natureplus e.V.

Guideline 0404

Mineral-Based Foam Insulation Boards for Internal Use

Version: Oct. 23, 2026
for the awardance of the eco-label

Introduction

The International Association for Sustainable Building and Living - natureplus association - pursues the goal of promoting sustainable building products and increasing their popularity and use. To this end, sustainability criteria for building products are defined and verified as part of regular conformity assessments at the applicant's premises.

Three comprehensive sustainability definitions are created to achieve a holistic understanding of quality.

CLIMATE PROTECTION

The climate crisis is worsening, and the consequences are becoming increasingly visible. The construction sector is one of the largest emitters, accounting for around 40% [1] of global greenhouse gas emissions. Energy-intensive manufacturing processes, long transport routes and short renovation cycles are often still characteristic of the status quo.

The natureplus certification requires manufacturers to meet limit values on CO2 emissions and primary energy consumption.

[1] UNEP, 2020, 2020 Global Status Report for Buildings and Construction, p. 4.

HEALTHY LIVING

In Western societies, we spend about 90% [2] of our lives in buildings. Pollutants emitted by building materials can accumulate in the indoor air we breathe daily, posing unnecessary health risks to occupants. The accumulation of chemical pollutants from building materials in household dust is also a cause for concern.

The natureplus certification ensures that hazardous input materials are avoided or used in quantities that are harmless to health. Emissions from building products are strictly regulated and regularly monitored.

[2] Umweltbundesamt, o.D., Ausschuss für Innenraumrichtwerte (AIR)

CONSERVATION OF RESOURCES

All construction activities have an impact on nature and the environment, with the consumption of finite resources remaining unacceptably high. The production of building materials in Germany consumes about 60% of our resources, and as much as 90% if only mineral raw materials are considered. At the same time, the construction sector is responsible for 50% of the waste generated. [3]

The natureplus certification sets out requirements for increased transparency in the supply chain, respect for human rights and the environment, and the responsible use of resources throughout the life cycle of a building product.
Sustainable materials should also be durable, reusable, or recyclable.

[3] VDI ZRE, 2019, Ressourceneffizienz im Bauwesen – Von der Planung bis zum Bauwerk, p. 5.

Notes on this product guideline:

The eco-label, the certification programme including all associated documents is the property of the non-profit natureplus® environmental organisation. The Association and its specially appointed Criteria Commission are therefore responsible for the further development of the requirements.

The label is awarded by the European cooperative natureplus Institute SCE mbH.

In the event of textual discrepancies between different language versions of a guideline, the Criteria Commission's Task Force will determine the valid wording. The affected language versions will be amended to reflect the valid wording.

In the event of conflict between the basic guidelines (50XX) and this product guideline, the product award guideline shall prevail.

For questions, criticism and suggestions, please contact:

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1 Application Areas

The following criteria contain the requirements for the awardance of the natureplus eco-label for mineral-based foam insulation boards for internal use. The awardance guideline is to be applied exclusively to those products mentioned in this guideline. Mineral-based foam insulation boards for external use are regulated in award guideline GL0405

2 Award Criteria

The prerequisite for a product to be awarded the natureplus® quality label in accordance with these guidelines is compliance with the following award guidelines:

- GL5001 Chemicals Directive

The prerequisite for a product to be awarded the natureplus quality label is compliance with the basic criteria RL-0000 and the chemicals directive RL-5001.

- GL-5003 Nature Conservation when Exploiting Mineral Resources
- GL5004 Transparency and Social Responsibility
- GL5010 Low-emission building products
- GL5020 Climate compatibility and energy efficiency

2.1 Functional Suitability

The manufacturer must declare the following building physics characteristic values:

- Water vapour diffusion resistance factor μ in accordance with EN 12086
- Water absorption under conditions of long-term immersion in accordance with EN 12087
- Water absorption under conditions of short-term partial immersion in accordance with EN 1609

The thermal nominal value at 23°C and 50% humidity as per the corresponding European standards must comply with the following requirements:

- Insulation not subject to pressure load $\lambda_{23,50} \leq 0{,}045$ W/mK
- Insulation functioning as plaster base $\lambda_{23,50} \leq 0{,}055$ W/mK
- Insulation subject to pressure load $\lambda_{23,50} \leq 0{,}065$ W/mK

All declared values, in particular the nominal values of thermal conductivity, must be tested and monitored by an accredited body.

The product must be classified as non-flammable (class A1 and A2-s1,d0 according to EN 13501).

2.2 Composition, Forbidden Substances, Substance Restrictions

The following components are permitted: building lime, sand, cement, water and pore-producing additives. The proportion of hydrophobic (water resistant/repellent) and surface treatment substances within the product must not exceed 2% of the total amount of all other components. The use of further additives must be technically justified. The product must consist of at least 97% mineral-based components based upon the dry weight of the product.

Halogenic organic compounds and polyurethane are not permitted.

The product is subject to laboratory analyses as laid down in section 3 and has to comply with the limit values stated therein.

2.3 Raw Material Sourcing, Production of Preliminary Products, Production

When using mineral raw materials, the requirements of RL-5003 " Nature conservation in the mining of mineral raw materials" must be complied with.

If quartz sand is used as an additive, the manufacturer must provide evidence that no danger was posed to the workforce from quartz dust during the production process. Relevant evidence includes: - the pneumatic insertion of the quartz sand; no permanent workplaces in areas with high dust levels; dust extraction using high-efficiency filters; controls and inspections on a rotational basis by an official/ governmental safety agency/inspectorate etc.

In production facilities outside the European Union, the applicant must demonstrate that the production facility has a hazardous substance management system for the protection of employees that meets the relevant European standards and legal regulations. This must also include information on the release of dust and compliance with the general dust limit values. Where technical or organizational measures cannot ensure compliance with general dust limit values or other workplace limit values, suitable personal protective equipment must be provided. Efforts must be made to minimize avoidable exposure of workers.

If the product contains more than 5 M% cement, the cement manufacturer must provide confirmation that the following requirements have been met:

- No raw materials have been used in the production of the cement which are classified as hazardous waste according to the directory of waste regulations (Abfallverzeichnisordnung (AVV)) or originate from areas which are classified are highly contaminated.
- The cement production equipment must meet modern standards for energy efficiency of the ovens and for the flue gas cleaning equipment.
- If waste products are also incinerated, then these waste products should be of a defined quality and not adversely affect the emission balance of the incineration process. The emissions must comply with the guideline 2000/76/EG of 4. December 2000 concerning the incineration of waste - Point II.1“Special Regulations for Cement Ovens in which Waste Products are Incinerated”

If bitumen is employed in the production of the product, the manufacturer must prove that no aerosols or dusts containing bitumen are released during the production process and occur at the work places. The total of all bitumen aerosols or fumes determined as per BIA 6305 or a comparable standard must not exceed the detection limit of 0,5 mg/m³. Evidence must be provided that the exposure to benzo[a]pyrene does not exceed 0,5 ug/m³.

2.4 Usage

The product must not exhibit any unpleasant or foreign smells or odours. The emissions during use have to be in compliance with the limit values according to section 3.

Emissions must not exceed the natureplus limits according to section 3 during the use phase. (see section 3 and RL5010)

2.5 Reuse, recycling and disposal

The products must be disposable in inert landfills in accordance with the "Decision of the EU Council of 19 December 2002 establishing criteria and procedures for the acceptance of waste at landfills pursuant to Article 16 of and Annex II to Directive 1999/31/EC".

2.6 Ecological Parameters

All products in this product group must be manufactured in such a way that the environmental parameters listed in RL5020 are complied with.

2.7 Public Declaration

A public declaration of ingredients[1] must be provided in the official language of the country in which the product is intended for sale. It must be freely accessible. Ingredients must be listed in descending order of weight. The following publicly accessible documentation paths are permitted:

- Product packaging
- Technical data sheet
- Sales brochures
- Website

Ingredients from preliminary products or preparations that remain in the final product with a content of >1 M% must also be included in the full declaration.

The following applies to the public declaration of ingredients:

- above 1 M% the name of the ingredient
- below 1 M% at least the functional name of the ingredient, the mass order is cancelled.

[1] Ingredients are substances and mixtures that remain in the final product. Reactants and ancillary input materials are included in the non-public full declaration submitted to the assessment body

Furthermore, there is an obligation to include the following information with the product or to make it available to the consumer or user in an appropriate manner (e.g. online):

- Instructions for use and safety instructions
- Storage and disposal instructions
- Batch numbers
- Country of production
- Country of origin of input materials > 20 M-% where there is a deviation from the country of production

Additionally, the following product-specific information must be made available to the consumer or user.

- Labelling according to the guidelines of the European Community (Communauté Européenne, CE marking) or the respective general technical approval, including a scope specification
- General data according to corresponding European standards or indications about product characteristics
- Density ρ [kg/m³]
- Indications about the product's fire behaviour

2.8 Processing and Installation

The manufacturer must provide qualified installation and handling instructions, in particular on methods to avoid thermal bridges. The documentation must also contain construction examples for a condensation-free and thermal-bridge-free installation of the components.

The applicant must demonstrate whether low-dust working methods are available for processing the product. If this is the case, these procedures are to be recommended and suitably presented within the processing guidelines. Compliance with the general dust limit value must be ensured by low-dust working methods. If this is not possible, the wearing of personal protective equipment must be prescribed.

2.9 Packaging

The packaging used must be recyclable. The manufacturer must belong to a recycling system, if one exists for the corresponding material.

Paper and cardboard packaging must be made from recycled paper. Alternatively, paper from sources as per GL-5002 is also permitted.

Plastic packaging must be made from polyolefins. PET, polystyrene or polycarbonates are allowed exceptionally in reasonablecases.

PVC packaging is generally not permitted.

Packaging must not contain biocides.

The natureplus certification mark has to be printed on the packaging after it has been awarded.

3 LaboratoryTests

The products are subject to laboratory analyses to test for harmful substances and undesirable ancillary ingredients. A representative sample is collected during the production audit. If the sample collection cannot be conducted by a natureplus examiner, an independent person designated by natureplus can collect the sample. For products with different sizes but the same composition, a single sample is sufficient.

3.1 Volatile Organic Compounds VOC / TVOC

To check the emission of VOC and to determine the TVOC and TSVOC, an emission chamber test is carried out with the product. Measurements are usually performed after 3 and 28 days. The test-chamber examination is performed according to the current version of natureplus guideline 5010. The product must comply with the limit values specified in guideline 5010.

3.2 Element Analyses

The product is subject to an element analysis to determine the content of harmful elements and to check for undesirable contaminations. The measurements have to be in compliance with the limit values. The analysis is performed according to the current version of the test method TM-02 metals.

An eluate analysis is mandatory if the required values of the content analysis are not met.

Element	Limit value [mg/kg]
Arsenic (As)	≤ 10
Cadmium (Cd)	≤ 1
Cobalt (Co)	≤ 20
Chromium (Cr)	≤ 50
Copper (Cu)	≤ 35
Mercury (Hg)	≤ 0,5
Nickel (Ni)	≤ 20
Lead (Pb)	≤ 15
Antimon (Sb)	≤ 5
Tin (Sn)	≤ 5
Zinc (Zn)	≤ 150

3.3 Other Analyses

Halogenic organic compounds

Test parameters	Limit values	Unit	Method
Halogenic organic compounds: AOX/EOX	≤ 1	mg/kg	TM-03 Halo

Odour

Test parameters	Limit values	Unit	Method
Odour	≤ 3	Odour intensity	TM-04 Odour

4 Appendix

Test methods

TM-01 VOC : Volatile Organic Compounds VOC/TVOC, formaldehyde, acetaldehyde and TSVOC: DIN EN ISO 16000 series expanded by the natureplus implementation rules in guideline 5010.

TM-02 Metals: ICP-MS measurements according to DIN EN ISO 17294-2, supplemented with the natureplus implementation rules and a sample preparation adjusted to the issue analysed.

TM-03 Halo: Halogenic organic compounds after combustion, determined by microcoulometry according to the natureplus implementation rules "AOX/EOX".

TM-04 Odour: natureplus implementation rules "odour intensity", 6-degree grading scale 3 days after loading the test chamber following VDA 270:2018.

TM-05 Pesticides: DFG S 19 extended by natureplus implementing regulations

TM-08 Foreign fibres and foreign substances: scanning electron microscopy SEM

TM-09 Monomeric isocyanates: 24h after test chamber loading

TM-10 PAH: HPLC / GC-MS, sum according to EPA