

The Blue Angel for Reusable systems to-go for food and beverages (DE-UZ 210)



Information for system providers, food/beverage vendors and municipalities

www.blauer-engel.de/en/uz210

- reduces waste
- saves resources

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 Reusable Systems To-go For Food and Beverages to demonstrate to customers that you

- make an important contribution to preserving valuable resources, especially wood and plastic but also water and energy, by avoiding the use of disposal containers and offering reusable containers as part of a deposit system
- reduce the amount of municipal waste and avoid littering of the environment
- offer an environmentally friendly alternative for “to-go” customers – especially at events.



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Environmentally friendly reusable container systems

The Blue Angel can be awarded to reusable containers that are offered within a deposit system. The containers included within the scope of the Blue Angel can be filled with hot or cold beverages, as well as with other food-stuffs.

Special feature of coffee-to-go cups: If an individual cup (for sale) is offered in parallel to a reusable container system with the Blue Angel, the individual cup can also be awarded with the environmental label.

Good for me, good for the environment

According to a recent [study](#) by the Federal Environment Agency (UBA), Germans use 2.8 billion disposable cups for hot drinks every year, which corresponds to 34 cups per head. The consumption of meals in non-returnable packaging is also steadily increasing - be it due to the increased demand for delivery services or lunch from the corner snack bar during the lunch break. Disposable cups and single-use food boxes made of e.g. coated fresh fibre paper not only result in a high consumption of resources, but also in an extreme amount of waste. The Blue Angel supports the establishment of resource-saving and waste-avoiding reusable systems in the to-go area by identifying sustainable alternatives.

The criteria for the Blue Angel place requirements on both the containers themselves and also on the supplier. It is awarded to deposit systems for reusable containers that avoid the use of materials harmful to health and the environment and which send the containers for recycling after a long service life. Suppliers of reusable container systems must have an optimized logistics concept and are also required to provide food and beverage vendors with information about sustainable sale of food and beverages.

Criteria: What does the Blue Angel for Reusable Systems to-go for Food and Beverages take into consideration?

- Technical requirements for reusable containers and lids
 - Exclusion of plastics containing polycarbonate or melamine
 - Unmixed plastics without any coating
 - 500 wash cycles for containers, 100 wash cycles for lids
- Requirements placed on the suppliers of reusable container systems and beverage vendors
 - A deposit of at least 50 cents per reusable container issued
 - Only offering customers reusable lids
 - Determining the average circulation of reusable containers
- Requirements for beverages served at events
 - A maximum of 50 percent of the deposit cups may have event-specific printing
 - The remaining deposit cups must either be unprinted or have printing that does not specify a particular date
 - Cleaning of the deposit cups directly on site

Compliance verifications

Compliance with all requirements must be verified in accordance with the Basic Award Criteria – e.g. in the form of test reports, safety data sheets 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 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 1.5 million Euro, the annual fee will be 1,500 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/en



Federal Ministry
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