

BLUE ANGEL

The German Ecolabel



Concrete products containing recycled aggregates for outdoor flooring

DE-UZ 216

Basic Award Criteria

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Version 2

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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Table of contents

1	Introduction.....	4
1.1	Preface	4
1.2	Background	4
1.3	Objectives of the Environmental Label	4
2	Scope	5
3	Requirements	5
3.1	Requirements for the source materials	5
3.1.1	General requirements	5
3.1.2	Requirements for the aggregates	7
3.1.3	Halogens	8
3.1.4	Biocides	8
3.2	Requirements for the product	8
3.2.1	Dynamic surface leaching test.....	8
3.2.2	Additional requirements for products used to produce permeable surface layers (voluntary)	9
3.3	Key values for the environmental impact.....	10
3.4	<i>Energy efficiency and purchasing of green electricity</i>	10
3.5	Participation in a cross-manufacturer take-back system for concrete products (voluntary)	11
3.6	Offsetting of CO ₂ emissions	11
3.7	Consumer information and packaging	12
3.8	Outlook	13
4	Applicants and Parties Involved	13
5	Use of the Environmental Label	13

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

Concrete products containing recycled aggregates help to preserve the natural resources gravel and sand. The criteria for the environmental label promote climate friendly solutions for the manufacture and transport of the concrete products. Concrete products can cause environmental pollution across their whole life cycle. Therefore, the requirements for the environmental label focus not only on the source materials used during the manufacturing process and surface handling but also on the period of use of the products and their subsequent disposal.

Due to the fact that concrete products such as paving blocks are sometimes installed over large areas and thus come into contact with soil or rain water, it is also desirable that these products release the lowest amount of pollutants possible in order to reduce the impact on the environment. To evaluate the emissions from concrete products, the design of these Basic Award Criteria is based on the "Horizontal dynamic surface leaching test" according to CEN/TS 16637-2.

1.3 Objectives of the Environmental Label

This environmental label may be awarded to products that – above and beyond the legal regulations:

- are manufactured using materials that place less burden on the environment than usual;
- are safe for the environment from an ecotoxicological perspective;
- and do not contain any harmful substances that have a detrimental impact during the recycling process.

In addition, the environmental label promotes

- the use of recycled material,
 - the natural water cycle by allowing rain water to reach the soil using permeable paving blocks and flags,
 - the easier reuse and recycling of the certified products at the end of their usage phase
- as well as the avoidance and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, and, as the final step of this three-pronged approach, the offsetting of non-avoidable and non-reducible emissions that are emitted during the manufacturing and transport of the products and their source materials.

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



2 Scope

These Basic Award Criteria are valid for the following products¹ made from concrete:

- Concrete paving blocks according to DIN EN 1338²
- Concrete paving flags according to DIN EN 1339³
- Concrete kerb units according to DIN EN 1340⁴
- Precast concrete products according to DIN EN 13198⁵

3 Requirements

3.1 Requirements for the source materials

3.1.1 General requirements

Concrete products do not usually contain any chemicals that are classified as hazardous. Observance of the legal regulations according to European and German chemical law is a prerequisite; this includes, in particular, the REACH Regulation⁶ Annexes XIV and XVII, the POP Regulation⁷ Annex I and the CLP Regulation⁸. If other legal regulations also apply to specific products, these also need to be observed.

Above and beyond the legal requirements, products certified with the Blue Angel must also comply with other requirements. The concrete products may not contain any substances with the following properties as a constituent component⁹:

¹ The Environmental Label Jury can approve other concrete products on the recommendation of the German Environment Agency (Umweltbundesamt)

² DIN EN 1338 Concrete paving blocks - Requirements and test methods

³ DIN EN 1339 Concrete paving flags - Requirements and test methods

⁴ DIN EN 1340 Concrete kerb units; Requirements and test methods

⁵ DIN EN 13198 Precast concrete products - Street furniture and garden products

⁶ Regulation (EC) No. 1907/2006 concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorization, and Restriction of Chemicals

⁷ Regulation (EC) 2019/1021 on persistent organic pollutants

⁸ Regulation(EC) No. 1272/2008 on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures

⁹ Constituent components are substances added to the product as such or as part of a mixture in order to achieve or influence certain product properties and those required as chemical cleavage products for achieving the product properties. This does not apply to residual monomers that have been reduced to a minimum.

1. Substances which are identified as particularly alarming under the European Chemicals Regulation REACH Regulation and which have been incorporated into the list drawn up in accordance with Article 59, Paragraph 1 of the REACH Regulation (so-called "list of candidates"¹⁰).

2. Substances that according to the CLP Regulation have been classified in the following hazard categories or which meet the criteria for such classification¹¹:

- carcinogenic in categories Carc. 1A or Carc. 1B;
- germ cell mutagenic in categories Muta. 1A or Muta. 1B;
- reprotoxic (teratogenic) in categories Repr. 1A or Repr. 1B;
- acute toxicity (poisonous) in categories Acute Tox. 1 or Acute Tox. 2 or
- hazardous to the ozone layer in category Ozone 1.

The hazard statements (H Phrases) that correspond to the hazard categories can be found in Appendix A.

3. Substances that are classified in TRGS 905¹² as:

- Carcinogenic (K1A, K1B)
- Germ cell mutagenic (M1A, M1B)
- Reprotoxic (RF1A, RF1B)
- Teratogenic (RD1A, RD1B)

The following table assigns the hazard categories stated in Paragraph 3.1.1 to the corresponding hazard statements (H Phrases) according to the CLP Regulation (EC) No. 1272/2008.

Table 1: H Phrases and associated wording

Hazard categories	H Phrases	Hazard statements
Carcinogenic substances		
Carc. 1A	H350	May cause cancer.
Carc. 1B	H350	May cause cancer.
Carc. 1A, 1B	H350i	May cause cancer if inhaled.
Germ cell mutagenic substances		
Muta. 1A	H340	May cause genetic defects.
Muta. 1B	H340	May cause genetic defects.
Reprotoxic (teratogenic) substances		
Repr. 1A, 1B	H360D	May damage the unborn child.
Repr. 1A, 1B	H360F	May damage fertility.
Repr. 1A, 1B	H360FD	May damage fertility. May damage the unborn child.
Repr. 1A, 1B	H360Df	May damage the unborn child.

¹⁰ The version of the list of candidates as amended at the time of application is valid. It can be found here: <https://www.echa.europa.eu/candidate-list-table>.

¹¹ The harmonized classifications and labellings of hazardous substances can be found in Annex VI, Part 3 of the CLP Regulation. Furthermore, a comprehensive classification and labelling inventory, which also includes all of the self-classifications of hazardous substances made by manufacturers, has been made available to the public on the website of the European Chemicals Agency: <https://echa.europa.eu/de/regulations/clp/cl-inventory>.

¹² Technical Rules for Hazardous Substances. TRGS 905 Directory of carcinogenic, mutagenic or teratogenic substances. <https://www.baua.de/DE/Angebote/Rechtstexte-und-Technische-Regeln/Regelwerk/TRGS/TRGS-905.html>

Hazard categories	H Phrases	Hazard statements
		Suspected of damaging fertility.
Repr. 1A, 1B	H360Fd	May damage fertility. Suspected of damaging the unborn child.
Acute toxicity substances		
Acute Tox. 1 Acute Tox. 2	H300	Fatal if swallowed
Acute Tox. 1 Acute Tox. 2	H310	Fatal in contact with skin
Acute Tox. 1 Acute Tox. 2	H330	Fatal if inhaled
Environmental hazards		
Ozone 1	H420	Harms public health and the environment by destroying ozone in the upper atmosphere.

Substances with other hazardous properties are not excluded here but are instead restricted by the tests in Paragraphs 3.1.2 and 3.2.1.

Compliance verification

The applicant shall declare compliance with the requirement (Annex 1) or submit corresponding declarations from the manufacturer/suppliers and the technical data sheets and safety data sheets. If the term of validity of the Basic Award Criteria is extended, new declarations from the manufacturer or suppliers shall be submitted.

3.1.2 Requirements for the aggregates

At least 30% by mass of the aggregates > 2 mm in size that are used to manufacture the concrete products must be sourced from recycled, residual materials from the manufacturing plant or from other construction or demolition waste.

In addition, the recycled aggregates must comply with the "Requirements for physical structures regarding effects on soil and water (ABuG)" in Annex 10, Section 6.1.1 of the Specimen Administrative Provision – Technical Building Regulations (MVV TB)^{13,14}.

Compliance verification

The applicant shall verify the origin and composition of the recycled aggregates added to the product by submitting a material flow analysis (with calculated and plausibly justified verification of the proportion of aggregates that are not sourced from residual materials from the manufacturing plant). The records and results shall be confirmed in the form of a declaration (Annex 2).

¹³ https://www.dibt.de/fileadmin/dibt-website/Dokumente/Referat/P5/Technische_Bestimmungen/MVVTB_2019.pdf

¹⁴ If faulty batches of prefabricated concrete parts are directly used as recycled aggregates in the manufacturing plant, no verification of the substances contained in them or their release of hazardous substances is required.

The annual analysis (Annex 2) shall be submitted at the time of application and then annually at the latest one year after the issuing date of the previous, confirmed material flow analysis. The annual material flow analyses must cover consecutive time periods without any gaps. The applicant shall verify compliance with the requirements according to Annex 10 of the MVV TB by submitting a declaration of performance based on a European technical assessment or a proof of performance based on DIN 4226-101¹⁵ and DIN 4226-102¹⁶ in a technical document issued by a notified body according to Article 43 of the BauPVO (Annex 3). Compliance with the corresponding requirements in the production inspections carried out at the manufacturing plant shall be confirmed once a year in the form of a manufacturer's declaration (Annex 3).

3.1.3 Halogens

No halogenated organic compounds may be used in the manufacture of the concrete products (e.g. as waterproofing agents and impregnations).

Compliance verification

The applicant shall declare compliance with the requirement (Annex 1). If it is not possible to declare compliance with the requirements based on the knowledge of the formulation, the contents of the halogens fluorine, chlorine and bromine must be determined using a suitable method in an accredited testing laboratory and the proportion of tolerable impurities may not exceed 4 g/kg.

3.1.4 Biocides

The use of biocides according to Regulation (EU) No 528/2012 is not permitted. An exception is made for biocides in primary/intermediate products used for the final product that are exclusively designed for the pot preservation of aqueous coatings (Product-type PT 6).

Compliance verification

The applicant shall declare compliance with the requirement (Annex 1).

3.2 Requirements for the product

3.2.1 Dynamic surface leaching test

The concrete products (two concrete test samples) must be eluted according to CEN/TS 16637-2¹⁷. The test samples must be produced based on the German guidelines "DAfStb-Richtlinie - Bestimmung der Freisetzung umweltrelevanter Stoffe aus zementgebundenen Baustoffen in der dynamischen Oberflächenauslaugprüfung"¹⁸ (DAfStb guidelines - Determining the release of environmentally relevant substance from cement-bound building materials in the dynamic surface

¹⁵ DIN 4226-101 Recycled aggregates for concrete in accordance with DIN EN 12620 - Part 101: Types and regulated dangerous substances

¹⁶ DIN 4226-102 Recycled aggregates for concrete in accordance with DIN EN 12620 - Part 102: Type testing and factory production control

¹⁷ DIN CEN/TS 16637-2 Construction products - Assessment of release of dangerous substances - Part 2: Horizontal dynamic surface leaching test

¹⁸ <https://www.beuth.de/de/technische-regel/dafstb-freisetzung-stoffe/326579963>

leaching test), which provides more detailed specifications for cement-bound building materials based on CEN/TS 16637-2.

The ecotoxicity of the eluate must be tested according to CEN/TR 17105¹⁹ (mixture of the first two eluates produced according to CEN/TS 16637-2 from the two test samples) based on the following table. The eluate must comply with the criteria in the following table.

Table 2: Test criteria for ecotoxicity

Test species	Test standard	Endpoint	Criterion
Luminescent bacteria (<i>Vibrio fischeri</i>)	EN ISO 11348-1 ²⁰	Light	$G_L \leq 8$
Algae (<i>Raphidocelis subcapitata</i> or <i>Desmodesmus subspicatus</i>)	EN ISO 8692 ²¹	Growth	$G_A \leq 4$
Crustaceans (<i>Daphnia magna</i>)	EN ISO 6341 ²²	Mobility	$G_D \leq 4$
umu-test	ISO 13829 ²³	Mutagenic potential	$G_{EU} \leq 1,5$

Compliance verification

The applicant shall submit a test certificate (Annex 4) that verifies compliance with the criteria. The testing laboratory must have implemented a quality assurance system according to DIN EN ISO/IEC 17025 "General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories" or a comparable standard (e.g. GLP) and confirm that this is the case in the test report.

3.2.2 Additional requirements for products used to produce permeable surface layers (voluntary)

Paving blocks and flags used to produce permeable surface layers must be suitable for this purpose according to the "Merkblatt versickerungsfähige Verkehrsflächen" (M VV)²⁴ (Fact sheet on permeable traffic surfaces) and also comply with the requirement for the infiltration coefficient of the paved surface ($k_i \geq 3 \cdot 10^{-5}$ m/s) described in the fact sheet.

Compliance verification

The applicant shall declare compliance with the requirement for the infiltration coefficient and submit a corresponding test certificate (Annex 5) from an independent testing laboratory. The

¹⁹ DIN CEN/TR 17105, Construction products - Assessment of release of dangerous substances - Guidance on the use of ecotoxicity tests applied to construction products

²⁰ DIN EN ISO 11348-1 Water quality - Determination of the inhibitory effect of water samples on the light emission of *Vibrio fischeri* (Luminescent bacteria test) - Part 1: Method using freshly prepared bacteria

²¹ DIN EN ISO 8692 Water quality - Fresh water algal growth inhibition test with unicellular green algae

²² DIN EN ISO 6341 Water quality - Determination of the inhibition of the mobility of *Daphnia magna* Straus (Cladocera, Crustacea) - Acute toxicity test

²³ ISO 13829 Water quality - Determination of the genotoxicity of water and waste water using the umu-test

²⁴ M VV – Merkblatt für Versickerungsfähige Verkehrsflächen (FGSV No. 947) (Fact sheet on permeable traffic surfaces). Publisher: Road and Transportation Research Association (FGSV). Available from the FGSV Verlag GmbH, Cologne.

test must be carried out in accordance with the testing regulations TP Gestein-StB Part 8.3.3²⁵ or TP Gestein-StB Part 8.3.4²⁶. Information on the jointing width and joint ratio (proportion of the total area covered by the joints) must be provided as a minimum for the paving blocks and flags used for the test. Information on the type of stone, grain size distribution and resistance to grain fragmentation must be provided as a minimum for the bedding and joint material used.

3.3 Key values for the environmental impact

The applicant must publish at least the key indicators for the environmental impact of the product according to Section 5.2 of DIN EN 15804:2012+A2:2019, including e.g. the global warming potential (GWP) and parameters on the use of resources – for the life cycle stages “from the cradle to the gate, as well as Module A4”.

The results for all modules must be stated separately.

Compliance verification

- *The applicant shall have a valid product-specific environmental product declaration (EPD) according to DIN EN 15804:2012+A2:2019 at the time of application and shall make it accessible. It must include declarations for Modules A1-A4 and C1-C4 as well as Module D.*
- *If the applicant can only submit an EPD for a class of average products, all of the parameters and justifications used in the EPD background report for the formation of this class of products must be submitted. In this case, only the “worst case” variant will be accepted as verification.*
- *In exceptional cases where the manufacturer does not have an EPD, the applicant shall submit the required data in accordance with DIN EN 15804:2012+A2:2019 in an understandable format in the verification document and declare where this data has been published and is accessible.*

3.4 Energy efficiency and purchasing of green electricity

The applicant shall produce an energy statement that includes information on the energy consumption at the plant for the manufacture of the concrete products and the parameters used to control energy consumption. The applicant shall monitor and control the processes with the aim of maintaining the most stable operation of the plant with a low energy consumption. The applicant shall maintain an organisational structure to enable a continuous improvement in energy efficiency.

²⁵ TP Gestein-StB Part 8.3.3 – Technische Prüfvorschriften für Gesteinskörnungen im Straßenbau Bestimmung des Infiltrationsbeiwertes mit dem Tropf-Infiltrimeter – in situ-Verfahren (Technical testing regulations for aggregates in road construction – Determination of the infiltration coefficient by drip infiltrimeter – in-situ method) (FGSV Nr. 610/833). Publisher: Road and Transportation Research Association (FGSV). Available from the FGSV Verlag GmbH, Cologne.

²⁶ TP Gestein-StB Part 8.3.4 – Technische Prüfvorschriften für Gesteinskörnungen im Straßenbau – Bestimmung des Infiltrationsbeiwertes mit dem Doppelring-Infiltrimeter – in situ-Verfahren (Technical testing regulations for aggregates in road construction – Determination of the infiltration coefficient by double ring infiltrimeter – in-situ method) (FGSV Nr. 610/834). Publisher: Road and Transportation Research Association (FGSV). Available from the FGSV Verlag GmbH, Cologne.

At least 50% of the electricity consumed by the applicant must be sourced from renewable energies and/or highly efficient combined heat and power in the sense of Directive (EU) 2018/2001²⁷ and Directive 2012/27/EU²⁸.

Compliance verification

The applicant shall submit the energy statement and state which organisational structure is used to ensure a continuous improvement in energy efficiency (Annex 7). The applicant shall state the proportion of electricity from renewable energy sources (Annex 7). The applicant shall declare compliance with the requirement for the use of green electricity and submit the electricity labelling data (according to the German Energy Act) as verification. This verification must be re-submitted for every year of the term of the contract on the use of the environmental label (Annex 7).

3.5 Participation in a cross-manufacturer take-back system for concrete products (voluntary)

Optionally, the applicant can participate in an already existing take-back system or establish such a system in cooperation with other manufacturers. The system will take back new products or old concrete products for reuse or proper recycling or disposal.

Compliance verification

The applicant shall declare compliance with the requirement (Annex 8) and enclose confirmation of participation in the relevant system and the corresponding information provided to customers as verification.

3.6 Offsetting of CO₂ emissions

The non-avoidable and non-reducible CO₂ emissions emitted during the manufacture of the concrete products and the manufacture and supply of its source materials (such as the aggregates) must be offset. The emissions must be offset in accordance with the recommendations of the German Environment Agency (UBA). The UBA guide "Voluntary CO₂ offsetting through climate protection projects"²⁹ or other guidelines and recommendations can be used for this purpose. Publications from research projects can also provide guidance in this area³⁰. In addition, the measures used by the German Federal Government to offset business travel are also a good practical example. The decisive factor for whether the offsetting measures will be accepted is validated verification of the additionality of the supported projects, the sustainable added value of the measures, the use of tested methodologies, the durability of the achieved reduction, the monitoring of any carbon leakage and incidental project emissions, the verified reduction in emissions, the cancelling of emission credits and the avoidance of double counting. Conformity

²⁷ Directive (EU) 2018/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2018 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources

²⁸ Directive 2012/27/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on energy efficiency, amending Directives 2009/125/EC and 2010/30/EU and repealing Directives 2004/8/EC and 2006/32/EC

²⁹ <https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/publikationen/freiwillige-co2-kompensation-durch>

³⁰ The UBA informs RAL gGmbH as the awarding body about the latest findings and recommendations.

with one of the standards named in the UBA guide described above will confirm with sufficient plausibility that these quality requirements have been fulfilled.

Compliance verification

The requirement is considered to be fulfilled if the applicant cancels certified emission reduction credits for the CO₂ emissions emitted during the manufacture and transport of the concrete products – including their source materials (in accordance with the information in Paragraph 3.7). Verification of the cancellation of the emission credits shall be submitted in a suitable form (Annex 9).

The offsetting measures shall be carried out annually based on the annual production figures. At the end of each calendar year, the environmental impact must be calculated and offset in the following year – e.g. in 2020, the environmental impact in 2019 is calculated and offset. It is important to ensure that the emissions in the production period are offset based on the valid EPD and the annual changes in the production and transport volumes or according to the GHG Protocol³¹. In addition, the calculations and offsetting measures must be examined by an independent third party.

The production volumes must also be stated on an annual basis (Annex 9).

3.7 Consumer information and packaging

The total global warming potential of the concrete products (stated separately for Modules A1, A2, A3, A4, C1, C2, C3, C4 as well as for Module D, according to EN 15804:2012+A2:2019, in kg CO₂ equivalents per m²) must be stated on the applicant's website and on the packaging. The framework conditions for the scenario for calculating the figure for the "transport to the construction site" (Module A4) must also be stated, including the assumed average transport distance travelled. In addition, it is permissible to state that the CO₂ emissions have been offset. The manufacturing site must be stated on the packaging. Every delivery must be given an identification number and the delivery documents must include information on the manufacturer. If the applicant participates in a voluntary take-back system, he/she is also permitted to advertise this fact.

If the product is suitable for producing a permeable surface layer with an infiltration coefficient for paving stones according to M VV, the applicant is also permitted to use the phrase "supports the natural water balance" to advertise the product.

Packaging for the transport of concrete products may not contain any PVC.

Compliance verification

The applicant shall declare compliance with the requirement and submit the product information (Annex 10). The applicant shall take measures to ensure that this information is available to end customers via his/her suppliers.

³¹ https://www.stop-climate-change.de/fileadmin/user_upload/documents/GHG-Protokoll/Produkt_Life_Cycle_Accounting_and_Reporting_Standard.pdf (The GHG Protocol is a private series of international standards for reporting greenhouse gas emissions.)

3.8 Outlook

In any future revision of the environmental label, the criteria for energy consumption (electricity and heating) across the entire life cycle of the product will be examined and discussed.

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, 2025.

They shall be extended by periods of one year each, unless terminated in writing by March 31, 2025 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.