

Basic Criteria for Award of the Environmental Label

Textile Toys

RAL-UZ 159



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RAL gGmbH

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List of Abbreviations

DIN	Deutsches Institut für Normung e.V. (German Institute for Standardization)
ECHA	European Chemicals Agency
EC	European Community
EN	European Norm
GefStoffV	Gefahrstoffverordnung (Ordinance on Hazardous Substances)
GMO	genetically modified organisms
H Phrases	hazard statements
IFOAM	International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements
ISO	International Organization of Standardization
kbA	kontrolliert biologischer Anbau (certified organic cultivation)
kbT	kontrolliert biologische Tierhaltung (certified organic livestock breeding)
PBT substances	persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic substances
PFC	perfluorinated chemicals
PVC	polyvinyl chloride
RAL	RAL gGmbH
RAL UZ	Blue Angel eco-label
REACH	Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals
R Phrases	risk statements
VOC	volatile organic compounds
vPvB substances	very persistent, very bioaccumulative

1 Introduction

1.1 Preface

The Environmental Label Jury has set up these Basic Criteria for Award of the Blue Angel eco-label 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. 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 Background

The safety of toys is of utmost importance because our children are entitled to special protection by society. When buying toys for children – other than when buying other product groups - parents and other adults show greater concern for the required safety standard of the product. Hence, it caused quite a stir in the media when, for example, late in 2007 several RAPEX reports and in 2010 tests by Stiftung Warentest revealed serious safety deficiencies as well as massive pollution loads in various toys. As a consequence of the continued public discussion about the safety and potential health hazards of toys the market appreciates the existence of product labels. There are, however, hardly any product labels for toys which consider not only precautionary health protection but also environmental aspects. The Scandinavian eco-label Nordic Swan was introduced in 2007 and the Blue Angel eco-label for Wooden Toys was first launched in 2009¹.

The legislative basis on the EU level is the so-called Toy Safety Directive (Directive 2009/48/EC on the safety of toys). It replaces Directive 88/378/EEC. The revised EU Toy Safety Directive had to be implemented by the member states by 20 January 2011 and it shall be applied from 20 July 2011. The existing Toy Safety Directive (88/378/EEC) will be fully repealed by 20 July 2013. During the transition period the existing directive or its requirements for chemical properties, respectively, shall persist. The distributor to the European economic area (manufacturer or importer) is required to declare its product's

compliance with the requirements of the Toy Safety Directive by signing a Declaration of Conformity and labelling the product with the CE mark.

In Germany, the Second Ordinance to the Equipment and Product Safety Act (2.GPSGV) (Ordinance on the Safety of Toys - (Zweite Verordnung zum Geräte- und Produktsicherheitsgesetz (2. GPSGV) - Verordnung über die Sicherheit von Spielzeug)) implementing Directive 88/378/EEC, still applies. In Austria, the “Verordnung über die Sicherheit von Spielzeug” (Spielzeugverordnung) (Toy Safety Ordinance) performs this task.

DIN EN 71 “Safety of Toys” is a subsidiary standard to the European Toy Safety Directive is. Parts 1 to 8 of this standard – specifying the required test methods and limit values - have been harmonized on the European level and are currently being revised, while Parts 9 to 11 of DIN EN 71 (organic chemical compounds) have not yet been harmonized. Moreover, the manufacturer/importer can declare product compliance with the legal provisions by means of the GS Mark (certified safety mark) if the product has been tested for compliance with the German Geräte- und Produktsicherheitsgesetz (Equipment and Product Safety Act) by one of the state-accredited testing laboratories.

Though toy market figures can be gathered from both official trade statistics and national and international associations these figures do not differentiate by the materials used. The demand for traditional toys has been quite stable over about the past 10 years and according to a statistics compiled by the European toy industry the German toy industry reached a value of goods of 2.291 billion Euros in 2008 and 2.346 billion Euros in 2009. About 4% of the toys sold in the country fall into the category of “plush toys” which is equivalent to sales of over EUR 100 million. There are additional products hidden within the categories „dolls“ and „infant“ that would fall within the scope of “textile toys”. According to estimates made within the scope of preliminary studies for establishing the Basic Criteria in consultation with representatives of the German and the European association of the toy industry textile toys would add up to an annual market volume of about 400 million Euros in Germany. Apart from a small fraction of European-made products textile toys are mostly manufactured in Asia where China is the leading producer. Also Thailand, the Philippines and Vietnam play important roles in this market.

¹ RAL-UZ 130 for Wooden Toys http://www.blauer-engel.de/de/produkte_marken/vergabegrundlage.php?id=164

1.3 Objectives of the Blue Angel Eco-Label

Consumer information about the concept of production responsibility requires transparent and credible product information and product labelling. Hence, the objective of the Blue Angel eco-label is to award the label to products whose production uses ecologically sustainable raw materials and avoids environment and health-damaging chemicals. Also important in the manufacture of the toy is the precautionary health care for the playing child and the consideration of socially responsible working conditions.

Thus, the Blue Angel eco-label wants to provide guidance for the use of safe and sustainable products:

- use of ecologically produced raw materials,
- avoidance of health-damaging chemicals in the products,
- good serviceability.

2 Scope

These Basic Criteria shall apply to toys according to the Toy Safety Directive² more than 90 percent of which (surface) consist of textiles. Only natural fibres (e.g. cotton, hemp, flax, bast, wool), synthetic cellulose fibres, polyester fibres, polyamide fibres, polyacryl fibres, elastane fibres und polypropylene fibres shall be permitted as textile fibres.

Only the following materials shall be permitted in addition to textiles³:

- Polyester (e.g. plastic sheet),
- Polyurethane (e.g. coating material),
- Polypropylene (e.g. Priplak, flexible plastic film),
- Polyethylene (e.g. rustling sheet, granules),
- Polyamide (e.g. grabbing rings),
- Natural products (wood, cherry stones, spelt etc.),
- Metals and wire (uncoated or coated with the above-mentioned plastics),
- Fibreglass rods.

Excluded from the award are products that contain rubber, latex or leather as well as electronic components.

² Directive 2009/48/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, of 18 June 2009 on the safety of toys, published in Official Journal L 170, 30 June 2009

³ The Environmental Label Jury may include additional materials within the scope of the Basic Criteria at the suggestion of the German Umweltbundesamt (Federal Environmental Agency).

The applicant shall use Annex 2 to inform RAL gGmbH about the materials and components composing the final product, indicate their percentages by weight and attach a colour photo of the corresponding models to the application documents.

3 Requirements

3.1 General Requirements

3.1.1 Compliance with Basic Legal Provisions

The products applying for the Blue Angel eco-label shall meet the requirements of all relevant basic provisions, especially Directive 2009/48/EC (Toy Safety Directive). Methods for verifying the requirements of the previous Toy Safety Directive (88/378/EEC) are specified in DIN EN 71, Parts 1 - 11. Within the scope of the revision of the Toy Safety Directive the corresponding test standards of DIN EN 71 are currently being revised. The manufacturer shall meet the criteria of the new Toy Safety Directive with respect to the relevant product-specific properties, including the mechanical and physical safety requirements.

Compliance Verification

The applicant shall present an EC Declaration of Conformity according to Article 15 and a Safety Assessment according to Article 18 of the Toy Safety Directive (2009/48/EC based on a test by an accredited testing laboratory. The test methods shall meet the DIN EN 71 standard, Parts 1-11, as amended, or – if this is impossible – the most appropriate test method. For verification of compliance with the mechanical and physical safety and flammability requirements the applicant shall present a test report according to DIN EN 71-1 and DIN EN 71-2. The GS Mark will also be accepted.

3.1.2 Acceptance of Test Reports

RAL will accept test reports prepared by testing laboratories holding an accreditation according to DIN EN ISO/IEC 17025 „General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories“. If no standardized testing methods are available the test report shall indicate that the methods used are sensitive enough to ensure compliance with the limits set.

The required test reports must not be older than one year at the time of application.

3.2 Requirements for the Origin of Natural Fibres, Wood and Cellulose

Natural textile fibres (e.g. cotton, hemp, flax, lamb's wool) shall come from certified organic cultivation or certified livestock breeding, respectively, or from fibres obtained during the conversion period⁴ and meet the requirements of Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 on organic production and labelling of organic products (also called EC Eco Regulation) or those of the US National Organic Programmes (NOP). Currently exempted therefrom are alpaca, mohair and silk.

Wood and cellulose for synthetic cellulose fibres shall originate from sustainable forestry.

It shall be guaranteed at all stages of the processing chain that certified organic and conventional fibres are not commingled and that certified organic fibres won't be contaminated by contact with prohibited substances.

The fibres used must not come from genetically modified organisms (GMO).

Compliance Verification

The applicant shall declare compliance with the requirement according to Annex 1. Fibres carrying the German "Bio Seal" (organic logo) or the EU organic logo („Euro Leaf“) or those marked according to the US National Organic Programme (NOP) will be accepted. Also, the applicant may submit corresponding certificates from an internationally IFOAM or ISO 65 or DIN EN 45011 accredited certifier establishing compliance with recognized international and national standards of organic farming.

Moreover, the applicant shall present certificates establishing compliance of the wood and the cellulose fibres used with this criterion. Also accepted will be certificates from the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) providing evidence of sustainable forestry and a chain of custody (CoC). As regards wood from the European economic area (EU and EFTA) the PEFC certification scheme will be recognized as equivalent (PEFC - Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification Schemes).

Labelling of products as "in conversion" shall only be possible if the provisions forming the basis of the certification of the fibre production provide for the possibility of such certification for the fibre concerned. However, it must be separately certified according to this provision.

⁴ „Conversion“: transition from non-organic farming to organic farming within a certain period during which the rules of organic production are applied. Council Regulation (EC) No. 834/2007 of 28 June 2007 on organic production and labelling of organic products and repealing Regulation (EEC) No. 2092/91, OJ L 189, 20.7.2007, p.1)

Where applicable, the applicant shall, at the request of RAL gGmbH, submit a part identification or transaction certificate from an accredited certification body proving compliance with the requirement at all stages of the processing chain, including details of the amounts of organic fibres produced.

3.3 General Substance Requirements

3.3.1 General Exclusion of Substances and Preparations with Certain Properties

The final product as well as the materials used must not contain any of the following substances⁵ with the requirements relating to the homogeneous material:

- a) Substances which are identified as particularly alarming according to the Chemicals Regulation REACH (EC/1907/2006)⁶ and which have been incorporated into the list pursuant to Article 59 (1) of the REACH Regulation (so-called “list of candidates”), as amended at the time of application⁷.
- b) Substances which in accordance with the criteria of the Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008⁸ (or Directive 67/548/EEC⁹) are assigned the H Phrases (R Phrases) listed in the following table or which meet the criteria for such classification.¹⁰

⁵ Terms as defined in Section 3, paras. 1-4 of the Publication of the Revised Version of the German Chemicals Act of 2 July 2008, as amended, (Federal Law Gazette, I, No. 28, p. 1146).

⁶ REGULATION (EC) No 1907/2006 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 18 December 2006 concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH).

⁷ For the current version of the List of Candidates please go to:

http://echa.europa.eu/chem_data/authorisation_process/candidate_list_table_en.asp

⁸ 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 (GHS Regulation).

The GHS Regulation (Globally Harmonized System), that has come into force on January 20, 2009, replaces the old Directives 67/548/EEC (Dangerous Substances Directive) and 1999/45/EC (Dangerous Preparations Directive). According to the said regulation, substances are classified, labelled and packed until December 1, 2010 according to Directive 67/548/EEC while mixtures (formerly preparations) are classified, labelled and packed until June 1, 2015 according to Directive 1999/45/EC. Thereafter, the GHS Regulation shall be applied. The new indications of danger (H Phrases) as well as the hitherto applicable Risk Phrase (R Phrases) shall be indicated for substances until the 1st of June 2015.

⁹ Council Directive 67/548/EEC of 27 June 1967 on the approximation of laws, regulations and administrative provisions relating to the classification, packaging and labelling of dangerous substances, as adapted to technical progress.

¹⁰ The harmonized classifications and labellings of dangerous substances can be found in Part 3 of Annex VI to Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 (GHS Regulation). Table 3.1 lists classifications and labellings according to the new system using H Phrases. Table 3.2 lists classifications and labellings according to the old system using R Phrases. In addition, a comprehensive classification and labelling inventory will be made publicly available on the ECHA website from mid 2011 which also includes the manufacturers' self-classifications of hazardous substances: http://echa.europa.eu/clp/c_l_inventory_en.asp

- c) Exempt from regulations a) and b) are impurities in technically unavoidable concentrations (according to the state of the art). The concentrations of impurities in the materials used may not in any case exceed the concentrations which in the case of chemical mixtures – in accordance with Point 3 of Annex II to the REACH Regulation (EC/1907/2006) - would need to be indicated in the Material Safety Data Sheet.

- d) As far as the water-hazardous substances are concerned exemptions from regulation b) may be included into Appendix 1 upon evaluation by the German Umweltbundesamt, provided that these are technologically non-substitutable substances and no environmental impact is to be expected.

Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 (GHS-Regulation)	Directive 67/548/EEC (Dangerous Substances Directive)	Wording
Toxic Substances		
H300	R28	Fatal if swallowed
H301	R25	Toxic if swallowed
H304	R65	May be fatal if swallowed and enters airways
H310	R27	Fatal in contact with skin
H311	R24	Toxic in contact with skin
H330	R26	Fatal if inhaled
H331	R23	Toxic if inhaled
H370	R39 in combination with R23, R24, R25, R26, R27 and/or R28	Causes damage to organs
H371	R68 in combination with 20, 21 and/or 22	May cause damage to organs
H372	R48 in combination with R23, R24 and/or R25	Causes damage to organs
H373	R48 in combination with 20, 21 and/or 22	May cause damage to organs
Carcinogenic, mutagenic and reprotoxic substances:		
H340	R46	May cause genetic defects
H341	R68	Suspected of causing genetic defects
H350	R45	May cause cancer
H350i	R49	May cause cancer by inhalation
H351	R40	Suspected of causing cancer
H360F	R60	May damage fertility
H360D	R61	May damage the unborn child
H360FD	R60/61	May damage fertility. May damage the unborn child
H360Fd	R60/63	May damage fertility. Suspected of damaging the unborn child
H360Df	R61/62	May damage the unborn child. Suspected of damaging fertility
H361f	R62	Suspected of damaging fertility
H361d	R63	Suspected of damaging the unborn child
H361fd	62/63	May damage fertility. May damage the unborn child
H362	R64	May cause harm to breast-fed children
Water-Hazardous Substances		
H400	R50	Very toxic to aquatic life

H410	R50/53	Very toxic to aquatic life with long-lasting effects
H411	R51/53	Toxic to aquatic life with long-lasting effects
Other Health and Environmental Effects		
EUH059	R59	Hazardous to the ozone layer

Compliance Verification

The applicant shall declare compliance with the requirement in Annex 1 and submit a conformation from the pre-suppliers according to Annex 3 stating that these requirements are met. The relevant Material Safety Data Sheets shall be made available at the request of RAL gGmbH.

3.3.2 Special Substance Requirements

The special substance requirements shall apply in addition to the general substance requirements or substantiate them by explicitly referring to particularly problematic substances. The requirements refer to the homogeneous material.

3.3.2.1 Requirements for the Use of Solid Plastic Parts

As far as CMR substances in solid plastic parts are concerned the European Regulation 1935/2004/EC shall apply in connection with Directive 2002/72/EC on materials that come into contact with foodstuffs and on the basis of Directive 2009/48/EC, Annex II, Part III, No. 7, to toys intended for children under 36 months and other toys that come into contact with the mouth.

3.3.2.2 Fragrances

Fragrances may not be used in the final product nor in the materials used.

3.3.2.3 Optical brighteners

No optical brighteners may be added to the textile materials used.

3.3.2.4 Biocides

Biocidal products as defined in the Biocides Directive 98/8/EC¹¹ shall not be used in the final product nor in the materials used. In-can preservatives in technically unavoidable quantities (according to the state of the art) and concentrations that need not be indicated in the Material Safety Data Sheet shall be exempted therefrom.

3.3.2.5 Use of Nanoparticles

Finishing of the final product or the materials used by the use of synthetic nanomaterials¹² shall not be permitted.

3.3.2.6 Perfluorinated and Polyfluorinated Chemicals (PFC)

The use of perfluorinated and polyfluorinated chemicals (PFCs) shall be prohibited.

3.3.2.7 Flame Retardants

A chemical flame-retardant finishing of materials or final product shall not be permitted. If need be, the flame-retardant effect shall be achieved by the use of flame-resistant fibres or by means of an appropriate fabric structure.

3.3.2.8 Plastic Foams

If plastic foams are used they shall not be manufactured by means of halogenated organic blowing agents.

Compliance Verification

The applicant shall declare compliance with the requirement under para. 3.3.2 in Annex 1 and submit a confirmation from the pre-suppliers according to Annex 4 stating that these requirements are met. If plastic foams are used the applicant or the supplier shall give the name of the blowing agent.

3.4 Tests on the Final Product

The following requirements shall apply in addition to the requirements under paras. 3.3.1 and 3.3.2 and they shall substantiate them by requiring one test on the final product each.

¹¹ DIRECTIVE 98/8/EC OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 16 February 1998 concerning the placing of biocidal products on the market. According to Article 2 (1a) biocidal products are defined as: "Active substances and preparations containing one or more active substances, put up in the form in which they are supplied to the user, intended to destroy, deter, render harmless, prevent the action of, or otherwise exert a controlling effect on any harmful organism by chemical or biological means."

¹² Definition is based on DIN CEN ISO/TS 27687:2008-11.

3.4.1 Nickel

If nickel is used in metal objects such object shall comply with the migration limit for metal alloys that are in direct and prolonged contact with the skin ($0.5 \mu\text{g}/\text{cm}^2/\text{week}$).

Compliance Verification

The applicant shall declare compliance with the requirements in Annex 1 and submit a certificate from the supplier stating that the metallised component used meets this requirement. Alternatively, the applicant may submit a test report issued by a testing laboratory accredited for this test attesting the safety with respect to dermal exposure. DIN EN 1811, possibly in combination with DIN EN 12472, may be used as test method.

3.4.2 Formaldehyde

The use of formaldehyde or materials that release formaldehyde shall be prohibited.

Compliance Verification

The applicant shall declare compliance with the requirement in Annex 1. Moreover, the applicant shall submit the test results according to the DIN EN ISO 14184-1¹³ test method. The amount of free and partially hydrolysable formaldehyde from other sources shall be less than 20 mg/kg.

3.4.3 Migration of Heavy Metals in Hydrochloric Acid

The migration limits for scraped-off toy materials specified in Point 13 of Part III of Annex II to the Toy Safety Directive (2009/48/EC) shall not be exceeded in the toy nor in any part thereof.

In addition, the following more stringent migration limits shall be complied with for the elements listed in the table below.

Chromium(VI) and boron cannot be determined until appropriate analysis methods are available and that is why the migration limits for boron and chromium(VI) listed in the Toy Safety Directive (2009/48/EC) need not be met until the chemical requirements of the Toy Safety Directive (2009/48/EC) come into force.

These limits apply to all toy components except for those where an exposure can be ruled out according to Point 13 of Part III of Annex II to the Toy Safety Directive (2009/48/EC).¹⁴

¹³ Test reports in accordance with Öko-Tex Standard 100 will also be accepted.

¹⁴ According to Article 10(2) of Directive 2009/48/EC the possible exposure refers to „toys, including the chemicals they contain [...] when they are used as intended or in a foreseeable way, bearing in mind the behaviour of children“. The accessibility to be taken into account in this connection in accordance with Point 13, paragraph 2 of Part 3, Annex II includes, in terms of these Basic Criteria, easily accessible inside material, as, for example, toy filling material.

Element	Symbol	Migration Limits [mg/kg]
Antimony	Sb	25
Arsenic	As	10
Barium	Ba	100
Lead	Pb	10
Cadmium	Cd	3
Chromium (III)	Cr	30
Mercury (inorganic)	Hg	10
Selenium	Se	30

Compliance Verification

The applicant shall declare compliance with the requirements in Annex 1. Moreover, the applicant shall submit a test report based on DIN EN 71-3 prepared by a testing laboratory accredited for this test confirming compliance with this requirement. (The release is stimulated by hydrochloric acid).

3.4.4 Migration of Heavy Metals from Textile Materials in Artificial Sweat

Extractions of the following heavy metals from textile materials shall not exceed the quantities given in the table:

Element	Migration Limits [mg/kg]
Antimony	30
Arsenic	0.2
Lead	0.2
Cadmium	0.1
Chromium	1
Cr(VI)	n.n.
Cobalt	1
Copper	25
Nickel	1
Mercury	0.02

Compliance Verification

The applicant shall declare compliance with the requirements in Annex 1. Moreover, the applicant shall present the test results according to a test method mentioned in Öko-Tex Standard 200 or a test report based on the DIN 54233-3:2010-02 test method (Testing of textiles - Determination of metals - Part 3: Determination of metals extracting by acid synthetic perspiration solution; draft standard).

Chromium(VI) can also be determined using the DIN 38405-24 (D-24) method - the detection limit may not, however, exceed 0.5 mg/kg.

3.4.5 Organotin Compounds

The use of organotin compounds in textile materials, plastics or in plastic-coated or painted materials shall not be permitted.

Compliance Verification

The applicant shall declare compliance with the requirements in Annex 1. Moreover, the applicant shall submit the test results determined on the basis of the DIN EN ISO 17353 test method or according to another suitable test method¹⁵. The content of the respective organotin compounds shall not exceed the following limits:

<i>Tributyltin compounds (TBT)</i>	<i>0.025 mg/kg</i>
<i>Triphenyltin (TPT)</i>	<i>0.05 mg/kg</i>
<i>Dibutyltin compounds (DBT)</i>	<i>0.1 mg/kg</i>
<i>Dioctyltin compounds (DOT)</i>	<i>0.1 mg/kg</i>
<i>Monobutyltin compounds (MBT)</i>	<i>1 mg/kg</i>

3.4.6 Chlorophenols

The use of chlorophenols (pentachlorophenol (PCP), tetrachlorophenol (TCP) and 2,4,6 trichlorophenol as well as their salts and esters in the materials used shall be prohibited.

Compliance Verification

The applicant shall declare compliance with the requirements in Annex 1. Moreover, the applicant shall submit the test results according to the pentachlorophenol (PCP) test method for the materials used, except for metals and mineral materials: Official collection of

¹⁵ Test reports according to Öko-Tex Standard 100 will also be accepted.

test methods according to Section 64 LFBG (Food, Consumer Goods and Feed Code) B82.02-8¹⁶, and for trichlorophenol and tetrachlorophenols (TeCP) on the basis of DIN EN ISO 17070.¹⁷ The amount of chlorophenols shall not exceed 0.05 mg/kg for PCP, Tri-CP and TeCP each.

3.4.7 Plasticizers

Only those phthalates and plasticizers may be used in coatings, paintings or printings as well as in flexible foam materials and plastic accessories which according to Directive 2002/72/EC, as amended¹⁸, are suited for the production of plastic materials and articles intended to come into contact with food.

Compliance Verification

The applicant shall declare in Annex 1 that either no plasticizers or only those permitted are used and name the latter in Annex 2. If one or more than one of the above-mentioned toy materials are used the applicant shall additionally submit a test report confirming that neither the plasticizer tri(2-chloroethyl) phosphate (TCEP) nor the following phthalates have been used: DNOP (di-n-octyl phthalate), DINP (di-isononyl phthalate), DIDP (di-isodecyl phthalate), DEHP (di-ethylhexyl phthalate), DBP (dibutyl phthalate), DIBP (di-isobutyl phthalate) and BBP (benzyl butyl phthalate).

Testing shall be conducted according to DIN EN ISO 18856 or EN 14602. The total content of the above-mentioned phthalates shall not exceed 1000 mg/kg.

3.4.8 Colorants

The use of azo dyes that may release one of the aromatic amines listed in Appendix 2 shall be prohibited.

Moreover, carcinogenic, mutagenic or reprotoxic disperse dyes or pigments or potentially sensitizing dyes or heavy-metal containing colorants listed in Appendix 2 must not be used for dyeing.

¹⁶ Lebensmittel-, Bedarfsgegenstände- und Futtermittelgesetzbuch (Lebensmittel- und Futtermittelgesetzbuch – LFGB – Food, Consumer Goods and Feed Code) LFGB, dated 1 September 2005, amended by the Ordinance of 3 August 2009, I 2630; Section 64: Official collection of test methods, - Publications

¹⁷ Test reports according to Öko-Tex Standard 100 will also be accepted.

¹⁸ Commission Directive 2002/72/EC of 6 August 2002 relating to plastic materials and articles intended to come into contact with foodstuffs. Corrigenda and supplements of the Directive are to be taken into account. For the consolidated version published at the time of setting up these Basic Criteria please go to: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CONSLEG:2002L0072:20091109:DE:PDF>

Compliance Verification

The applicant shall declare compliance with the requirement in Annex 2 to the Contract and submit a corresponding declaration from its pre-suppliers stating that the dyes listed in Appendix 2 have not been used in the yarns, fabrics and finished products.

With regard to the textile materials the applicant shall additionally submit the test results according to the test methods DIN EN 14362-1:2010-02 and DIN EN 14362-03:2010-05 (draft standard) (with a maximum detection limit for azo dyes of 20mg/kg each) and DIN 54231 (with a maximum detection limit for disperse dyes of 50 mg/kg each). For the detection of carcinogenic disperse dyes appropriate test methods (in-house methods of the testing laboratories) will be accepted (not applicable to undyed materials – which must however be explicitly confirmed by the testing laboratory in the test report).¹⁹

(Note: The tests for 4-aminoazobenzene may show false positive results; hence a check measurement is recommended).

3.4.9 Chlorinated Benzenes and Toluenes

The chlorinated benzenes and toluenes listed in Appendix 3 shall not be used in dyed synthetic fibres.

Compliance Verification

The applicant shall declare compliance with the requirements in Annex 1. Moreover, the applicant shall submit the test results according to the DIN 54232:2010-08²⁰ test method. The content of these compounds shall not exceed 1 mg/kg.

3.4.10 Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs)

The maximum values of the polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) listed in Appendix 4 for the GS Mark award to products intended to be placed in the mouth²¹ shall not be exceeded in the synthetic fibres, yarns and threads nor in the plastic materials and coatings used.

Compliance Verification

The applicant shall declare compliance with the requirement in Annex 1 and submit either a test report or evidence that the required limits are met. The tests for the 16 EPA PAHs as well as for benzo(e)pyrene and benzo(j)fluoranthene shall be conducted in accordance with

¹⁹ Test reports according to Öko-Tex Standard 100 will also be accepted.

²⁰ Test reports according to Öko-Tex Standard 100 will also be accepted.

²¹ This currently corresponds to Category 1 of the GS Mark award for polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs)

the specifications set forth in the document ZEK 01.2-08 "Prüfung und Bewertung von Polyzyklischen Aromatischen Kohlenwasserstoffen (PAK) bei der GS-Zeichen-Zuerkennung" (Testing and Evaluation of Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) for Award of the GS Mark). Appropriate test methods (in-house methods of the testing laboratories) for the detection of the four dibenzopyrenes will be accepted until an updated ZEK document becomes available.

3.4.11 Formamide and Dimethylformamide in Polymer Coatings or Foamed Plastics

The use of 1-tosylsemicarbazide and dimethylformamide in synthetic leather, polymer coatings or foamed plastics shall not be permitted.

Compliance Verification

The applicant shall declare compliance with the requirement in Annex 1. If synthetic leather or polymer coatings or foamed plastics are used the applicant shall submit a confirmation from its suppliers (Annex 4) that neither 1-tosylsemicarbazide nor dimethylformamide has been used and present a corresponding test report. Testing shall be performed by methanol extraction and GC-MS determination. The content of formamide (as derivative from the use of 1-tosylsemicarbazide) and dimethylformamide shall not exceed 10 mg/kg each.

3.4.12 Dimethyl Fumarate

The use of dimethyl fumarate in the final product, the materials used or in the transport packaging shall not be permitted.

Compliance Verification

The applicant shall declare compliance with the requirement in Annex 1 and submit a test report. Testing shall be performed by GC-MS analysis following solvent extraction. The content of dimethyl fumarate shall be less than 0.1 mg/kg.

3.4.13 Alkylphenol Ethoxylates and Alkylphenols

The use of alkylphenol ethoxylates and alkylphenols shall be prohibited in both final product and components.

Compliance Verification

The applicant shall declare compliance with the requirement in Annex 1 and submit a test report. Testing shall be done by GC-MS analysis following solvent extraction. The content

of alkylphenols and alkylphenol ethoxylates in plastics, plastic coatings, paints and textiles, including textile coatings, shall be less than 100 mg/kg each.

3.5 Colour Fastness of the Textile Materials

3.5.1 Colour Fastness to Washing

The colour fastness of the textile materials to washing and the resistance to staining shall be at least 3-4 each according to ISO 105 A03. This criterion shall not apply to white goods or products neither dyed nor printed.

Compliance Verification

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

3.5.2 Colour Fastness to (acid, alkaline) Perspiration

The colour fastness of the textile materials to acid and alkaline perspiration shall be at least 3-4 (colour change and staining). This criterion shall not apply to white products and products that are neither dyed nor printed.

Compliance Verification

The applicant shall declare compliance with the requirement in Annex 1 and submit a test report for confirmation. Testing shall be done using the DIN EN ISO 105-E04 test method (acid and alkaline, multiple-fibre material).

3.5.3 Colour Fastness to Rubbing

The colour fastness of textile materials to wet rubbing shall be at least 3-4. The colour fastness of textile materials to dry rubbing shall be at least 4. This criterion shall not apply to white products or products neither dyed nor printed.

Compliance Verification

The applicant shall declare compliance with the requirement in Annex 1 and submit a test report for confirmation. Testing shall be done using the DIN EN ISO 105-X12 test method.

3.5.4 Colour Fastness to Saliva and Perspiration

The textile materials shall be colourfast to saliva. The other dyed materials shall be colourfast to perspiration and saliva. This corresponds to level 5 of the current DIN 53160,

Parts 1 and 2. This criterion shall not apply to white products and products neither dyed nor printed.

Compliance Verification

The applicant shall declare compliance with the requirement in Annex 1 and submit a test report for confirmation. Testing shall be done on the basis of Section 64 LFBG (Deutsches Lebensmittel-, Bedarfsgegenstände und Futtermittelgesetzbuch) (Food, Consumer Goods and Feed Code) BVL B 82.10-1 in combination with DIN 53160, Parts 1 and 2.

3.6 Odour

The product may only have a material-specific smell. On a five-grade scale from “odourless” to “intolerable odour” the odour test must at least meet grade 2 (weak odour).

Compliance Verification

The applicant shall declare compliance with the requirement in Annex 1 and submit a test report. The required olfactory test shall be made with at least 7 test persons on the basis of SNV 195651.

3.7 Packaging

The plastics used in the packaging shall not contain any halogenated polymers. Moreover, the heavy metal limits according to the German Verpackungsordnung (Packaging Ordinance)²² shall be observed. The products shall be packed so as to allow degassing of volatile organic substances. Neither the transportation packaging nor the product packaging may contain dimethyl fumarate.

Compliance Verification

The applicant shall declare compliance with the requirement in Annex 1 and submit – where applicable – a sample of the product packaging (photo) to RAL gGmbH.

3.8 Consumer Information

If the final product is sold in German-speaking countries the entire consumer information (e.g. product care and cleaning instructions) shall also be written in German. The instructions for use shall include the corresponding requirements set forth in the Toy Safety Directive.

²² Verordnung über die Vermeidung und Verwertung von Verpackungsabfällen (Verpackungsverordnung – VerpackV) Ordinance on the Avoidance and Recovery of Packaging Wastes (Packaging Ordinance) of 21 August 1998 (Federal Law Gazette I p. 2379), last amended by the 5th Amendment to the German Packaging Ordinance of 2 April 2008 (Federal Law Gazette I page 531).

The fibres used shall be declared on the final product in accordance with Directive 96/74/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council²³. In addition, instructions for care and cleaning shall be given, for example, by way of textile care symbols. The applicant shall indicate in a way accessible to the consumer (either on the product itself or via the Website) the materials and components the final product is made of (percentage by weight: > 5%; in total at least 75% of the final product).

Compliance Verification

The applicant shall submit a copy of the consumer information to RAL gGmbH.

3.9 Working Conditions

Fundamental principles and rights with respect to the working conditions as specified in the current core labour standards of the International Labour Organisation in force (ILO Core Labour Standards) must be complied with along the entire value chain for the manufacture of the products to be marked with the Blue Angel eco-label.

Compliance Verification

The applicant shall declare in Annex 6 that ILO's Core Labour Standards are complied with at applicant's company as well as along the manufacturing chain.

4 Applicants and Parties Involved

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

4.2 Parties involved in the Award procedure are:

- RAL gGmbH to award the Blue Angel eco-label
- the federal state being home to applicant's production site or company headquarters,
- 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 further develop the Basic Award Criteria.

²³ Directive 96/74/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 1996 on textile names (OJ L 32 of 3 February 1997, p. 38), transposed into German law by the Textilkennzeichnungsgesetz (TextilkennzG) (Textile Labelling Act), last amended by the Amending Ordinance of 26 August 2010 (Federal Law Gazette I p. 1248)

4.3 All 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 is to be informed about major changes. In such cases RAL may request a resubmission of the 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, 2015**. They shall be extended by periods of one year each, unless terminated in writing by **March 31, 2015** 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.

5.4 The applicant (manufacturer, distributor) 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/distributor)

5.5.2 Brand/trade name, product designation

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

CONTRACT

No

on the Award of the Environmental Label

RAL gGmbH as label awarding agency and the firm of

(Distributor)

as applicant conclude the following

Contract on the Use of the Environmental Label

S P E C I M E N

- Under the following conditions the applicant shall be entitled to use the Environmental Label for the labelling of the product / product group / project:
„Textile Toys“ for

"Brand/Trade Name".

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 and shall be marked at the bottom "Jury Umweltzeichen" (Environmental Label Jury). The entire inner surrounding text shall always be identical as regards font size, form, thickness and colour and it shall be easy to read.

- The Environmental Label according to para. 1 may only be used for the above-mentioned product / product group / project.
- If the Environmental Label is used for advertising purposes or other applicant activities 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.
- 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 "Grundlage für Umweltzeichen-Vergabe RAL-UZ 159" (Basic Criteria for Award of the Environmental Label RAL-UZ 159), 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 applicant's use of the label and the accompanying advertising shall be ruled out.
- 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.

- Should the applicant himself or third parties find out that the applicant does not comply with the conditions as stipulated in paras. 2-5 the applicant 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.

- 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).

- The applicant undertakes to pay RAL gGmbH an amount according to the "Entgeltordnung für das Umweltzeichen" (Schedule of Fees for the Environmental Label), as amended, for the period of use.
- According to the Basic Criteria for Award of the Environmental Label RAL-UZ 159 this contract will run until **December 31, 2015**. It shall be extended by periods of one year each, unless terminated in writing by **March 31, 2015** 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.
- Products / projects marked with the Environmental Label and the advertising for these products / projects may reach the consumer only when naming the company of the (Applicant / Distributor).

Sankt Augustin, this day of20..

Place, Date

RAL gGmbH
Management

(Signature of authorized person
and company stamp)