

BLUE ANGEL

The German Ecolabel



Water-saving Flushing Boxes

DE-UZ 32

Basic Award Criteria

Edition January 2011

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

Water-saving measures taken by private households and public institutions contribute to conserve valuable water resources. In addition, they ease the load on sewage treatment plants, reduce energy consumption for water raising and treatment, and on top of that, they lead to a financial relief of the consumer, especially when reducing the hot-water consumption. Especially for toilet flushings the possibility of using rain water instead of drinking water should be considered as an alternative.

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



2 Scope

These basic criteria apply to flushing boxes as specified in DIN (German Industrial Standard) 19542.

Also admitted are flushing boxes which on account of their small flushing- water volume do not fall within the scope of DIN 19542 but have been issued a test certificate of the Institut für Bautechnik (Institute for Civil Engineering) or for which is a general certificate of construction supervising authority according to the list A of construction rules available.

3 Requirements

The products mentioned under paragraph 2 may be marked with the Environmental Label shown on page 1, provided that they comply with the following requirements:

3.1 Requirements for the flushing box

The flushing box shall be equipped with devices to reduce the flushing-water volume or to interrupt the flushing pursuant to DIN 19542, para. 3.2.4.

Compliance Verification

For flushing boxes according to DIN 19542 the presentation of the corresponding DIN registration or the certificate of conformity including the test certification according to para 12.2.9 of the list A of construction rules shall be sufficient.

For flushing boxes which on account of the reduced flushing-water volume do not fall under DIN 19542 the applicant shall submit the test certificate issued by the "Institut für Bautechnik" or a general certificate of construction supervising authority. Should this certificate not give the adjustable minimum quantity of flushing water per uninterrupted flushing the corresponding figure shall be given separately.

3.2 Flushing-water volumes

a) The maximum flushing-water volume shall not exceed 9 litres and the minimum amount of flushing water per uninterrupted flushing shall not fall below 6 litres.

The flushing boxes shall be equipped with adjusting devices which allow an adjustment of the flushing-water volume depending on the type of the closet (within the 6 l - to - 9 l range).

b) The flushing box shall be adjusted ex works to a water quantity of 6 litres.

Compliance Verification

The applicant shall state that the flushing box has been adjusted ex works to a water quantity of 6 litres.

3.3 Identification of the plastics

As far as plastics are concerned the respective material identification data according to DIN ISO 11469 shall be indicated on the flushing box and its components.

Compliance Verification

The applicant shall state that the flushing box and its components are provided with material identification data.

3.4 Noise emission

The flushing boxes must not exceed the value of the fitting-noise-level L_{ap} for the characteristic flow or flow pressure of 20 dB (A), measured pursuant to DIN EN ISO 3822, Parts 1 and 4. As regards the upper limits of flow and flow pressure listed in DIN EN ISO 3822, Part 1, for the individual fittings, this value may be exceeded by up to 5 dB (A).

Compliance Verification

The applicant shall state compliance with the requirement.

3.5 Consumer information

The Operating and Installation Instructions shall include easily comprehensible instructions for water-saving adjustment and operation.

The possibility to save water shall be appropriately indicated on the flushing box, e.g. by providing the box with an inscription or an adhesive label.

Compliance Verification

The applicant shall present product information, e.g. informative brochures or Operating and Installation Instructions, from which compliance with the requirement can be shown.

The applicant shall state how he labels the flushing box.

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, 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)
- Brand/trade name, product description
- Distributor (label user), i.e. the above-mentioned marketing organisations.