

The Blue Angel for Vacuum Cleaners (DE-UZ 188)



Information for manufacturers and the retail trade

www.blauer-engel.de/en/uz188

- recyclable and easy-to-repair design
- high dust retention
- low energy consumption

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 Vacuum Cleaners to demonstrate to customers that you

- protect the climate by producing appliances with low energy consumption.
- reduce waste by developing products with a durable and recycling-friendly design.
- conserve resources by ensuring that plastic parts contain 30% post-consumer recycled materials.
- avoid the use of materials that are damaging to the environment and health.

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Vacuum cleaners from A to Z

The Blue Angel certifies vacuum cleaners for commercial and household use, as well as cordless hand-held and floor vacuum cleaners if they are designed for floor cleaning. The Blue Angel cannot be used to certify, for example, robot vacuum cleaners, industrial vacuum cleaners and wet vacuum cleaners.

Lower energy consumption, recyclable and easy-to-repair design

There are around 39 million vacuum cleaners in German households and these appliances consume around 3.4 billion kilowatt hours of electricity per year in total. The electricity costs during an 8-year service life are sometimes higher than the purchase price. Electricity consumption can be reduced by improving the efficiency of the appliances. However, consumers are no longer able to use the energy efficiency class for guidance when making a purchase because there has been no EU energy label for vacuum cleaners since 2019. The difference in the effectiveness of the various models, especially in the case of cordless hand-held and floor vacuum cleaners, is very high in some cases. The Blue Angel environmental label for vacuum cleaners can provide guidance by placing a particular emphasis on climate protection, a reduction in energy consumption, the avoidance of pollutants and waste, and recycling.

Criteria: What requirements does the Blue Angel place on vacuum cleaners?

- Reducing energy consumption by limiting the rated input power and the annual energy consumption.
- Ensuring that the appliances have a good fitness for use by imposing dust pick up requirements.
- Helping to protect human health by limiting dust emissions.
- Limiting noise emissions and motion resistance.
- Avoiding substances that are damaging to health and the environment by excluding the use of carcinogenic, mutagenic and toxic substances, as well as those substances of very high concern, in plastics.
- Easy-to-maintain and recyclable design and the use of post-consumer recycled materials in plastic parts.
- Requirements for the durability of the appliances and the provision of spare parts.

Compliance verifications

Compliance with all requirements must be verified in accordance with the Basic Award Criteria – e.g. in the form of test reports 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, 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 31/12/2025. 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 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

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