

The Blue Angel for low-emission furniture and slatted frames made of wood and wood-based material (DE-UZ 38)

Information for manufacturers and the retail trade

www.blauer-engel.de/en/uz38

- low emissions
- wood from sustainable forestry



Reliable guidance for sustainable purchasing

The Blue Angel – the environmental label of 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 low-emission furniture and slatted frames made of wood and wood-based material to demonstrate to customers that you

- manufacture in an environmentally friendly manner,
- do not use any harmful substances that have a detrimental impact during the recycling process,
- promote the use of wood from sustainable forestry.

Environmentally friendly furniture and slatted frames made of wood and wood-based material

These Basic Criteria apply to ready-to-use indoor furniture and slatted frames made predominantly – i.e. more than 50 % by volume – of wood and/or wood-based materials. Furniture and slatted frames can cause environmental pollution across the whole life cycle of the product. Therefore, the requirements for the Blue Angel focus not only on the substances and materials used in the manufacturing process but also on the period of use and the disposal. Requirements are also defined for packaging for the transport of furniture and slatted frames. Furniture and slatted frames are used indoors and it will thus be beneficial to the user from a health and environmental perspective if these products have the lowest possible emissions. A high level of usability combined with a long service life also play a key role in protecting the environment and health.

Criteria: What does the Blue Angel for low emission furniture and slatted frames made of wood and wood-based material take into consideration?

- ☒ The processed wood is sourced from a legal and sustainable forest management. At least 70 % of the wood or 70 % of the primary raw materials for wood-based materials are sourced from certified sources (FSC, PEFC).
- ☒ A compatible replacement for the wearing parts contained in the product (hinges, locks, pull-out components) must be guaranteed for at least 5 years.
- ☒ If the furniture contains more than 5 % foams by volume and/or is fully or partially covered with textiles or leather, these materials must comply with the relevant requirements in DE-UZ 117 (upholstered furniture).
- ☒ No halogenated organic compounds (e.g. as binding agents, flame retardants) may be used in the production, including the materials used (wood-based materials, adhesives, coatings, etc.).
- ☒ Low emission of volatile organic compounds (VOC and SVOC) from the furniture into the indoor air.

Compliance verifications

Compliance with all requirements must be verified in accordance with the Basic Award Criteria (DE-UZ 38) - e.g. in form of test reports, approved certificates or legally binding manufacturer declarations.

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

- strict criteria of european and international standards
- the exclusion of substances according to the REACH / CLP / POP / Biocidal Products Regulation

...and sets standards for environmentally freindly low-emission furniture and slatted frames made of wood and wood-based material

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; phone: +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 31/12/2026. RAL gGmbH - the awarding body for the environmental label - will charge a one-off handling fee of 600 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 1,500 Euro. Further information is available at www.blauer-engel.de/en/costs.



Further Informationen: www.blauer-engel.de/en

