

行政院所屬各機關因公出國人員出國報告書

(出國類別： 研習)

環保標章制度移轉民間辦理制度研習 出國報告書

服務機關：行政院環境保護署

出國人 職 稱：高級環境技術師

姓 名：周國鼎

出國地點：瑞典、德國

出國期間：九十二年八月三十一日至九月十四日

報告日期：九十二年十二月十三日

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環保標章驗證制度移轉民營化研習

壹、前言

環保標章是國際性活動，被視為一種利用市場機能，鼓勵企業改善產品環保績效的經濟工具，也是推廣綠色消費運動的一種重要手段。依據國際標準組織（ISO）所公告之 ISO 14024 標準之定義，第一類環保標章是自發性、多重準則、經第三者驗證之計畫。對於在某類產品項目（product category）中，具有整體環境優越性（overall environmental preferability）之產品，頒發專用之標章。其中環境優越性需依據生命週期考慮而定。所謂「自發性」係指鼓勵而非強迫企業參加；「多重準則」意指多種環保特性，如省水、省電、使用回收原料等；「第三者」則指與產品交易雙方無關之單位。此外，使用專用標章之目的在強調「獲得標章的產品是最優良的產品，消費者看到標章即可安心購買」。

我國之環保標章制度自民國八十二年推動迄今已近十年。環保標章為一專用商標，其使用權屬於本署，而規格標準之研擬、產品初審、宣導推廣及國際合作等工作，係由本署每年編列經費，並以公開招標方式委託民間團體辦理。此外，另設置「環保標章審議委員會」做為規格標準審議、產品准駁、管理監督、制度研究等之決策單位。

委託民間辦理的必要性

一、近年來國家整體預算緊縮，在排擠效應下，環保標章計畫經費日益減少(如表 1，歷年廠商繳交之申請費收支表詳表 2)，另在政府「去任務化」之政策下，將業務移轉民間辦理，成為大勢所趨。

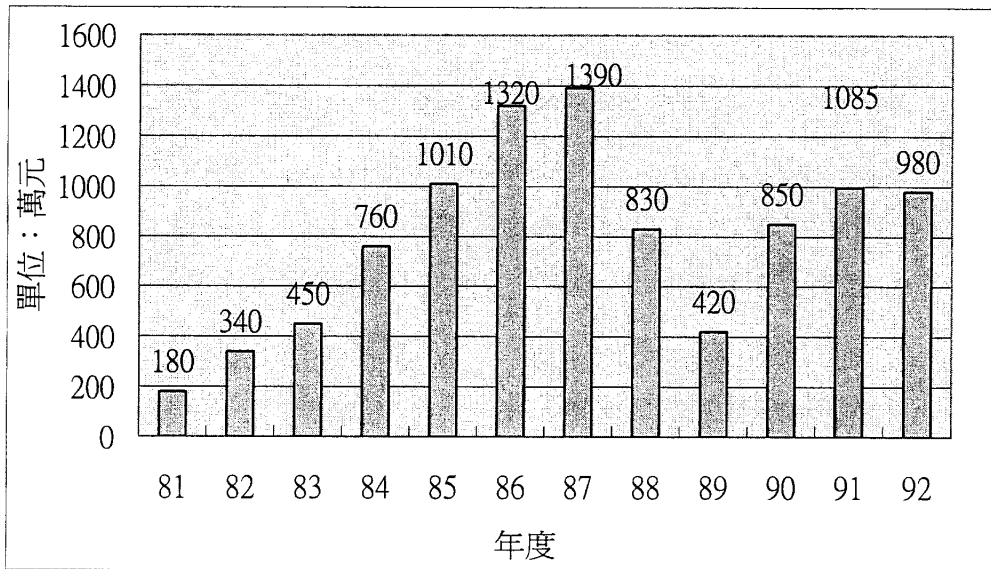


表 1、歷年經費收入

表 2、歷年廠商繳交之申請費收支表

單位：千元

年度	88	89	90	91	92	說明
收入	862	1,143	1,067	2,510	2,500(預估)	
繳庫數	495	0	373	2,008	未定	89 年度收入全數執行產品抽驗，故未繳回國庫

- 二、環保標章目前運作的模式係經由公開招標遴選合格單位執行產品驗證、規格研擬等作業，而環保標章重大事項之決策單位則為本署成立之環保標章審議委員會。依據「環保標章審議委員會設置要點」規定該會議每季召開一次，即使審議委員會召開頻率已有增加（約2個月召開一次），審查時效仍須俟審議委員會召開後審議定奪。若將產品驗證作業委託民間辦理，將現行「定期審議」修正為「隨到隨審」之方式，則可有效縮短作業流程、提昇作業效率。
- 三、環保標章驗證作業民營化乃世界潮流，成立於1994年之「全球環保標章網路組織」(Global Ecolabelling Network, 簡稱GEN)係現今國際間之最大環保標章組織，目前參與之國家代表共計廿六個，成員多係該國執行環保標章驗證作業之民間團體，因此我國以民間組織身份參與環保標章之國際相關活動將較具彈性；此外亦可避免在未來兩岸關係愈發密切之趨勢下因官方身份而產生之不便，俾利經由雙方之合作將我國經驗推廣至彼岸，促進我方綠色生產與消費之蓬勃發展。

貳、各國環保標章組織之運作模式分析

國際間環保標章驗證組織之型態、經費、人力（如表3所示）。大致上各國之環保標章組織可分成下列數種類型：

- 一、聯合工作小組型式：即區域型環保標章，其規格標準由歐盟統籌辦理，公告後交由各會員國成立驗證組織以發給標章。以歐盟花卉標章及北歐天鵝標章為代表。
- 二、政府型式：即以政府機構負責全部作業，通常均為環保單位，如：新加坡及印度。
- 三、標準協會型式：為方便運作體系的維繫及方便性，由政府籌組協會

標準 (Standards Association) 方式辦理，雖為民間單位，但官方色彩較重，如：西班牙及巴西。

- 四、營利組織型式：純粹由民間公司方式經營，一切依運作方式來取得足夠經費（如申請費及年費），自給自足的型式，因此在運作上授權一民間公司（加拿大 Terra Choice . Inc.）來實施，由於其經營方式相當成功，故已成為各國制度轉民營化時之參考對象。
- 五、非營利組織型式：即由非政府組織 (NGO) 以非營利為目的來推動，可保持運作的彈性及減少預算的壓力，各國在實施時大都以基金會或公益法人方式作為主要委託對象，除可保持第三者的驗證立場外，亦可藉由民間力量來進行標章促銷。此類型執行國家如美國、日本、紐西蘭、奧地利、荷蘭、韓國及瑞典等。
- 六、政府與民間單位共同執行：政府負責規格標準制定及其他所有相關工作，民間單位僅負責產品審查與發證，如德國。

表 3 全球第一類環保標章組織之型態、名稱

國名(組織名)	標章名稱	執行單位名稱	執行組織型態	標章專用 權
美國	Green Seal	Green Seal	非營利組織	民間
德國	Blue Angel	Federal Environmental Agency /RAL	政府/非營利組 織	政府
日本	Ecomark	日本環境協會(JEA)	非營利組織	民間
中華民國	Green Mark	環境與發展基金會	非營利組織	政府
北歐 (芬蘭、瑞典、 冰島、丹麥)	Nordic Swan	Nodic Swan Coordination Board		政府
新加坡	Green Label	Ministry of the Environment	政府	政府
紐西蘭	Environmental Choice NZ	IANZ	非營利組織	政府
西班牙	Medio Ambiente	AENOR	標準協會 (Standards Association)	政府
奧地利	Eco-Label	消費者協會(VKI)	非營利組織	民間
印度	EcoMark	印度標準局(Bureau of Indian Standards)	政府	政府
泰國	Green Label: Thailand	TEI	政府/非營利組 織	政府
荷蘭	Stichting	標準協會	非營利組織	政府

	Milieukeur			
韓國	Korean Env. Labelling	KELA	非營利組織	政府
巴西	NA	ABNT	標準協會	政府
歐盟 (歐盟會員國、 冰島、挪威、列 支登士登)	EU Flower	歐盟第十一處環保標 章工作小組		政府
加拿大	Environmental Choice	Terra Choice Env. Services, Inc.	營利組織	政府
瑞典	Good Env. Choice	瑞典自然資源保護協 會 (SSNC)	非營利組織	民間

表 4 為德國、加拿大、瑞典及日本四個國家型環保標章組織與政府主管機關之從屬關係與授權方式。其中以德國模式較適合我國現況，分析如下：

(1) 民營化作業非一蹴可幾，在經費無法完全自給自足之情況下，產品驗證與發證作業授權民間機構執行；環保標章規格制定、制度規劃、綠色消費觀念推廣由政府機關辦理。

(2) 此外由政府機關制定規格標準，除較具公信力，廠商配合度亦較高，

表 4、其他國家環保標章之授權方式

政府與 驗證單 位之關 係	標章專 用權歸 屬	選擇現 行驗證 單位之 理由	是否依 據 Guide65 授權	授權方 式/年限	監督方 式	收費標 準
德國	聯邦環境部授 權環境科學處 (UBA)執行藍 天使標章計畫	RAL 曾有相 關之業績	無 (25 年前尚 無該指 引存在)	無限期/ 獨家	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> UBA 選聘審議委員，由審議委員會 (Jury) 決定規格標準 UBA 執行文件初審，授權 RAL 執行驗證，並決定核發標章事宜 RAL 執行驗證工作，每年向 Jury 提出報告 RAL 與廠商簽約，授權廠商使用標章 (期限為 3~4 年) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 由 UBA 與 RAL 共同決定收費標準，原則為「收支平衡」 決定收費標準之前，未召開公聽會
加拿大	環境部 (Environment Canada)	驗證單位係於 1995 年由環 境部執行單位 轉移 (spin-off)	否	10 年/ 獨家	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 與廠商有爭議時，由環保部仲裁、公斷 環保部提出政策方向 爭議無法解決時進入訴訟時，由環保部提供律師 TerraChoice 每季向環保部報告成果 TerraChoice 與廠商簽約，授 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 由 TerraChoice 決定 TerraChoice 為營利公司 決定以收費標準之前，未召開公聽會 若改變收費標準時，原有簽約廠商

						權廠商使用標章 (期限為 3 年) 6. TerraChoice 不遵循環保部之政策方向，或做出傷害標章公信力之行為時，環保部得中止授權契約。	仍適用舊標準直至 會約期滿
瑞典	---	北歐部長組織 授權北歐標章 委員會 (Nordic Ecolabelling Board)	瑞典之驗證單位 (SIS Ecolabelling AB) 係由原政府主管部門與標準局於 1998 年共同捐助基金成立	否 (無其他單位有興趣)	---	1. 北歐標準委員會決定規格標準，瑞典代表係由政府部門與消費團體組成之委員會 (SIS Ecolabelling Board) 指派 2. SIS Ecolabelling AB 與廠商簽約，授權廠商使用標章 (期限為 3 年) 3. SIS Ecolabelling AB 需接受政府之政策指導與定期財務稽核	由政府決定，目前尚無 法自給自足，政府每年 編列經費補助
日本	委辦	日本環境協會	---	---	---	第一年執行經費悉由 政府補助，之後政府僅 補助宣導與推動綠色 採購聯盟	

參、我國其他產品標誌之認證驗證體系

我國其他各種不同產品標誌其性質雖不同，但運作的模式大部份由政府機構自行實施，亦有部份委託民間辦理方式來處理，各類產品標誌之認證（或授證）驗證單位及其執行方式如下表（表5）所示：

標誌名稱	綠建築	GMP	有機農產品	節能標章	省水標章	能源之星
驗證客體	建築物與建築基地	製程與環境食(藥)品抽檢	農場作業程序/產品與環境品質	節約能源之產品	節約用水之產品與器材	節約能源之辦公室備設
主管單位	內政部	經濟部	農委會	經濟部能源會	經濟部水資局	環保署
授證單位	內政部建築研究所	食品GMP認證體系推行委員會	由農委會驗證輔導小組審核通過之驗證機構	同上	同上	同上
承辦機構/執行驗證單位	中華建築學會/審查委員會	研究所，中華技術研究所	同上，例如MOA，慈心，中華民國有機農業產銷經營協會、台灣省有機農業生產協會	工業技術研究院能源與資源研究所	工業技術研究院能源與資源研究所	環發會
現場稽核單位	同上	推行委員會現場評核小組委員	同上	無	無	無
檢測機構	同上	同驗證單位	委託檢測實驗室	同上	同上	自行檢測或委託合格單位
輔導單位	同上	中國食品GMP發展協會	同上	同上	同上	----
追蹤查驗	同上	驗證單位/現場評核人員訓練	驗證單位/現場評核人員訓練	----	----	驗證單位
驗(授)證	綠建築標	食品良好作	農委會有機	經濟部節	省水標章	美國能

辦法或評鑑標準	章推動使用作業要點	業規範(GMP)推行方案/分為通則與專則	產品生產基準/有機農產品驗證機構輔導要點	能標章作業要點	作業要點	源之星規格標準
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肆、 民營化目標

由上述，環保標章制度全面民營化之目標應採漸進方式，分階段完成。第一階段考慮將產品驗證與發證作業，授權民間團體執行，目標為五年內此部份經費完全由廠商支付（可考慮分為申請費與/年費兩部份）。第一階段結束後，視市場規模與廠商意願，考慮是否可以降低政府於其他業務（即宣導推廣、國際合作及規格標準研擬三部份）之經費支出。

伍、 執行措施

環保標章委託民間辦理之規劃，已於上（91）年度開始執行，並於『推動使用環保標章第二類環境保護產品計畫』業務成果報告中，以專章方式呈現。依據該報告，規劃流程如下圖所示：

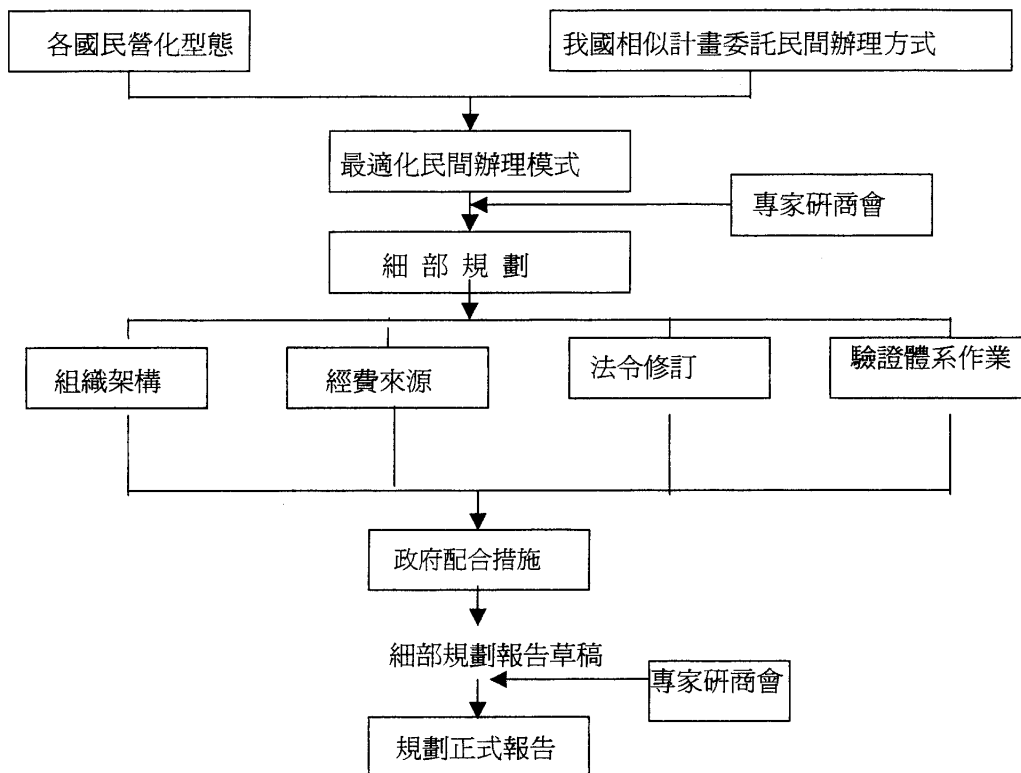


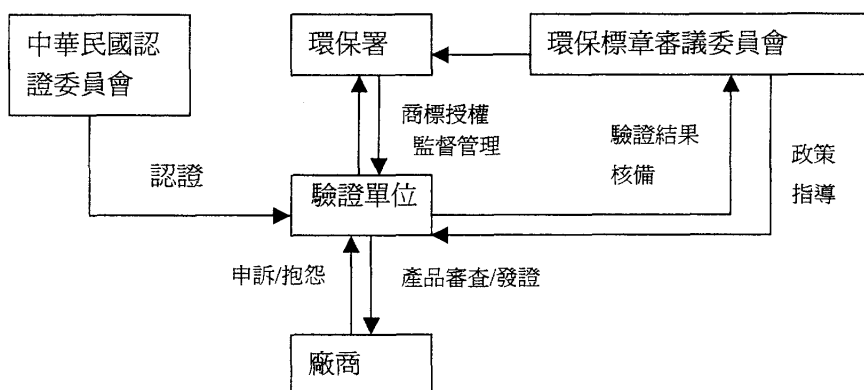
圖 1. 民間委辦細部規劃流程圖

第一次專家諮商會議已於九十一年八月十三日舉行，計邀請柴松林、吳家誠、駱尚廉、顧洋等教授、黃正忠秘書長及經濟部標檢局、工業局代表參加。結論為（1）基於國際趨勢、政府再造及立法院要求，環保標章產品驗證業務委託民間辦理應屬恰當，（2）環保署仍將辦理規格標準制定、宣導推廣、國際合作及其他重大事項處理等工作，（3）應依據國際標準遴選專業機構辦理驗證工作，（4）向廠商收取費用（除申請審查費外，可考慮收取年費）應考量產品售價、銷售量、改善成本、環境效益等及受委託單位之運作成本，並訂定時間表，逐年降低

政府責任與負擔。

於上述流程圖中，(1) 組織架構，(2) 經費來源，(3) 法令修訂及 (4) 驗證體系作業四項即為本方案之執行措施。分述於下：

組織架構之確立：(圖 2)



由於本規劃案之重點在於首先考慮將產品驗證部分工作交由民間辦理，而其餘工作（即規格標準研擬、宣導推廣、國際合作）仍暫由環保署編列經費，因此，與目前之組織架構所不同者，主要為 (i) 增加『驗證單位』需遵循國際標準，即 ISO/IEC Guide 65，「產品驗證機構一般要求事項」之規範，並接受國內認證機構（即中華民國認證委員會）之監督管理，以確保驗證單位之品質與專業能力符合國際標準，(ii) 環保署依商標法將環保標章使用權授予驗證單位再授權予第三者（即廠商）使用，亦即驗證單位係環保署本項業務之代理人，(iii) 依據 ISO/IEC Guide 65，驗證單位應組成『驗證委員會』，負責申請案之審查並做成准駁與否之決議。凡通過審查者，即由驗證單位與廠商簽定合約，並發給證書及進行後續追蹤考核、申訴/抱怨之處理等。另應定期向『環保標章審議委員會』提出驗證結果報告，(iv) 『環保標章審議委員會』為由公正人士組成，為最高政策指導單位。新組織架構應可達成縮短作業時間、減少環保署行政負荷之目

的。唯組織架構之確立，需要有法源依據，故執行措施之二即為『法令修正』。

(1) 法令修正

待修正之法令包括「環保標章推動使用要點」、「環境保護產品第二類產品審查作業要點」、「環保標章審議委員會設置要點」此外，為加速推動政府機關綠色採購，以利完成民營化規劃，需考慮同時修正『機關優先採購環境保護產品辦法』及『機關優先採購環境保護產品行動方案』。修正方向包括 (i) 配合組織架構，重新定義『環保標章審議委員會』設置方式 (包括減少人數) 及任務，(ii) 將第一類環保標章及第二類產品審查作業要點合併並予以簡化，(iii) 於『機關優先採購環境保護產品辦法』中加入『第一類環保標章得委託民間機構辦理』文字，修正第三類產品認定方式並說明如何規定『優惠價差』等。

(2) 經費來源試算

配合前述組織架構的變更，政府預算編列的部分將僅限於規格標準之研擬，國際合作及宣導推廣，而產品 (包括審查、發證及追蹤考核) 則由廠商繳交申請費及年費支付。

若反向思考，目前在產品驗證部分之經費需求約在 680 萬元之譜 (依據每年審查 600 件產品、追蹤考核 200 件及至少二次產品抽驗之工作量計算)，而以現行方式，每年審查費收入約

250 萬元，尚缺 430 萬元。唯若一次調漲太多，恐引起廠商反彈，故宜分階段、分年進行，但可事先公告，使廠商有所準備。收費方式可大致分為 (i) 收取申請費及年費，(ii) 僅收取申請費二類。前者之優點在 (a) 非一次收取，反彈較小，(b) 依產品售價或營業額收取年費，較具公平性，(c) 較能掌握廠商是否重視環保標章 (是否繳交年費)，但缺點在若廠商不願配合時，較難判定產品售價或營業額之真實性。此外，廠商不願或拖延繳交年費之情行亦在所難免。後者之缺點為既屬一次收取，感覺上負擔較重，反彈恐較大，同時無論產品貴賤或廠商規模，收費一致較不符社會正義。

(3) 驗證體系規劃

如前述，驗證單位應遵守國際標準以執行產品驗證業務。ISO/ IEC Guide 65 之最主要規定含 (i) 驗證單位組織應可證明為具有獨立性、公正性、不受利益團體左右 (例如董事會成員是否均為公正人士)，(ii) 驗證單位之人員是否受過專業訓練，具足夠能力執行業務，(iii) 是否已有文件化之品質管理系統 (含品質手冊、程序書及工作紀錄) 以保持穩定之工作品質。此外，驗證單位既為環保署環保標章業務之代理人，其代理之範圍與內容，應於委託契約書中明確敘述。

陸、規劃作業時程表

	工作內容	92年						93年			
		6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3
1	相關法規修正	████████████████████									
	● 資源回收再利用法及細則					████████████████████	████████████████████	████████████████████	████████████████████	████████████████████	
	● 環保標章推動使用作業要點			████████████████████	████████████████████	████████████████████					
	● 環境保護產品第二類產品審查作業要點			████████████████████	████████████████████	████████████████████					
	● 環保標章審議委員會設置要點			████████████████████	████████████████████	████████████████████					
	● 機關優先採購環境保護產品辦法								████████████████████	████████████████████	
2	公告修正後法規					████████████████████	████████████████████				
3	修正收費辦法										
	● 收費辦法初稿		████████████████████	████████████████████							
	● 舉辦公聽會			●							
	● 修正後定案				████████████████████	████████████████████					
4	公告收費辦法					████████████████████	████████████████████				
5	聘任審議委員				████████████████████	████████████████████					
6	公告招標須知						████████████████████	████████████████████			
7	辦理招標程序							████████████████████	████████████████████		
8	議約完成並開始執行								████████████████████	████████████████████	

柒、作業分工

為使本方案順利推動，特劃定各主要執行措施：

主要工作項目	內 容
一、組織架構 確立	如圖 2 之說明確立架構、角色及權責
二、法令修正	◎環保標章推動使用要點
	◎環境保護第二類產品審查作業要點
	◎環保標章審議委員會設置要點
	◎機關優先採購環境保護產品辦法
	◎機關優先採購環境保護產品行動方案
三、經費籌措	◎收費方式計算
	◎廠商公聽會
四、驗證體系 規劃	◎依據國際標準建立品質管理系統
	◎草擬驗證業務代理委託契約書

THE BLUE ANGEL

**The Blue Angel is the classic among the environmental labels.
And it is as relevant today as it ever was.**

The oldest environmental label in the world: the Blue Angel.

The Blue Angel is the first and oldest environment-related label in the world for products and services. It was created in 1977 on the initiative of the Federal Minister of the Interior and approved by the Ministers of the Environment of the national government and the federal states. It was designed as an instrument of environmental policy which would harmonise with the market and enable the positive features of products and services to be labelled on a voluntary basis. As a result, it fits in well with the competition for the best possible ecological properties of products and services. And its success has grown: in 1978 the first six awards were granted by the Environmental Label jury. Now, about 3,700 products and services in 80 product categories bear the Blue Angel. When the best products from an ecological point of view have become the standard, the Blue Angel will have achieved its goal. With new product categories for the Environmental Label (e.g. mobile phones and waterway transport), the influence of the label is constantly expanding.

One label says more than a thousand words.

The task which is associated with the Environmental Label is clearly defined: the Blue Angel promotes the concerns of both environmental protection and consumer protection. Therefore it is awarded to products and services which are particularly beneficial for the environment in an all-round consideration and which also fulfil high standards of occupational health and safety and fitness for use. Economical use of raw materials, production, usage, service life and disposal – all these factors are assigned a high importance. Products which are awarded the label bear the logo of the Blue Angel directly on the product whereby service companies use it on materials used to offer their services. The logo consists of the following three elements:

First the environmental symbol of the United Nations in the form of a blue ring with a laurel wreath and a blue figure with outstretched arms in the middle. Secondly, the text around the edge which specifically mentions the most important environmental properties of the respective product or service.

Thirdly, the reference to the independent Environmental Label jury on certain product categories and the criteria which had to be met.

The organisation behind the label.

The Blue Angel environmental label is the property of the Federal Ministry of the Environment, Nature Protection and Nuclear Safety. It is sponsored and administered by the Federal Environmental Agency and the quality assurance and product labelling institute RAL Deutsches Institut für Gütesicherung und Kennzeichnung e.V. All technical demands placed on products and services for the award of the Environmental Label are decided by the independent Environmental Label jury. The award of the Blue Angel is entrusted to the RAL Deutsches Institut für Gütesicherung und Kennzeichnung e.V. – with the participation of the Federal Environmental Agency and the federal state in which the manufacturer or supplier of the respective product or service has its registered office. The Federal Environmental Agency is responsible, among other things, for the development of requirements for the award of the Blue Angel – and the Environmental Label jury has its office in the Federal Environmental Agency.

PARTIES INVOLVED

The following institutions are involved in the “Blue Angel” award procedure:

- **Environmental Label Jury** (Jury UZ) - an independent decision-making body composed of experts representing environmental organisations and consumer associations, trade unions, industry, trade, crafts, local authorities, science, media, church and federal states.
- **RAL** Deutsches Institut für Gütesicherung und Kennzeichnung e.V. (RAL-German Institute for Quality Assurance and Certification) as label-awarding agency.
- **Umweltbundesamt** (Federal Environmental Agency) with its department of “Methods of Product Evaluation, “Blue Angel” Environmental Label with the office of the Environmental Label Jury and the individual departments of the Umweltbundesamt – depending on the product group.
- The **Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety** is the owner of the label. It regularly informs the public about the decisions of the Environmental Label Jury.

Environmental Label Jury

The jury has many tasks and a very special function.

The *Environmental Label jury* operates on an honorary basis and is neither impartial nor bound by instructions. It is made up of a total of 13 members from different social groups: environmental and consumer associations, trade unions, industry, retailing, crafts, trade, local communities, science, media, churches and the federal states. The members are appointed by the Federal Minister of the Environment.

Tasks and competence: setting off developments.

The *Environmental Label jury* selects new product areas in which the “Blue Angel” is to be used because this has great potential to improve the environment and promote occupational health and safety. The most recent example is ecologically beneficial waterway transport. The Federal Environmental Agency develops proposals for the technical criteria which the product or service must fulfil to obtain the *Environmental Label*. The award criteria are then reviewed in the subsequent expert consultations with representatives of industry, consumers and recognised test institutes. On the one hand they must be strict enough; on the other hand they must be feasible in practice. The jury then discusses this provisional list of criteria – and adopts it if it complies with the objectives of the *Environmental Label*.

Function and position: where interests meet.

The jury is the place where the different interest groups meet in the decision-making process for the criteria which the products must fulfil. This is an important requirement for its work, because its decisions are the result of intensive consultations on the varied interests of all parties involved: business companies, consumer and environmental organisations and society as a whole. The decisions made by jury reflect the best possible consensus between these very different expectations, and in the last resort they ensure the high level of acceptance of the *Environmental Label*.

In the award procedure, the jury is the guarantee for the quality of the *Blue Angel* products. It does all that it can to ensure that the requirements for a product or service are subject to strict tests with objective measuring methods and that the products and services which bear the label are both ecologically beneficial and fit for use.

UMWELTBUNDESAMT (Federal Environmental Agency)

The Umweltbundesamt (Federal Environmental Agency) receives and pre-examines the proposals for new eco-labels which may be submitted by everybody (so-called new proposals). Along with an expert opinion the Agency submits the new proposals to the Environmental Label Jury for decision. From among these new proposals the Environmental Label Jury then selects those product groups which considered are particularly suited and returns them to the Federal Environmental Agency accompanied by a test order for closer examination. Upon conclusion of all necessary tests the Federal Environmental Agency elaborates draft Basic Criteria for Award of the Environmental Label.

Department III 1.3 of the Federal Environmental Agency represents the office of the Environmental Label Jury. In this capacity it supports the work of the honorary Jury.

Following the check of the individual applications for use of the Environmental Label for compliance with the requirements laid down in the Basic Criteria the Federal Environmental Agency makes a statement to RAL.

Address:

Umweltbundesamt

(Federal Environmental Agency)

Department III 1.3 ("Methods of Product Evaluation, Environmental Label")

Seecktstraße 6-10

13581 Berlin

Telephone: +49(0)30-8903-3705 or 3701

Fax: +49(0)30-8903-3099

Office of the Environmental Label Jury

Telephone: +49(0)30-8903-3020

**RAL Deutsches Institut für Gütesicherung und Kennzeichnung
e.V. (German Institute for Quality Assurance and Certification)**

RAL organizes and holds (chairs) the expert hearings and it prepares the minutes of such hearings.

It receives individual applications from manufacturers and checks their compliance with the requirements as well as the complete submission of all compliance verifications. In addition, it seeks comments of the Federal Environmental Agency and of the federal state where the manufacturer's company has its seat.

If all requirements are fulfilled RAL and the manufacturer conclude a Contract on the Use of the Blue Angel.

Address:

RAL

Siegburger Strasse 39

53757 St. Augustin

Telephone: +49 (0)2241-1605-0

Fax: +49 (0)2241-1605-11

BALANCE

Number of Products marked with the Blue Angel

Datum	Products	Label Users
Status 01.01.1999	3728	751
Status 01.01.2000	3688	760
Status 31.01.2000	4182 [1]	831
Status 31.12.2001	3669	779

Status 31.12.2002	3790	710
- from abroad	474 (=12,5%)	81 (=11,4%)
Notice to the 31.12.2002 [2]	734	121
Status 01.01.2003	3056	589
- from abroad	247 (=8,1%)	67 (=11,4%)

[1] 494 new products in the course of the 2000

[2] Contracts expiring at the end of the year due to the further development of the award criteria

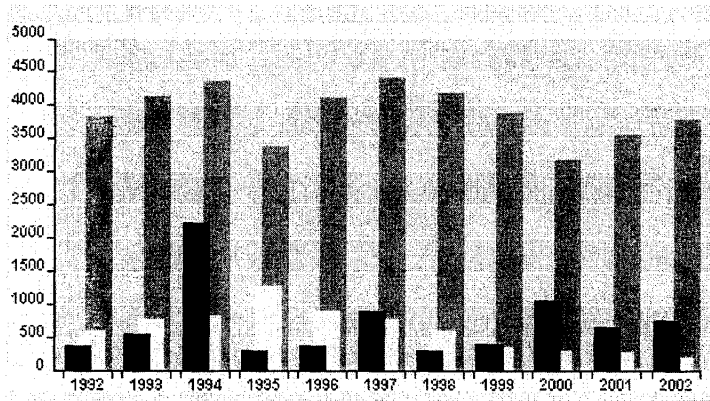
Source: RAL, Umweltbundesamt (Federal Environmental Agency), as of Januar 2003

The results of a survey: success all along the line.

- 53% regard the benefit of the Blue Angel for the purposes of consumer information as very high to high.
- 51% believe that the role of the Blue Angel in stimulating ecological innovations in their line of business is very high to high.

- 44% consider the benefit of the Blue Angel in making environmental protection a competitive factor to be very high to high.
- 56% regard the benefit of the Blue Angel for the environment as very high to high.
- 24% believe that the role of the Blue Angel for the acquisition of new customers is very good to good.

(Source: Text 61/98 of the Federal Environment Agency, monitoring of results of the Environmental Label)



- Number of new products in the course of one year
- Contracts expiring at the end of the year due to the further development of the award criteria.
- Total number of products
(Status of the 31.12. of the respective year)

Blue Angel criteria-documents (Status: 31.12.2002)

Contracts on the use of the Environmental Label with RAL can be concluded for individual products within the following product groups:

Test orders in progress

For numerous other product groups the Federal Environmental Agency has received test orders from the Environmental Label Jury. There is no limit to the number of test orders. It is within the discretion of the Jury. The Environmental

Label Jury usually gives five test orders per year.

The test orders received by the Federal Environmental Agency are listed in the **"Information Sheet on the Blue Angel"**

The test orders in progress can be grouped as follows:

Status: January 2003

1. Electric Appliances and Products

- Halogen-free electric cables and lines
- Multifunctional devices
- Photovoltaic products and equipment

2. Products for Do-it-Yourselfers and Craftsmen, Building Materials

- Heat-insulating materials from sustainable raw material
- Adhesives for floor coverings
- Water-based silicone sealants
- Solvent free bitumen emulsions
- Low emission Polyolefine floor coverings

3. Heating Technology

- Oil-fired calorific-value plants

4. Other Consumer Goods

- Cardboard packaging for beverages
- Low emissions uppolstery

5. Other Industrial Products

- Work gloves

6. Traffic

- Antifouling agents for shippaints
- Low-friction oilse

If the Environmental Label Jury decides to introduce an Environmental Label for these product groups manufacturers of any of such product may file an application for a Contract on the Use of the Environmental Label with RAL. However, before entering into such contract the Blue Angel may neither be used as such nor may any hint at the test orders in progress as a result of proposals made by the manufacturers be included into advertising campaigns.

These are about 13% of all products and about 11% of all label users (as of 31.12.2002).

From the list on the left you can see the number of label users in the individual countries who have entered into Contracts on the Use of the Blue Angel so far. The list does not include the great number of foreign manufacturers who have concluded such contracts by the names of their German importers, e.g. in the field of computers and copying machines.

FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL LABELS

After the introduction of Germany's Blue Angel as the first environmental label world-wide in 1978 other European and non-European countries followed this example and introduced their own national and supra-regional environmental labels. The common goal of these labels is to inform consumers about environmentally friendly products thereby giving global support to a product-related environmental protection.

In 1994, some countries united to form the Global Ecolabelling Network (GEN) - a non-profit interest group composed of eco-label organisations throughout the world. GEN fosters information exchange about national eco-label activities around the world. International co-ordination is to promote a progressive development of eco-label programmes in the individual states, especially in those countries which still wish to introduce an eco-labelling system. Currently, the 26 GEN member organisations include organisations from Belgium, Brazil, China, Denmark, Germany, Greece, United Kingdom, Hong Kong (Special Administrative Region), India, Israel, Japan, Canada, Korea, Croatia, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Norway, Hungary, Spain, Sweden (SIS), Sweden (SSNC), Sweden (TCO), Zimbabwe, Thailand, Czech Republic, United States of America.

For more detailed information on GEN's activities as well as on national and international activities, please go to GEN's Web site: www.gen.gr.jp.

The page "Environmental Labels Worldwide" presents all existing national and

international eco-labels. In the main, the information has been taken from the 2000-published brochure "Umweltzeichen Global" (Environmental Labels World-Wide) listing national and international environmental labels. It can be obtained upon request to the Federal Environmental Agency.

EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENTAL LABEL

In 1992, the European Commission introduced a symbol for environmentally friendly products – the European Eco-Label, a Marguerite.

EU Environmental Label

The European Eco-Label is an important Community instrument aimed at the promotion of environmental protection. It enables consumers in the 15 member states of the EU as well as in Norway, Liechtenstein, Iceland and Switzerland to recognize environmentally friendly products by means of a common eco-label which looks the same in all member states.

Environmental labels are awarded to products of daily use – except for foods, beverages and drugs. The environmental criteria forming the basis of the award of an eco-label are the result of scientific studies and comprehensive consultations with the different economic and social parties involved, such as, for example, industrial associations, environmental organisations, consumer representatives, trade and trade unions. Prior to the award of the European Eco-Label to an individual product the environmental criteria for a certain product group must have been adopted by a majority of the member states and by the European Commission.

The European Flower

Following the adoption of the environmental label criteria and their publication in the Official Journal of the European Union manufacturers and importers can apply for award of the eco-label to the competent national bodies. Once awarded, the Flower-labelled products may be marketed in all 15 EU member states and in the associated EEA countries (European Economic Area). This is the strong point of the European label.

Spread of the European Eco-Label

Since early November 2001 more than 350 products have been awarded the European Environmental Label. Today, products of 17 different product groups

can be awarded the European eco label – from hygiene papers to washing machines.

Selection

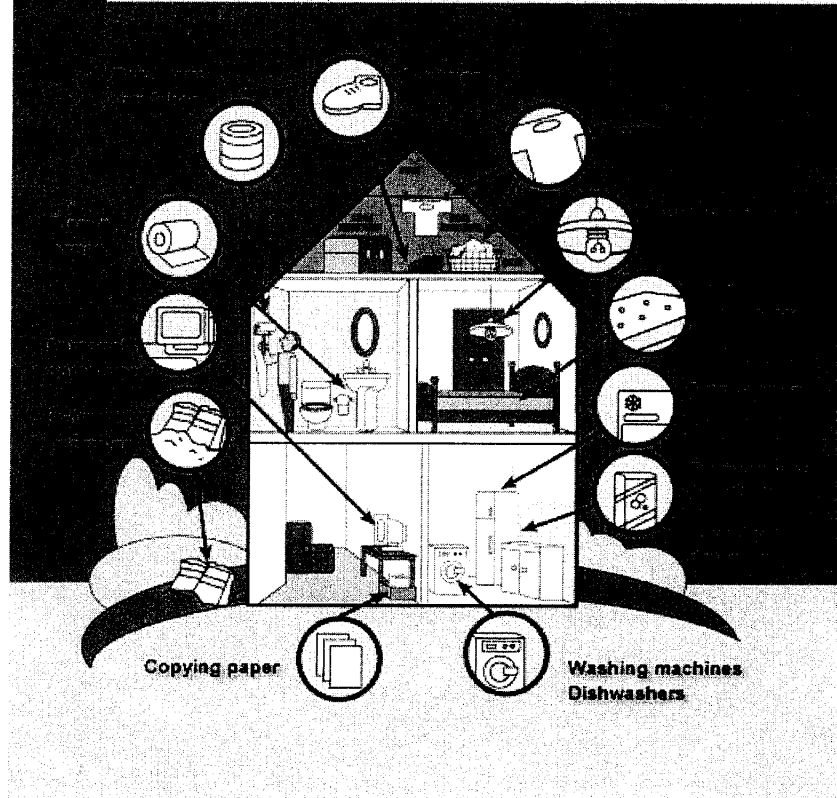
The European Eco-Label is only awarded to products which distinguish themselves by a lower environmental impact. The environmental criteria are defined in a way allowing up to 30% of the products in the market for a certain product group to meet the environmental label criteria. That means: upon adoption of the environmental criteria it is certain that there are products in the market which would qualify for the environmental label.

Voluntariness

Applications for the European Environmental Label are made on the basis of voluntariness. Following their adoption by a majority of EU member states and the EU Commission the environmental criteria remain effective for a period of 3 to 5 years. After that, the criteria are revised and – depending on the market conditions and technological development – possibly tightened up in order to reach a higher environmental standard of the eco-label products.

➔ Taking the EU Eco-label flowers home

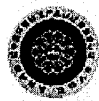
Since its creation, about 250 everyday products have been awarded European Eco-label. There are 14 products groups: just enough to equip this European house.



Environmental Labels World-Wide

Short survey of eco-labels world-wide:

ASIA



China

The Chinese eco-label **HUAN** was developed by China Environmental Labelling and first awarded in 1993. Criteria for 25 product groups have been elaborated as yet.

E-Mail: nepaus12@svrl-pek.umep.net



India

India's eco-label **Ecomark** was developed by the Indian government in 1991. It focuses on consumer goods and foods. Manufacturers pay for the permission to use the eco-label.

E-Mail: cpcb@alpha.nic.in oder cpcb@sansad.nic.in
www.envfor.nic.in/cpcb/



Japan

Developed in 1989 by the Japanese Environment Agency (JEA) Japan's **Friendly to the Earth – Eco Mark** was first awarded in 1990. So far, product standards for 73 product groups have been developed. The label is awarded for periods of two years each. Award is primarily based on life-cycle studies to be submitted by the applicants for their products.

E-Mail: dc3h-mzn@asahi-net.or.jp

Israel

Israel's **Green Label** was developed in 1993. Competent bodies are the Committee of the Ministry of the Environment and the Standards Institute. In 1998, product standards for 9 product groups were elaborated and 42 products were licensed to use the eco-label. A life-cycle analysis forms the basis of award.

E-Mail: miriamh@enviroment.gov.il oder
rana@enviroment.gov.il



Republic Korea

The Korean eco-label **Cleaner and Greener** was developed by the government of the Republic of Korea in 1992. The institutions involved in the award procedure include Technical Committee, Eco-Label Committee and the Ministry of the Environment. The Korean eco-label is awarded to goods sold in Korea for a period of two years. Manufacturers and importers apply for the use of the label as soon as the corresponding criteria for their products are available. At the end of 1993 criteria for 21 product groups had been defined.

www.kela.or.kr



Singapur

Singapore's **Green Label Singapore** was developed in 1992 by the Ministry of the Environment. Singapore tests the products applying for the label according to a shortened life-cycle analysis checking the product's main parameters for its relative environmental compatibility. If the application for the Green Label is made within 12 months from the publication of the award criteria for a certain product its use is cost-free for the first five years. After this one-year period application involves expenses while the use is cost-free for the initial period of use (three years). After three or five years, respectively, an annual fee is charged. Today, product standards exist for 26 product groups.



Taiwan R.O.C.

The Taiwanese **Green Mark Logo** was developed by the Environmental Protection Administration (EPA) in

1992. So far, criteria have been developed for a total of 26 product groups. The eco-label is awarded for a period of two years to products sold on the Taiwanese market.

E-Mail: ningyu@edf.org.tw
www.greenmark.org.tw



Thailand

Thailand's **Green Label** was developed in 1993 by the Thailand Business Council for Sustainable Development. The competent institution is the Thailand Environmental Institute. Criteria for 15 product groups have been defined since 1998. The applicant pays a fixed one-off processing fee and another fixed fee for the use of the label upon award of the label.

E-Mail: pongvipa@tei.or.th
www.tei.or.th

AFRICA



Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe's eco-label **Environment 2000** was developed by the non-profit organisation Environment 2000. In the past, Environment 2000 had focused on the so-called Management Label, a certification of service providers in the main sectors trade and tourism. Today, there is also the Environmental Labelling Programme (ELP). In the past, it applied European criteria to domestic products. Since 1998, these criteria have been revised and adapted. In addition, new Zimbabwean criteria have been developed for 3 product groups so far.

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AUSTRALIA



Australia

Australia's eco-label **Environmental Choice** was developed in 1991 by the governmental organisation Environmental Choice Australia (ECA). Unlike the other eco-label programmes presented on these pages, ECA is sort of a state-aided "Stiftung Warentest" (German Consumer Goods Testing Foundation). Yet, instead of product standards the programme has elaborated various tests, nomenclatures and testing systems. They are used to check certified products for an environmentally aware manufacture but they are only made to determine the correctness of labelling and not the product's actual effectiveness from the aspect of environmental protection. The "Environmental Choice" eco-label is presently not awarded.



New Zealand

New Zealand's **Environmental Choice** eco-label was developed by the Ministry of the Environment in 1990. The bodies involved in the elaboration of criteria and in the award procedure are Telarc (Accreditation Authority for Quality Assurance, Laboratory Testing and Industrial Design) as well as the Environmental Choice Management Advisory Committee (ECMAC). At the instance of Telarc the applicant's products are tested at independent laboratories upon filing of the application. The costs of testing are charged to the applicant. Telarc charges a one-off fee as well as annual sales-dependent fees.

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www.ianz.govt.nz

EUROPE



France

Das französische Umweltzeichen **Marque NF Environnement** wurde 1991 von der Association française de normalisation (AFNOR) entwickelt. Das aus 18 Mitgliedern bestehende AFNOR-Komitee ist zusammen mit dem Certification Department für die Kriterienentwicklung und die Auszeichnung der Produkte zuständig. Es besteht außerdem eine enge Zusammenarbeit mit dem ADEME, dem französischen Umweltamt. Es existieren derzeit insgesamt sechs Produktgruppen. Die Antragstellung ist kostenpflichtig. Zusätzlich sind Kosten abhängig vom Jahresumsatz mit dem ausgezeichneten Produkt an die AFNOR abzugeben. Je nach Produktgruppe können die Kosten angepaßt werden.

www.afnor.fr



Croatia

Croatia's eco-label **Environmentally Friendly** was developed in 1993 by the country's Ministry of the Environment after the example of the Euro-Flower and Germany's "Blue Angel". Assuming that the labelling of ecologic products forms a basis for trade in other sectors too the extension of the environmental label programme continues to have priority in Croatia. In 1994, criteria existed for 25 product groups. Product testing is made upon application of the manufacturers.

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www.duzpo.hr



The Netherlands

The Dutch eco-label **Milieukeur** was developed in 1992 by the independent organisation Stichting Milieukeur. As the competent body for the eco-label it is responsible for the definition of criteria as well as for the supervision of label awarding. Costs of the eco-label vary. The more reliable the information furnished by the manufacturer upon filing an application the lower the testing costs prior to the award. A routine check fee is charged on an annual basis and, in addition to this, Stichting charges a fee depending on the annual sales of the certified product.

www.milieukeur.nl



Austria

Austria's eco-label was developed in 1988 by the Federal Ministry of the Environment following a leading decision. Competent institutions are the Austrian Federal Environmental Agency as well as the Working Group for Quality (ARGE) which is responsible for product testing and label award. In 1997, criteria for 28 product groups were elaborated and awarded to 17 groups. The label is awarded to products and service providers for periods of two years with the option to renew upon application. Depending on the expected annual sales of the product the Working Group for Quality charges an annual fee for the use of the label.

www.umweltzeichen.at



Sweden

Sweden's eco-label **Bra Miljöval – Good Environmental Choice** was developed in 1990 by the

Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (Private Naturskyddsföreningen). Product standards currently exist for 52 product groups. The testing and award procedure is based on a life-cycle analysis. The Society, the retail sector concerned and the applicants share in the costs of the procedure. The original plan was to let the Bra Miljöval run out as soon as the eco label of the Nordic Council was introduced. Yet, it turned out in 1992 that the Swan of the Nordic Council actually got the Bra Miljöval going. Today, both labelling systems are of equal standing on the Swedish market resulting in a healthy competition for both – consumers say.

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www.snf.se



Scandinavia

The Scandinavian eco-label Miljömärkt – **The Swan** - was developed in 1991 by the Nordic Council of Ministers – a multinational body. Members of this body are Denmark, Iceland, Finland, Norway and Sweden. The aim was to introduce a uniform Nordic environmental label for products and services. Annual sales-dependent costs accrue in addition to an application fee and testing costs.

www.svanen.nu/eng/ecolabel.htm



Slovakia

Slovakia's eco-label **Environmentálne Vhodný výrobok** was developed by the country's Ministry of the Environment in 1996 and first awarded in 1997. The product criteria are elaborated on the basis of life-cycle analyses and revised every two years. So far, 10 products in 4 groups have been

certified. .



Spain

The Spanish eco-label **Marca Aenor Medio Ambiente** was developed by the private and independent Asociación Española de Normalización y certificación (AENOR) and first awarded in 1994. Institution in charge is, besides AENOR, the Technical Certification Committee being composed of representatives of industry, trade, consumer protection, manufacturers, environmental protection organisations and the competent ministries. In principle, the Committee can be compared with the Environmental Label Jury in Germany. On the basis of life-cycle analyses the Technical Certification Committee elaborates product criteria and prepares the award notice. Following the award of the label, i.e. during the three-year duration of the contract on the use of the eco-label, the manufacturer must reckon with regular checks of the certified product. At present, 436 products in 12 product groups can be awarded the Spanish eco-label.

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www.aenor.es



Czech Republic

The Czech eco-label Ekologicky **Setrany Vyrobek** was developed by the Czech Ministry of the Environment in 1993. Attention was paid to the harmonization of the programme with the labelling schemes of OECD and EU. The Czech eco-label is a registered trademark. Excluded from labelling are foods and pharmaceuticals. The label is awarded for periods of two years. Its use involves expenses.

E-Mail: sucharovova_dagmar@env.cz



Hungary

Developed in 1993, the Hungarian eco-label **Környezetbarát Termék** by the Ministry for the Environment and Territorial Planning for award at home and abroad was introduced in 1994. The competent body is the Hungarian Eco-Labeling Organisation (HELO). There are currently 120 certified eco-label products. Excluded are medical products, foods and raw materials of the mining industry. The label is awarded for periods of two years with the option to renew. Application involves costs charged on the basis of the existing criteria. In addition, manufacturers incur current expenses for the use of the label

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NORTH AMERICA



Canada

The Canadian eco-label Environmental Choice – **Choix Environnemental** was developed in 1988 by the Canadian Ministry of the Environment – Environment Canada (EC). It is also responsible for the development of certification criteria as well as for the award of the label. Prior to a possible award of the Environmental Choice label by the EC the applicants' products are tested by technical institutes. Application involves expenses. In addition, a sales-dependent annual fee accrues.

E-Mail: gensecretariat@terrachoice.ca

www.terrachoice.ca



United States of America

The US American eco-label **Green Seal** was developed in 1989 by the independent non-profit organisation of the same name. In 1997, criteria were developed for 93 product groups 19 of which were awarded the label. The award criteria are reviewed every three years taking the latest market changes, technological innovations etc. into consideration. Green Seal only evaluates the environmental impact of the articles of daily use. It does not consider the more or less environmentally favourable production methods of the manufacturing companies on the whole. In addition to a one-off application fee the manufacturers incur annual expenses for the use of the label.

www.greenseal.org

SOUTH AMERICA



Brazil

The Brazilian eco-label **Qualidad Ambiental** was developed by the Associacao Brasileira de Normas Tecnicas (ABNT) under an agreement between government, economy and industry. Yet, a first award is yet to come. By means of life-cycle analyses the products are tested for their overall environmental compatibility. Product standards are set upon completion of the testing procedure. Also a period is fixed at the end of which the standards must be reviewed and, if necessary, revised

E-Mail: fcabral@abnt.org.br

www.abnt.org.br

AWARD PROCEDURE

The decision as to whether or not an Environmental Label is awarded is made according to the following procedure (see Flow Chart):

A. Check of Individual Applications

If Basic Criteria for Award of the Blue Angel have already been defined for the product group concerned the following procedure applies:

Interested suppliers (such as manufacturers, trading enterprises or service undertakings) apply for use of the Blue Angel by filing the complete application papers, including the required compliance verifications in German or English, with the label-awarding agency **RAL-Deutsches Institut für Gütesicherung und Kennzeichnung, Siegburger Straße 39, D-53757 Sankt Augustin/Germany.**

For further information please contact RAL by phone, fax or e-mail:

Phone: +49(0)2241-1605-0

Fax: +49(0)2241-160511

E-Mail: umweltzeichen@ral.de

In co-operation with the Umweltbundesamt (Federal Environmental Agency) and the federal state where the applicant's company has its seat RAL as the label-awarding body checks the individual application for compliance with the requirements laid down in the respective Basic Criteria for Award of the Blue Angel. If such requirements are fulfilled the label-awarding agency RAL and the supplier will conclude a fixed-term Contract on the Use of the Blue Angel authorizing the supplier's company to use the Blue Angel to promote the product concerned.

B. Elaboration of new Basic Criteria for Award of the Blue Angel

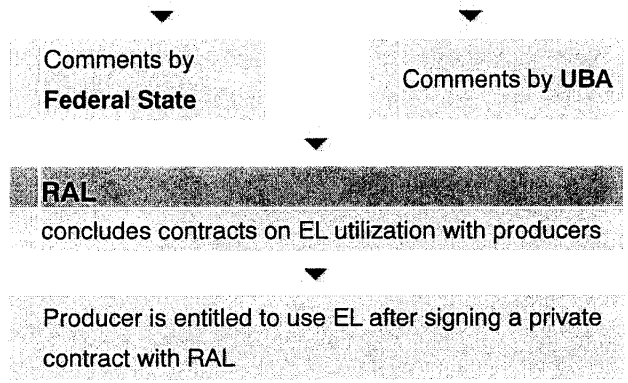
If, so far, no Basic Criteria for Award of the Blue Angel have been defined for your product group the following procedure applies:

- Everybody can file a proposal for a new Environmental Label with the Umweltbundesamt (Federal Environmental Agency), Office of the Environmental Label Jury, P.O.Box 33 00 22, 14191 Berlin. The Federal Environmental Agency will be pleased to give further advice before filing an application.
- A new proposal should include informative details of

the proposed product (good or service). Further details concerning the filing of new proposals for the Blue Angel can be seen from the "Information Sheet" which is available as a PDF document.

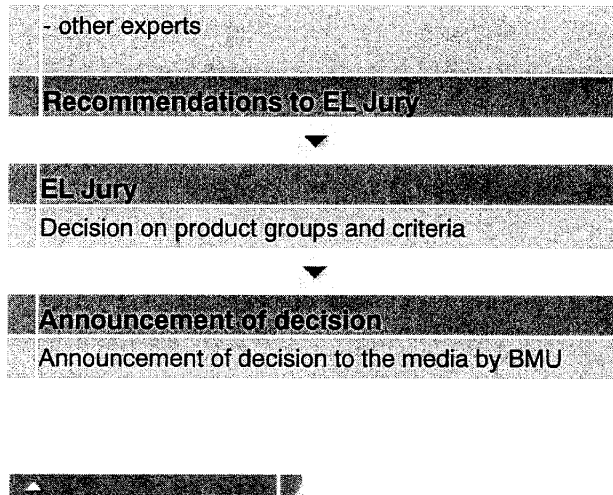
- Additional information can be obtained by phone: +49(0)30-8903-3705, fax: +49(0)30-8903-3099 or e-mail: umweltzeichen@ral.de
- The Federal Environmental Agency collects and examines the new proposals before forwarding them to the Environmental Label Jury which twice a year selects those products from among the great number of proposals which are particularly suited to be promoted by the Blue Angel. They will undergo a closer inspection (test orders).
- If the Environmental Label Jury gives a test order the Federal Environmental Agency starts to elaborate specialised Basic Criteria for this particular product.
- RAL - the label-awarding agency - organizes expert hearings in preparation for the Environmental Label Jury's final decision.
- As a final step the Federal Environmental Agency announces the decision for a new Environmental Label in the media.

A: Environmental Label Process



B: Development of Criteria document

General public presents suggestions with detailed



FILING OF AN APPLICATION / FEES

This page includes detailed information on how to apply for the **Blue Angel**.

1. **First of all, please check whether or not Basic Criteria for Award of the Blue Angel have already been defined for the product or service you offer.** For this purpose, please take a look at the existing award criteria and check whether your product or service can be assigned to one of them.

If so, please file your application for the use of the Blue Angel with the label-awarding agency **RAL Deutsches Institut für Gütesicherung und Kennzeichnung, Siegburger Straße 39,**
D-53757 Sankt Augustin/Germany.

reference to the Environmental Label Jury's test order with the Federal Environmental Agency, **Office of the Environmental Label Jury, Seecktstraße 6-10, 13581 Berlin**
 Phone: +49(0)-8903-3678
 Fax: +49(0)30-8903-3099
 E-Mail: elke.kreowski@uba.de

3. If your product or service neither appears among the existing Basic Criteria nor on the list of test orders in progress please send a new proposal to the Federal Environmental Agency at the above-mentioned address.

1. EXCISTING BASIC CRITERIA

If your product category or product is not listed, please find a list of current test orders here

Produktkategorie	Basic Criteria
<u>abrasives</u>	<u>Salt-free Abrasives, RAL-UZ 13</u>
<u>atomizing oil burners</u>	<u>Low-Emission Atomizing Oil Burners, RAL-UZ 9</u>
<u>automobil tires, recapped</u>	<u>Recapped Tires, RAL-UZ 1</u>
<u>automobile tires, low noise</u>	<u>Low-Noise and Fuel-Saving Automobile Tires, RAL-UZ 89</u>
<u>automobile tyres</u>	<u>Low-Noise and Fuel-Saving Automobile Tires, RAL-UZ 89</u>
<u>batteries, alkali manganese, rechargeable</u>	<u>Rechargeable Alkaline / Manganese Batteries, RAL-UZ 92</u>
<u>building materials made of waste glass</u>	<u>Building Materials made primarily from Waste Glass, RAL-UZ 49</u>
<u>building materials of waste paper</u>	<u>Building Materials primarily made of Waste Paper, RAL-UZ 36</u>
<u>busses with diesel drive</u>	<u>Low-Noise Diesel-Engined Commercial Vehicles, Municipal Vehicles and Busses, RAL-UZ 59a</u>
<u>busses with gas drive</u>	<u>Low-Noise and Low-Pollutant</u>

	<u>RAL-UZ 59b</u>
<u>car sharing</u>	<u>Car Sharing, RAL-UZ 100</u>
<u>car wash facilities wastewater free, edition june 2003</u>	<u>Car Wash Facilities Wastewater-Free, Edition June 2003, RAL-UZ 23a</u>
<u>car wash facilities water recycling systems, edition june 2003</u>	<u>Car Wash Facilities with Water Recycling Systems, Edition June 2003, RAL-UZ 23b</u>
<u>car washing installations, edition january 2000</u>	<u>Car-Washing Installations with Water Recycling, Edition January 2000, RAL-UZ 23</u>
<u>cardboard</u>	<u>Recycled Board, RAL-UZ 56</u>
<u>carrier bags</u>	<u>Products made from Recycled Plastics, RAL-UZ 30a</u>
<u>chain lubricants for motor saws</u>	<u>Rapidly Biodegradable Chain Lubricants for Motor Saws, RAL-UZ 48</u>
<u>chain saws</u>	<u>Chain Saws, RAL-UZ 83</u>
<u>chipboards (particle board)</u>	<u>Low-emission Composite Wood Panels, RAL-UZ 76</u>
<u>CHPS - gaseous</u>	<u>Small-Scale Gas-Fired Cogeneration Modules, RAL-UZ 108</u>
<u>CHPS - liquid</u>	<u>Small-Scale Liquid-Fired Cogeneration Modules, RAL-UZ 109</u>
<u>cleaning rags</u>	<u>Sanitary Paper Products made of Recycled Paper, RAL-UZ 5</u>
<u>clocks</u>	<u>Solar-Powered Products and Mechanical Watches/Clocks, RAL-UZ 47</u>
<u>Combined Heat and Power Systems - gaseous</u>	<u>Small-Scale Gas-Fired Cogeneration Modules, RAL-UZ 108</u>
<u>Combined Heat and Power Systems - liquid</u>	<u>Small-Scale Liquid-Fired Cogeneration Modules, RAL-UZ 109</u>
<u>combined oil-burner and boiler units</u>	<u>Combined Oil-Burner and Boiler Units, RAL-UZ 46</u>
<u>commercial vehicles with diesel drive</u>	<u>Low-Noise Diesel-Engined</u>

	<u>Commercial Vehicles, Municipal Vehicles and Busses, RAL-UZ 59a</u>
<u>commercial vehicles with gas drive</u>	<u>Low-Noise and Low-Pollutant Gas-Powered Commercial, Municipal Vehicles and Busses, RAL-UZ 59b</u>
<u>composter</u>	<u>Products made from Recycled Plastics, RAL-UZ 30a</u>
<u>computer monitors</u>	<u>Workstation Computers, RAL-UZ 78</u>
<u>concrete mixer trucks</u>	<u>Low-noise Construction Machinery, RAL-UZ 53</u>
<u>construction machinery</u>	<u>Low-noise Construction Machinery, RAL-UZ 53</u>
<u>copiers</u>	<u>Copiers, RAL-UZ 62</u>
<u>copiers, edition oktober 2003</u>	<u>Copiers, Edition Oktober 2003, RAL-UZ 62</u>
<u>copying paper</u>	<u>Recycled Paper, RAL-UZ 14</u>
<u>cover foil</u>	<u>Products made from Recycled Plastics, RAL-UZ 30a</u>
<u>cranes</u>	<u>Low-noise Construction Machinery, RAL-UZ 53</u>
<u>desktop computers</u>	<u>Workstation Computers, RAL-UZ 78</u>
<u>detergents</u>	<u>Detergents, RAL-UZ 70</u>
<u>detergents</u>	<u>Detergents, RAL-UZ 70</u>
<u>devices for system engineering in buildings</u>	<u>Buscontrolled devices for System Engineering in buildings, RAL-UZ 94</u>
<u>dish washers</u>	<u>Household Dish Washers, RAL-UZ 97</u>
<u>dryers</u>	<u>Household Dryers, RAL-UZ 98</u>
<u>electric cookers</u>	<u>Gas and Electric Cookers, RAL-UZ 101</u>
<u>electronic ballasts for fluorescent lamps</u>	<u>Electronic Ballasts for Fluorescent Lamps, RAL-UZ 81</u>
<u>envelopes</u>	<u>Recycled Paper, RAL-UZ 14</u>
<u>environment ticket in public transport</u>	<u>Environmental Tickets, RAL-UZ 51</u>
<u>excavater</u>	<u>Low-noise Construction Machinery,</u>

	<u>RAL-UZ 53</u>
<u>fabric towel rolls</u>	<u>Fabric Towel Rolls supplied in Towel Dispensers, RAL-UZ 77</u>
<u>fax machines, telecopiers and combined fax Machines</u>	<u>Fax Machines, Telecopiers and Combined Fax Machines, RAL-UZ 95</u>
<u>fibreboards</u>	<u>Low-emission Composite Wood Panels, RAL-UZ 76</u>
<u>file</u>	<u>Recycled Board, RAL-UZ 56</u>
<u>files and maps</u>	<u>Recycled Board, RAL-UZ 56</u>
<u>filter paper</u>	<u>Unbleached Filter Papers for Use with Hot or Boiling Water, RAL-UZ 65</u>
<u>fishing weights</u>	<u>Lead-free Products, RAL-UZ 67</u>
<u>fittings</u>	<u>Electroniv Individual Shower Control Systems and Wash-Basin Instruments, RAL-UZ 33</u>
<u>flat screens</u>	<u>Workstation Computers, RAL-UZ 78</u>
<u>floor coverings made of wood</u>	<u>Low Emission Wood Products and Wood-Base Products, RAL-UZ 38</u>
<u>floor-covering adhesive</u>	<u>Low Emission Floor Covering Adhesive and other Covering Materials, RAL-UZ 113</u>
<u>flow restrictors</u>	<u>Water-Saving Flow Restrictors, RAL-UZ 43</u>
<u>flushing boxes</u>	<u>Water-Saving Flushing Boxes, RAL-UZ 32</u>
<u>flushing valves</u>	<u>Water-Saving Flushing Valves, RAL-UZ 44</u>
<u>flushing-water additives</u>	<u>Flushing-Water Additives compatible with Clarification Plants, RAL-UZ 84b</u>
<u>forming oils</u>	<u>Rapidly Biodegradable Lubricants and Forming Oils, RAL-UZ 64</u>
<u>furniture</u>	<u>Low Emission Wood Products and Wood-Base Products, RAL-UZ 38</u>

<u>garden shredders</u>	<u>Low-Noise Garden Shredders, RAL-UZ 54</u>
<u>garden shredders</u>	<u>Low-Noise Garden Shredders, RAL-UZ 54</u>
<u>gas boiler unit</u>	<u>Combined Burner- and Boiler Units equipped with Gas Burner and Fan, RAL-UZ 41</u>
<u>gas burners, fan-assisted</u>	<u>Low-Emission Fan-Assisted Gas Burners, RAL-UZ 80</u>
<u>gas cookers</u>	<u>Gas and Electric Cookers, RAL-UZ 101</u>
<u>gas heaters</u>	<u>Independent Gas Heaters and Gas Heating Elements, RAL-UZ 71</u>
<u>gas heating elements</u>	<u>Independent Gas Heaters and Gas Heating Elements, RAL-UZ 71</u>
<u>gas-fired calorific-value heating devices</u>	<u>Low-emission and Energy-saving Gas-fired Calorific Value Heating Devices, RAL-UZ 61</u>
<u>glazes</u>	<u>Low-pollutant Varnishes, RAL-UZ 12a</u>
<u>handkerchief</u>	<u>Sanitary Paper Products made of Recycled Paper, RAL-UZ 5</u>
<u>hanging maps</u>	<u>Recycled Board, RAL-UZ 56</u>
<u>hard solders</u>	<u>Cadmium-Free Hard Solders, RAL-UZ 68</u>
<u>heating circulation pumps</u>	<u>Heating Circulation Pumps, RAL-UZ 105</u>
<u>heating plants, gas</u>	<u>Independent Gas Heaters and Gas Heating Elements, RAL-UZ 71</u>
<u>heating plants, oil</u>	<u>Low-Emission Atomizing Oil Burners, RAL-UZ 9</u>
<u>heating plants, woodpellets</u>	<u>wood pellet heaters, RAL-UZ 111</u>
<u>hot-air hand driers</u>	<u>Low-Energy Hot-Air Hand Driers, RAL-UZ 87</u>
<u>hydraulic fluids</u>	<u>Rapidly biodegradable Hydraulic Fluids, RAL-UZ 79</u>

<u>indoor pest control and prevention</u>	<u>Non-Toxic Indoor Pest Control and Prevention, RAL-UZ 34</u>
<u>insulating multi-layer window glass</u>	<u>Highly Heat-Insulating Multi-Layer Window Glass, RAL-UZ 52</u>
<u>insulating window glass</u>	<u>Highly Heat-Insulating Multi-Layer Window Glass, RAL-UZ 52</u>
<u>keyboards form workstation computers</u>	<u>Workstation Computers, RAL-UZ 78</u>
<u>kitchenroll</u>	<u>Sanitary Paper Products made of Recycled Paper, RAL-UZ 5</u>
<u>labels</u>	<u>Recycled Paper, RAL-UZ 14</u>
<u>lamine flooring</u>	<u>Low Emission Wood Products and Wood-Base Products, RAL-UZ 38</u>
<u>laptop</u>	<u>Workstation Computers, RAL-UZ 78</u>
<u>lath frames</u>	<u>Low Emission Wood Products and Wood-Base Products, RAL-UZ 38</u>
<u>lath frames</u>	<u>Low Emission Wood Products and Wood-Base Products, RAL-UZ 38</u>
<u>lawnedges</u>	<u>Products made from Recycled Plastics, RAL-UZ 30a</u>
<u>letter scales</u>	<u>Solar-Powered Products and Mechanical Watches/Clocks, RAL-UZ 47</u>
<u>living furniture</u>	<u>Low Emission Wood Products and Wood-Base Products, RAL-UZ 38</u>
<u>loader</u>	<u>Low-noise Construction Machinery, RAL-UZ 53</u>
<u>low-voltage fuses</u>	<u>Electrical Installation Equipment and Systems, RAL-UZ 107</u>
<u>lubricants</u>	<u>Rapidly Biodegradable Lubricants and Forming Oils, RAL-UZ 64</u>
<u>measuring slides</u>	<u>Solar-Powered Products and Mechanical Watches/Clocks, RAL-UZ 47</u>
<u>mobile</u>	<u>Mobile Phone, RAL-UZ 106</u>
<u>mobile phone</u>	<u>Mobile Phone, RAL-UZ 106</u>
	<u>Movement Area De-Icers for</u>

	<u>Airfields, RAL-UZ 99</u>
<u>multifunction devices</u>	<u>Multifunction Devices, RAL-UZ 114</u>
<u>municipal vehicles with diesel drive</u>	<u>Low-Noise Diesel-Engined Commercial Vehicles, Municipal Vehicles and Busses, RAL-UZ 59a</u>
<u>municipal vehicles with gas drive</u>	<u>Low-Noise and Low-Pollutant Gas-Powered Commercial, Municipal Vehicles and Busses, RAL-UZ 59b</u>
<u>napkin</u>	<u>Sanitary Paper Products made of Recycled Paper, RAL-UZ 5</u>
<u>newsprint paper</u>	<u>Printing and Publication Papers, RAL-UZ 72</u>
<u>notebook</u>	<u>Workstation Computers, RAL-UZ 78</u>
<u>office furniture</u>	<u>Low Emission Wood Products and Wood-Base Products, RAL-UZ 38</u>
<u>panels of wood</u>	<u>Low Emission Wood Products and Wood-Base Products, RAL-UZ 38</u>
<u>paper</u>	<u>Recycled Paper, RAL-UZ 14</u>
<u>paper handkerchief</u>	<u>Sanitary Paper Products made of Recycled Paper, RAL-UZ 5</u>
<u>paper towels</u>	<u>Sanitary Paper Products made of Recycled Paper, RAL-UZ 5</u>
<u>PC</u>	<u>Workstation Computers, RAL-UZ 78</u>
<u>pipe cleaners</u>	<u>Environmentally Acceptable Pipe Cleaners, RAL-UZ 24</u>
<u>plant containers and other moulded parts</u>	<u>Compostable Plant Containers and other Moulded Parts, RAL-UZ 17</u>
<u>plugs and sockets</u>	<u>Electrical Installation Equipment and Systems, RAL-UZ 107</u>
<u>pocket calculators</u>	<u>Solar-Powered Products and Mechanical Watches/Clocks, RAL-UZ 47</u>
<u>portable computers 2004</u>	<u>Portable Computers, RAL-UZ 93</u>
<u>power generator</u>	<u>Low-noise Construction Machinery, RAL-UZ 53</u>

<u>printers</u>	<u>Printers, RAL-UZ 85</u>
<u>printers, edition oktober 2003</u>	<u>Printers, Edition Oktober 2003, RAL-UZ 85</u>
<u>printing paper</u>	<u>Printing and Publication Papers, RAL-UZ 72</u>
<u>products from recycled plastic</u>	<u>Products made from Recycled Plastics, RAL-UZ 30a</u>
<u>products made of recycled plastics</u>	<u>Products made from Recycled Plastics, RAL-UZ 30a</u>
<u>products made of waste rubber</u>	<u>Products made from Waste Rubber, RAL-UZ 30b</u>
<u>rainwater butt</u>	<u>Products made from Recycled Plastics, RAL-UZ 30a</u>
<u>recycled board</u>	<u>Recycled Board, RAL-UZ 56</u>
<u>recycled gypsum products</u>	<u>Recycled Gypsum Products, RAL-UZ 60</u>
<u>recycled paper</u>	<u>Recycled Paper, RAL-UZ 14</u>
<u>returnable packagings for drinks</u>	<u>Returnable Bottles and Glasses, RAL-UZ 2</u>
<u>returnable transport-packagings</u>	<u>Returnable Bottles and Glasses, RAL-UZ 2</u>
<u>ribbons</u>	<u>Reusable Ink-Ribbon Cassettes and Toner Modules, RAL-UZ 55</u>
<u>rubbish dustbin, garbage can</u>	<u>Products made from Recycled Plastics, RAL-UZ 30a</u>
<u>sanitary additives</u>	<u>Sanitary Additives compatible with Clarification Plants, RAL-UZ 84a</u>
<u>sanitary paper</u>	<u>Sanitary Paper Products made of Recycled Paper, RAL-UZ 5</u>
<u>seals</u>	<u>Lead-free Products, RAL-UZ 67</u>
<u>self-stick notes</u>	<u>Recycled Paper, RAL-UZ 14</u>
<u>ship operation</u>	<u>Environment-Conscious Ship Operation, RAL-UZ 110</u>
<u>shower control and wash basin instruments</u>	<u>Elelctroniv Individual Shower Control Systems and Wash-Basin Instruments, RAL-UZ 33</u>

<u>snap-on connections</u>	<u>Electrical Installation Equipment and Systems, RAL-UZ 107</u>
<u>soda makers</u>	<u>Soda Makers, RAL-UZ 103</u>
<u>soil moving machines</u>	<u>Low-noise Construction Machinery, RAL-UZ 53</u>
<u>solar collectors</u>	<u>Solar Collectors, RAL-UZ 73</u>
<u>solar products mechanical watches</u>	<u>Solar-Powered Products and Mechanical Watches/Clocks, RAL-UZ 47</u>
<u>solar training kits and solar experimental kits</u>	<u>Solar-Powered Products and Mechanical Watches/Clocks, RAL-UZ 47</u>
<u>special gas boilers</u>	<u>Special Gas Boilers, RAL-UZ 39</u>
<u>switches</u>	<u>Electrical Installation Equipment and Systems, RAL-UZ 107</u>
<u>system units for workstation computers</u>	<u>Workstation Computers, RAL-UZ 78</u>
<u>text markers</u>	<u>Low-Waste and Resource-Saving Text Markers, RAL-UZ 69</u>
<u>thermometers (medical thermometers)</u>	<u>Mercury-free medical Thermometers, RAL-UZ 88</u>
<u>tires, lownoise</u>	<u>Low-Noise and Fuel-Saving Automobile Tires, RAL-UZ 89</u>
<u>titrating devices</u>	<u>Solar-Powered Products and Mechanical Watches/Clocks, RAL-UZ 47</u>
<u>toilet paper</u>	<u>Sanitary Paper Products made of Recycled Paper, RAL-UZ 5</u>
<u>toner cartridges</u>	<u>Reusable Ink-Ribbon Cassettes and Toner Modules, RAL-UZ 55</u>
<u>tooth brushes</u>	<u>Low-Waste Change-Top Tooth Brushes, RAL-UZ 82</u>
<u>toys</u>	<u>Solar-Powered Products and Mechanical Watches/Clocks, RAL-UZ 47</u>
<u>transportation packagings</u>	<u>Returnable Transportation Packagings, RAL-UZ 27</u>

<u>tubular plastic bags for fresh milk</u>	<u>Tubular Plastic Bags for Fresh Milk, RAL-UZ 90</u>
<u>tv sets</u>	<u>Television Sets, RAL-UZ 91</u>
<u>tyres recapped</u>	<u>Recapped Tires, RAL-UZ 1</u>
<u>varnishes</u>	<u>Low-pollutant Varnishes, RAL-UZ 12a</u>
<u>veneer plywoodboards</u>	<u>Low-emission Composite Wood Panels, RAL-UZ 76</u>
<u>video cassettes</u>	<u>Returnable and Recycable Cassettes/Cartridges, RAL-UZ 86</u>
<u>wall paint</u>	<u>Low-Emission Wall Paints, RAL-UZ 102</u>
<u>wallpaints</u>	<u>Low-Emission Wall Paints, RAL-UZ 102</u>
<u>wallpapers and woodchip wall coverings</u>	<u>Wallpapers and Woodchip Wall Coverings primerily made of Recycled Paper, RAL-UZ 35a</u>
<u>wallpapers containing other material</u>	<u>Wallpapers containing another material, RAL-UZ 35b</u>
<u>washing machines</u>	<u>Household Washing Machines, RAL-UZ 96</u>
<u>waste sack</u>	<u>Products made from Recycled Plastics, RAL-UZ 30a</u>
<u>waste-glass containers, edition april 2003</u>	<u>Low-noise Waste-Glass Containers for Noise-Sensitive Areas, Edition April 2003, RAL-UZ 21</u>
<u>waste-glass containers, edition march 2001</u>	<u>Low-noise Waste-Glass Containers for Noise-Sensitive Areas, RAL-UZ 21</u>
<u>water heaters, circulation</u>	<u>Combination Water Heaters and Circulating Water Heaters for the Use of Gaseous Fuels, RAL-UZ 40</u>
<u>water heaters, combination</u>	<u>Combination Water Heaters and Circulating Water Heaters for the Use of Gaseous Fuels, RAL-UZ 40</u>

<u>welding-current generators</u>	<u>Low-noise Construction Machinery, RAL-UZ 53</u>
<u>wet cleaning services</u>	<u>Wet Cleaning Services, RAL-UZ 104</u>
<u>wood conservative agents</u>	<u>Thermal Processes (Hot-air Technique) to Control Ligniperduous Insects, RAL-UZ 57</u>
<u>wood pellet boilers</u>	<u>wood pellet boilers, RAL-UZ 112</u>
<u>wood pellet heaters</u>	<u>wood pellet heaters, RAL-UZ 111</u>
<u>woodchip wallpapers</u>	<u>Wallpapers and Woodchip Wall Coverings primarily made of Recycled Paper, RAL-UZ 35a</u>
<u>workstation computers</u>	<u>Workstation Computers, RAL-UZ 78</u>
<u>writing paper</u>	<u>Recycled Paper, RAL-UZ 14</u>

2. TEST ORDERS IN PROGRESS

The Environmental Label Jury has instructed the Federal Environmental Agency to execute test orders for numerous other product groups. There is no limit to the number of test orders. It is within the discretion of the Jury. As we know from experience, the Environmental Label Jury gives 5 test orders per year.

The test orders received by the Federal Environmental Agency are listed in the **“Information Sheet on the Blue Angel”**:

The following list gives a survey of the test orders in progress:

Status: January 2003

1. Electric Appliances and Products

- Photovoltaic

2. Products for Do-it-Yourselfers and Craftsmen, Building Materials

- Heat-insulating materials from sustainable raw material
- Water-based silicone sealants

- Solvent free bitumen emulsions
- Low emission Polyolefine floor coverings

3. Heating Technology

- Oil-fired calorific-value plants

4. Other Consumer Goods

- Cardboard packaging for beverages
- Low emissions uppolstery

5. Other Industrial Products

- Work gloves

6. Traffic

- Antifoulings
- Low-friction oilse

If the Environmental Label Jury decides to introduce an Environmental Label for these product groups manufacturers of any of such product may file an application for a Contract on the Use of the Blue Angel with RAL. But before entering into such contract the Blue Angel may neither be used as such nor may any hint at the test orders in progress as a result of proposals made by the manufacturers be included into advertising campaigns.

3. FILING OF NEW PROPOSALS

Everybody can file a new proposal with the Federal Environmental Agency. Such proposals should be well-substantiated and accompanied by supporting documents explaining why a certain product with its environmental properties would distinguish itself from other (competing) products used for the same purpose. The proposal must be accompanied by product descriptions and the like and, if the occasion arises, by samples

Further details can be seen from the [“Information Sheet for the Filing of New](#)

Proposals for the Blue Angel ” which is available as a PDF Document.

New proposals can be made by an informal application to be sent to:

Umweltbundesamt
(Federal Environmental Agency)
Office of the Environmental Label Jury
Seecktstr. 6-10
13581 Berlin
Phone: +49(0)30-8903-3678
Fax:+49(0)30-8903-309

THE COST FOR THE BLUE ANGEL

New proposals for the Blue Angel will be handled without charge by the Federal Environmental Agency.

When filing an application for grant of the right to use the Blue Angel the applicant shall pay EURO 153,39* per application to the awarding body RAL. After a contract for the use of the label is concluded a graded annual contribution must be paid to RAL. The amount of the annual contribution depends on the total annual turnover of the products been labelled with the Blue Angel.

At the moment the following grades are valid:

Annual contribution for the use of the label

Annual turnover in million EURO	Annual contribution in in EURO*	Contribution Category
up 0,26	178,95	1
over 0,26 to 1,02	357,90	2
over 1,02 to 2,56	715,81	3
over 2,56 to 5,11	1.406,05	4
over 5,11	2.034,94	5

* plus VAT

Those entitled to use the Blue Angel shall pay once per year 20% of the annual contribution fee (see above) as an earmarked support of the PR, marketing and advertising measures for the Blue Angel. This contribution to the so-called "Advertising Fund" therefore makes up between EURO 35,79 and EURO 407,00 annually.

The Federal Environmental Agency and RAL decide about the use of the fund together. Licence holders will be informed about the use of the funds once per year.

USE OF THE BLUE ANGEL

The Blue Angel may only be used on the product itself or for directly advertising this particular product. Consequently, using the Blue Angel for advertising purposes must be strictly product-related. That means the Blue Angel must neither be used to advertise the manufacturer as such, nor on the manufacturer's business papers (e.g. letterhead) nor to advertise other products or the entire range of products of that particular manufacturer. Corresponding clauses are included in the Contract on the Use of the Blue Angel or, in some cases, in the Basic Criteria for Award of the Blue Angel. Before using the Blue Angel for advertising purposes the following conditions must be fulfilled:

- The respective individual product must comply with the Basic Criteria for the product group concerned.
- A Contract on the Use of the Blue Angel must be concluded with RAL.
- Prior to the conclusion of such contract the Blue Angel must neither be used on the product itself nor for advertising purposes.
- The advertising material must not include any hints at the application filed or the tests in progress.

Following the conclusion of a Contract on the Use of the Blue Angel with RAL the contracting party will be entitled to use the Blue Angel to advertise the corresponding product. Those eligible for conclusion of such contract are separately given for each product group in the respective Basic Criteria. Normally, those eligible are the manufacturers – in some cases, however, the distributors of the products can become label users as well. In principle, the Blue Angel can be obtained by all manufacturers or distributors – no matter whether their companies

have their seats in Germany or abroad.

About the Swan

Welcome to the ecolabel The Swan!

The Swan is the official Nordic ecolabel, introduced by the Nordic Council of Ministers.

The Swan logo demonstrates that a product is a good environmental choice.

The green symbol is available for around 60 product groups for which it is felt that ecolabelling is needed and will be beneficial. These days, everything from washing-up liquid to furniture and hotels can carry the Swan label.

The Swan checks that products fulfil certain criteria using methods such as samples from independent laboratories, certificates and control visits.

The label is usually valid for three years, after which the criteria are revised and the company must reapply for a licence. In this way, we ensure that products better suited to the environment are constantly being developed.

The Swan's requirements

A product carrying the Swan label meets extremely high environmental standards.

- The Swan takes into consideration the product's impact on the environment from the raw material to waste – i.e. throughout the product's lifecycle.
- The Swan also sets criteria with regard to quality and performance. The product must offer at features which are at least as good as other similar products.
- To ensure that a Swan-labelled product is always at the cutting edge from an environmental point-of-view, criteria are revised repeatedly.

Companies applying for a licence to use the Swan label must provide results from independent testing to prove that the criteria have been met.

Current reviews

Before Swan criteria documents are finalised, they are sent to trade and industry, the authorities, environmental organisations and other interested parties for review. The review period normally lasts approximately six weeks.

There are currently no reviews in progress.

A summary of the results of the review is published when it is complete.

See the list of [review summaries](#).

The Swan label's criteria

Swan's criteria vary between the different products.

Criteria common to all product groups are:

- Attention to the product's impact on the environment from the raw material to waste – i.e. throughout the product's lifecycle.
- Standards with regard to quality and performance. The product must be at least as good as similar products on the market.
- Criteria are raised repeatedly to ensure that a product carrying the Swan label is always at the cutting edge of environmentalism

If you want to know the criteria stipulated by Swan, have a

look at our [criteria documents](#).

How we develop the Swan's requirements

When we develop criteria for a new product group, we take into consideration

the product's impact on the environment throughout its lifecycle. In order to

select the product groups which are most suitable for ecolabelling, Swan

investigates their relevance, potential and how they can be controlled.

- **Relevance** is assessed according to the specific environmental problems relating to the product group and how wide they are in scope.
- **Potential** is judged by looking at the possible environmental gain within the product group.
- **Control** is a measure of how the product, activity or problem might be affected by the ecolabel.

A group of experts, including representatives from the appropriate sector of industry, works with The Swan in order to develop the criteria. A proposal goes out for review.

After this, the criteria documents are processed by the relevant authorities in the various Nordic countries. The criteria are finalised by the Nordic Ecolabelling Association.

The criteria escalator

As product development progresses and new scientific discoveries are made, the Swan's criteria are raised like steps on an escalator.

Approximately every three years, the criteria documents are reviewed and products carrying the Swan label have new, revised criteria to live up to. In this way, we contribute to ongoing environmental improvements.

Propose new criteria

The Swan label is always looking for new product groups and services which have the potential to reduce the burden on the environment. When we choose a product group, we assess the potential environmental gain which would be obtained from ecolabelling.

Please send us any suggestions for products or services which you think should be ecolabelled. Describe the effect of the product on the environment and how the Swan label would reduce it.

Send your proposal to:

SIS Ecolabelling AB

Att. Cecilia Wilhelmsson

118 80 Stockholm, Sweden

Email cecilia.wilhelmsson@sismab.se

The Swan's mission

The Swan's mission is to contribute to reducing the consumer burden on the environment. Using optional ecolabelling, we want to guide consumers and purchasers in their desire to shop with a "green" conscience, and thus contribute to a better society.

Through ecolabelling, Swan wants to encourage manufacturers to develop environmentally-friendly products and services.

The Swan Story

Interest in environmental issues increased during the 1980s. There was an increasing need for an impartial environmental symbol which could be relied upon. In 1989, the Nordic Council of Ministers decided to introduce a common, official environmental label in Nordic. The Swan was chosen as a symbol, a variation on the logo of the Nordic Council of Ministers.

The Nordic region

The Nordic countries work together using the Swan ecolabel. This work is co-ordinated by the Nordic Ecolabelling Board, NMN, which has produced a set of regulations.

NMN determines which products can be covered by the Swan and the criteria they must meet. Decisions taken by NMN must always be unanimous.

Groups of experts from the Nordic countries develop proposals for criteria. The group representatives come from government, environmental organisations, trade and industry. Before NMN finalises the proposals, they are sent out for review.

Once a criteria document has been finalised, businesses can apply for the right to use the label on a product which falls into this category. The national offices manage licence applications and grant licences.

Working with Europe

Just as the Nordic countries have joined together to produce an official ecolabelling system (the Swan), the EU has agreed on a common European ecolabel. The EU Flower works in more or less the same way as the Swan.

Manufacturers must use samples and documentation to prove that their products meet the criteria with regard to the environment, health and performance.

These requirements have been set by national organisations within the EU's member countries, under the supervision of the European Commission.

Read more about the EU Flower on [the official website](#).