



natureplus e.V.

Guideline 5000

Basic requirements

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for the awardance of the eco-label

Preliminary remarks

The International Association for Sustainable Building and Living – natureplus e.V. – has set itself the goal, through the awardance of a quality label (eco-label), of promoting the use of those construction products which are especially suited to achieving the goal of economicsustainability. The three classic pillars of sustainability (the environment, social aspects and the economy) are reflected in natureplus's the three fundamental requirements: the environment, health and functional quality.

Every construction activity encroaches upon the natural environment and is connected with the consumption of limited resources. Our responsibility towards future generations requiresus to undertake every effort to reduce these encroachments to the lowest level possible andto limit our use of resources to a necessary minimum. In view of the foreseeable exhaustion of the reserves of fossil fuels, for example, and the dangers to the earth's climate, such an approach is the only possible means to ensure sustainable and socially equitable development. For the building sector this means promoting the use and application of construction products which help to minimize the consumption of fossil fuels and limited resources. It is natureplus's intention to help promote the commercial success of those products which fulfil these demands.

Energy-saving building methods and the avoidance of uncontrolled ventilation facilitates the accumulation of volatile chemical compounds in the interior air that are emitted by building products and the inventory contained within the building. This presents a(n) (avoidable)danger to the health of the occupants. Also, the accretion of chemical contaminants (especially phthalates/plasticisers) from building products on house dust, the increasing use of biocides in everyday products and the dangers posed by mould growth due to negative product characteristics give rise for concern. An increasing proportion of the population are exhibiting reactions, such as allergies, to the negative health-related effects of these construction products. natureplus therefore evaluates the compatibility of construction products, especially in the usage phase, according to strict standards in order to actively promote those materials which pose no risk to health and are, in addition, conducive to a healthyroom climate.

The natureplus®-Eco-label is an award for construction products which meet the highest standards of sustainability by exhibiting the best possible performance in terms of the environment, health and functionality. Scope of the assessment is the building material as raw material and as component. Only the best products in a particular product group are eligible for certification in order to act as an orientation for all building professionals and consumers towards the promotion of a culture of

sustainable building. The natureplus®-Eco-label has anticipated the requirements of construction products of the European Construction Products Directive EU CPR 305/2011: In the future this regulation requires a declaration of performance with evidence of the sustainable use of natural resources and of compliance with requirements in terms of low impact, over their entire life cycle, on the environmental quality or on the climate, energy-efficiency and the hygiene, health and safety of people. The natureplus®-Eco-label already provides these proofs of performance in relation to the essential characteristics of construction products. This is gauged by natureplus according to criteria and requirements which, as a rule, far exceed the legal requirements and as a minimum comply in each case with the strictest recognised standards applicable.

The natureplus®-Eco-label is classified as a Type I environmental label as per ISO 14024, taking into consideration the EU Ecolabel Regulation and the EMAS regulation on environmental auditing, and is valid across the whole of Europe according to uniform criteria. The pre-requirements for a construction product to be certified with the natureplus®-Eco-label are its especially high performance characteristics in terms of the environment, health and sustainability. The main focuses are on the protection of limited resources by the minimisation of the use of petrochemical substances, sustainable raw material extraction/harvesting, resource-efficient production methods and the longevity of the products. Therefore, building products made from renewable raw materials, raw materials which are unlimited in their availability or from secondary raw materials will be favoured for certification.

3 Requirements

Note for the natureplus® eco-label:

The following requirements are basic requirements. They are supplemented and, if necessary, specified for the natureplus® eco-label in the product award guidelines.

In the event of contradictions between the basic requirements and the product award guidelines, the product award guidelines apply.

02.A Requirements for the functional suitability

The product must meet the requirements for the suitability of application by holding the state-specific or the European technical approval or follows a harmonised standard.

Proof

The applicant...

- *provides a valid European Technical Approval (ETA)...or*
- *provides a valid national technical approval as well as a declaration that the product is only sold on the respective market...or*
- *names the harmonised standard and provides the EU declaration of conformity for the CE mark.*

02.B Requirements for the product composition

The product must consist of at least 85 M-% of the following input materials:

- Mineral raw materials ... and/or
- Renewable raw materials ... and/or
- Recycled raw materials

Proof

The applicant declares the input materials (ingredients and ancillary input/materials) completely to the inspection body.

>Document A5001

The information is verified by an independent person as part of the production site inspection.

>Document 222: Report on the production site inspection

Petro-chemical substances may only be used as additives; products whose function is based on petrochemical substances are not labelled.

Proof

The applicant declares the input materials (ingredients and ancillary input/materials) completely to the inspection body.

>Document A5001

02.C Requirements for the public declaration of product information

The product packaging should display a full declaration of the input materials listed, analogue to the EU-Cosmetic Regulations, according to the declining mass percentage. If it is not possible to display this information directly on the product packing, it should be provided with the product in a technical datasheet or sales

leaflet (in English or in the national language). If intermediate/preliminary products or formulations are used as input substances and the proportion present in the final product is >0.1 M-%, then all the substances used within these must also be taken into account for the declaration.

For naming the input materials as part of the declaration the following applies:

- More than 1 M-% – designation of the substance in question
- Less than 1 M-% – at least a functional designation

Furthermore, it is obligatory to provide the following information in a suitable form to the consumer or user (eg. online):

- Instructions for use and safety precautions
- Indications for storage and disposal
- Batch numbers
- City/town and country of production
- Indication of geographical origin ^[1] of the main input material ^[2]

[1] Designation of countries or more specific regions

[2] Key input material: The input material with the highest proportion in the product

When using ingredients with an environmentally hazardous potential, the manufacturer must indicate at an appropriate place which measures are to be taken within the framework of dismantling and demolition work to protect the environment (e.g. controlled dismantling).

Requirements for the public presentation of the contract mark

The contract mark – also known as the test mark – bears the specific licence number of a certified product as a signature.

The contract mark is to be used in the context of natureplus-certified products and represents the actual product quality seal.

In the public presentation, care must be taken to ensure that the logo is clearly assigned to the certified product or the certified product group.

A mixed presentation of certified and non-certified products under the sign of the licence mark is not permitted.

The minimum height for display in print media is 15mm for reasons of legibility of the licence number. The contract mark may only be used during the period of validity of the contract.