

The Blue Angel for footwear and insoles (DE-UZ 155)



Information for manufacturers and retailers

www.blauer-engel.de/en/uz155

- environmentally friendly production
- tested for harmful substances
- social criteria in raw material extraction and end production

Reliable orientation for sustainable purchasing

The Blue Angel, the ecolabel label of the federal government of Germany, has been setting independent and credible standards for environmentally friendly, healthy and durable products and services since 1978. With the world's first and Germany's best-known ecolabel, you benefit from clear competitive advantages and the trust that the ecolabel enjoys in industry and among consumers. Its credibility and competence, its objective criteria, its institutionalised awarding and its governmental backing increase your corporate and brand value.

The advantages of the Blue Angel

As a company, the Blue Angel allows you to credibly present your environmental commitment and your product responsibility, setting yourself apart from your competitors. The Blue Angel for footwear and insoles also allows you to demonstrate to consumers that you

- observe high environmental standards in the manufacturing process,
- improve occupational safety and social conditions in manufacturing,
- avoid harmful chemicals in the end product, and
- ensure good usability.

Unbeatable product variety

- The Blue Angel defines shoes as all articles, including safety shoes, protective shoes and work shoes, that are designed to protect or cover the feet and which have an outer sole and the upper is made out of leather, textile and/or plastic.
- Insoles

From leather shoes to textile shoes

- Leather shoes (chrome tanned shoes, vegetable tanned shoes)
- Textile shoes made out of...
 - ... natural fibres such as cotton, flax, hemp, linen, kapok, wool and silk
 - ... synthetic fibres such as polyacrylic, elastane, polyamide, polyester, polylactide and polypropylene
 - ... man-made cellulose such as lyocell, modal and viscose
 - ... recycled fibres
- Shoes with functions, e.g. sports shoes, hiking shoes
- Shoes made of rubber, e.g. clogs, rubber boots

Ecological and fair - right from the start

The Blue Angel criteria for footwear and insoles take into account the entire manufacturing process and cover all processes relevant to the environment and health. The Blue Angel is at its core an environmental label yet consumers are increasingly questioning the working conditions during the production process. Therefore, the Blue Angel for footwear and insoles also considers social aspects as well as the traditional environmental requirements.

Criteria: What does the Blue Angel take into consideration for footwear and insoles?

- Requirements for the origin of raw hides and skins
- Use of tested textile fibres
- Avoidance of substances harmful to health, e.g. no use of:
 - » flame retardants
 - » perfluorinated and polyfluorinated chemicals (PFC)
 - » biocides in the finishing process
- e.g. strict limits for:
 - » formaldehyde
 - » phthalates
 - » polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs)
 - » chromium VI and other heavy metals
 - » phenylpropanol in ethylene vinyl acetate (EVA)
- Reduction in emissions to waste water
- Reduction in emissions to air
- High level of usability
- Long shelf life
- Audited social standard



Verification

Compliance with all requirements must be demonstrated in accordance with the award criteria, for example by means of safety data sheets, test reports, measurement results or recognised certificates.

The Blue Angel goes hand in hand with the requirements of ...

- the cads list
- the ZDHC-MRSL – Zero Discharge of Hazardous Chemicals - Manufacturing Restricted Substances List
- the Best Available Techniques of the Textile Industry and the Leather Industry
- the Partnership for Sustainable Textiles

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, Tel.: +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 31/12/2027. 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>.

September 2023

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

