different rechargeable batteries (according to the regulations for the "Sample size" in EN 61960) must be tested in accordance with the test conditions stated in the next paragraph. Following these tests, the batteries must still have at least 90 % of the rated capacity that was determined after the conditioning cycles. All three of the rechargeable batteries tested must comply with the requirements for the test process.

Test conditions: The self-discharge of the sample batteries must be tested in accordance with the conditions specified in the EN 61960 standard. However, a higher ambient temperature of 40°C +/-2°C should be used for the tests. Rechargeable batteries featuring an automatic discharge function must be tested for their charge retention after the automatic discharge.

Compliance verification:

The applicant shall declare compliance with the requirements in Annex 1 and submit a test report in accordance with EN 61960 (Annex 6) verifying that three batteries have been analysed and all three comply with the requirements.

During the test, the rechargeable battery should be stored (separately or connected to the tool) in accordance with its expected use or as described in the product documentation.

The test report must be completed by a testing laboratory that fulfils the requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories according to DIN EN ISO/IEC 17025. Test reports completed by the applicant are recognised as being of an equivalent standard when the testing laboratory used for the measurements is accredited by an independent body as an SMT laboratory (supervised manufacturer testing laboratory).

3.2.5 Warranty cover

The applicant obligates themselves to provide a 24 month warranty on the battery from the date of purchase, subject to the proper use of the battery. The residual capacity of the rechargeable battery must still be at least 80 % of the rated capacity after 24 months or 500 charging cycles. The product documentation must contain corresponding information on the terms and conditions for the warranty.

The applicant undertakes to make sure that the provision of spare rechargeable batteries (subsequent purchase) is guaranteed for at least 5 years following the termination of production and that the consumer is informed in the product documentation about the possibility of the subsequent purchase of a rechargeable battery.

Compliance verification:

The applicant shall declare compliance with the requirements in Annex 1 and submit the relevant product documentation (Annex 13).

3.2.6 Heavy metal content

The heavy metal content of the rechargeable batteries must not exceed the values stated in Table 2:

Table 2: Permissible concentrations of heavy metals in the rechargeable batteries

Metal	Concentration
Mercury	< 0.1 ppm
Cadmium	< 1.0 ppm
Lead	< 5 ppm

Compliance verification:

The applicant shall declare compliance with the requirements in Annex 1 and submit a test report verifying that at least four rechargeable batteries (for the relevant type of tool) have been analysed and all four comply with the requirements (Annex 7).

The metal contents will be determined based on the methods in: "Überprüfung der Quecksilber-, Cadmium- und Blei-Gehalte in Batterien. Analyse von Proben handelsüblicher Batterien und in Geräten verkaufter Batterien. Erstellung eines Probenahmeplans, Probenbeschaffung und Analytik" (Testing the content of mercury, cadmium and lead in batteries. Analysis of samples of standard batteries and batteries sold in devices. Devising a sampling plan, sample procurement and analysis) from the Federal Institute for Materials Research and Testing (BAM), November 2011, or the "Battery Industry Standard Analytical Method - for the determination of Mercury, Cadmium and Lead in Alkaline Manganese Cells Using AAS, ICP-AES and Cold Vapour". Publishers: The European Portable Battery Association (EPBA), the Battery Association of Japan (BAJ), the National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA; USA), April 1998.

The test report must be completed by a testing laboratory that fulfils the requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories according to DIN EN ISO/IEC 17025 or is accredited by an independent body as an SMT laboratory (supervised manufacturer testing laboratory).

3.2.7 Guaranteeing the take back of old batteries

The applicant shall declare compliance with the manufacturer's take back and notification obligations in accordance with the German Battery Act (BattG).

Compliance verification:

The applicant shall declare compliance with the requirements in Annex 1.

3.2.8 General safety requirements

The rechargeable battery, as well as the cells used, must fulfil all of the applicable test requirements according to EN 62133.

Compliance verification:

The applicant shall declare compliance with the requirements in Annex 1 and submit a corresponding test report stating the testing method used (Annex 8).

The testing laboratory must be accredited according to DIN EN ISO/IEC 17025.

Test reports completed by the applicant are recognised as being of an equivalent standard when the testing laboratory used for the measurements is accredited by an independent body as an SMT laboratory (supervised manufacturer testing laboratory).

3.2.9 No load power consumption of the charging device

The no load¹⁶ power consumption of the charging device must comply with the following values:
≤ 1.0 watts

Compliance verification:

The applicant shall declare compliance with the requirement in Annex 1 and submit a test report according to the External Power Supplies Directive (EC) No. 278/2009 (Annex 9). The no load power consumption is to be measured over a time period of 10 minutes. The measurements are to be carried out with a mains supply voltage of 230V ± 1%.

The testing laboratory must be accredited according to DIN EN ISO/IEC 17025. Test reports completed by the applicant are recognised as being of an equivalent standard when the testing laboratory is accredited by an independent body as an SMT laboratory (supervised manufacturer testing laboratory).

3.2.10 Protection against over-discharging and deep discharging of the rechargeable battery

The rechargeable battery must be protected against over-discharging and deep discharging. The test must be carried out in accordance with EN 60335-2-29 on the relevant combination of charging device and rechargeable battery.

Compliance verification:

The applicant shall declare compliance with the requirements in Annex 1 and submit a corresponding test report (Annex 10).

The testing laboratory must be accredited according to DIN EN ISO/IEC 17025. Test reports completed by the applicant are recognised as being of an equivalent standard when the testing laboratory used for the measurements is accredited by an independent body as an SMT laboratory (supervised manufacturer testing laboratory).

¹⁶ In accordance with the External Power Supplies Directive (EC) No. 278/2009, "no load" describes a condition in which the input of an external power supply is connected to the mains power source, but the output is not connected to any primary load.

3.2.11 Charging status indicator

During the charging process, there must be an indicator showing the charging status of the rechargeable battery (at least whether the rechargeable battery is fully charged or not). This indicator must be located on the rechargeable battery.

Compliance verification:

The applicant shall declare compliance with the requirement in Annex 1 and submit the corresponding sections of the product documentation (Annex 13).

3.3 Other requirements for all tools

The following requirements generally apply to all product groups and tools that come under the scope of these Basic Award Criteria.

3.3.1 Recyclable and easy to repair design of the products

The tools must fulfil the principles of VDI Guideline 2243 "Recycling-oriented product development" in terms of criteria that the distributor has defined, taking into account the intended processes for recycling and the reuse of materials.

These measures include:

- Housing parts and large-format components manufactured out of plastics must be made out of a uniform polymer (homopolymer or copolymer) so that they can be recycled using existing technologies for the production of high-quality and long-lasting industrial products. Polymer blends (polymer alloys) are permitted.¹⁷
- The plastic parts of the tools designed for recycling (housing parts and large-format components) must be correspondingly labelled in accordance with ISO 11469.
- Easy repairability/replaceability of important wearing parts must be guaranteed. This includes the easy dismantling of the tool and components and easy accessibility to the wearing parts.

The recyclable and easy to repair design must take into account the relevant safety requirements for the consumer. The requirement for "easy repairability" refers to the manufacturer or repair workshops and can also be considered to have been complied with if the repair can only be carried out using special tools in corresponding facilities.

Compliance verification:

The applicant shall declare compliance with the requirement in Annex 1 and submit the relevant pages of the product documentation referring to the repair of the tool in Annex 13.

3.3.2 Exclusion of harmful substances in the tools

The EU Directive 2015/863/EU (RoHS Directive) must be observed. In accordance with Annex II, this refers to the exclusion of lead, mercury, cadmium, hexavalent chromium, polybrominated biphenyls (PBB), polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDE) and di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHP), benzyl butyl phthalate (BBP), dibutyl phthalate (DBP) and diisobutyl phthalate (DIBP).

The exemptions in the Annex III to this EU Directive are not valid for this environmental label.

¹⁷ Polymer blends are special mixtures of two or more plastics that exhibit improved properties compared to the pure plastics contained within them.

Compliance verification:

The applicant shall declare in Annex 1 that the garden tool does not contain any of the substances listed in Annex II and Annex III and submit a declaration of conformity with the ROHS Directive in Annex 11.

3.3.3 Material requirements for plastics used in the housing and housing parts

The plastics may not contain as constituent parts any substances classified as:

- a) carcinogenic in categories 1A or 1B according to Table 3.1 of Annex VI to EC Regulation 1272/2008¹⁸
- b) mutagenic in categories 1A or 1B according to Table 3.1 of Annex VI to EC Regulation 1272/2008
- c) reprotoxic in categories 1A or 1B according to Table 3.1 of Annex VI to EC Regulation 1272/2008
- d) particularly alarming for other reasons according to the criteria of Annex XIII to the REACH Regulation, insofar as they are included in the List (so-called "list of candidates"¹⁹) set up in accordance with REACH, Article 59, Paragraph 1.

Halogenated polymers shall not be permitted. Neither may halogenated organic compounds be added as flame retardants. In addition, the use of flame-retardant materials that are rated as acutely toxic to aquatic organisms with long-term effects according to Tables 3.1 or 3.2 of Annex VI of EC regulation 1272/2008 and classified with the hazard statement code H410 or with the risk phrase R 50/53 is prohibited.

The following shall be exempt from this rule:

- process-related, technically unavoidable impurities;
- fluoroorganic additives (e.g. anti-dripping agents) used to improve the physical properties of plastics, provided that they do not exceed a proportion of 0.5 percent by mass;
- plastic parts with a mass of less than or equal to 25 g.

Compliance verification:

The applicant shall declare compliance with the requirements in Annex 1 and submit a written declaration from the plastics manufacturer or guarantee the provision of these documents to RAL gGmbH. The declaration shall confirm that the excluded substances have not been added to the plastics and provide a chemical description of the flame-retardant materials used including the CAS number and its rating (H Phrases)(Annexes P-M and P-L to the Contract).

When first applying for the Blue Angel environmental label, the submitted declaration must not be older than 6 months. If one applicant submits additional applications for the labelling of

¹⁸ CLP Regulation (EC) No. 1272/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2008 on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures, amending and repealing Directives 67/548/EEC and 1999/45/EC, as well as amending Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006, Annex VI on harmonized classification and labelling of hazardous substances, Part 3: Harmonized classification and labelling, Tables, Table 3.2, – List of harmonized classification and labelling of dangerous substances from Annex I to Directive 67/548/EEC, short: GHS Regulation http://www.reach-info.de/ghs_verordnung.htm, each as amended.

¹⁹ The version of the list of candidates at the time of application is valid (new applications). Link to the list of candidates of Regulation (EC) No. 1907/2006 concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorization, and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH): <http://echa.europa.eu/web/guest/candidate-list-table>

products that contain the same plastics, the submitted declarations may be presented unchanged during the term of the Basic Award Criteria. Notwithstanding this, RAL shall be entitled to ask for an updated version of the declarations if the Federal Environmental Agency (Umweltbundesamt) finds that product-relevant substances have been added to the list of candidates.

3.3.4 Exclusion of harmful substances in the handles

Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs)

The use of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in the materials used for the handles should be avoided. It must be verified that the following maximum contents are not exceeded in the handles:

Sum of 15 PAH: < 10 mg/kg

(naphthalene, phenanthrene, anthracene, fluoranthene, pyrene, benzo(a)anthracene, chrysene, benzo(a)pyrene, benzo(e)pyrene, benzo(b)fluoranthene, benzo(j)fluoranthene, benzo(k)fluoranthene, dibenzo(a,h)anthracene, indeno(1,2,3-cd)pyrene, benzo(g,h,i)perylene)

Compliance verification:

The applicant shall declare compliance with the requirements in Annex 1.

In order to verify the avoidance of PAH in the handle materials, the applicant shall submit a test report in accordance with the requirements found in AfPS²⁰ GS 2019:01 PAH²¹. The requirements for subcategory "Other products in the scope of ProdSG" under category 2 for "Materials not covered by category 1, with foreseeable skin contact for longer than 30 seconds (long-term skin contact) or repeated short-term skin contact" must be fulfilled (Annex 12).

3.4 Requirements for the consumer information

The documentation included with the garden tools must include both the technical specifications and also consumer information relevant to human health and the environment. This must be enclosed in printed form with the relevant tool and also be available on the Internet. The following user information relevant to the environment must be listed in the operating instructions and the product documentation:

- a) Information on suitable handling of the rechargeable batteries to promote a long service life:
 - ◆ Adequate charging (in a dry, optimal temperature, partial charging extends the lifespan, use of the associated charging device, etc.)
 - ◆ Adequate storage (in dry state, optimal temperature and charging status)
 - ◆ Optimal working temperature (avoid high temperatures)
 - ◆ Safety instructions for minimising risks e.g. risk of fire, risk of explosions, etc.
 - ◆ Information on the capacity in Ah and the guaranteed service life
- b) Information on the replacement of rechargeable batteries
 - ◆ Mechanical removeability, possibility of subsequent purchase

²⁰ Product Safety Commission (AfPS)

²¹ <https://www.baua.de/DE/Aufgaben/Geschaefsfuehrung-von-Ausschuessen/AfPS/pdf/AfPS-GS-2019-01-PAK.html>

- c) Information on the disposal of rechargeable batteries:
 - ♦ Not in household waste
 - ♦ Take back scheme with dealers (or recycling centres)
- d) Information on the use of lubricants (if lubricants are relevant for the tool group):
 - ♦ The use of readily biodegradable (chain) lubricants according to DE-UZ 178 is advantageous
- e) Information on the repairability/replaceability of wearing parts.

Compliance verification:

The applicant shall submit the corresponding pages of the product documentation (Annex 13).

4 Applicants and Parties Involved

Manufacturers 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, 2024.

They shall be extended by periods of one year each, unless terminated in writing by March 31, 2024 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 Definition of garden tools (corresponding no. of Annex I of 2000/14/EC)

Chain saws (6)

A power-driven tool designed to cut wood with a saw chain and consisting of an integrated compact unit of handles, power source and cutting attachment, designed to be supported with two hands.

Hedge trimmers (25)

Hand-held, integrally driven powered equipment which is designed for use by one operator for trimming hedges and bushes utilising one or more linear reciprocating cutter blades.

Lawnmowers (32)

A walk-behind or ride-on grass cutting machine or a machine with grass-cutting attachment(s) for cutting grass. The machine uses the ground to determine the height of cut by means of wheels, air cushion or skids, etc. The cutting devices are either rigid cutting elements or non-metallic filament lines or cutters. The cutting device operates in a plane approximately parallel to the ground or the cutting elements rotate about a horizontal axis (cylinder mower and riding mowers).

Electrical trimmers and scythes²² (33)

A portable hand-held unit for cutting grass, weeds, brush or similar vegetation. The rotating blade can be rigid or flexible and made out of metal (only cordless tools) or plastic. The cutting tool is intended for operation on a plane parallel or perpendicular (tool designed as an edge trimmer) to the ground.

Scarifiers (49)

A walk-behind or ride-on powered machine with an assembly appropriate to slit or scratch the surface of the lawn.

Shredders (50)

A powered machine designed for use in a stationary position having one or more cutting devices for the purpose of reducing bulk organic materials to smaller pieces. Generally it consists of a feed intake opening through which material (which may be held by an appliance or not) is inserted, a device which cuts up the material by whatever method (cutting, chopping, crushing or other methods) and a discharge chute through which the cut material is discharged. A collecting device may be attached.

²² The equipment definitions with the numbers 2 (brush cutter), 24 (grass trimmer/grass edge trimmer) and 33 (lawn trimmer/lawn edge trimmer) in Directive 2000/14/EC can be confusing for consumers. These products are also called "cordless brush cutters", "electric scythes" or "electric trimmers" on the market. A uniform description has not yet been found. In these Basic Award Criteria, the tools are generally designated as Electrical trimmers and scythes". In effect, this corresponds to definition no. 33 (lawn trimmer/lawn edge trimmer) in 2000/14/EC.

Pole pruners²³

A portable hand-held unit for cutting wood at a height above the height of the operator. The tool has a power-driven saw chain that is permanently mounted on the top end of a pole or telescopic pole. Operation is carried out at ground level by guiding the tool with both hands via the operating handle on the bottom end of the pole or telescopic pole.

²³ (not within the scope of 2000/14/EC)