

# The Blue Angel for low-emission and low-pollutant paints and varnishes (DE-UZ 12a)



Information for manufacturers and the retail trade

[www.blauer-engel.de/en/uz12a](http://www.blauer-engel.de/en/uz12a)

- low in solvents
- low pollutant content

## 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 paints and varnishes to demonstrate to customers that you

- use raw materials and substances that place less burden on the environment during the production process,
- produce products that are low in solvents and emissions
- have reduced the use of preservatives to the technically required minimum,
- provide information for the protection of consumers on the container and the technical data sheet.

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## Environmentally friendly paints and varnishes

The Blue Angel for paints and varnishes certifies clear, white and coloured paints and varnishes, lacquers, primers (insofar as they are not designed for wall paints) for indoor and outdoor use and wood oil for outdoor use. Wood preservatives or varnishes with film protection cannot be certified. You will find detailed information on the products that are covered by the scope of this label in the Basic Award Criteria for UZ 12a.

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## Low in pollutants and solvents

The environmental label for “Low-Emission and Low-Pollutant Paints and Varnishes” aims to keep the pollutant content of the paints and varnishes as low as possible and, from a health and environmental point of view, thus ensure the lowest possible emissions from these products.

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### Criteria: What does the Blue Angel for paints and varnishes take into consideration?

- Exclusion of hazardous materials such as carcinogenic substances or substances with long-lasting negative effects on water
- Avoidance of substances that are damaging to health and the environment e.g. via
  - » Stringent limits on heavy metals
  - » Excluding alkylphenol ethoxylates (APEO), as well as perfluorinated and polyfluorinated chemicals (PFC) and oximes
  - » Strict regulation of softening agents (phthalates and organophosphates)
  - » Limiting the use of preservatives. If the defined limits are exceeded, extensive tests are required to verify the need for these higher amounts (Biotest)
- Strict limits on volatile organic compounds (VOC) verified using a calculation formula, as well as strict limits on semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOC) verified using measurements; emission testing of the final product as an alternative
- The provision of information for the protection of consumers and the environment on the container and the technical data sheet

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### 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](mailto: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 31/12/2027. 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 <https://www.blauer-engel.de/contribution-scheme>.

More Information: [www.blauer-engel.de/en](http://www.blauer-engel.de/en)

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