

The Blue Angel for toys (DE-UZ 207)



Information for manufacturers and the retail trade

www.blauer-engel.de/en/uz207

- tested for pollutants
- safety tested
- social aspects of raw materials extraction and end production

Reliable guidance for sustainable purchasing

The Blue Angel – the environmental label from 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 toys to demonstrate to customers that you

- have pollutant and safety tests carried out in independent laboratories,
- perform annual tests to guarantee the safety of your product,
- ensure adherence with basic environmental and social standards in the extraction of raw materials and the production of the toys.

Safeguarding children's toys from A to Z

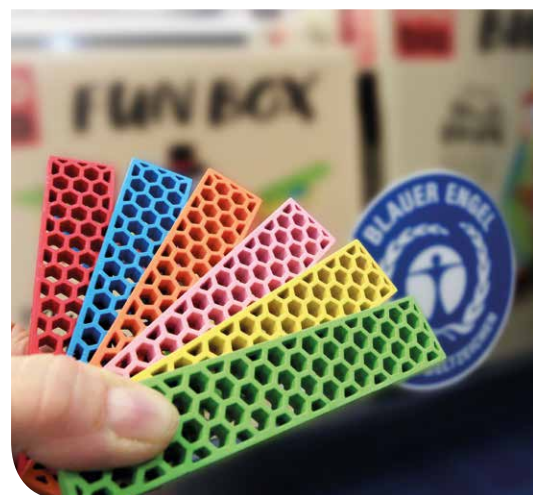
The Blue Angel certifies various different types of toys e.g. wooden toys, textile toys such as cuddly toys, electrical trains or toys made out of other materials such as rubber, plastic, metal or paper.

Tested for pollutants and safety, environmentally friendly and socially fair

Especially when purchasing toys, parents have the highest expectations on the products, e.g. the elimination of pollutants. Thus, the criteria for the Blue Angel for toys focus on avoiding and minimising ingredients that are harmful to health. For example, the Blue Angel always requires companies to verify, by submitting test certificates from qualified laboratories, that their toys hold the CE mark in accordance with the European directive on the safety of toys. In addition, the criteria exclude a wide range of hazardous substances. Furthermore, the compliance with basic social standards in the extraction of raw materials and at the final production locations is also a requirement of the Blue Angel. The raw materials should be obtained from sources that have fewer negative effects on the environment than comparable sources for these raw materials. Extensive verifications about the source of the raw materials are also required.

Criteria: What does the Blue Angel for toys take into consideration?

- Sustainable sources for natural resources such as wood, natural fibres or natural rubber
- Compliance with basic social standards in the production of the toys and the procurement of the resources
- Exclusion of hazardous materials such as carcinogenic substances or substances with long-lasting negative effects on water
- Avoidance of substances that are harmful to health and the environment e.g. via
 - » Stringent limits on heavy metals and perfluorinated or polyfluorinated chemicals (PFCs)
 - » Exclusion of critical azo dyes
 - » Excluding the use of PVC
 - » Strict regulation of softening agents (phthalates) and preservatives
 - » Exclusion of a comprehensive range of fragrances and aromas
- Recurring tests every year on the migration of toy materials, observance of the requirements for phthalates, PAHs, etc.
- Observance of statutory safety requirements
- Good fitness for use, e.g. colour fastness of textiles
- Availability of spare parts, easy replacement of rechargeable batteries
- Environmentally-friendly sales packaging



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.

Cooperation between the Blue Angel environmental label and the Austrian Ecolabel

The Blue Angel and the Austrian Ecolabel apply identical Basic Award Criteria and an application can be submitted to both awarding authorities. After the application has been approved and in order to use both environmental labels at the same time, it is sufficient to send an informal application to the other awarding body and submit the valid contract on the use of the label as verification.

Application, label use and costs

RAL gGmbH is responsible for handling the applications and concluding the contracts (contact: Dr. Susanne de Boor, E-mail: susanne.deboor@ral.de, Tel.: 0228 - 688 95-150). 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 31/12/2020. RAL gGmbH – the awarding body for the environmental label – will charge a one-off handling fee of 400 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 1,300 Euro. Further information is available at <https://www.blauer-engel.de/contribution-scheme>.

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Further information www.blauer-engel.de/en/

