

# Blue Angel (Blauer Engel)

## Overview

trade mark(s)	
Website	www.blauer-engel.de
Name of the quality mark	<p>The Blue Angel is not a registered trademark in the usual sense, but is classified as an information tool for climate-friendly products. The United Nations owns the conference symbol used in the Blue Angel. The state is the national sign holder.</p> <p>„<b>Blue Angel Climate</b>“ is awarded to products that save energy during use (electrical appliances, lamps, etc.). „<b>Blue Angel Water</b>“ is awarded to products that save water during use (e.g., water-saving toilet flushes). „<b>Blue Angel Resources</b>“ is awarded to products that have saved resources as a product, for example: by using recycled materials (such as waste paper or recycled plastics). „<b>Blue Angel Environment and Health</b>“ will be used for products that are low in emissions with respect to certain hazardous substances (focus: formaldehyde, VOC, plasticizers, and compliance with the European requirements in the subject area is checked).</p>
geographical scope	up to now Germany
International headq.	no
national headquart.	Sankt Augustin
structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ministry of the Environment is sign authorized.</li> <li>• Federal Environmental Agency and RAL gGmbH accept applications.</li> <li>• Jury Umweltzeichen reviews the applications.</li> <li>• RAL gGmbH awards the Blue Angel</li> </ul>
aim	Award for sustainable products
motto	Information tool about more environmentally friendly and healthy products
founding	Founded in 1978; Age of organization: 38 years; Country of establishment: Germany, the world's oldest environmental label, is awarded for products and services.
particularity	In the field of colors and coatings, the Blue Angel has arrived today in DIY stores.
certificate types	Each product gets its own certificate and possibly its own standard with a RAL-UZ number
standards	<p>Own standards for each product group (see blau-engel.de).</p> <p>RAL Product Group Standards Status at the beginning of 2017: 124 RAL-UZ Standards, of which 2016 expired: 11. Current RAL-UZ Standards: 113</p>
criteria	very complex see individual certificate types
decision	<p>The following institutions are currently involved in the standard setting process: Sign holder: Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety. The German federal environmental agency examines new applications and submits them to the jury after examination and evaluation. The jury Umweltzeichen („Jury UZ“), the independent decision-making body with representatives from environmental and consumer associations, trade unions, industry, commerce, craft, municipalities, science, media, churches and federal states, has the last word in the award procedure and makes the actual award decision. The jury decides for which product groups and service areas the Blue Angel should be awarded. In addition, it discusses and adopts the respective award criteria, which are developed by the Federal Environment Agency. The jury members are free and impartial, the membership is honorary.</p>
certification	<p>RAL gGmbH. The only certification body / awarding authority for the Blue Angel and the European ecolabel in Germany is the RAL Farben und Umweltzeichen gGmbH (it also awards the Stiftung Warentest Logo-Licenses). Chairman and CEO: Rüdiger Wollmann. Certification organizations generally have no status of charitable status. RAL gGmbH is a non-profit organization due to the business of RAL Farben, which still accounts for the majority of revenues and business aspects.</p>
costs	320 - 10.500 €/year

product groups	
product groups	<p><b>Various product groups mainly electrical appliances as well as paints and varnishes.</b></p> <p><b>Examples</b> (as of end 2018):</p> <p><u>Blue angel for office furniture</u></p> <p>Products in the field of „upholstered furniture“ (ges 73 pr.) And „wood furniture“ (total 67 pr.). (1) Upholstered furniture suitable for office: 49 products, 9 manufacturers / distributors, v.a. Swivel chairs. (2) Wooden furniture for office supplies: 32 products, 12 manufacturers / distributors (total 67 pr.). The office furniture in the field of „wooden furniture“ is predominantly furniture made of panel materials (for example chipboards) with melamine, HPL or veneer coatings.</p> <p>RAL award criteria: RAL-UZ 38 (valid from 2013 to 2019), RAL-UZ 117 (2008 - 2018). The award criteria apply to low-emission furniture and slatted frames made of wood, wood-based materials, floor coverings, panels and doors made of wood and wood-based materials. The aim is to limit the indoor air pollution through outgassing substances. After 28 days, limits for volatile organic compounds (VOC) and formaldehyde are set. Excluded are halogenated organic binders and flame retardants as well as biocides and substances of concern in the REACH candidate list. Half of the wood from sustainably managed forests.</p> <p><u>Blue angel for wall coverings</u></p> <p>(1) wall colors:&gt; 230 products. (2) wallpapers:&gt; 90 products. (3) Interior plasters: 2 products. (4) Wood panels for wall and ceiling: 9 products, 3 manufacturers.</p> <p>RAL Basic Criteria: RAL-UZ 12a (valid from 2011 to 2017), RAL-UZ 102 (2015 - 2019), RAL-UZ 198 (2015 - 2019), RAL-UZ 35 (2014 - 2018). Among the pollutants, the Blue Angel focuses primarily on formaldehyde, plasticizers, preservatives and VOCs. The specifications for the European hazardous substances must be observed. For wallpaper, a waste paper content of at least 60% and 80% is required for rape fiber wallpaper.</p> <p><u>Blue angel for flooring:</u></p> <p>(1) NaWaRo: v.a. Laminate, 2-3-layer engineered flooring, (+ cork): 143 products, 61 manufacturers, dealers from all over Europe, Russia, Taiwan, Shanghai, Turkey, Africa, Japan, Slovenia. (2) Textile coverings v.a. Plastics: 137 products, 67 manufacturers, worldwide.</p> <p>RAL Basic Criteria: RAL-UZ 120 (valid from 2011 to 2016), RAL-UZ 128 (2011 - 2016), RAL-UZ 128 (2016 - 2019), RAL-UZ 113 (2011 - 2019), RAL-UZ 156 (2011 - 2019), RAL-UZ 176 (2012 - 2019). The Blue Angel distinguishes above all textile floor coverings, it is tested for formaldehyde, plasticizers, volatile VOCs and odors. For wooden floor coverings (especially in the coatings), pollutants and especially formaldehyde are tested here.</p> <p><u>Blue angel for windows and doors</u></p> <p>Doors (affects door elements, frames, no ready-made doors): 6 products, 1 manufacturer. Under the keyword windows (121 hits) are mainly paints and other treatment substances.</p> <p>RAL award criteria: RAL-UZ 176 (2012 - 2019).</p> <p><u>Blue angel for lighting and bulbs</u></p> <p>(1) LED lamp: 1 product</p> <p>RAL Award Criteria: RAL-UZ 151 (2014 - 2017).</p> <p><u>Blue Angel for Electronics &amp; Green IT</u></p> <p>(1) Computer: 33 products, 4 manufacturers. (2) Keyboards: 9 products, 2 manufacturers. (3) Monitors: 1 products, 1 manufacturer. (4) Mobile phones: s. Cordless phones. (5) Beamer: 1 products, 1 manufacturer. (6) Schurlostelefone: 8 products, 1 provider (telecom). (7) Voice over IP: 7 products, 1 manufacturer. (8) Router: - Products, - Manufacturers. (9) Printers: 1,202 products, 17 manufacturers / distributors. (10) Telephone systems: 4 products, 2 manufacturers. (11) Video conferencing systems: - Products, - Manufacturers. RAL Basic Criteria: RAL-UZ 78a (valid from 2014 to 2017), RAL-UZ 78b (2014 - 2017), RAL-UZ 78 (2014 - 2017), RAL-UZ 106 (2013 - 2017), RAL-UZ 127 (2014 - 2017), RAL-UZ 131 (2014 - 2017), RAL-UZ 150 (2010 - 2020), RAL-UZ 160 (2014 - 2017), RAL-UZ 161 (2015 - 2018), RAL-UZ 171 (2012 - 2017), RAL-UZ 183 (2013 - 2019), RAL-UZ 191 (2013 - 2017).</p>
<b>Select the correct Blue Angel for the respective purchase</b>	
Blue Angel Health	<p>RAL-UZ standards in the field „Protecting the environment and health“: <b>34</b>.</p> <p>Main topic of certification: Formaldehyde and VOC levels below the legal limits. Validity of standards between 2 and 12 years. 2 of them in the topic of wood:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RAL-UZ 38 „Low-emission furniture and slatted frames made of wood and wood-based materials“</li> <li>• RAL-UZ 117 „Low Emission Upholstered Furniture“</li> </ul>

Blue Angel Resources	RAL-UZ standards in the field „Protects resources“: <b>20</b> . Main topic of certification: recycled paper. Validity between 2 and 12 years). 5 of them in the topic-rim recycled paper: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RAL-UZ 5 „Hygiene papers from waste paper“ ,</li> <li>• RAL-UZ 14 „Recycled Paper“ ,</li> <li>• RAL-UZ 56 „recycled cardboard“ ,</li> <li>• RAL-UZ 72 „Printing and press papers mainly from waste paper“ ,</li> <li>• RAL-UZ 195 „Printed matter (January 2015 issue)“</li> </ul>
Blue Angel Water	RAL-UZ standards in the field „Protects“ Protects the water „: <b>10</b> . Main topic of certification: Water-saving techniques and water-conserving chemicals. Validity between 4 and 12 years. 0 in the field of wood.
Blue Angel Climate	RAL-UZ standards in the field „Protecting the climate“: <b>49</b> . Main topic of certification: energy-saving electrical appliances, lamps and machines in use. Validity between 2 and 10 years. 1 of them in the field of wood: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RAL-UZ 153 „Technically dried woodchips / wood pellets“</li> </ul>
Note on the wood raw materials	Extracts from the standard RAL-ZU 176 (*) for wood products show that the Blue Angel here is absolutely EU compliant and correct. But that not all wood in the wood products of the RAL-ZU 176 from sustainable forestry (eg proven by the origin from Germany or Europe or the presentation of FM certificates according to FSC, PEFC) must come, but only 50%, is nevertheless with many origins (so) worth considering. Especially with origins outside of Germany or Europe with mostly strict forest laws is to be considered that it defies EU timber trade regulations (which according to their own understanding is only intended to minimize the risk that wood is imported into the EU from robbery), it can occur in some cases, that such introduced timber comes from overexploitation (see the report Green Carbon - Black Trade by UNEP and Interpol, 2012).  (*) Quotation from the RAL-ZU 176: 3.1.1.1 Timber origin. It must be ensured that all processed wood comes from legal sources. In addition, at least 50% of the wood or 50% of the primary raw materials for wood-based materials must come from sustainably managed forests, which are proven to be economically viable, environmentally sound and socially responsible. Proof. The applicant declares proof of legality of the wood sources according to EU Regulation 995/20101. The following options may be used to demonstrate the use of wood from sustainable forestry: (a) In the event that the applicant himself is certified to the FSC or PEFC closed-loop (CoC) criteria, he / she will submit the certificate. In this case, no further evidence is required. (b) If the applicant himself is not certified, he will submit suitable certificates from his supplier of raw materials. The certificates are recognized by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and the PEFC (Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification Schemes), which demonstrate sustainable forest management and a closed product chain (CoC). It is necessary to provide a balance sheet of the timbers used, showing the proportion of certified wood used (Annex 2 to the contract according to RAL-UZ 38). (c) The applicant shall provide other appropriate evidence in accordance with Annex 1 (Appendix 3 to the RAL-UZ 38 contract). The annex can be extended upon application and examination by the Federal Environmental Agency. It is necessary to provide a balance sheet of the timbers used, showing the proportion of certified wood used (Annex 2 to the contract according to RAL-UZ 38).
Note to the Blue Angel guidelines on formaldehyde and VOC in wood furniture.	Wooden furniture in the office area, which are listed with the Blue Angel, are mainly plate furniture (chipboard) coated with melamine, HPL and veneers. The coatings (stains, primers, clearcoats, topcoats, foils, decorative papers, adhesives) must comply with the European requirements for substances hazardous to health (this is documented by submitting explanations from the coating material manufacturers and submission of technical data sheets for the products). The concentrations in indoor air are subject to the following limit values: (in the following only 28-day value = continuous load): TVOC: <= 0.3 mg / m3, TSVOC <= 0.1 mg / m3, carcinogenic substances <= 1 µg / m3 (single value), VOC without NIK <= 0.1 mg / m3, formaldehyde <= 0.05 ppm, ammonia 0.1 mg / m3. Formaldehyde is now classified as a carcinogen in the CLP regulation (REACH). All products manufactured in the EU must comply with a limit value of <0.1% formaldehyde since 2016 or declare this on / for the product at higher values. For (chipboard) wood panels (for example for furniture) four emission classes are given today: E0: (chipboard) without formaldehyde; E1: Formaldehyde <0.1 ppm. E2: formaldehyde 0.1-1.0 ppm, E3: formaldehyde > 1.0 ppm.

	<p>Most plates from German or European manufacturers already have the class E0 or E1 and thus comply with the CPL specifications. Nevertheless you should always ask the class E0. For imported products, you should ask for this or these products should definitely have the Blue Angel. But remember, formaldehyde is not only found in chipboard, but in many products containing glues or coatings, including textiles, plastics, insulation materials, etc. so that the formaldehyde content of a room can be increased by various products.</p> <p>This is another reason why the Blue Angel demands these limits in other non-wood products with the Blue Angel Environment and Health. Also in daily use pay attention to products containing formaldehyde such as Preservatives, disinfectants or cleaners (even cosmetics and detergents etc. by 2016). More information about formaldehydes: see leaflet formaldehyde. The AgBB evaluation scheme of the UBA for VOC emissions from construction products was last adjusted in February 2015 and specifies the following 28-day limit values: TVOC 1 mg / m<sup>3</sup>, TSVOC ≤ 0.1 mg / m<sup>3</sup>, VOC or NIK ≤ 0.1 mg / m<sup>3</sup>. That means in the field of TVOC, the Blue Angel gives in a positive sense here stricter values than usual and is therefore to be preferred. Nevertheless, it should be noted for information that the TVOC gives the sum value of the VOC in the room air. In one room, however, almost all materials emit VOC, including both biogenic and artificial VOCs. Most importantly, it is the emissions of highly toxic artificial VOCs, e.g. to exclude benzene. Again, many artificial highly toxic VOCs are regulated in the Europe in the CLP regulation. The origin of products is therefore not irrelevant here. More information about VOC: see leaflet VOC.</p>
<p>Note on the validity of standards in the field of electronics</p>	<p>The Blue Angel applies to all products that apply for the label, ie European as well as non-European products. The label is not a proof of origin for organic products from the EU. It is advantageous that the Blue Angel automatically integrates many existing EU regulations and thus also reflects the current state of legislation and standardization or existing guidelines. The problem is the long validity of many standards. Today, development in certain fields (especially IT and electronics) is so rapid that extreme changes happen every year. A standard that is longer than 2 years is completely obsolete in this field today at the latest at the end of the term. For procurers, it therefore always makes sense to include the current state of the art in the procurement considerations. Acquirers could generally demand the efficiency category A from the Blue Angel for electrical appliances, which in any case always reflects or outperforms the current state of the art. However, this must be additionally demanded, because this is not apparent on the label itself.</p>