

Overview of all certifications



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National guidelines (Germany)

Certification system / guideline	Description	Relevance for paint	Specific conditions for lacquer	Type of certification	Links
RAL UZ (eco-label)	German Ecolabel for environmentally friendly products.	High	Different requirements regarding the coating material depending on the product type. No CMR substances, no SVHC (ECHA candidate list) 1C-Hydro partially fulfils the requirements	Product certification or manufacturer's declaration respectively	https://www.blauer-engel.de/de
ECO Label (Eco-Institut)	A German label that sets high environmental and health standards for building products and other articles.	High	Depending on product type, low VOC emissions, no harmful chemicals, environmentally friendly systems, specific limit values (particularly low: e.g. organotin components).	Product certification required	https://www.eco-institut.de/de/
BlmSchV (Federal Immission Control Act)	German law (immission control of plants, products, traffic)	High	Regulations for coating lines		BlmSchG - nichtamtliches Inhaltsverzeichnis (gesetz-im-internet.de)
DGNB (German Sustainable Building Council)	Evaluates the sustainability of buildings.	Medium	Environmentally friendly materials, classification in quality levels (QS), low VOC content (< 300 g/l QS 1) respectively requirements of RAL UZ 12a (Blue Angel - low-pollutant paints - QS 4) are fulfilled.	Manufacturer's declaration	https://www.dgnb.de/de/
Passive house certificate	Standard for energy-efficient buildings.	Low to medium	Indirectly, focus on energy efficiency, possibly favouring environmentally friendly lacquers.	Manufacturer's declaration	https://passivhaus-info.de/de/zertifizierung/
QNG (Quality Seal for Sustainable Buildings)	State seal for buildings for sustainable construction		depending on application: low residual VOC emissions (AgBB scheme verification); VOC content, certain GISCODES,...	Manufacturer's declaration or emissions test depending on the component	https://www.qng.info/

International guidelines

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EPD (Environmental Product Declaration)	Evaluates the environmental performance of a product over its life cycle.	Very high	Detailed information on environmental impact, including production and disposal.	Product certification	https://www.environ-dec.com/home
CARB (California Air Resources Board)	Regulatory agency in California that enforces strict air quality standards.	Very high	Strict limits for VOCs in lacquers and coatings.	Manufacturer's declaration	https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/
LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design)	International system for assessing the ecological power of buildings.	High	Low VOC content, depending on the use of the coating material, maximum VOC values in g/L are	Product certification	https://www.usgbc.org/leed
Cradle to Cradle Certified	Evaluates products according to ecological and social power.	High	No CMR substances, own "banned list" (heavy metals, flame retardants, phthalates, halogenated polymers, chlorinated hydrocarbons, alkylphenols, organotin components (PAH))	Product certification	https://c2ccertified.org/the-standard
NF Environnement	French eco-label for a variety of products.	High	Strict environmental criteria, low VOC content.	Product certification	https://marque-nf.com/nf-environnement/
Green Seal (USA)	Ecolabel for products and services in the USA.	High	Low VOC content, no toxic ingredients.	Product certification	https://greenseal.org/splash/
EU Ecolabel	A European Union label that awards environmentally friendly products and services.	High	Low VOC content, environmentally friendly and sustainable production processes.	Product certification required	https://eu-ecolabel.de/
IED Industrial Emissions Directive	EU Directive	High	Use of solvents in production lines		https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/industrial-emissions-and-safety/industrial-emissions-directive_en
Al Sa'fat - Dubai Green Building System	Guideline of the Dubai administration	High	It concerns VOC emissions in the processed, finished state. All coatings used in the building must not exceed specified limit values.	Product certification	Al Sa'fat – Dubai Green Building System (dm.gov.ae)
BREEAM (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method)	British system for assessing the sustainability of buildings.	Medium to high	Low residual VOC emissions, environmentally friendly and non-hazardous ingredients. (no heavy metals, PCB, asbestos)	Product certification	https://www.breeam.com/

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HQE (Haute Qualité Environnementale)	French standard for environmentally friendly building	Medium to high	Environmentally friendly and non-hazardous paints are preferred.	Manufacturer's declaration	https://www.hqegbc.org/qui-sommes-nous-alliance-hqe-gbc/la-certification-hqe/
WELL Building Standard	Focussed on health and well-being in buildings.	Medium	Influence on indoor air quality, possibly low VOC content.	Manufacturer's declaration	https://www.wellcertified.com
Effinergy (incl. BBC, BEPOS)	Focussed on energy efficiency in buildings in France.	Medium	Energy-efficient buildings often favour environmentally friendly materials.	Manufacturer's declaration	https://www.effinergie.org/web/
E+C- Label	Assesses the energy efficiency and CO2 emissions of buildings in France.	Medium	Focus on environmentally friendly and low-emission materials.	Manufacturer's declaration	Bâtiment à énergie positive et réduction carbone Ministère de la Transition Écologique et de la Cohésion des Territoires (ecologie.gouv.fr)
Energy Star (USA)	Programme for energy efficiency in products and buildings in the USA.	Medium	Indirectly, as energy-efficient buildings often favour environmentally friendly materials.	Manufacturer's declaration	https://www.energy-star.gov
Green Mark (UK)	Environmental standard for companies and organisations in the UK.	Medium	Focus on environmentally friendly practices, can influence the selection of environmentally friendly paints.	Manufacturer's declaration	https://greenmark.co.uk/
CSS Chemical Strategy for Sustainability	Chemicals strategy for sustainability in the EU				https://cefic.org/policy-matters/chemicals-strategy-for-sustainability-css/
CEAP Circular Economy Action Plan	Action plan for the EU circular economy				Circular economy action plan - European Commission (europa.eu)
PEF (Product Environmental Footprint)	Environmental footprint for EU products				Environmental Footprint: Der Umwelt-Fußabdruck von Produkten und Dienstleistungen Umweltbundesamt
ZPAP (Zero-Pollution Action Plan)	Zero Pollution Action Plan				Zero Pollution Action Plan - European Commission (europa.eu)

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GD Green Deal	EU framework concept: Climate-neutral continent by 2050				https://gdorb.beis.gov.uk/
RTS M1 (Finnish emission label)	Emission labels for building products and furniture				Emission Classification of Building Materials (rakennustieto.fi)
AgBB (Committee for the Health-Related Evaluation of Building Products)	Guidelines for the assessment of emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) from construction		Residual emissions over 3, 7 and 28 days, each with specific limits	Product certification	AgBB-Bewertungsschema 2021 Umweltbundesamt
Emicode mark of conformity	Monitoring of emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) from building products		Very strict limit values		https://www.emicode.com/
GREENGUARD	Certifying and testing of products for toxicity and emissions				GREENGUARD Certification UL
FloorScore	Emissions / indoor air quality		Floor coverings		FloorScore® SCS Global Services
Prop 65 (Proposition 65) aus Kalifornien	Protection from toxic chemicals		Labelling of products, certain ingredients are included on this list which are considered to be carcinogenic or reprotoxic.		https://oehha.ca.gov/proposition-65
Ecolabel (Austria)			Free from substances that are harmful to the environment or health		https://www.umweltzeichen.at/de/home/start
Environmental label (Switzerland)	voluntary eco-label		7 categories, free from substances harmful to the environment or health, VOC content		Schweizer Stiftung Farbe
Möbelfakta (Sweden)	Certification and labelling of furniture		Certain labelling not permitted (e.g. CMR) SVHC, maximum VOC content regarding application quantity must be indicated	Product certification	https://www.mobelfakta.se/about.html



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Natureplus	Certification of building products based on laboratory tests: Climate protection, health protection,		Free from substances that are harmful to the environment or health		https://www.nature-plus.org/
Nordic Swanen Ecolabel	Product certification: Consideration of environmental impact from preliminary products to disposal		Low VOC content, environmentally friendly and sustainable production processes. No use of certain ingredients (halogenated organic compounds, phthalates, SVHC, CMR, ...)	Product certification	https://www.nordic-swan-ecolabel.org/
LCA Life Cycle Assessment	Life cycle analysis, environmental balance, ecological balance according to ISO 14044, analysis of the environmental impact of products				European Platform on LCA EPLCA (europa.eu)



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