

General information on the term of validity of the Basic Award Criteria

Validity of the Basic Award Criteria / contracts

The Basic Award Criteria are always agreed for a **limited period of time** by the Environmental Label Jury.

The term of validity for each Basic Award Criteria is generally 3 - 5 years. This term of validity is stated in the **“Sample Contract”** for the relevant Basic Award Criteria in the last section (generally section 5 or 6).

Contracts on the use of the environmental label are exclusively concluded for the term of validity of the relevant Basic Award Criteria. However, they can be extended subject to a resolution by the Environmental Label Jury. The term of the contract/contracts on the use of the environmental label also ends when the term of validity for the relevant Basic Award Criteria has expired.

Termination of contracts by RAL gGmbH

Valid contracts on the use of the environmental label are terminated in writing by RAL gGmbH at the **latest by 31 March** of the year in which the term of validity expires. The notification about the termination of the contract on the use of the environmental label is sent to the **management** of the contractual partner (label holder).

If the relevant Basic Award Criteria are not completely withdrawn due to a resolution by the Environmental Label Jury, two editions of the Basic Award Criteria for a product group will be published in parallel on the Blue Angel Website in the final year of the original term of validity:

- a “new” edition with a term of validity of between 3-5 years and
- a still valid (“old”) edition whose term of validity expires in the year of termination.

The label holder is thus able to submit a new application based on the new edition in good time to ensure the transitionless labelling of the products/services with the Blue Angel.

New application for extending the use of the Blue Angel

A new application can only be submitted in accordance with the new edition of the Basic Award Criteria and only with the new annexes to the contract; i.e. any old annexes to the contract become invalid and cannot be used for a new application.

New applications or changes will only be accepted online via the [WEB PORTAL](#) from 1 July 2020. Licence holders who have not yet registered should thus register via the Web Portal in the next few weeks. Further information and a guide to using the [WEB PORTAL](#) can be found at: <https://portal.ral-umwelt.de/>.

Extending the term of validity of the Basic Award Criteria

The Environmental Label Jury can also extend the term of validity of the relevant Basic Award Criteria. The new term of validity will be published on the Blue Angel website and will also be stated in the Basic Award Criteria.

If the term of validity is extended **before** the regular, written termination of the contracts on the use of the environmental label, no notification of termination is sent and the contracts are automatically extended by the new term of validity.

It is also possible that the Environmental Label Jury can extend the term of validity multiple times.

If the term of validity is extended **after** the regular, written notification of termination has been sent, the contract is effectively terminated.

The label holder will then be sent a written offer to accept the extended term of validity. The offer to accept the extension to the term of validity is sent to the **management** of the contractual partner (label holder).

The contract does not need to be terminated again in this case.