



Basic Criteria for Award of the Environmental Label

Returnable Transportation Packagings

RAL-UZ 27



Edition January 2008

RAL GERMAN INSTITUTE FOR QUALITY ASSURANCE AND CERTIFICATION
Founded 1925

Siegburger Straße 39, D-53757 Sankt Augustin, tel: +49 (0) 22 41-16 05-0

fax: +49 (0) 22 41-16 05-11

Internet: www.blauer-engel.de, e-mail: Umweltzeichen@RAL.de



List of Contents

1 Preliminary Remarks:3

2 Scope3

3 Requirements4

4 Compliance Verifications5

5 Applicants and the Parties Involved6

6 Use of the Environmental Label6

Specimen Contract.....

Annex to the Contract.....

Check List.....



1 Preliminary Remarks:

1.1 In cooperation with the Federal Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, the Federal Environmental Agency and considering the results of the expert hearings conducted by RAL, the Environmental Label Jury has set up these Basic Criteria for the Award of the Environmental Label.

RAL, reg. assoc., has been entrusted with the award of the Environmental Label.

Upon application to RAL and on the basis of a Contract on the Use of the Environmental Label to be concluded with RAL the permission to use the Environmental Label may be granted for all products, provided that they comply with the requirements as specified hereinafter.

1.2 Waste avoidance is a good means to avoid large volumes of waste that also come from transport packagings. The German Kreislaufwirtschafts- und Abfallwirtschaftsgesetz (Closed Substance Cycle and Waste Management Act) gives highest priority to waste avoidance. Returnable packagings contribute effectively to the implementation of this principle of environmental policy. The objective of awarding the Environmental Label is to promote the use of returnable transport packagings. Clear labeling is required to inform consumers. Special information on the return system will be required in business dealings. Apart from that, returnable packagings may not contain any hazardous substances, corresponding product return rates must be guaranteed and plastic materials must be marked. Thereby, this Environmental Label contributes to saving natural resources.

2 Scope

These award criteria shall apply to transportation packagings according section 3 para. 1 No.4 of the packaging ordinance¹ used as returnable packaging according section 3 para. 3 of the packaging ordinance for the transportation of goods².

2.1 Returnable transportation packagings admitted to freight traffic (inter alia: rail freight transportation);

2.2 Laundry transportation bags;

2.3 Heat preserving containers (insulating containers) for foods;

¹ Ordinance aiming at the avoidance of packaging wastes (Packaging Ordinance), dated August 21, 1998 (Federal Law Gazette I, page 2379).

² The Environmental Label Jury may decide to include other returnable transportation packagings provided that they replace non-returnable packagings to a greater extent



2.4 Metal sterilization containers (for repeated use) as defined in DIN (German Industrial Standard) 58 952, Part I (packaging material for sterilized goods).

2.5 Returnable food crates (crates as defined in DIN 55405, Part 3).

Excluded from these Basic Criteria are transportation containers for hazardous goods.

3 Requirements

Products mentioned under paragraph 2 above may be marked with the Environmental Label shown on page 1, provided that they comply with the following requirements:

3.1 Packagings as defined in paras. 2.1 to 2.4 must be returnable transportation packagings according to Section 3 para.1 No.4 of the Packaging Ordinance and at the same time returnable packagings according to Section 3 para.3 of the Packaging Ordinance.

3.2 Products pursuant to para. 2.1 must additionally comply with the following requirements:

- They shall not exceed an admissible gross weight of 1 metric ton,
- when empty they shall be collapsible or stackable,
- when properly handled they shall be reusable for at least 30 times.

3.3 Laundry transportation bags shall be reusable for at least 500 times.

3.4 Heat preserving containers shall be reusable for at least 1.000 times. The production of foamed plastics to be used for thermal insulation must be halogen free. If these heat preserving containers are delivered along with dishes the latter shall be reusable.

3.5 Metal sterilization containers shall comply with the requirements as defined in DIN 58 952, Part I, (packaging material for sterilized goods) as well as with the requirements as defined in DIN 58 953, Part 9, (Ordinance on Sterilized Goods - Use of Sterilization Containers) and they shall have a useful life in conformity with these requirements of at least 10 years.

3.6 The returnable crates must be so designed as to make sure that they may be reused 50 times if properly handled.

3.7 The material is to be marked on the packaging. If it is made of plastic the type of plastic shall be named in accordance with DIN ISO 11 468.

3.8 The applicant or a third party acting as the applicant's agent shall accept the return of malfunctioning and worn returnable transportation packagings for the purpose of



reconditioning or utilization primarily by the substance, if possible for the same product. Apart from that, the acceptance of such packagings shall be offered in the product description used in business dealings.

4 Compliance Verifications

- 4.1** For products under paras. 2.1. to 2.4 the applicant shall submit product descriptions used in normal business transactions in order to prove that the products are transportation packagings according to Section 3 para. 1 No. 4 of the Packaging Ordinance and at the same time returnable packagings according to Section 3 para.3 of the Packaging Ordinance. The product description shall give detailed information on the organization of return and repeated use.
- 4.2** The applicant shall name the material from which the returnable packaging is made.
- 4.3** For products according to para. 2.1 the applicant shall submit a manufacturer's declaration stating that the requirements as specified in para. 3.2 have been complied with.
- 4.4** For products according to para. 2.2 the applicant shall state the guaranteed number of reuses pursuant to para. 3.3, provided that the product is used for its intended purpose.
- 4.5** For heat preserving containers according to para. 2.3 the applicant shall declare compliance with the requirements as specified in para. 3.4. In addition, the applicant shall name the heat insulator and the foaming agent used.
If applicable, the dishes distributed along with the heat preserving containers shall be described.
- 4.6** For products according to para. 2.4 the applicant shall declare compliance with the requirements of the corresponding DIN Standard pursuant to para. 3.5. He or she shall also give the guaranteed useful life, provided that the product is used for its intended purpose.
- 4.7** For products pursuant to para. 2.5 the applicant shall furnish proof of compliance with the requirement under para. 3.6.
- 4.8** For products according to paras. 2.1 to 2.5 the applicant shall state to what extent his or her product may possibly replace non-returnable transportation packagings.
- 4.9** The applicant shall declare compliance with the requirement under para. 3.7.
- 4.10** The applicant shall declare compliance with the requirement under para. 3.8 and furnish proof of the offer to accept the return of malfunctioning and worn products by



presentation of the product description used in business dealings. In addition, the applicant shall supply information about reconditioning plans or the kind of utilization.

5 Applicants and the Parties Involved

5.1 Manufacturers, distributors and users of returnable transportation packagings shall be eligible for application.

5.2 Parties involved in the award process

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

6 Use of the Environmental Label

6.1 The terms of the use of the Environmental Label shown on page 1 by the applicant are stipulated by a Contract on the Use of the Environmental Label to be concluded with RAL.

6.2 Within the scope of such contract the applicant undertakes to comply with the requirements under para. 3 as long as he makes use of the Environmental Label.

6.3 For the marking of products according to para.. 2 above Contracts on the Use of the Environmental Label are concluded.

These contracts run until December 31, 2011. They shall be extended by periods of one year each, unless the contract is terminated in writing by March 31, 2011 or by the 31st of March 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 still being in the market.

6.4 The contract on the use of the Environmental Label shall give the following particulars:

6.4.1 Applicant (manufacturer/distributor/user)

6.4.2 Brand/trade name, product name.



C O N T R A C T

No.
on the Award of the Environmental Label

RAL, reg. assoc., as label awarding agency, and the firm of

(Distributor/Manufacturer)

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

S P E C I M E N

- Under the following conditions the applicant shall be entitled to use the Environmental Label for the labelling of the product/product group/project:
**Returnable Transportation Packagings for
"(Brand/Trade Name - Product Designation)"**
This shall not include the right to use the Environmental Label as part of a brand. Unless otherwise agreed, the Environmental Label shall only be used in the above given shape and colour and shall be marked at the bottom "Jury Umweltzeichen" (Environmental Label Jury). The entire inner surrounding text shall always be identical as regards size, form, thickness and colour of the letters and it shall be easy to read.
- The Environmental Label according to para. 1 shall only be used for the above-mentioned product/product group/ project.
- If the Environmental Label is used for advertising purposes the applicant shall make sure that it is exclusively used in connection with the above-named product/product group/ project for which the use of the Environmental Label has been granted and settled under this contract. The applicant shall be solely responsible for the way the label is used, above all, in advertising.
- During the entire period of label use the product/product group/project to be labelled shall comply with all requirements and conditions for the use of the label as specified in the "Vergabegrundlage für Umweltzeichen RAL-UZ 27" (Basic Criteria for Award of the Environmental Label RAL-UZ 27), as amended. This shall also apply to the reproduction of the Environmental Label (including the surrounding text). Claims for damages against RAL, especially on the grounds of third party objections to the 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 he shall be liable to inform RAL 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 may, if necessary, withdraw the Environmental Label and prohibit the applicant from using the label any longer. Claims for damages against RAL 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 (see above: paragraph 6, sentence 3).
- The applicant undertakes to pay RAL an amount according to the "Beitragsordnung für das Umweltzeichen" (Schedule of Contributions for the Environmental Label), as amended, for the period of use.
- According to the Basic Criteria for Award of the Environmental Label RAL-UZ 27 this contract will run until December 31, 2011. It shall be extended by periods of one year each, unless terminated in writing by March 31, 2011 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 firm of the

(Applicant/Distributor)

Sankt Augustin, this day of

Date, Place

RAL e. V.

(Signature of authorized representative and corporate seal)



Appendix to the Contract pursuant to RAL-UZ 27
Environmental Label for
„Returnable Transportation Packagings“

**Please use
this form !**

Manufacturer/Distributor/User¹:

Distributor (Label User):

Brand / Trade Name:

Product designation²:

Scope of application:

Material of the returnable packaging:

Declaration of the applicant

It is hereby stated that

- the material is marked on the packaging. For plastic products the type of plastic is named in accordance with DIN ISO 11 469.
- malfunctioning worn returnable transportation packagings may be returned (to applicant/third party) for the purpose of reconditioning or utilization primarily by the substance, if possible for the same product, and that the acceptance of such packagings is offered in the product description used in business dealings.

¹ Please delete what does not apply

² One Annex shall be completed for each different product



For products according to para. 2.1 (admitted as freight traffic packaging)¹:

The above-mentioned product is a transportation packaging according to Section 3, para.1 No. 4, of the Packaging Ordinance and a returnable packaging according to Section 3, para.3, of the Packaging Ordinance (here: product description according to para. 4.1).

The admissible gross weight of 1 metric ton has not been exceeded.

When empty, the product is collapsible or stackable.

When properly handled, the product can be reused for at least 30 times.

For products according to para. 2.2 (Laundry transportation bags)¹:

The above-mentioned product is a transportation packaging according to Section 3, para.1 No.4, of the Packaging Ordinance and a returnable packaging according to Section 3, para.3 of the Packaging Ordinance (here: product description according to para.4.1).

When used for their intended purpose, the laundry transportation bags may be reused for at least times.

For products according to para. 2.3 (Heat preserving containers)¹:

The above-mentioned product is a transportation packaging according to Section 3, para.1 No.4, of the Packaging Ordinance and a returnable packaging according to Section 3, para.3 of the Packaging Ordinance.

When used for their intended purpose, the heat preserving containers may be reused for at least times

The following heat insulators and foaming agents have been used:

For products according to para. 2.4 (Metal sterilization containers)²:

The above-mentioned product is a transportation packaging according to Section 3, para.1 No.4, of the Packaging Ordinance and a returnable packaging according to Section 3, para.3 of the Packaging Ordinance.

The metal sterilization containers comply with the requirements as defined in DIN 58 952, Part 1.

When used for its intended purpose, the product's guaranteed useful life is years.



For products according to para. 2.5 (Returnable Food Crates)¹:

The product is a transportation packaging according to Section 3, para.1, No.4, Packaging Ordinance, and a returnable packaging according to Section 3, para.3 Packaging Ordinance.

The functional capabilities of the returnable crates correspond to the field of application. When properly treated, the crates may be reused for times.

The Bundesamt für Wehrtechnik und Beschaffung (Federal Office for Defense Technology and Procurement) has registered the product under Supply Reg. No.³

Annexes

- Product description¹
- Description of the dishes supplied along with heat preserving containers according to para. 2.3¹
- Description of the extent to which non-returnable packagings are replaced

Place:

Applicant:

Date:

(signature by authorized representative and corporate seal)

³ Products equipped with a Supply Reg.No. are reported by the Federal Environmental Agency to the Bundesmaterialekatalogisierungszentrale (Central Federal Office for Material Registration). Its information system kept for various procurement offices of the Federal Government lists these products with a special mark indicating that they have been awarded the Environmental Label. The Environmental Label has no influence on the issuance of a Supply Reg.No.



**To the
Applicant**

Check List

Re: Application for Award of the Environmental Label according to RAL-UZ 27
for "Returnable Transportation Packagings"

Dear Madam,
Dear Sirs,

to make sure that your application for Award of the Environmental Label is processed without delay you are kindly requested to submit the following documents to RAL:

- Product-related informal application on your letter-head paper indicating the federal state where the applicant's production plant is located that manufactures the products to be marked with the label.
- Fully completed "Annex to the Contract" according to RAL-UZ 27.
- Product description (3 copies).
- Expected sales of the products to be marked with the Environmental Label during the year of application. This information is required only if, so far, no other contract on the Use of the Environmental Label according to RAL-UZ 27 has been concluded with RAL.