

Basic Criteria for Award of the Environmental Label

Low-Emission Upholstery Leathers

RAL-UZ 148



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RAL gGmbH

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Appendix 1, 2 and 3 to the Basic Award Criteria

Annexes 1 and 2 to the Contract

List of recognized testing laboratories

1 Introduction

1.1 In co-operation with the Federal Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, the Federal Environmental Agency and considering the results of expert hearings conducted by RAL gGmbH the Environmental Label Jury has set up these Basic Criteria for Award of the Blue Angel 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 Blue Angel eco-label may be granted for all products, provided that they comply with the requirements specified hereinafter.

1.2 Upholstery leathers may have an environmental impact during their manufacture, use and disposal. That is why the requirements for award of the Blue Angel eco-label refer to the entire life cycle of the leather. They refer not only to the manufacture of the products, the materials used during the manufacturing process and the period of actual use but also to the disposal of used leathers and the packaging material used for the transportation of leathers for further processing.

The Blue Angel eco-label for leathers may be awarded to the product „leather“ which beyond legal provisions:

- has been manufactured in an environmentally friendly way
- from the health point of view does not have an adverse impact on the living environment and
- does not contain any hazardous substances that would significantly impede recycling.

2 Scope¹

These Basic Award Criteria apply to leathers to be used in indoor environments² as „semi-finished product“ or „surface material“ for the manufacture of leather according to DIN EN 15987³, especially upholstery leather according to DIN 68871³

3 Requirements

The Environmental Label shown on page 1 may be used for the marking of products under para. 2, provided that they comply with the following requirements:

¹ Additional products for indoor use may be added to the scope of these Basic Award Criteria by decision of the Environmental Label Jury.

² According to rules on designation RAL 060 A2 „Demarcation of the term „leather“ against other materials“.

³ The current version of the standard, as amended.

3.1 Manufacture

3.1.1 Origin of the Leather

The applicant undertakes to observe the following principles when buying leather:

Raw hides must come from farm animals being kept primarily for their milk and meat.

Explicitly excluded are wild and endangered animal species.

Compliance Verification

The applicant shall declare in Annex 1 that the company runs a verification procedure for compliance of the hides with EC Regulation 1774/2002 and submit to RAL gGmbH at the latter's request the commercial documents according to EC Regulation 853/2004.

3.1.2 General Substance Requirements

The leathers used must not contain as constituent parts any substances⁴ which:

1. are listed in EC Regulation 1272/2008⁵, Annex VI, Table 3.1, for "H" Phrases and/or Table 3.2 for "R" Phrases and/or exhibit the properties mentioned in Section 4, GefStoffV (Ordinance on Hazardous Substances)⁶ as well as the following ones as specified in Annex VI to Directive 67/548/EEC or meet the classification criteria (self-classification)⁷:
 - very toxic (T+)
 - toxic (T);
2. are listed in EC Regulation 1272/2008⁵, Annex VI, Table 3.1, for "H" Phrases and Table 3.2 for "R" Phrases and/or exhibit the properties mentioned in Section 4,

⁴ Terms as defined in Section 3, paras. 1 - 4, Publication of the Revised Version of the German Chemicals Act of 2 July 2008, as amended (Federal Law Gazette I, No. 28, p. 1146).

⁵ 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, and amending Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 (short: GHS-Regulation), Annex VI on harmonized classification and labelling of hazardous substances and Regulation (EC) No. 790/2009 of 10 August 2009 amending Regulation (EC) No. 1272/2008 for adapting to technical and scientific progress, each as amended,

The GHS Regulation (Global Harmonization System) (Globally Harmonised System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals), cf. http://www.reach-info.de/ghs_verordnung.htm, that has come into force on January 20, 2009, replaces the old Directives 67/548/EEC and 1999/45/EC. According to the said regulation, substances are classified, labelled and packed until December 1, 2010 according to Directive 67/548/EEC (Dangerous Substances Directive) while mixtures are classified, labelled and packed until June 1, 2015 according to Directive 1999/45/EC (Dangerous Preparations Directive).

Notwithstanding this, the classification, labelling and packaging of substances and preparations may be performed according to the provisions of the GHS Regulation already before December 1, 2010 or June 1, 2015, respectively.

⁶ Gefahrstoffverordnung (Ordinance on Hazardous Substances) dated 23 December 2004 (Federal Law Gazette I, page 3758) as amended, last amended by Article 2 of the ordinance, dated December 18, 2008 (Federal Law Gazette I, page 2768).

⁷ From December 1, 2010 the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) keeps a classification and labelling system („C&L-Inventory“) according to Articles 113/114 of Regulation (EC) No. 1907/2006 of the European Parliament

GefStoffV (Ordinance on Hazardous Substances)⁶ as well as the following ones as specified in Annex VI to Directive 67/548/EEC or meet the classification criteria (self-classification)⁷:

- carcinogenic (Carc.Cat. 1, Carc.Cat. 2 or Carc.Cat.1A, Carc.Cat. 1B, resp.)
 - mutagenic (Mut.Cat. 1, Mut.Cat. 2 or Mutag.Cat. 1A, Mutag.Cat. 1B, resp.)
 - reprotoxic (Repr.Cat 1, Repr.Cat. 2 or Repr. Cat. 1A, Repr. Cat. 1B, resp.)
3. are classified in TRGS 905⁸ as:
- carcinogenic (K1, K2)
 - mutagenic (M1, M2)
 - reprotoxic (R_F1, R_F2)
 - teratogenic (R_E1, R_E2).
4. are classified in the MAK Value List⁹ as:
- carcinogenic working materials, Category 1 or 2;
 - germ-cell-mutagenic working materials, Category 1 or 2 .

Compliance Verification

The applicant shall establish compliance with the requirements under para. 3.1.3 by submitting a declaration from the suppliers of the chemical auxiliaries by using Annex 2 to RAL-UZ 148.

3.1.3 Leather

3.1.3.1 Chrome Tanning

Leather requires a chromium determination where hexavalent chromium (Cr^{VI}) may not be detectable (detection limit: 3 mg/kg).

Compliance Verification

The applicant shall submit to RAL gGmbH first upon application and afterwards every six months as well as when amending the recipe a test certificate¹⁰ according to DIN EN ISO 17075 (February 2008) stating that hexavalent chromium (Cr^{VI}) has not been detected.

3.1.3.2 Preservation

A chemical preservation of hides and tanned semi-finished leather products for transportation and storage purposes should be avoided wherever possible. If preservatives are used for the preservation of hides they must meet the requirements of para. 3.1.3, except for the requirement to be marked as toxic (T) or very toxic (T+). Apart from

and of the Council of 18 December 2006 (REACH Regulation), cf:

http://echa.europa.eu/clp/c_l_inventory_de.asp

⁸ TRGS 905, List of carcinogenic, mutagenic or reprotoxic substances as amended, last amended in May 2008

⁹ MAK and BAT Value List, Senate Commission for the Testing of Health-Endangering Working Materials, as amended, last amended by Communication No. 45 (2009)

¹⁰ Test Certificate prepared by an accredited testing institute. The test shall refer to the purchased leather.

that, only those preservatives may be used which come along with a determination method for leather and which are not classified as a strong contact allergen (Cat. A) in the BgVV List¹¹. In addition to this, preservatives shall observe the maximum content in the leather as specified in Annex 1.

Preservatives shall also meet the requirements of para. 3.3.1.

A chemical preservation of the finished leather shall be inadmissible.

Compliance Verification

The applicant shall use Annex 1 to declare that the leather is not chemically preserved (complete survey from slaughter to the finished leather) or name the preservatives used. In this latter case, the applicant shall present a test protocol indicating the content of preservatives in accordance with the test methods given in Annex 1. In addition, the applicant shall declare a continuous verification and submit additional text protocols to RAL gGmbH upon request.

3.1.3.3 Dyes and Pigments

The dyes and pigments listed in Annex 2 may not be used.

Compliance Verification

The applicant shall state in Annex 1 that these substances won't be used or submit compliance verifications according to DIN 53316³.

3.2. Manufacture

3.2.1 Water Consumption

Water consumption in the manufacture of leather shall not exceed:

- 25 m³/t for raw hides and
- 35 m³/t for calfskins.

¹¹ Chemicals and contact allergies – An evaluating survey. Editor: D. Kayser and E. Schlede, Publishers: Urban und Vogel, Munich 2001

Compliance Verification

The applicant shall declare compliance with requirements in Annex 1 and document annual production quantities and water consumption. Upon application, the applicant shall give production quantities and water consumption for the preceding year.

3.2.2 Wastewater

3.2.2.1 Requirements to be met by the Wastewater at the Discharge Point (Direct Discharge)

For direct discharge to a water body the wastewater from leather production shall not

- exceed on a monthly average a COD value of 250 mg/l or at least 90% reduction against the influent.
- exceed 0.5 mg/l AOX.
- exceed a value of 2 for the toxicity to fish eggs.

This requirement shall not apply if it can be shown that the discharge to the municipal sewage treatment plant has been approved and if the municipal sewage treatment plant at least meets the requirements of Council Directive 91/271/EEC of 21 May 1991 concerning urban waste water treatment.

3.2.2.2 Requirements to be met by the Wastewater prior to Mixing (Direct and Indirect Discharge)

- The wastewater from soaking, liming and deliming processes, each including rinsing, shall not exceed 2 mg/l sulfide prior to mixing with other wastewaters.
- The wastewater from tanning, including samming and from post tanning-operations (neutralising, retanning, dyeing, fatliquoring) each including rinsing, shall not exceed 1 mg/l total chromium prior to mixing with other wastewaters.

Compliance Verifications

The applicant shall declare compliance with the requirements and submit a confirmation by the supervisory authority for verification of compliance with the requirements (paras. 3.2.2.1 and 3.2.2.2 for direct discharge / for indirect discharge only para. 3.2.2.2) according to Annex 25 to the Waste Water Ordinance or similar test reports. The concentration measurement of sulfide and chromium can be made in the full stream. In such case, the mixing ratio of the partial streams shall be indicated in order to allow a return account. 12 A retrograde calculation taking into account the degradation rate of the sewage treatment plant in accordance with Appendix 3 shall also be admissible.

For discharge to municipal sewage treatment plants (indirect discharge) the applicant shall additionally submit the Notice of Approval stating that the discharge has been approved and that the municipal sewage treatment plant meets the requirements of Directive 91/271/EEC.

¹² Example: In a mixture ratio of 50:50 the required value is 0.5 mg/l for total chromium and 1 mg/l for sulfide.

3.3 Use

3.3.1 Indoor Air Quality

The products under paragraph 2 shall not exceed the following emission values in the test chamber in conformity with the „health risk assessment process for emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOC) from building products“ developed by the Committee for Health-Related Evaluation of Building Products”¹³:

Substance	3rd Day	Final Value (28 th day)
Formaldehyde		60 µg/m ³ (0.05 ppm)
Other aldehydes ¹⁴ (total)		60 µg/m ³
Total organic compounds within the retention range C ₆ – C ₁₆ (TVOC)	-	≤ 450 µg/m ³
Total organic compounds within the retention range > C ₁₆ – C ₂₂ (TSVOC)	-	≤ 80 µg/m ³
C-substances ¹⁵	≤ 10 µg/m ³ <u>total</u>	≤ 1 µg/m ³ <u>per single value</u>
Total VOC without LCI ^{16 17}		≤ 60 µg/m ³
R-Value ¹⁶	-	≤ 1 ¹⁸

¹³ The requirements for VOC emissions are aimed at limiting the contribution of semi-finished leather products to the VOC content of the indoor air to 300 µg/m³ after 28 days in an average-sized living room with an air change of 0.5/h.

¹⁴ Other aldehydes which may be measured by a BAM test method, (Method for the measurement of emissions of formaldehyde and other volatile compounds). Aldehydes can also be measured by use of the DNPH method (dinitrophenylhydrazine = DNPH) (DIN ISO 16000-3).

¹⁵ C-Substances = cancerogenic substances, pursuant to EU Classification Cat. K1 and K2 as well as TRGS 905 List of carcinogenic, mutagenic or reprotoxic substances as amended, last amended in July 2005

¹⁶ including non-identifiable substances

¹⁷ LCI - Lowest Concentration of Interest cf. "Health risk assessment process for emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOC) from building products", Homepage of the Umweltbundesamt (Federal Environmental Agency, <http://www.umweltbundesamt.de/produkte-e/bauprodukte/archive/AgBB-Evaluation-Scheme2010.pdf> (as amended)

¹⁸ During the first term of the Basic Criteria the total VOC without LCI and the R-value are determined by the testing laboratories and indicated in the test report but even if the limits are exceeded this will not result in a refusal. The hearing on the revision of these Basic Criteria will decide on the adoption of these data taking the results into consideration.

¹⁸ Official Journal of BAM - Bundesanstalt für Materialforschung und -prüfung (Federal Institution for Material Research and Testing) Volume 29, 1999 p.234-250

The test may be stopped 7 days after charging the test chamber at the earliest if the values determined are less than half the values required in the 28-day test and if no significant increases in the concentration of individual substances are observed in comparison to the measurement on day 3.

Compliance Verification

The applicant shall submit a test report according to the BAM test method¹⁸ (Method for the detection of emissions of formaldehyde and other volatile compounds) based on the Standards DIN ISO 16000-9 and DIN EN ISO 16000-10¹⁹ prepared by a testing laboratory accredited for this test by BAM Bundesanstalt für Materialforschung und -prüfung (Federal Institution for Material Research and Testing) (Appendix to the Basic Award Criteria RAL-UZ 148) which confirms compliance with this requirement. The other parameters (temperature, air humidity, air velocity) shall comply with the BAM method.

For this purpose, the testing laboratory - in coordination with the applicant – shall select representative samples which guarantee compliance with the requirements for the respective series. Small test chambers (e.g. 20 litres) or emission test cells are suited for the testing of leather. In test chambers, the leather shall be tested rear to rear. During the test it must be guaranteed that the area-specific flow rate of 1.5 m³/m²h is maintained during the entire testing period (28 days).

3.3.2 Packagings

If possible, leathers should be packed so as to allow post-manufacture outgassing of volatile components.

Compliance Verification

The applicant shall present in Annex 1 a description of the packaging system and state that the packaging system is designed so as to allow the outgassing of volatile components or, if so, give the reason why such packaging cannot be used.

3.3.3 Serviceability

The leathers shall meet the usual quality standards in terms of serviceability (e.g. safety, abrasion resistance, tensile strength, lightfastness, rub fastness, deformation by compression according to existing effective ISO/EN/DIN Standards).

Compliance Verification

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

3.4 Recycling and Disposal

With regard to recycling and disposal neither material protection agents (fungicides, insecticides, flame-retardants) nor halogenated organic compounds (e.g. chlorinated

¹⁹ DIN EN ISO 16000 – Indoor air pollution; Part 9: Determination of the emission of VOCs from building products and furnishings. Emission test chamber method - as well as Part 10: Determination of the emission of volatile organic compounds from building products and furnishings - Emission test cell method , as amended

paraffins in leather oil) may be added to the leather. Exempt from this rule are preservatives for transport preservation of hides and tanned semi-finished products (see para. 3.1.3.2) as well as flame retardants using inorganic ammonium phosphates (diammonium phosphate, ammonium polyphosphate etc.) or other dehydrating minerals (aluminium trihydrate or the like) for flame retarding purposes .

Compliance Verification

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

3.5 Consumer Information

The leather shall be accompanied by the following information for further processing including at least the following basic information - possibly in conjunction with other information:

- Indication of the tanning process / tanning material, including retanning (e.g. chrome tanning, vegetable tanning)
- Information about the product's wearing resistance (fields of use and, if applicable, material test results, product-specific properties, possible changes caused by product use);
- Cleaning and Care Instructions.

Compliance Verification

The applicant shall submit the consumer information.

3.6 Advertising Statements

Advertising statements may not include any notes, such as „tested for its biological living quality“ or those which play down risks in terms of Article 23, para. 4 of Directive 67/548/EEC, as for example „non-toxic“, „non-harmful“.

Compliance Verification

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

4 Applicants and Parties Involved

4.1 Manufacturers of products according to para. 2 shall be eligible for application.

4.2 Parties involved in the award process are

- RAL gGmbH to award the Blue Angel eco-label,
- the federal state being home to applicant's production site,
- Umweltbundesamt (Federal Environmental Agency) which after the signing of the contract receives all data and documents submitted in application for the Blue Angel in order to be able to proceed with the development of the Basic Award Criteria.

4.3 The compliance verifications submitted by the applicant will be treated confidentially.

5 Use of the Environmental Label

5.1 The terms governing the use of the Environmental Label by the applicant are stipulated by a Contract on the Use of the Environmental Label to be concluded with RAL gGmbH.

5.2 Within the scope of such contract the applicant undertakes to comply with the requirements under paragraph 3 while using the Environmental Label. RAL gGmbH shall be informed about significant changes (e.g. origin of the hides). In such cases, the applicant may be required to submit new compliance verifications.

5.3 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, 2016.

They shall be extended by periods of one year each, unless terminated in writing by March 31, 2016 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 purpose. This regulation shall not affect products being still in the market.

5.4 The applicant (manufacturer) shall be entitled to apply to RAL gGmbH for an extension of the right to use the label to the product entitled to the label if it is to be marketed under another brand/trade name and/or under other marketing organizations.

5.5 The Contract on the Use of the Environmental Label shall specify:

5.5.1 Applicant (manufacturer)

5.5.2 Brand / trade name, product designation

5.5.3 Distributor (label user), i.e. the marketing organization according to para. 5.4.

CONTRACT

No.
on the Award of the Environmental Label

RAL gGmbH, as label awarding agency, and the firm of

(Distributor/Manufacturer)

as applicant, conclude the following Contract on the Use
of the Environmental Label:

S P E C I M E N

1. Under the following conditions the applicant shall be entitled to use the Environmental Label for the labelling of the product/product group/project:

Low-Emission Upholstery Leathers
for

"(Brand/Trade Name - Product Designation)"

This shall not include the right to use the Environmental Label as part of a brand. Unless otherwise agreed, the Environmental Label shall only be used in the above given shape and colour. The entire inner surrounding text shall always be identical as regards size, form, thickness and colour of the letters and it shall be easy to read.

2. The Environmental Label according to para. 1 shall only be used for the above-mentioned product/product group/project.
3. If the Environmental Label is used for advertising purposes the applicant shall make sure that it is exclusively used in connection with the above-named product/product group/ project for which the use of the Environmental Label has been granted and settled under this contract. The applicant shall be solely responsible for the way the label is used, above all, in advertising.
4. During the entire period of label use the product/product group/project to be labelled shall comply with all requirements and conditions for the use of the label as specified in the "Vergabegrundlage für Umweltzeichen RAL-UZ 148" (Basic Criteria for Award of the Environmental Label RAL-UZ 148), as amended. This shall also apply to the reproduction of the Environmental Label (including the surrounding text). Claims for damages against RAL gGmbH, especially on the grounds of third party objections to the applicant's use of the label and the accompanying advertising shall be ruled out.
5. If the "Basic Criteria for Award of the Environmental Label" provide for checks by third parties the applicant shall bear the costs accruing in connection therewith.

6. Should the applicant himself or third parties find out that the applicant does not comply with the conditions as stipulated in paras. 2-5 he shall be liable to inform RAL gGmbH and stop the use of the Environmental Label until the conditions are complied with again. Should the applicant be incapable of restoring the state required for the use of the label immediately or should the applicant seriously offend against this contract RAL gGmbH may, if necessary, withdraw the Environmental Label and prohibit the applicant from using the label any longer. Claims for damages against RAL gGmbH because of the withdrawal of the label shall be ruled out.
7. The Contract on the Use of the Environmental Label may be terminated for good reason.
Examples of good reasons are:
- unpaid contributions
- substantiated risk of injury and death.
In such case, applicant's continued use of the Environmental Label shall be prohibited.
The applicant shall not be entitled to bring a claim for damages against RAL gGmbH (see above: paragraph 6, sentence 3).
8. The applicant undertakes to pay RAL gGmbH an amount according to the "Entgeltordnung für das Umweltzeichen" (Schedule of Contributions for the Environmental Label), as amended, for the period of use.
9. According to the Basic Criteria for Award of the Environmental Label RAL-UZ 148 this contract will run until December 31, **2016**. It shall be extended by periods of one year each, unless terminated in writing by March 31, **2016** or by 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 the products being still in the market.
10. Products/projects marked with the Environmental Label and the advertising for these products/projects may reach the consumer only when naming the firm of the

(Applicant/Distributor)

Sankt Augustin, this day of

Date, Place

RAL gGmbH
Management

(Signature of authorized representative
and corporate seal)