

The Blue Angel for low-emission internal plasters (DE-UZ 198)



Information for manufacturers and the retail trade

www.blauer-engel.de/de/uz198

- low emission
- 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 Internal Plasters to demonstrate to customers that you

- carried out emission- and odour tests in independent laboratories,
- produce products made from raw materials and substances that place less burden on the environment,
- produce products that do not contain any substances that could have significant detrimental effects during the intended use of the product.

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Internal plasters from A to Z...

The Blue Angel certifies different types of internal plasters such as solvent-free pasty plasters, masonry mortar, earth plasters and structural wall paints.

Tested for pollutants and environmentally friendly

Internal plasters are used as large-surface coating materials for interior ceilings and walls. Due to their large-scale application, the emissions from the internal plasters into the indoor air should be kept as low as possible from an environmental and health perspective. The Environmental Label Jury established new criteria for internal plasters at its meeting in December 2018. The most important new requirement is that internal plasters with the Blue Angel are no longer permitted to use preservatives containing biocidal substances. In particular, this is designed to protect those people who are

allergic to preservatives. The environmental label places requirements on the raw materials and substances added during production, as well as on the usage phase and disposal of the containers and any residual product left in the container. In addition, proper application of the products is also important. As emissions are often associated with odours, which can also have an impact on health, sensory tests are an important element for the evaluation of various products for use indoors. Therefore, these Basic Award Criteria include the verification of low odour emissions as an optional requirement.

Criteria: What does the Blue Angel for internal plasters take into consideration?

- Strict requirements on emissions into indoor air
 - 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
 - » Strict regulation of pigments
 - » Excluding alkylphenol ethoxylates, as well as perfluorinated and polyfluorinated chemicals
 - » Limits on emissions and waste during the production of titanium oxide pigments
 - » Strict regulation of softening agents (phthalates and organophosphates) and preservatives
 - Good fitness for use
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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, 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, 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

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