

The Blue Angel for low-emission floor coverings, panels and doors for interiors made of wood and wood-based materials (DE-UZ 176)



Information for manufacturers and the retail trade

www.blauer-engel.de/en/uz176

- low emissions and pollutants
- wood from sustainable forestry
- no adverse impact on health in the living environment

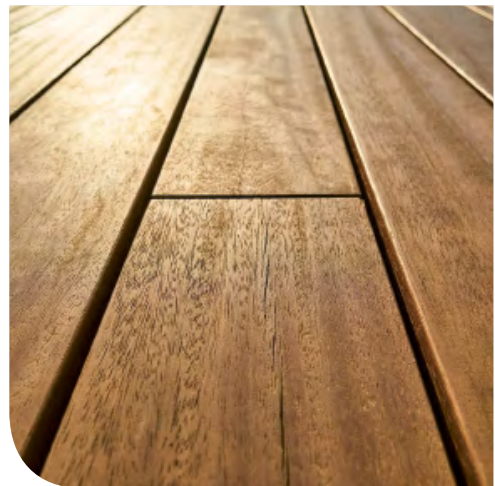
Reliable guidance for sustainable purchasing

The Blue Angel – the environmental label of the German federal government – has set stringent standards for environmentally friendly, healthy and durable products and services in an independent and credible way since 1978. The Blue Angel is Germany's most well-known environmental label. You can thus benefit from the clear competitive advantages and added level of trust that this environmental label enjoys in the economy and amongst consumers. The label's credibility and competence, its objective criteria, its institutionalised award process and its governmental links increase your corporate and brand value.

The advantages offered by the Blue Angel

The Blue Angel allows you as a company to present your environmental management practices and product responsibility in a credible way and set yourself apart from your competitors. Furthermore, you can use the Blue Angel for low-emission floor coverings, panels and doors for interiors made of wood and wood-based materials to demonstrate to customers that you

- use wood from sustainable forestry,
- use low-emission materials that do not affect indoor air quality,
- minimize environmental and health impacts throughout the entire life cycle of the product.



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Environmentally-friendly interior

The Blue Angel certifies ready-to-use interior floor coverings, panels and interior door elements that consist predominantly, i.e. by more than 60 percent by volume, of wood and/or wood-based materials. These include, for example:

- Parquets (multi-layer parquets, veneer floorings, painted surface floorings)
 - Laminates
 - Linoleum, cork and other materials on wood-based substrates
 - Wall panels
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Low-emission and environmentally friendly

Floor coverings, panels and interior door panels may cause an environmental impact during their production, use and disposal. In addition, large areas of floor coverings and panels, as well as built-in interior door elements significantly affect the air quality in buildings. With regard to the environment and the health of the user, the lowest possible emissions from these products should be sought.

The Blue Angel environmental label considers the whole life cycle of a product and promotes, above all, the use of wood from sustainably managed forests and of low-emission wood-based materials. In addition, no materials that are harmful to the environment or health may be used. Compliance with strict emission limits is verified through recognized methods by independent testing laboratories.

Criteria: What does the Blue Angel look at when it comes to floor coverings, panels and doors?

- Use of at least 50 percent by weight wood from sustainable forestry
- Use of wood-based materials with low formaldehyde content
- Exclusion of hazardous substances, e.g. carcinogenic compounds
- Strict requirements on emissions into indoor air
- Avoidance of substances, that prevent the environmentally friendly disposal
 - » Exclusion of halogenated organic substances
 - » Strict regulation of flame retardants and biocides

Compliance verifications

Compliance with all requirements must be verified in accordance with the Basic Award Criteria – e.g. in the form of test reports, approved certificates or legally binding manufacturer declarations.

Application, use of the environmental label and costs

RAL gGmbH is responsible for handling the applications and concluding the contracts (E-mail: umweltzeichen@ral.de, phone: +49 228 68895-190). Use of the environmental label is limited to the period of validity of the Basic Award Criteria. The current Basic Award Criteria are valid until 31/12/2026. RAL gGmbH – the awarding body for the environmental label – will charge a one-off handling fee of 600 Euro for the application. The annual fee is based on the annual sales of the certified product. If the sales figures are, for example, between 1 and 2.5 million Euro, the annual fee will be 1,500 Euro. Further information is available at <https://www.blauer-engel.de/contribution-scheme>.

More Information: www.blauer-engel.de/en

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