



Recyclability evaluation and policy guidelines

Ecolabels for paper based products

Andreas Faul, Anne-Kathrin Kuna

Ljubljana, 22 January 2014

Contents



This presentation will not cover



Contents



This presentation will cover

- General facts about relevant ecolabels for paper based products
- Some more details about the EU Ecolabel for printed paper (2012/481/EU)
- Important facts about recyclability criteria in other ecolabels



Ecolabels for paper based products in Europe – Overview



EU Ecolabel for:

- Printed Products
- Newsprint Paper
- Tissue
- Copy and Graphic Paper



- RAL-UZ 14 Recycled Paper
- RAL-UZ 56 Recycled board
- RAL-UZ 72 Printing and Press Paper
- Tissue, wallpaper, filter paper



- UZ 24 Printed Products
- UZ 02 Graphic Paper
- UZ 18 Products made from recycled paper (stationery)



Nordic Ecolabelling of printing companies, printed matter, envelopes and other converted paper products

These four schemes are “Type I” criteria according to ISO 14024

Ecolabels for paper based products in Europe – Characteristics of “Type I”



- Issued by independent bodies and involvement of interested parties
- Intended for both private and commercial end users
- Draw attention to one or more critical environmental aspects
- Are relevant to public purchasing
- Have a high level of credibility

Sources:
A. Reichart, UBA
ISO 14024



Ecolabels for paper based products in Europe – Contents



Each ecolabel is awarded to a defined product range/types.

All ecolabels give criteria or at least statements about:

- Emissions
- Energy consumptions and efficiency
- Product additives, chemicals (paper / printing)
- Waste of the manufacturing process (paper / printing)
- Substrate (ratio of secondary and primary fibres)
- **Recyclability**



EU Ecolabel for Printed Products (1)



- Is awarded to a specific printed paper product
- Applicants are publisher, editor, book seller, printers, advertisers/public relation agencies, private companies and public institutions
- Documentation should be provided by the printing house



Criterion 1: Substrate

Printing on paper certified with the EU Ecolabel as established in Commission Decision 2011/333/EU → no preference for recycled fibres except for newsprint (at least 70% recycled fibres)

Criterion 2: Excluded or limited substances and mixtures

Covers printing inks, biocides, washing agents, solvents

EU Ecolabel for Printed Products (2)



Criterion 3: Recyclability

- Deinkability: ERPC Deinkability Score
(based on INGEDE Method 11)
- Non-soluble adhesive removability:
INGEDE Method 12
- Wet strength agents:
PTS Method PTS-RH 021/97

“Testing must be performed on a final product representative of the worst case reference.”

Criterion 4: Emissions

Covers printing process emissions to water and air



EU Ecolabel for Printed Products (3)



Criterion 5: Waste

Waste management for all residual products derived from the production of printed paper



Criterion 6: Energy use

Covers all energy consuming devices and a programme for measures for improvement energy efficiency

Criterion 7: Training

All members of staff shall be given appropriate training and knowledge

EU Ecolabel for Printed Products (4)



Criterion 8: Fitness for use

The product shall be suitable for its purpose

Criterion 9: Information on the product

„Please collect used paper for recycling“ shall appear on the product

Criterion 10: Information appearing on the EU Ecolabel

Guideline for the use of the logo



More details see “Users manual for the application for printed paper“

Blue Angel (Germany)

www.blauer-engel.de



- The oldest ecolabel worldwide (established 1978)
- 13 000 products and services
- Substrate: Strongest criteria for paper products (recycled fibres or 100 % sustainable forest management)
- **Revision** of awarding criteria for recycled paper, printing and press paper, recycled board, tissue, filter paper and wallpaper is in progress:



Important modifications

No mineral oil in printing ink and chemical additives

Deinkability and removability of adhesive applications according to ERPC Scorecards

Awarding procedure no.

RAL-UZ 14 Recycling Paper
RAL-UZ 56 Recycling board
RAL-UZ 72 Printing and Press Paper

Austrian Ecolabel

www.umweltzeichen.at



- Products from recycled paper – UZ 18
(for files & folders, exercise books, stationery...)
- Graphic paper – UZ 02
(for writing paper, print and copy paper)
- Printed products – UZ 24: What is specific?
 - There are no general deinkability criteria for all printed products
 - But: Criteria of the ERPC Scorecard apply to toner and (ink jet-) inks, UV-printing inks
 - Adhesives: For hot melts the recyclability criteria according to ERPC Scorecard must be met
 - Better description of the awarding options (Testing of defined title or testing of paper-ink/-adhesives combinations)



Nordic Ecolabel – “Nordic Swan”



What is specific?

- A system of mandatory and optional scoring points for the applying printing company

Recyclability:

- Adhesive applications must pass the ERPC Removability Scorecard with at least 51 points
- Deinkability must be proven with at least 51 points of the ERPC Deinking Scorecard



www.nordic-ecolabel.org

Comparing the ecolabels

- Blue Angel has the highest substrate criteria → in combination with revised printed products criteria it will give the strongest ecolabel standard

What is in progress

- EU Ecolabel for converted products (folder, filing, envelopes, paper bags – draft stage)
- Blue Angel for printed products (no draft yet)

What is still missing

- Ecolabel for packaging products



Thank you for your attention!



This project is implemented through the **CENTRAL EUROPE Programme** co-financed by the **ERDF (European Regional Development Fund)**



INNOVHUB
STAZIONI SPERIMENTALI
PER L'INDUSTRIA

Innovazione e ricerca



SSCCP
STAZIONE SPERIMENTALE
CARTA, CARTONI E PASTE PER CARTA

erma concepts
Paper Technology Consulting GmbH



University of Ljubljana



www.ecopaperloop.eu



EUROPEAN UNION
EUROPEAN REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT FUND

erma concepts
Paper Technology Consulting GmbH