

# **BLUE ANGEL**

**The German Ecolabel**



## **Reusable systems to-go for food and beverages**

**DE-UZ 210**

**Basic Award Criteria**

**Edition January 2019**

**Version 4**

## 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

The growing market for cold and hot beverages for takeaway consumption has resulted in higher use of disposable cups. The same is also true for the takeaway sector for e.g. warm food in disposable boxes. 70 percent of consumers across Germany now use takeaway coffee cups (also called "coffee to go" cups) very frequently or occasionally<sup>1</sup>. Recent studies by the Institute for Energy and Environmental Research (ifeu - Institut für Energie- und Umweltforschung gGmbH) as part of a current research project estimate that a total of 2.8 billion disposable cups are used per year in takeaway sales<sup>2</sup> – of which approx. 1.2 billion are to-go cups. This figure is much higher if disposable cups for cold beverages are also included.

These figures show the importance of disposable cups, which especially in the hot beverage sector are mostly made out of paper fibres and coated on the inside with a thin layer of polyethylene plastic. The paper fibres are primarily made out of virgin fibres because recycled fibres are usually difficult to use in the food sector. There is also an issue with the plastic lids that are normally made out of polystyrene. Disposable cups for cold beverages are primarily made out of plastic from fossil raw materials. Some commonly used plastics include polypropylene, polystyrene and polyethylene terephthalate.

Alongside the consumption of resources and the associated environmental impact, the high volume of waste also places an additional burden on municipal waste management companies. Another problem is the pollution caused by the careless littering of roads, parks or the countryside with disposable crockery and other waste.

Reusable containers and cups can be used to reduce the environmental impact and waste generated by disposable containers and cups. The use of individual containers and also deposit containers can make a contribution in this context. In contrast to deposit containers, it is not certain that individual containers will be used a sufficient number of times to justify their higher manufacturing costs.

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<sup>1</sup> Aral (2014): Aral Study, Trends beim Kaffeegenuss (Trends in coffee drinking) 2014

<sup>2</sup> UBA Project: Untersuchung der ökologischen Bedeutung von Einweggetränkbechern im Außer-Haus-Verzehr und mögliche Maßnahmen zur Verringerung des Verbrauchs (Study of the ecological significance of disposable beverage cups for takeaway consumption and possible measures to reduce consumption). FKZ 3717 34 339 0. Planned publication of the results: January 2019.

Life cycle assessments have demonstrated that the circulation number for a cup – i.e. the number of times it is reused – is an important criteria for easing the environmental burden. The higher the circulation number for a reusable container or cup, the lower the impact due to its higher manufacturing cost. This means that the reusable systems can perform significantly better than disposable systems.

### 1.3 Objectives of the Environmental Label

The objective of the environmental label is to reduce the number of disposable containers used for takeaway food and beverages and to promote environmentally friendly reusable container systems. It includes requirements for the containers themselves and the calculation of their circulation number, as well as incentives for using reusable containers instead of disposable containers.

The Blue Angel environmental label may be awarded to reusable container systems featuring the following environmental and health aspects:

- Avoidance of materials that are harmful to the environment and health
- Avoidance of waste
- Long service life of the reusable containers
- Widespread introduction of reusable lids

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



### 1.4 Definitions

- **Reusable cup:** A reusable cup is characterised by the fact that – in contrast to a disposable cup – it is intended for reuse. It may be an individual cup or a deposit cup.
- **Individual cup:** An individual cup is purchased by the customer. When dispensing the beverage, this cup can be filled in accordance with certain hygiene measures. The cup remains in the possession of the customer and must be cleaned at home by the customer.
- **Food box:** Container for cold and warm food, which is used in the catering sector and the retail trade.
- **Reusable container:** Reusable cups for hot and cold drinks, as well as reusable food boxes for hot and cold food.
- **Deposit in the sense of these Basic Award Criteria:** A security payment for the temporary loan of the deposit container. The deposit serves as an incentive for consumers to return the reusable container to the system in a timely manner. The security payment can be made in the form of e.g. a directly held cash payment, a deposit token or payment data in case

payment is subsequently required. It is permissible to set a limited deadline for the return of the deposit container.

- **Deposit container:** This container is borrowed by the customer in exchange for a deposit. It is filled by the food and beverage vendor and can be returned after use in a clean or unclean state by the customer in order to receive the deposit. The deposit container remains the property of the provider of the reusable container system.
- **Reusable lid:** Similar to reusable containers, reusable lids are characterised by the fact that – in contrast to a disposable lids – they are intended for reuse. Reusable lids are also available as **individual lids** (which are purchased by the customer) and **deposit lids** (which can be borrowed from the food and beverage vendor in exchange for a deposit).
- **Food and beverage vendor:** This term covers all establishments that sell beverages and/or food in reusable containers, such as catering establishments, system catering, communal catering and the retail trade.
- **Reusable container system:** A reusable container system is a service that loans deposit containers from a pool of these containers to food and beverage vendors, offers reusable lids and organises the delivery and return of used or damaged containers.
- **Provider of a reusable container system for reusable containers:** A provider of reusable containers as part of a reusable container system. This can be both a pure service company or a company operating in the catering trade / system catering, communal catering or the retail trade that also offers its own reusable container system as a food and beverage vendor.
- **Circulation number:** The circulation number for a deposit container (or a deposit lid) is the number of times the deposit container is filled during its service life. The circulation number for a reusable container system is calculated statistically as the ratio of the food/beverages dispensed in a deposit container sourced from a provider of a reusable container system to the average number of deposit containers from this provider that are in circulation during the same period.
- **Event:** A planned occasion, limited both in time and place, in which a group of people participates. Examples of an event include music festivals, street festivals, Christmas markets and sporting events. A distinction is made between one-off events and recurring events.
- **Deposit cups printed for a specific event:** Deposit cups are often individually printed for use at a specific event. This means that the cups can be clearly assigned to the event, e.g. by printing the logo of the event onto the cups. However, a distinction is made between printing that allows the use of these cups at recurring events and printing that only enables use at a single event (e.g. because a specific date is printed on them).

## 2 Scope

The environmental label is awarded to reusable containers that are offered as part of a reusable container system with a deposit.

The reusable containers covered by the scope of these Basic Award Criteria include cups and food boxes that can be filled with hot or cold beverages, as well as with other hot or cold food-stuffs or meals.

Holders of the environmental label can be providers of reusable container systems and also companies operating in the catering trade, system catering, communal catering or the retail trade (*food and beverage vendors*).

Special rules for coffee-to-go cups:

The environmental label can be awarded for reusable cups and for individual cups. Food and beverage vendors have the option of applying to use the environmental label either as a provider of a reusable container system or as a provider of individual cups. For providers of individual cups, the individual cups must be offered in addition to deposit cups that are part of a reusable container system that has been certified with the environmental label.

Returnable glasses and bottles that are directly filled by the manufacturer/system provider are excluded from the scope of the criteria. The Blue Angel for "Returnable Bottles and Glasses" (DE-UZ 2) can be awarded to these items.

### 3 Requirements

The requirements are split into three sections:

- 3.1 Technical requirements for cups and lids,
- 3.2 Requirements for providers of reusable container systems,
- 3.3 Requirements for the food and beverage vendors.

The Basic Award Criteria apply to the containers used (Paragraph 3.1), the organisation of the reusable container system (Paragraph 3.2) and the dispensing practices of the food and beverage vendor (Paragraph 3.3). Depending on the applicant's sphere of influence, different verifications of compliance with the Basic Award Criteria must be provided.

Depending on the applicant, verification of compliance with the requirements must be provided either by the applicant themselves ("x") or by way of the following verifications:

<b>Applicant</b>	3.1 Technical requirements for cups and lids	3.2 Requirements for providers of reusable container systems	3.3 Requirements for the food and beverage vendors
Provider of the reusable container system	x	x	<i>Verification with a sample contract</i>
Food and beverage vendor who is also the provider of the reusable container system	x	x	x
<b>ONLY FOR CUPS</b> Food and beverage vendor with individual cups that cooperates with the provider of the reusable container system	x <i>Only for individual cups</i>	<i>Verification with the Blue Angel Contract on the Use of the Environmental Label</i>	x

If an individual cup is offered (only possible in parallel with a reusable cup system certified with the Blue Angel), the applicant must verify compliance with the requirements in Paragraph 3.1 with regards to the individual cups.

#### 3.1 Technical requirements for cups and lids

Unless stated otherwise, the following requirements apply to both the deposit cup and its lid. If individual cups are being certified, they must also comply with the requirements.

### **3.1.1 Material requirements**

- Containers and lids must not be made out of plastics containing polycarbonate or melamine.

#### **Compliance verification**

*The applicant shall declare compliance with the above-named requirements in Annex 1 and submit a confirmation from the manufacturer of the container as Annex 2. The applicant shall also state the material used for the reusable container.*

### **3.1.2 Fitness for use**

- The containers and lids must be food-safe and tasteless based on the applicable legal framework according to Regulation (EC) No. 1935/2004<sup>3</sup> and Regulation (EU) No. 10/2011<sup>4</sup>.
- Containers and lids must be heat resistant and retain their shape even at extreme temperatures of 0 and 85°C.

#### **Compliance verification**

*The applicant shall declare compliance with the above-named requirements in Annex 1 and submit confirmation from a corresponding test laboratory accredited according to DIN EN ISO/IEC 17025 or a declaration of conformity as Annex 3 that certifies that the container and lid comply with the above-named requirements. In addition, RAL can request a copy of the associated test documents.*

### **3.1.3 Plastics requirements**

If the container is made out of plastic, it must be unmixed plastic without any coating with other materials to enable the recycling of the plastic. Lids made out of plastic must not be equipped or combined with materials that prevent material recycling, e.g. silicone.

#### **Compliance verification**

*The applicant shall declare compliance with the requirements in Annex 1 and submit declarations from the manufacturers about the plastics added to the containers and lids and their grade purity (Annex 4).*

### **3.1.4 Renewable raw materials**

If renewable raw materials are used in the production of the containers and/or lids, they must be sourced from sustainable agriculture/forestry.

#### **Compliance verification**

*The applicant shall declare compliance with the requirements in Annex 1 and submit a certificate to verify the sustainable origin of the raw materials used for the containers and lids (e.g. FSC,*

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<sup>3</sup> Regulation (EC) No. 1935/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 October 2004 on materials and articles intended to come into contact with food.

<sup>4</sup> Commission Regulation (EC) No 10/2011 of 14 January 2011 on plastic materials and articles intended to come into contact with food.

PEFC, International Sustainability and Carbon Certification (ISCC+), Roundtable on Sustainable Biomaterials (RSB), Roundtable Responsible Soy (RTRS), Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) or an equivalent certificate) (Annex 5).

### **3.1.5 Ceramic requirements**

If the container is made of ceramic (e.g. porcelain), it must be demonstrated that it was manufactured using the best available techniques as defined in the BAT reference document for the ceramic industry<sup>5</sup>.

#### **Compliance verification**

*The applicant shall declare compliance with the requirement in Annex 1 that production must be carried out in accordance with the best available technology as stipulated in the BAT reference document for the ceramic industry. Upon request by RAL gGmbH, the applicant agrees to supply suitable test reports when submitting the application, or whilst using the label, that verify compliance with the limit values for dust emissions, waste water, energy consumption and the use of chemicals specified in the BAT reference document as well as the process management system. RAL gGmbH will only request this information if there are reasonable doubts regarding compliance with this requirement. Test reports must be submitted no later than three months after the request.*

### **3.1.6 Service life**

The container must have a service life of at least 500 wash cycles. Reusable lids must have a service life of at least 100 wash cycles. If the container is an individual cup, this also applies to its lid.

If the containers or lids are printed, their imprint must also have the service life of the wash cycles stated above.

#### **Compliance verification**

*The applicant shall declare compliance with the requirement in Annex 1 and submit a technical data sheet or test report verifying compliance with the requirement (Annex 6).*

### **3.1.7 System identification**

Deposit containers and deposit lids must be marked in such a way that they can be clearly assigned and returned to their system provider.

#### **Compliance verification**

*The applicant shall declare compliance with the requirement in Annex 1 and submit a test sample of the container and, if applicable, lid verifying compliance with the requirement.*

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<sup>5</sup> Reference Document on Best Available Techniques in the Ceramic Manufacturing Industry, August 2007, [http://eippcb.jrc.ec.europa.eu/reference/BREF/cer\\_bref\\_0807.pdf](http://eippcb.jrc.ec.europa.eu/reference/BREF/cer_bref_0807.pdf)

## **3.2 Requirements for providers of reusable container systems**

### **3.2.1 Deposit container and corresponding lid**

The provider of the reusable container system must only use containers and lids that comply with the requirements in Paragraph 3.1. The provider must obligate food and beverage vendors to only issue deposit containers to customers in exchange for a deposit. The deposit must be at least 50 cents in the case of deposit cups.

If a lid for the deposit container is offered by the food and beverage vendor, the provider of the reusable container system must offer the food and beverage vendor a suitable reusable lid. This can either be purchased by the customer as an individual lid or borrowed as a deposit lid in exchange for a deposit.

#### ***Compliance verification***

*The applicant shall declare compliance with the requirements in Annex 1 and submit the corresponding verifications for the requirements stated in Paragraph 3.1 (Annexes 2 to 6). For verification of the deposit system, the applicant shall enclose the corresponding passage about the deposit fee in the contract concluded between the applicant and the food and beverage vendor (Annex 7).*

### **3.2.2 Deposit cups for events**

If deposit cups for events (see Paragraph 1.4 Definitions) are printed for a specific event, the provider of the reusable container system must ensure that a maximum of 50 percent of the cups used by the food and beverage vendor at the event have been printed for this specific event. To guarantee that this is the case, the provider of the reusable container system must also ensure, in addition to the printed cups for the specific event, that at least 50 percent of the deposit cups are either unprinted or otherwise printed (e.g. printing that does not specify a particular date).

Alternatively, all of the cups can be printed for a specific event if it is a recurring event, the printing does not refer to a particular date and the cups can thus be reused. In this case, the applicant must submit the usage concept for the recurring use of the cups (e.g. dates of the events and/or contracts that refer to multiple events).

The provider of the reusable container system must submit a list of the events for which it supplies deposit cups at the time of the application. After the award of the environmental label, the holder of the label must submit an updated list every year by 1 March at the latest which documents the events for which deposit cups were supplied in the preceding calendar year.

#### ***Compliance verification***

*The applicant shall declare compliance with the requirements in Annex 1 and submit a list of the events supplied by the applicant in Annex 8.*

### **3.2.3 Calculation of the circulation number**

After the award of the environmental label, the circulation number must be calculated annually for the calendar year by the provider of the reusable container system and this information must be submitted every year by 1 March at the latest.

### **Compliance verification**

*The applicant shall record the number of beverages and food served at its contractually bound food and beverage vendors and compare this information with the number of deposit cups the applicant placed into circulation (= circulation number). After the award of the environmental label, the holder of the label must submit the circulation number every year by 1 March of the following year at the latest. For documentation purposes, the applicant shall provide a brief description of how the circulation number is calculated (Annex 9). The calculation of the circulation number can also be carried out with the assistance of third parties (e.g. a trustee), using statistical procedures or by extrapolation from a limited number of datasets.*

#### **3.2.4 Recycling**

If the deposit containers and lids in circulation are made out of plastic, they must be taken back by the provider of the reusable container system at the end of their service life and recycled.

### **Compliance verification**

*The applicant shall declare compliance with the requirements in Annex 1 and state the plastic recycling system used to recycle the material.*

#### **3.2.5 Logistics**

The provider of the reusable container system must have a logistics concept that demonstrably contributes to the ecological optimisation of transport routes and vehicles.

### **Compliance verification**

*The applicant shall declare compliance with the requirements in Annex 1 and submit a logistics concept that describes the ecological optimisation of transport routes and vehicles (Annex 10).*

#### **3.2.6 Information for food and beverage vendors**

The provider of the reusable container system undertakes to provide the following information to the food and beverage vendors that it supplies with deposit containers:

- The guidelines "Good rules for the environmentally friendly sale of takeaway food and beverages" (Appendix A)
- The German information sheet "Pool-Geschirr: Hygiene beim Umgang mit Mehrweggeschirren innerhalb von Pfand-Poolsystemen" (Pool crockery: Hygiene when handling reusable crockery in deposit pool systems") issued by the Food Federation Germany (Appendix B)
- For the hygienic filling of individual cups, the German information sheet "Coffee to go - Becher: Hygiene beim Umgang mit kundeneigenen Bechern zur Abgabe von Heißgetränken in Bedienung oder Selbstbedienung" (Coffee-to-go cups: Hygiene when handling the customer's own cups for dispensing hot beverages in full-service or self-service) issued by the Food Federation Germany (Appendix C)
- The German information sheet "Mehrweg-Behältnisse: Hygiene beim Umgang mit kundeneigenen Behältnissen zur Abgabe von Lebensmitteln in Bedienung oder Selbstbedienung" (Reusable containers: Hygiene when handling the customer's own containers for dispensing hot food in full-service or self-service) issued by the Food Federation Germany (Appendix D)

The provider of the reusable container system must submit a list of the food and beverage vendors for which it supplies deposit containers at the time of the application. The provider must confirm that it will make the above-named information available to the companies at the latest after the award of the environmental label.

After the award of the environmental label, the holder of the label must submit an updated list every year by 1 March at the latest which documents the food and beverage vendors for which deposit containers were supplied in the preceding calendar year.

### **Compliance verification**

*The applicant shall declare compliance with the requirements in Annex 1 and submit a list of the food and beverage vendors that are supplied by the applicant in Annex 11.*

## **3.3 Requirements for the food and beverage vendors**

### **3.3.1 Compliance with the "Good Rules"**

All food and beverage vendors that use the deposit containers supplied by the provider of the reusable container system for hot beverages or food or who are holders of the environmental label themselves as a food and beverage vendor must comply with the "Good rules for the environmentally friendly sale of takeaway food and beverages" in Appendix A.

### **Compliance verification**

*If the applicant is a provider of a reusable container system who supplies its deposit containers to food and beverage vendors as a service, the applicant shall submit a sample contract concluded with its food and beverage vendors as Annex 7. It must be agreed in the contract that the food and beverage vendor will be provided with the "Good rules for the environmentally friendly sale of takeaway food and beverages" listed in Appendix A and will implement them in practice in the best way possible.*

*If the applicant is a food and beverage vendor which uses its own deposit container and therefore functions both as a food and beverage vendor and as a provider of a reusable container system, the applicant shall declare in Annex 1 that it complies with the "Good rules for the environmentally friendly sale of takeaway food and beverages" listed in Appendix A at all of its points of sale.*

*If the applicant is a food and beverage vendor that offers an individual cup for sale in addition to the reusable container system (either with its own deposit cups or with external ones), the applicant shall declare in Annex 1 that it complies with the "Good rules for the environmentally friendly sale of takeaway food and beverages" listed in Appendix A at all of its points of sale where hot beverages are dispensed.*

### **3.3.2 Requirements for beverages served at events**

For food and beverage vendors that use deposit cups from a provider of a reusable container system or who are holders of the environmental label themselves as a food and beverage vendor, a maximum of 50 percent of the deposit cups used at an event may have printing specifically

designed for the event (see Paragraph 1.4). The remaining deposit cups must either be unprinted, have printing that does not specify a particular date or come from previous events.

In addition, the food and beverage vendor undertakes to clean the deposit cups with printing specifically designed for the event directly on site and to use the cups several times per event.

### **Compliance verification**

*If the applicant is a provider of a reusable container system who supplies its deposit cups to food and beverage vendors for an event as a service, the applicant shall submit a sample contract concluded with its food and beverage vendors as Annex 7. It must be agreed in the contract that the food and beverage vendor will comply with the above-named requirements.*

*If the applicant is a food and beverage vendor which uses its own deposit cups and therefore functions both as a food and beverage vendor and as a provider of a reusable container system, the applicant shall declare in Annex 1 that it complies with the above-named requirements at all of its points of sale and at all events.*

### **3.4 Outlook**

It is recommended that the following criteria are examined for inclusion in a future revision of these Basic Award Criteria:

- Requirements for the cleaning of reusable containers by food and beverage vendors and by the providers of reusable container systems:
  - ♦ The use of energy efficient dishwashers.
  - ♦ The use of green electricity.
- Definition of a minimum circulation number

## **4 Applicants and Parties Involved**

Providers of reusable container systems or food and beverage vendors according to Paragraph 2 shall be eligible for application as a label holder.

Label holders for individual cups may be both providers of reusable container systems (including food and beverage vendors who are also providers of reusable container systems) who comply with all of the Basic Award Criteria in this document and also food and beverage vendors who cooperate with the provider of a reusable container system and this system has been certified with the environmental label.

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.

The environmental label can be used to label reusable and individual cups. Furthermore, a provider of a reusable container system can advertise that it is a label holder by displaying the environmental label (e.g. on its website) and publishing the certificate awarded by RAL gGmbH. A food and beverage vendor may use the environmental label on advertising boards (e.g. displays, price boards) or window stickers, provided that the label holder is clearly identifiable for third parties. Publication of the certificate awarded by RAL gGmbH is also permitted.

In general, the label holder must communicate that it is the service itself that has been awarded the environmental label and not just the reusable container or the company. In addition, the advertising measures must not give the impression that all products sold by the provider of the reusable container system or the food and beverage vendor have been awarded the environmental label. The requirements in the Blue Angel Logo Guidelines must be observed.

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, 2023.

They shall be extended by periods of one year each, unless terminated in writing by March 31, 2023 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 Good rules for the environmentally friendly sale of takeaway food and beverages**

### **a) Good practice: Deposit containers instead of disposable containers!**

Disposable containers produce a lot of waste and have a high environmental impact due to their large volume. Therefore, always offer your customers their food or beverage in a deposit container if they want to take it away. Politely inform your customers about your reusable container system. And only provide a disposable container if this is expressly requested by the customer because every disposable container saved benefits the environment.

### **b) A lid for every pot**

It is not just disposable containers that produce a lot of waste but also their disposable lids. Therefore, you must also offer your customers appropriate reusable lids for the deposit containers. Just like the deposit containers, the lids must also be made out of environmentally friendly materials. You can either also offer the lids for a deposit or alternatively sell them to your customers as individual lids.

### **c) Another good solution: Filling the customer's own cup or container**

Some customers already use their own individual cups for their "coffee-to-go". This is great for the environment! The following is thus a requirement for the Blue Angel at all points of sale: you must fill the customer's own cup or container if they are hygienic. In this context, observe the hygiene sheet issued by the Food Federation Germany.<sup>6</sup>

### **d) Everything has its price**

Unnecessary disposable containers should also come with a "surcharge". Therefore, it is important to create incentives for beverages and food served in a deposit container or in the customer's own container. This can be achieved for instance by using a discount system or by levying an actual surcharge for beverages or food served in a disposable container. We recommend that you explain to the customer that this surcharge is a kind of "environmental surcharge" due to the high environmental impact of the disposable container.

### **e) Frequent use helps the environment!**

The more often a container is used, the better it is for the environment! This is because every reused container saves one disposable container. To ensure that you know how often a deposit container has been used, it is important to calculate its circulation number. For this purpose, you or the provider of your reusable container system require information about the number of beverages or food served in the deposit container. We recommend that you assign your own registration number to beverages and food served in deposit containers in your cash register system. This will enable you to inform the provider of the reusable container system about the number of beverages or food served in the deposit containers and support the provider in preparing its statistics on the circulation numbers.

Please note: If you are concerned about passing on these figures to your provider of the reusable container system, you can also provide these figures for multiple locations (in the case of several

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<sup>6</sup> Download in German at [Hygiene beim Umgang mit Mehrweg-Bechern, -Behältnissen und -Geschirr: Hinweise für Servicekräfte - Lebensmittelverband Deutschland \(Hygiene hen handling reusable cups, containers and crockery: Information for service personnel – Food Federation Germany\)](#)

food and beverage vending operations) or have them anonymously transmitted to your provider of the reusable container system via an independent third party.

**f) Recycling at the end**

To ensure that you act sustainably right up to the very end of their service lives, you are obligated to take back all deposit containers and, where relevant, deposit lids – even the damaged ones. These should then be returned to your provider of the reusable container system for recycling or you should recycle them yourself (as a provider of your own reusable container system).

**g) Demonstrate that the environment is important to you**

If you comply with all the rules listed here, you should also let people know about it: Use the "Blue Angel" advertising materials. Show your customers that the responsible use of our resources is important to you and that you are committed to serving beverages and/or food in an environmentally friendly way.

**h) Less is more (only applies to cups)**

The less waste the better: Therefore, deposit cups must not be provided with additional sleeves (e.g. as heat protection or advertising media).

**Appendix B The German information sheet "Pool-Geschirr: Hygiene beim Umgang mit Mehrweggeschirren innerhalb von Pfand-Poolsystemen" (Pool crockery: Hygiene when handling reusable crockery in deposit pool systems")**

Download the information sheet issued by the Food Federation Germany at <https://www.lebensmittelverband.de/download/merkblatt-pfand-pool-systeme>

**Appendix C The German information sheet "Coffee to go -Becher: Hygiene beim Umgang mit kundeneigenen Bechern zur Abgabe von Heißgetränken in Bedienung oder Selbstbedienung" (Hygiene when handling the customer's own cups for dispensing hot beverages in full-service or self-service)**

Download the information sheet issued by the Food Federation Germany at <https://www.lebensmittelverband.de/download/merkblatt-coffee-to-go.pdf>

**Appendix D The German information sheet "Mehrweg-Behältnisse: Hygiene beim Umgang mit kundeneigenen Behältnissen zur Abgabe von Lebensmitteln in Bedienung oder Selbstbedienung" (Reusable containers: Hygiene when handling the customer's own containers for dispensing hot food in full-service or self-service)**

Download the information sheet issued by the Food Federation Germany at <https://www.lebensmittelverband.de/download/merkblatt-mehrweg-behaeltnisse>