

CATALOGUE OF LABELS



Certification offers objective proof that the product or service purchased or delivered presents a set of characteristics defined in a standard or a benchmark document, and that the product is controlled and checked on a regular basis. This means buyers, users and consumers of certified products or services are provided a guaranteed level of quality, in the broadest sense of the word.

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00. INTRODUCTION

a. Grow2Build

Grow2Build works on the transition of the North West European economy from an oil based economy towards a biobased economy. Specific focus is put on the integration of local sustainable cultivation of resources in this future oriented economy. Grow2Build focuses specific on hemp and flax based building materials: Grow2Build wants to tackle the remaining bottlenecks through the whole product chain (production and supply) of hemp and flax based bio-building materials as well as in the marketing of those products so that this bio-economical business can develop in a sustainable and profitable way within the NWE region.



b. Relevance of labels

Within the Grow2Build-project we want to increase the confidence in and the use of the existing labels for eco building materials. To distinguish one product from another, companies use labels. The consumer demand for hemp and flax based building products could increase when products carry a quality label. However, the numerous existing labels for building materials makes it difficult for the consumer to know what the criteria of each label are and what the level of quality of the product is. With this catalogue of all existing labels with their specific criteria we want to inform architects and building contractors as well as building owners and do-it-yourselfers.

In recent years, labels have become a talking point in the building sector. Building products manufacturers throughout Europe work together with governments and scientists to implement EPD's (Environmental Product Declarations). These EPD's display environmental impacts in a numerical and scientific way, based on LCA (Life Cycle Analysis). But an EPD does not benchmark, has got no thresholds nor specific minimum values. It just displays numbers. So having an EPD for a certain product does not mean at all that this specific product has got an environmental benefit or low impacts. It might even be that the EPD-numbers display very heavy impacts. But a non-scientific reader would not be able to detect that from the numbers. That is why labels (with severe criteria, thresholds, and a trustworthy controlling system) still remain a necessary decision tool.

c. Types of labels

There are 3 different types of labels.

Type III labels are voluntary programs that provide quantified environmental data of a product, under pre-set categories of parameters, set by a qualified third party and based on life cycle assessment, and verified by that or another qualified third party. EPD's are type III environmental data. *They are not further considered in this paper.*

Type II labels are informative environmental self-declaration claims. So there is no obligatory external control mechanism involved. Mostly Type II labels are issued by producers (or resellers) on themselves. They do not really have an objective value for consumers, architects, craftsmen etc. *They are not further considered in this paper.*

Type I labels are voluntary, multiple-criteria based, third party programs that award a license that authorizes the use of environmental labels on products indicating overall environmental preferability of a product within a particular product category based on life cycle considerations, and with well defined thresholds and values within each criteria. These labels can be issued by an official body (e.g. European Ecolabel, Blaue Engel) or by a private multiple stakeholder organization (e.g. FSC, PEFC, natureplus).

This paper presents some of the most relevant Type I product labels and certification schemes for buildings. For building products, only few can be called 'international': European Ecolabel, natureplus, FSC and PEFC.

d. Content of catalogue

This catalogue is split into 4 different categories. The labels are divided, based on their criteria on technical, building, product and organic/agriculture level.

- On technical level, there is a short description of the label, followed by all contact data.
- On building and product level, there is a short description of the label, followed by a table of different criteria and all contact data.
- On organic/agriculture level, there is a short description of the label, followed by all contact data.

01. TECHNICAL LEVEL

a. CE-mark (EU)

A product with the CE marking indicates that it complies with the European requirements on safety, health and environmental protection requirements. European guidelines provide a list of the requirements. By putting this label on a product, the producer affirms that it meets the standards of European legislation. Within the European Union the use of the CE marking is already required for a whole list of products, such as:



- Toys
- Machines
- Electric products
- Medical devices
- Products which emit electromagnetic radiation or can be influenced thereby
- ...

The CE marking is not a quality brand and it doesn't guarantee the manufacturer will replace the product if it's breaking down shortly after purchase. Customers can, in addition to the CE marking, still require additional warranty. The mark is obligatory if there exists a harmonized standard for the product. The manufacturer can put a CE marking on his product if he has a European Technical Assessment or an ETA. In most cases, the manufacturer may, if he followed the harmonized standards and if this can be proved by a technical dossier, affixing the CE marking itself without control of a notified body. If the manufacturer has no harmonized standards to follow (or these do not or only partially exist), he needs to get a notified body to check whether the product meets the essential safety requirements.

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b. ETA or European Technical Approval (EU)

The European Organisation for Technical Approvals (EOTA) is an international non-profit association. The primary purpose is the drafting of European Technical Approval Guidelines (ETAG) and approving European Technical Approvals (ETA). ETAs are "a favorable technical assessment of its fitness for an intended use", and are designed to reduce technical barriers in the construction products sector throughout Europe. Once a building product has an ETA certificate, it can display the CE mark and the product can be sold throughout Europe.



The European Technical Assessment (ETA) is a document which provides information on the assessment of the performance of a construction product, in relation to its essential characteristics. An ETA contains the following information:

- General information on the manufacturer and the product type
- Description of the product and its intended use
- Performances of the product and references to the methods used for its assessment
- Assessment and Verification of Constancy of Performance systems (AVCP) applied
- Technical details necessary for the implementation of the AVCP

In order to be lawfully placed on the market in the EEA countries (European Economic Area), it is necessary that a product complies with European harmonized standards. However, these do not exist for all products, especially not for all innovative (e.g. biobased) or new construction materials. Hence the development of ETAs.

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c. BENOR-merk (BE)

BENOR points out that a product suffices to the Belgian standard and potentially to a technical regulation (PTV). The standard is especially for traditional building materials such as steel, concrete, tile, brick, floor tiles and derived concrete products, indicated by the abbreviation NBN. A manufacturer who wants a BENOR-mark, should regularly run an external control. That requires a solid internal control of the company and that's something not all companies can afford. Therefore materials who haven't the BENOR-mark aren't necessarily inferior.



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d. ATG-label (BE)

The technical approval (ATG) provides technical advice, including a description and technical characteristics. ATG is a favourable assessment of a given construction product from a single manufacturer for a particular application. This should allow the user to control the conformity of the products delivered to the site. ATG's are delivered to products for which no product standards exist. It is therefore mainly used for systems, innovative products and products that consist of multiple components. An ATG is in principle delivered on the basis of an approval guideline. Such guidance is prepared by experts of the Belgian Union for Technical Approval in Construction (BUtgb) and forms a basis of assessment for construction materials.



This is often combined with a certification. It means it's mandated by the UBAtc certification body, with a fixed frequency, supervises external over the conformity of the production with the published approval. This test or control is described in a convention drawn up by the provision of the ATG. This agreement sets out how the manufacturer organise his own inspection of the production and which external tests will be carried out here. An ATG is valid for a period of three years, provided that the certification does not give rise to cancellation or suspension.

It is often used by Belgian public tenderers in order to ensure a certified level of quality.

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e. COPRO-label en QUAREA-merk (BE)

The COPRO label and the QUAREA-brand are quality tests for the granules. They are submitted by vzw COPRO and Certipro. The labels have a legal status that fits in the environment-hygiene framework. It aims to protect the environment against possible contamination by the use of secondary raw materials.



The certification wishes to promote the quality and the responsible use of recycled aggregates in various building projects. COPRO is a non-partisan agency responsible for the control of construction products. Granules that wear the COPRO guarantee label are therefore environmentally friendly (because it is recycled construction debris) and at the same time quality guaranteed (according to the defined quality requirements).

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f. DIN (Deutsche Industriële Norm) (DE)

The remit of DIN (Deutsches Institut für Normung) German Institute for Standardization is to encourage, organize, steer and moderate standardization and specification activities in systematic and transparent procedures for the benefit of society as a whole, while safeguarding the public interest. The results of DIN's work serve to advance innovation, safety and communication among industry, research organizations, the public sector and society as a whole, and to support quality assurance, rationalization, occupational health and safety, and environmental and consumer protection. DIN publishes its work results and promotes the implementation of these results. Some 30,000 experts contribute their skills and experience to the standardization process which is managed and coordinated by the DIN staff of around 400. By agreement with the German Federal Government, DIN is the acknowledged national standards body that represents German interests in European and international standards organizations. Ninety percent of the standards work now carried out by DIN is international in nature. A registered non-profit association, DIN has been based in Berlin since 1917.



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g. AFNOR (FR)

AFNOR Certification is a certification and system, service, product and competency assessment body in France. The Certification handles two quality marks on the market: AFAQ and NF. Its aim is to lead and coordinate the standards development process and to promote the application of those standards. AFNOR cooperates with the 25 standards bureaus and the other professional bodies in developing a set of standards that meet their strategic objectives. AFNOR has developed a variety of deliverables which, ranging from the distribution of standards to certification, including training, helps in a practical way to integrate standards into the company's development.



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h. KOMO-keurmerk (NE)

The KOMO certificate focuses on the quality of products, processes and management for construction products, building elements and building materials. The KOMO certificate gives the assurance that, where applicable, product and service meet the performance requirements of the building Act, the Decree on soil quality and the quality requirements of the market.



The certificate is conducted by producers of construction products, building elements and building materials. For the completion and installation sector there are the specific derived brands 'KOMO afbouw' and 'KOMO Instal'. Also service providers in the construction, such as the EPA (energy performance advisors), carry the KOMO-mark for giving customization or opinions.

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i. NEN (NE)

The Dutch Normalisation Institute (Nederlands Normalisatie Instituut) is publishing Dutch norms NEN (abbreviation of NEderlandse Norm), including building regulation norms. They give information on Building regulation (bouwbesluit 2012) with NEN norms for constructive safety, fire safety construction physics, etc. They organise training programs and education. NEN guides and stimulate the development of standards. As a neutral party NEN identifies which standards are needed and brings stakeholders together to finance and develop standards. Both within the sector and on national, European and global level.

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02. BUILDING LEVEL

a. Passive house certificate

PassivHaus is a certification for super-energy efficient buildings meeting the code developed by the PassivHaus Institute in Germany.

A Passive House is a very well-insulated, virtually air-tight building that is primarily heated by passive solar gain and by internal gains from people, electrical equipment, etc. Energy losses are minimized. Any remaining heat demand is provided by an extremely small source. Avoidance of heat gain through shading and window orientation also helps to limit any cooling load, which is similarly minimized. An energy recovery ventilator provides a constant, balanced fresh air supply. The result is an impressive system that not only saves up to 90% of space heating costs, but also provides a uniquely terrific indoor air quality.

Each residential building project who claims the passive house certificate will be checked with an evaluation tool. This tool consists of a number of certification criteria which are calculated and measured based on specific boundary conditions. Passive house certificates can be applied in different countries by the passive house institutes.

 **PassiefBouwenKeur**



Criteria

Social criteria	No
Environmental criteria	1. net energy requirement for heating $\leq 15 \text{ kWh/m}^2 \text{ year}$ (obv PHPP calculation) 2. air tightness $n_{50} \leq 0.6 \text{ h}^{-1}$ (based on an air density measurement) 3. thermal transmittance above $25 \text{ }^\circ\text{C} \leq 5\%$ (obv PHPP calculation)
Economic criteria	No
End product quality criteria	No
Criteria health of consumer	No
Customers communication criteria	No
Criteria available on website	Yes http://www.passiefhuisplatform.be/certificatie

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b. Valideo (BE)

The goal of Valideo is to improve the quality, comfort and social & environmental impact of a building and the expertise of an organization in these fields. Valideo is a voluntary sustainable construction certification system. The certification covers:

- buildings: new builds or refurbishments
- the capabilities of organizations to design and construct sustainable buildings



Valideo is designed to provide a tangible return over the long-term for both the occupant and the owner. It offers a global approach to construction; from design to re-allocation, making it unique in the world of certification of Sustainable Construction.

Criteria

Social criteria	For persons with reduced mobility, the accessibility of the building is put under attention.
Environmental criteria	The label contains criteria on the use of renewable energy, treatment and use of water, soil pollution, impact on biodiversity, choice of materials, waste sorting and the management of the construction site.
Economic criteria	No

End product quality criteria	There are several criteria about visual and acoustic comfort. Flexibility in use is also taken into account.
Criteria health of consumer	The well-being and health of the consumers is put under attention, by judging the optimization of the temperature and humidity. There are also criteria for air quality and electromagnetic radiation.
Customers communication criteria	No
Criteria available on website	Yes: http://www.valideo.org/Public/valideo_menu.php?ID=8653

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C. BREEAM

BREEAM sets the standard for best practice in sustainable building design, construction and operation. It has become one of the most comprehensive and widely recognised measures of a building's environmental performance. Breeam is used as a basis for similar systems in the Netherlands, Belgium and France. It encourages designers, clients and others to think about low carbon and low impact design, minimising the energy demands created by a building before considering energy efficiency and low carbon technologies.



A certificated BREEAM assessment is delivered by a licensed organisation, using assessors trained under a UKAS accredited competent person scheme, at various stages in a buildings life cycle. This provides clients, developers, designers and others with:

- market recognition for low environmental impact buildings,
- confidence that tried and tested environmental practice is incorporated in the building,
- inspiration to find innovative solutions that minimise the environmental impact,
- a benchmark that is higher than regulation,
- a system to help reduce running costs, improve working and living environments,
- a standard that demonstrates progress towards corporate and organisational environmental objectives.

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d. DGNB (DE)

The DGNB (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Nachhaltiges Bauen e. V) or the German Sustainable Building Council is a non-profit and non-governmental organization whose mission is to develop and promote ways and solutions for sustainable design, construction and management of buildings.



The main task of the DGNB is awarding certificates for sustainable buildings. When assessing a building, a total of six areas must be considered when planning and constructing a sustainable building:

- Ecological quality
- Economic quality
- Socio-cultural quality
- Technical quality
- Process quality
- Site quality

Each topic includes specific criteria to be fulfilled, depending on the system used (and depending on the building type - new or refurbishment). The sooner these criteria are taken into account in the planning phase, the more consistent the quality of the structure.

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e. GPR Gebouw (NE)

The Municipal Practice Guideline for sustainable building (GPR) scans a building on 5 categories: energy, environment, health, easy quality and future value. As result, there's a report for each category rating: a rating on a scale of 1 to 10. At a rating of 6, the building is conform the requirements. The result of GPR building is a sustainability label and a CO₂ monitor. The measurement is nationally recognized by national institutions and policy-making organizations. The method is included in current guidelines for sustainable procurement by the national Government. GPR building can be used for new buildings and for existing houses, schools and offices.



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f. GreenCalc+ (NE)

GreenCalc is a mathematical model that can map the sustainability of a building or area and it can express the environmental performance of a building in a single number. This 'Environmental Index-Building' (MIG) indicates how durable a design is rated in the areas of material use, energy use, water use and mobility. From every aspect of the building, the environmental damage caused during its life is calculated using a life cycle method (LCA). This results in the environmental impact per aspect. These environmental taxes can be added to the total environmental impact of the building. The total environmental impact of the building is compared to that of a reference building. In the reference building, they use materials and plants which were common goods in 1990. This comparison leads to the environmental index. A current sustainable building has an environmental index that varies from 150 to 300. A building dating from 1990, has an environmental index of 100. The higher the index, the more durable the building.



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g. Groenwoning (NE)

The *Groenwoning* provides the customer certainty about the total energy behind the meter and a healthy and comfortable living environment. The *Groenwoning* label mentions the ambition level of energy and is expressed in increasing ambition levels 2008, 2009, 2010 etc. By knowledge transition before and during the construction process and by solid control measurements such as infrared technology, and measurements on crack density and ventilation capacity, the performances are assured throughout the process. This leads to a house that is actually healthier, more comfortable and energy efficient. The *Groenwoning* 2008 has an ambition for an additional savings of 3000kWh primary energy in the energy meter. That can be both building and non-building-related measures.



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h. Zonnewoning (NE)

A *Zonnewoning* (Solar Home) is a certified housing concept for new buildings that combines comfort with the use of sustainable materials and energy efficient technologies. A solar home has a certificate, which guarantees that it meets a number of clear quality and sustainability requirements.

- The house is well insulated and the EP coefficient is at least 15% lower than stated in the finger-using building codes.
- Application of at least two of the following four forms of sustainable energy: solar, grid connected PV, passive solar energy, heat pump.
- Application of the National Dubo package (green financing requirements).
- Sufficient (structural) measures to prevent overheating in the summer.
- Optimal use of daylight.
- Use of FSC certified wood.
- Drawing up a residents instruction.

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i. Klimaatwoning (NE)

The Certificate *Klimaatwoning* (Climate House) is an inspection certificate that is intended for existing homes. Houses qualify for the Certificate 'Climate House' if they meet a strong and balanced package of demands in the field of energy, comfort and health:

1. The property has a better energy level than required by law. More precisely, the house has an energy index less than 0.9 according to the provisional classification of SenterNovem, which was created in preparation for the introduction of the European directive on the energy certification of existing homes.
2. The property is fully compliant with a set of 'Basic Requirements' in the field of energy, comfort and health.
3. In addition to the 'Basic Requirements', the house must meet a minimum selection of 'Elective Requirements' in the field of energy, comfort and health according to a fixed point system. The general requirement for the application of 'Elective Requirements' is that at least 100 points are to be obtained to a total number of 300. Also, for each category, at least 20 points have to be obtained to a total of 100:
 - The Energy category includes renewable energy options such as solar heater and heat pump and energy-efficient equipment such as an HR-boiler.
 - The Comfort category contains options in the field of thermal comfort and options to prevent overheating.

- The Health category includes options in the field of air quality, such as heat recovery and noise reduction measures.

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03. PRODUCT LEVEL

a. OK Compost – OK Biobased – OK Biodegradable (BE)

OK Compost

The label indicates that the packaging or the product is suitable to be composted. It will degrade within 6 months and does no damage to the quality of the compost.

The administrator of the label is Vinçotte, a service company in the field of certifications and inspections for both private and industrial market. It is an inspection body recognised by various federal government departments. They carry out controls to obtain the official certificates.



Ok Biobased

The label indicates the percentage of the product that is made from renewable resources. The number of stars on the logo refers to the renewable carbon content ("BCC": Biobased Carbon Content). Their number varies from one to 4 representing 20-40%, respectively, 40-60%, 60-80% and > 80% BCC.



Ok Biodegradable

Biodegradability in soil is a major added value for agricultural and horticultural products because they can degrade on the spot. The OK biodegradable SOIL label guarantees that the product is completely biodegradable in the soil and does not exert any negative influence on the environment.



Products certified under OK biodegradable WATER ensure biodegradation in fresh water, and contribute significantly to the reduction of waste in rivers, lakes or other fresh water. Note that this does not automatically guarantee biodegradation in seawater.



Criteria

Social criteria	No		
Environmental criteria	<p><u>OK Compost</u> After a period of 12 weeks in an industrial composting installation, the product must be able, for at least 90%, to go through a sieve of 2 on 2 mm. In addition, the material has to be degraded, for at least 90%, to water, CO₂ and minerals within a period of 6 months.</p>	<p><u>OK Biobased</u> The label indicates the percentage of renewable raw materials (BCC biobased carbon content) in the bag - 1 star means 20-40% renewable carbon, - 2 stars mean 40-60% renewable carbon - 3 stars mean 60-80% renewable carbon - 4 stars means at least 80% renewable carbon Moreover, the product must contain at least 30% organic carbon (to exclude materials such as glass and metal).</p>	<p><u>OK Biodegradable</u> Within a period of 24 months, 90% of the material has to be biodegraded.</p>

Economic criteria	No		
End product quality criteria	No		
Criteria health of consumer	No		
Customers communication criteria	No		
Criteria available on website	http://www.okcompost.be/data/pdf-document/program-ok-20n-a-ok-biobased.pdf	http://www.okcompost.be/data/pdf-document/program-ok-20n-a-ok-biobased.pdf	http://www.okcompost.be/data/pdf-document/Program_OK_10e_c_OK_biodegradable_SOIL.pdf

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 www.okcompost.be

b. NF-Environnement (FR)

The NF-Environnement mark is an official French collective certification mark. It guarantees the quality and safety of the products and services certified. The label confirms that the product corresponds to ecological criteria based on an analysis of the product life cycle. The NF mark guarantees compliance not only with current standards, but also with additional quality criteria that meet consumers' needs. It is a completely independent label that is awarded by AFNOR (Association Française de Normalisation).



Criteria

Social criteria	No
Environmental criteria	The criteria are different for each product group. The common thread in the development of environmental criteria: the environmental impact during the entire life cycle of the products is taken into account. For each product category, the environmental criteria are defined according to a global approach that makes it possible to determine the environmental impact in each stage of its life cycle. From the extraction of raw materials to the disposal phase.
Economic criteria	No
End product quality criteria	For most of the product groups, there are criteria who guarantee the quality.
Criteria health of	No

consumer	
Customers communication criteria	In the criteria of many product groups are also requirements included for labeling. Often, this relates to the manner in which the product is to be used.
Criteria available on website	Yes. http://www.marque-nf.com/pages.asp?ref=gp_reconnaitre_nf_nfenvironnement&Lang;=French
How binding are the criteria?	The criteria are the minimum standards.
Are the criteria defined after consulting all stakeholders?	Yes. NF environnement is controlled by a management committee in which all stakeholders are represented.
Are the criteria updated regularly?	Yes. The update of the criteria depends on the product category and mostly takes place after several years.
Are the criteria defined by product group?	No. There are different product groups anything from paints to furniture, cleaning products, coffee filters...
Is the origin of the product taken in consideration?	no
Are the criteria based on an investigation of the effects of all stages in the chain, from raw material to waste?	yes

Contact

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certification@afnor.org
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c. Cradle to Cradle

The cradle to cradle label is present on products that strive to be environmentally neutral. It aims 'closed loops' in production and fits in the 'circular economy'. Depending on the degree to which this endeavour is converted into actual applications (e.g. use solar energy, ban on harmful ingredients), a silver, gold or platinum label is awarded. Also social and ethical criteria are included in the specifications. The label is managed by MBDC (McDonough Braungart design chemistry) and is not remotely controlled. To get the basic label, there must be a strategy to reduce the environmental impact of the product.



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Criteria

Social criteria	No
Environmental criteria	A strategy has to be developed, to make the product and its production line as environmentally friendly as possible. This is possible by using solar energy and the use of recycled and/or compostable materials.
Economic criteria	No
End product quality criteria	No
Criteria health of consumer	All the ingredients of the product in a concentration higher than 100 ppm must be identified and screened on human toxicity.
Customers communication criteria	No
Criteria available on website	Yes

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d. Natureplus label

The natureplus label is awarded to building materials that meet three essential criteria: the fitness for use, the safety for human health and environmental safety. It is based on LCA with thresholds per environmental impact category, and on measurements of indoor emissions from the product.



Criteria

Social criteria	Each product must meet the minimum standards as required in the European standard or the equivalent standards of the country where in it is fabricated.
Environmental criteria	There are basic criteria for the share of renewable and/or mineral resources, the prohibition of environmentally harmful substances, low emissions, low energy, environmentally responsible packaging...
Economic criteria	No
End product quality criteria	The quality of the product must be ensured by means of a quality system. There must be a technical approval of the product, or the suitability for use must be clearly demonstrated.
Criteria health of consumer	Yes. There is a prohibition on health harmful substances. Therefore, they work with two tables, a general list and a specific list of banned substances which substances are included which are carcinogenic, toxic and harmful to the

	environment.
Customers communication criteria	Yes. It should be clearly stated what the processing requirements are. Also all the ingredients must be specified.
Criteria available on website	Yes

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e. Der Blaue Engel (DE)

The official German label indicates that a product is less harmful to the environment than other similar products for the main environmental aspects. The symbol itself shows why the product is less harmful to the environment and is done by an



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independent German certification body. The label may be awarded to products which are as efficient as the others within their category, but are generally more environmentally friendly, without this undermine their ease of use or their safety.

Criteria

Social criteria	No
Environmental criteria	the environmental impact during the entire life cycle of the product is taken into account, from the mining of raw materials to the waste stage.
Economic criteria	No
End product quality criteria	There are criteria for most of the product groups, who guarantee the quality of the product.
Criteria health of consumer	Environmental criteria are the point of focus for the Blaue Engel. In most cases, the environmental criteria are also favourable for the health of the consumer.
Customers communication criteria	For many product groups, there are requirements for the labelling. Often shows the label the proper use of the product.
Criteria available on website	http://www.blauer-engel.de/en/products_brands/survey_basic_award_criteria.php

Contact

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 Department III 1.3 (Ecodesign, Eco- Labelling, Environmentally Friendly Procurement)
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 www.uba.de

f. European Ecolabel (EU)

The 'flower' is the official eco-label of EU. The demands are developed by the EU Commission in co-operation with the relevant industry. Certification is done by national independent bodies. The EU Eco-label Flower labelling scheme is a voluntary system across Europe designed.



- to encourage businesses to market products and services that are kinder to the environment
- for European consumers - including public and private purchasers - to easily identify them.

Demands regarding health	Use of carcinogenic and sensitising dyes and pigments are banned Testing of textiles for selected pesticides and preservatives Maximum limit for formaldehyde Platisol printing (PVC prints) not allowed
Environmental demands	Demand for documentation of use of heavy metal free dyes and pigments Demand for wastewater treatment from wet treatment Certain detergents and softeners banned

Quality demands	Demands for maximum shrinkage Demands for colour fastness
Control	Includes audits of the company applying for the label and testing of the company's products Later control by random testing of products and by audits

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g. Oeko-Tex 100 Class II (EU)

The global standard is issued by the International Association for Research and Testing in the Field of Textile Ecology (Oeko-Tex). It is a private label developed by some key knowledge centers in the textile manufacturing business. It is an independent testing and certification system for textile products from all stages of production (fibres, yarns, fabrics, ready-to-use end products, including accessories) along the textile value chain. Demands are revised by an international association. Certification is done by national knowledge centres.



The test criteria and limit values on which Oeko-Tex testing for harmful substances is based are globally binding and are modified and expanded each year.

The test parameters include:

1. substances banned by law
2. substances regulated by law
3. substances known to be harmful to health which have not yet been explicitly regulated by law
4. parameters for safeguarding health

The control tests include

1. verification of provided documents
2. laboratory tests on provided sample materials
3. laboratory tests on items with Oeko-Tex label which are available in stores
4. laboratory tests on random product samples which are taken unannounced from certified companies
5. In addition to this, independent auditors check the production conditions in certified companies during site visits.

Criteria

Demands regarding health	Carcinogenic and sensitising dyes and pigments are banned in the final products Testing of textiles for selected pesticides and preservatives Maximum limit for formaldehyde Testing for maximum content of phthalates (from PVC) in product for babies
Environmental demands	No
Quality demands	Demands for colour fastness
Control	Includes audits of the company applying for the label and testing of the company's products Later control by random testing of products

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h. Nordic Swan (SCANDINAVIA)

The Nordic Ecolabel is the official Ecolabel of the Nordic countries (Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark en Iceland) and was established in 1989 by the Nordic Council of Ministers with the purpose of providing an environmental labelling scheme that would contribute to a sustainable consumption. It is a voluntary, positive Ecolabelling of products and services. The Nordic Ecolabel was also initiated as a practical tool for consumers to help them actively choose environmentally-sound products. It is an ISO 14024 type 1 Ecolabelling system and is a third-party control organ.



There are 63 product groups. Companies who have products within these groups and who meet the criteria requirements, can apply for a Nordic Ecolabel licence. Each Nordic country has local national offices with the responsibility for criteria development, licensing, marketing and audits.

Criteria

Social criteria	No
Environmental criteria	The criteria are different for each product group. In the development of environmental criteria, the environmental impact during the entire life cycle of the product is taken into account.
Economic criteria	No
End product quality criteria	For most product groups, there are criteria that guarantee the quality of the product.
Criteria health of consumer	Environmental criteria are central to this label. In many cases, the environmental criteria are also beneficial with regard to the health of the consumer (e.g. maximum levels of harmful substances ...)
Customers communication criteria	With the criteria of many product groups, there are requirements included for labeling. Often, this relates to the manner in which the product has to be used.
Criteria available on website	http://www.svanen.se/en/Svanenmarka/Kriterier/

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04. ORGANIC – AGRICULTURE LEVEL

a. European biolabel (EU)

The label indicates products of biological origin. The European Commission manages the official label. In organic farming, no artificial fertilizers and chemical pesticides are used. GMOs are prohibited. Attention is paid to animal welfare and environmental protection. There are no separate health criteria, but some of the environmental criteria used in organic farming, are beneficial to the health of the user. The label is controlled externally by different control bodies in the different EU member states.



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http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/index_en.htm

b. Biogarantielabel (BE)

The European label plays a useful role for the recognition of bio across Europe and beyond. The European standards for bio are thus guaranteed. Biogarantie stands for 'organic' and 'sustainable': both ecologically, economically and socially. The Biogarantie specifications describes the rules for bio in detail based on four principles: ecology, justice, care and health. The Biogarantie product provides transparent information about these factors: the origin of its products, fair trade (locally and in the south), respect for social standards and environmental impact of the company (water, energy, transport, waste and biodiversity).



Criteria

Social criteria	All food processing companies with more than 10% (by weight) of their resources from certain countries with limited social protection, must be fair trade purchases from 2/1/13.
Environmental criteria	In organic farming, no artificial fertilizers and chemical pesticides are used. Genetically modified organisms are prohibited. Attention is paid to animal welfare, environmental care and packaging.
Economic criteria	Biogarantie is based on the principle to offer organic products at a fair price to consumers and to divide the profit through the entire chain.
End product quality criteria	No
Criteria health of consumer	There are no separate health criteria, but some of the environmental criteria used in farming and criteria for processing, are beneficial to the health of the user.
Customers communication criteria	There are specific criteria for the use of the Biogarantielabel in the hotel and catering industry.
Criteria available on website	http://bioforum.bioadmin.be/sites/default/files/BIOGARANTIE%20LASTENB OEK%20NL_januari2012_version2.pdf

Extra comment	The legal basis for Biogarantielabel is Regulation 834/2007. Some areas, such as textiles or catering, are not part of the scope. Biogarantie has set standards to complete the European requirements.
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 Belgium

T: +32 3 286 92 78

F: +32 3 286 92 79

info@bioforum.be

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c. Certisys

Certisys is recognized inspection and certification label for products from organic farming. Thanks to the control system for organic farming, it can be ensured that products are authentic bio and one can avoid fraud.

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05. OTHERS

a. VIBE-label (BE)

The VIBE label is granted to professionals in the construction industry (architects, contractors, experts, merchants, producers...) who choose bio-ecological construction principles. They use natural building materials, energy and water-saving measures and take an efficient use of space. The label has different levels of ambition, that you recognize on the number of stars (max 3). A period of 3 months is needed before the company can be added to the "VIBE-construction partner"-list. If -at least- one fourth of the goods or services are bio-ecological, the company can request the VIBE-label.



Criteria

Social criteria	No
Environmental criteria	The VIBE label for bio-ecological construction has four features: an efficient use of space, energy and water-saving and the choice of environmental friendly and healthy building materials.
Economic criteria	No
End product quality criteria	No
Criteria health of consumer	One of the objectives of the VIBE label is a healthy living environment.
Customers communication criteria	No
Criteria available on website	Yes

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b. CO2 neutraal (BE)

The label indicates that the company calculates and reduces its CO₂ emissions through CO₂ reduction projects in developing countries. Organizations who currently can't reduce their CO₂ emissions, can compensate by, for example, support the reduce of the same amount of CO₂ reduction in Africa, in order to be CO₂ neutral. This mechanism for compensation of CO₂ emissions is part of the Kyoto protocol. The label shows that the user calculates, reduces and compensates its CO₂ emissions according the "CO2logic approach' and the international PASS 2060 standard, but it asks no commitment by the company to emit less CO₂. The control is done by an independent third party.



Criteria

Social criteria	No, but some of the projects supported by CO ₂ compensation do have a social pillar.
Environmental criteria	The CO ₂ emissions of the company is compensated by means of an emissions reducing project in a developing country. To do this, they use the system of "WWF Gold Standard Foundation" and/or "Clean Development Mechanism & rd
Economic criteria	No
End product quality criteria	No
Criteria health of consumer	No
Customers communication criteria	No
Criteria available on website	Yes: http://www.co2logic.com/home.aspx/nl/bedrijven/diensten

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06. SOURCES

- www.ecolabelindex.com/ecolabels
- http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/index_en.htm
- <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/ecolabel/>
- www.afaq.org
- www.afnor.org
- www.anec.eu
- www.bioforum.be
- www.breeam.org
- www.certipro.be
- www.certisys.eu
- www.copro.eu
- www.din.de
- www.eota.eu
- www.epea.com/en/content/cradle-cradle
- www.komo.nl
- www.labelinfo.be
- www.lamaisonpassive.fr
- www.maisonpassive.be
- www.natureplus.org
- www.oeko-tex.com
- www.okcompost.be
- www.passivhaus.de
- www.uba.de
- www.usgbc.org/leed
- www.valideo.org
- www.vibe.be
- www.w-e.nl
- www.wtcb.be