

The Blue Angel for Office Equipment with Printing Function (Printers and Multifunction Devices) (DE-UZ 219)

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Information for manufacturers and the retail trade

www.blauer-engel.de/en/uz219

- low energy consumption
- low emissions and noise
- durable

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 Office Equipment with Printing Function to demonstrate to customers that you

- improve the quality of the indoor air with devices that emit lower levels of pollutants and limit the release of fine and ultrafine particles during the printing process on laser printers
- contribute to the protection of the climate with devices that have lower energy consumption in print and idle mode
- preserve more resources because the devices are suitable for recycled paper, enable duplex printing and use recycled plastics
- comply with the 8 ILO fundamental labour standards in order to improve working conditions during the manufacturing process



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Scope

The Basic Award Criteria apply to office devices (usually referred to as printers and/or multifunction devices) that at least:

- offer printing as their primary function,
 - are capable of producing monochrome or colour printouts (4-colour printing) on standard paper with a grammage of 60 to 80 g/m²,
 - are capable of processing media with a minimum format of DIN A4 and up to a maximum format of DIN A3+
 - and work as electrophotographic devices (LED or laser technology) by using toners or as inkjet devices by using inks (or gels or waxes).
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Environmentally friendly office equipment with printing function

ICT equipment has become indispensable to companies and private households. Computers, office equipment with printing function, telephones and network technology accounted for by far the largest share of ICT-related electric power consumption in 2015 – at almost 44 % or 21 TWh. These end devices only accounted for around 17 % of the total ICT-related electric power consumption in companies, offices and the extended working environment, which corresponds to about 8 TWh. Office equipment with printing function that have been awarded the Blue Angel ecolabel consume considerably less electric power in comparison to the market average for this type of equipment. Using devices with a relatively low power consumption and low no-load losses (losses outside of the regular usage phase of the devices) makes a significant contribution to climate protection.

Nowadays, electrophotographic devices (LED and laser printers) and inkjet printers dominate the market. For some time, it has been known that electrophotographic devices release fine and ultrafine particles into the indoor air just like other household appliances or everyday activities, e.g. vacuum cleaning. The emissions from electrophotographic devices, as well as the potential health risks posed by these ultrafine particles (UFPs), have been the subject of public debate. Among other things, this also applies to electrophotographic desktop devices that are frequently found in private households, home offices and workplaces in companies and public authorities. The contribution made by electrophotographic devices certified with the Blue Angel to the pollution of indoor air with ultrafine particles is thus kept at a particularly low level and will be gradually reduced over time.

Requirements for the due diligence of companies in the sourcing of raw materials and support for local initiatives to promote responsible mining have been included in the Basic Award Criteria for the first time. In addition, criteria for social sustainability in the manufacturing process have also been added. These criteria are designed to promote compliance with the 8 ILO fundamental labour standards in the manufacturing process.

What does the Blue Angel for Office Equipment with Printing Function take into consideration?

- A design suitable for recycling (disassembly, materials selection, reuse of toner and ink modules). Minimum use of PCR plastics.
- Use of recycled paper, requirements for duplex and N-up printing.
- Longevity of the devices (repair options and supply of spare parts even after the device is no longer in production).
- Avoidance of substances that are damaging to health and the environment in toners and inks, as well as in the device parts.
- Low energy consumption, compliance with the requirements of the ENERGY STAR 3.0 standard. Very low power consumption in sleep mode and off-mode.
- Low emissions (VOC, benzene, styrene, ozone, dust) and low particle emissions.
- Low noise emissions during operation.
- Due diligence of companies in the sourcing of raw materials, support for local initiatives to promote responsible mining and social sustainability in the manufacturing process.
- Detailed information for the final consumers with respect to energy consumption, noise emissions, take-back systems, repair options, the typical service life and capacity of the modules and publication of this information on the Blue Angel website and the website operated by the distributor.

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, Service hotline: +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 31/12/2025. 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. More information is available at <https://www.blauer-engel.de/en/companies/costs-blue-angel-schedule-fees>.

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Further information: www.blauer-engel.de

