

GUIDE

Guide to
green public procurement of

wallpaper and woodchip wall coverings

Für Mensch & Umwelt

Umwelt 
Bundesamt

This guide is based on the June 2014 edition of the Blue Angel eco-label criteria for wallpaper and woodchip wall coverings that are predominantly made of recycled paper (RAL-UZ 35).

Despite careful fact checking, this document may contain errors and thus we cannot guarantee its accuracy, completeness or currency. Any publisher liability for any consequences arising from the information contained in this document is likewise excluded.

You are permitted to copy or otherwise use the information in this guide, provided that such information is not falsified or otherwise misused.

Contents

1.	Introduction	4
2.	How to use this guide	4
3.	Scope	5
4.	Definitions	5
5.	Environmental requirements	5
5.1	Fibres used	5
5.2	Use of processing aids	5
5.3	Formaldehyde	6
5.4	Preservatives	6
5.5	Colourant restrictions	6
5.6	Recycled-paper processing	8
5.7	Primary-fibre origin	8
5.8	Hazard avoidance	8
Annex:	Tenderer questionnaire regarding green public procurement of wallpaper and woodchip wall coverings	9

1. Introduction

Making wallpaper out of recycled paper reduces waste paper burdens, particularly when low and medium quality waste papers are used. This in turn helps to avoid the environmental degradation that is directly attributable to cellulose and wood pulp production.

When it comes to resource use, wastewater load, water use, and energy use, waste paper is far better for the environment than paper made of wood fibres.

In cases where wallpaper is partly made of new wood fibres, it is crucial from an ecological standpoint that the wood from which the fibres are derived comes from sustainably managed forests and from forestry companies that adhere to high ecological and social standards. Obtaining wood from forests deserving protection such as tropical or Boreal primeval forests is unacceptable.

2. How to use this guide

This guide contains key information and recommendations for contracting authorities concerning the incorporation of environmental factors into calls for tenders and the related contractual documents. The list of criteria (available from www.beschaffung-info.de) for green public procurement of wallpaper and woodchip wall coverings should be used as an annex to the contractual deliverables. To this end, in terms of the environmental requirements for the contractual deliverables in question you need only include a reference in the contractual deliverables in order to meet the legal requirement that the contractual deliverables be described clearly and completely.¹

The tenderer questionnaire is also intended to serve as proof of compliance. The wording in this regard in calls for tenders could go as follows:

In order to be factored into the tender evaluation process, [insert product name] must meet the minimum criteria pursuant to the attached tenderer questionnaire on green public procurement of wallpaper and woodchip wall coverings. By way of proof, you are to submit a completed questionnaire for each tendered product along with the mandated elements of proof.

¹ See Article 7(1) VOL/A and Article 8(1) VOL/A-EG: “The contractual performance must be described clearly and exhaustively, so that all candidates understand the description in the same way and comparable tenders can be expected (contractual specifications).” It thus follows from Article 8(5) VOL/A-EG that it is admissible to apply eco-label specifications under certain circumstances. Hence, merely referring to these criteria – at least when it comes to the upper threshold domain – is inadmissible. This is in keeping with a European Court of Justice ruling, based on Article 23(6) Directive 2004/18/EC. See the ruling of 10 May 2012 in Rs. C-368/10 – Commission v. The Netherlands (see para. 112, op. cit.).

3. Scope

This guide applies to the following:

- Paper wall coverings made from wallpaper base in accordance with DIN 6730
- Woodchip wall coverings in accordance with DIN 6730

4. Definitions

- **“Waste paper”** means paper and cardboard that are collectable after being used or processed. The specifications for the various types of waste paper can be found in the European list of standard grades of paper and board for waste paper recycling (DIN EN 643).
- **“Biocides”** are used as slimicides in paper-machinery water circuits.

5. Environmental requirements

5.1 Fibres used

Criterion: minimum

Proof of compliance: manufacturer’s declaration

The products are to be made from waste paper, which means that the following proportional requirements are to be met, excluding any incorporated wood fibres:

- For paper wall coverings, at least 600 kilograms of waste paper per 1,000 kilograms of finished new paper (air-dried weight). Of this, at least 50 per cent is to be made from waste paper groups 1, 2, 4 and 5 waste paper (pursuant to DIN EN 643), to the minimum of types 4.01 and 4.07.

- Woodchip wall coverings are to be composed of 100% waste paper. Of this, at least 50 per cent is to be made from waste paper groups 1 and 2 waste paper (pursuant to DIN EN 643).

5.2 Use of processing aids

Criterion: minimum

Proof of compliance: manufacturer’s declaration

No chemical processing aids are to be used that contain glyoxal or formaldehyde as a constitutive component or that can potentially release formaldehyde.

5.3 Formaldehyde

Criterion: minimum

Proof of compliance: manufacturer's declaration

No formaldehyde, substances that may cleave to formaldehyde, or substances that contain formaldehyde are to be used in wallpaper or woodchip wall coverings.

5.4 Preservatives

Criterion: minimum

Proof of compliance: Manufacturer's declaration. The tenderer is also to indicate which slimicides and preservatives (in accordance with IUPAC nomenclature) are used, and the amount used per kilogram of product.

In manufacturing wallpaper and woodchip wall coverings, only those slimicides and preservatives are to be used that (a) are authorized under Regulation No (EC) 528/2012 (EU list of authorized substances; formerly listed in Annex I of Directive 995/2010 (EC)); or (b) have been tested as notified existing active substances in the EU active-substance program, for the relevant type of biocide.

Only those biocides are to be used that have been approved for their designated application. Products containing existing active substances whose EU testing procedure is in progress may remain in use without approval until a decision is reached. In addition, the products are to be free of any active substances that are designated as substitute substances in Article 10 of Regulation No (EC) 528/2012. Until such time as a mandatory authorization procedure comes into effect for biocides containing

existing substances, the only substances that are allowable are those that are also listed in *XXXVI Empfehlung des BfR*. Use of the following substances is prohibited:

	CAS no.
Sodium hexafluorosilicate	[16893-85-9]
N(α -(1-Nitroethyl)benzyl)-ethylenediamine	[14762-38-0]
Tris-(hydroxymethyl)-nitromethane mixtures	[126-11-4]
5-Chlor-2-methyl-4-isothiazolin-3-on	[26172-55-4]
2-Methyl-4-isothiazolin-3-on	[2682-20-41]
Tetramethylthiuramdisulfide	[137-26-8]
Nano silver	[7440-22-4]

5.5 Colourant restrictions

Criterion: minimum

Proof of compliance: Manufacturer's declaration, or declaration from the colourant, surface finishing, [processing aid] or coating provider.

No azocolourants are to be used that have the capacity to cleave to any amine referred to in Directive 2006/61/EC or in TRGS 614.

No colouring agent (i.e. pigment or dye-stuff) is to be used that contains any lead, cadmium or chrome VI as a constitutive component.

No colourant, surface treatment substance, manufacturing aid, or coating is to be used

- a) that, pursuant to the criteria laid down in Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008² or Directive 67/548/EEC, falls within the classification of the H or S phrases in the following table or that meets the criteria for such classification³.
- b) or that the currently valid version of TRGS 905⁴ classifies as a carcinogenic, mutagenic or reprotoxic substance.

Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 (CLP Regulation)	Directive 67/548/EC (Dangerous Substances Directive)	Wording
Carcinogenic, mutagenic and reprotoxic substances		
H340	R46	May cause genetic defects.
H341	R68	Suspected of causing genetic defects.
H350	R45	May cause cancer.
H350i	R49	May cause cancer by inhalation.
H351	R40	Suspected of causing cancer.
H360F	R60	May damage fertility.
H360D	R61	May damage the unborn child.
H360FD	R60/61	May damage fertility. May damage the unborn child.
H360Fd	R60/63	May damage fertility. Suspected of damaging the unborn child.
H360Df	R61/62	May damage the unborn child. Suspected of damaging fertility.
H361f	R62	Suspected of damaging fertility.
H361d	R63	Suspected of damaging the unborn child.
H361fd	R62/63	Suspected of damaging fertility. Suspected of damaging the unborn child.
Sensitizing substances		
H317	R43	May cause an allergic skin reaction.

2 Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008. The CLP (Classification, Labeling and Packaging) Regulation, which came into effect on 20 January 2009, replaced Directives 67/548/EC and 1999/45/EC. It governs substance classification, labeling and packaging until 1 December 2010 pursuant to Directive 67/548/EEC, and until 1 June 2015 governs mixtures (formerly preparations) in accordance with Directive 1999/45/EC. The CLP Directive is to be applied in accordance with this data. Until 1 June 2015, both the new H phrases and the previously valid R phrases are to be indicated for substances.

3 The harmonized categories and labels for hazardous substances can be found in Annex VI part 3 of Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 (CLP Regulation). The categories and labels under the new system, which use H-phrases, can be found in Table 3.1. The categories and labels under the old system, which use R-phrases, can be found in Table 3.2. The text of the CLP Regulation is available at <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2008:353:0001:1355:EN:PDF>.

4 http://www.baua.de/nm_16812/de/Themen-von-A-Z/Gefahrstoffe/TRGS/pdf/TRGS-905.pdf.

5.6 Recycled-paper processing

Criterion: minimum

Proof of compliance: manufacturer's declaration

No chlorides, halogenated bleaching chemicals, or not readily biodegradable agents such as EDTA and DTPA are to be used.

Optical lighteners are not to be used for product manufacturing or finishing.

Any additional fibre requirements are to be exclusively met using primary fibres that were manufactured without the use of any lightener, chlorine, or halogenated bleach.

5.7 Primary-fibre origin

Criterion: minimum

Proof of compliance: FSC or PEFC fibre certificate, or equivalent

The origin of the wood used for primary fibres is to be documented. Such wood is to stem from forests that are demonstrably managed in accordance with the principles of sustainable forestry. The managers of such forests are to carry out their work in accordance with exacting ecological and social standards, and are to be certified accordingly.

Obtaining wood from forests deserving protection such as tropical or Boreal primeval forests is unacceptable.

5.8 Hazard avoidance

Criterion: minimum

Proof of compliance: manufacturer's declaration

The products are to contain no substance that necessitates product labelling within the meaning of Germany's Hazardous Substance Regulation (Gefahrstoffverordnung).

Annex: Tenderer questionnaire regarding green public procurement of wallpaper and woodchip wall coverings

(Stand: 17. November 2014)

Product name	
Manufacturer	
Tenderer	
Tenderer's contact details	

Does the product have an eco-label?

If the product in question has Blue Angel eco-label certification for wallpaper and woodchip wall coverings (RAL-UZ 35, June 2014), then the criteria below are deemed to have been met and the remainder of this questionnaire can be skipped.

No.	Criterion	Comment	Criterion met, proof of compliance submitted ⁵ (to be completed by the tenderer)
1	Fibres used		
	<p>The products are to be made from waste paper, which means that the following proportional requirements are to be met, excluding any incorporated wood fibres:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For paper wall coverings, at least 600 kilograms of waste paper per 1,000 kilograms of finished new paper (air-dried weight). Of this, at least 50 per cent is to be made from groups 1, 2, 4 and 5 waste paper (pursuant to DIN EN 643), to the minimum of types 4.01 and 4.07. 	<p>Minimum criterion</p> <p>Proof of compliance via manufacturer's declaration</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>

⁵ Proof is to be submitted in the guise of the questionnaires in the documents listed under "Comments."

No.	Criterion	Comment	Criterion met, proof of compliance submitted ⁵ (to be completed by the tenderer)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Woodchip wall coverings are to be composed of 100% waste paper. Of this, at least 50 per cent is to be made from group 1 and 2 waste paper (pursuant to DIN EN 643). 		
2	Use of processing aids		
	No chemical processing aids are to be used that contain glyoxal or formaldehyde as a constitutive component or that can potentially release formaldehyde.	<p>Minimum criterion</p> <p>Proof of compliance via manufacturer's declaration</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Formaldehyde		
	No formaldehyde, substances that split formaldehyde, or substances that contain formaldehyde are to be used in wallpaper and woodchip wall coverings.	<p>Minimum criterion</p> <p>Proof of compliance via manufacturer's declaration</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>

No.	Criterion	Comment	Criterion met, proof of compliance submitted ⁵ (to be completed by the tenderer)																
4	<p>Preservatives</p> <p>In manufacturing wallpaper and woodchip wall coverings, only those slimicides and preservatives are to be used that (a) are authorized under Regulation No (EC) 528/2012 (EU list of authorized substances; formerly listed in Annex I to Directive 995/2010 (EC)); or (b) have been tested as notified existing active substances in the EU active-substance program, for the relevant type of biocide.</p> <p>Only those biocides are to be used that have been approved for their designated application. Products containing existing active substances whose EU testing procedure is in progress may remain in use without approval until a decision is reached. In addition, the products are to be free of any active substances that are designated as substitute substances in Article 10 of Regulation No (EC) 528/2012. Until such time as a mandatory authorization procedure comes into effect for biocides containing existing substances, the only substances that are allowable are those that are also listed in <i>XXXVI Empfehlung des BfR</i>. Use of the following substances is prohibited:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="257 1215 798 1581"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>CAS no.</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Sodium hexafluorosilicate</td> <td>[16893-85-9]</td> </tr> <tr> <td>N(α-(1-Nitroethyl)benzyl)-ethyl-endiamine</td> <td>[14762-38-0]</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tris-(hydroxymethyl)-nitromethane mixtures</td> <td>[126-11-4]</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5-Chlor-2-methyl-4-isothiazolin-3-on</td> <td>[26172-55-4]</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2-Methyl-4-isothiazolin-3-on</td> <td>[2682-20-41]</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tetramethylthiuramdisulfide</td> <td>[137-26-8]</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nano silver</td> <td>[7440-22-4]</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		CAS no.	Sodium hexafluorosilicate	[16893-85-9]	N(α -(1-Nitroethyl)benzyl)-ethyl-endiamine	[14762-38-0]	Tris-(hydroxymethyl)-nitromethane mixtures	[126-11-4]	5-Chlor-2-methyl-4-isothiazolin-3-on	[26172-55-4]	2-Methyl-4-isothiazolin-3-on	[2682-20-41]	Tetramethylthiuramdisulfide	[137-26-8]	Nano silver	[7440-22-4]	<p>Minimum criterion</p> <p>Proof via manufacturer's declaration. The tenderer is also to indicate which slimicides and preservatives (in accordance with IUPAC nomenclature) are used, and the amount used per kilogram of product.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">□</p>
	CAS no.																		
Sodium hexafluorosilicate	[16893-85-9]																		
N(α -(1-Nitroethyl)benzyl)-ethyl-endiamine	[14762-38-0]																		
Tris-(hydroxymethyl)-nitromethane mixtures	[126-11-4]																		
5-Chlor-2-methyl-4-isothiazolin-3-on	[26172-55-4]																		
2-Methyl-4-isothiazolin-3-on	[2682-20-41]																		
Tetramethylthiuramdisulfide	[137-26-8]																		
Nano silver	[7440-22-4]																		

No.	Criterion	Comment	Criterion met, proof of compliance submitted ⁵ (to be completed by the tenderer)
5	<p>Colourant restrictions</p> <p>No azocolourants are to be used that have the capacity to split any amine referred to in Directive 2006/61/EEC or in TRGS 614.</p> <p>No colouring agent (i.e. pigment or dyestuff) is to be used that contains any lead, cadmium or chrome VI as a constitutive component.</p> <p>No colourant, surface treatment substance, manufacturing aid, or coating shall be used</p> <p>a) that, pursuant to the criteria laid down in Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008⁶ or Directive 67548/EEC, falls within the classification of the H or S phrases in the following table or that meets the criteria for such classification⁷.</p> <p>b) or that the currently valid version of TRGS 905⁸ classifies as a carcinogenic, mutagenic or reprotoxic substance.</p>	<p>Minimum criterion</p> <p>Proof via manufacturer's declaration, or declaration from the colourant, surface finishing, processing aid or coating provider.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p>

⁶ Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008.
The CLP (Classification, Labeling and Packaging) directive, which came into effect on 20 January 2009, replaced Directives 67/548/EC and 1999/45/EC. It governs substance classification, labeling and packaging until 1 December 2010 pursuant to Directive 67/548/EEC, and until 1 June 2015 governs mixtures (formerly preparations) in accordance with Directive 1999/45/EC. The CLP Directive is to be applied in accordance with this data. Until 1 June 2015, both the new H phrases and the previously valid R phrases are to be indicated for substances (safety data sheets).

⁷ The harmonized categories and labels for hazardous substances can be found in Annex VI part 3 of Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 (CLP Regulation). The categories and labels under the new system, which use H-phrases, can be found in Table 3.1. The categories and labels under the old system, which use R-phrases, can be found in Table 3.2. The text of the CLP Regulation is available at <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2008:353:0001:1355:EN:PDF>.

⁸ http://www.baua.de/nn_16812/de/Themen-von-A-Z/Gefahrstoffe/TRGS/pdf/TRGS-905.pdf.

No.	Criterion	Comment	Criterion met, proof of compliance submitted ⁵ (to be completed by the tenderer)	
	<p>Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 (CLP Regulation)</p> <p>Directive 67/548/EC (Dangerous Substances Directive)</p> <p>Wording</p> <p>Carcinogenic, mutagenic and reprotoxic substances</p>			
	H340	R46	May cause genetic defects.	
	H341	R68	Suspected of causing genetic defects.	
	H350	R45	May cause cancer	
	H350i	R49	May cause cancer by inhalation	
	H351	R40	Suspected of causing cancer.	
	H360F	R60	May damage fertility.	
	H360D	R61	May damage the unborn child.	
	H360FD	R60/61	May damage fertility. May damage the unborn child.	
	H360Fd	R60/63	May damage fertility. Suspected of damaging the unborn child.	
	H360Df	R61/62	May damage the unborn child. Suspected of damaging fertility.	
	H361f	R62	Suspected of damaging fertility.	
	H361d	R63	Suspected of damaging the unborn child.	
	H361fd	R62/63	Suspected of damaging fertility. Suspected of damaging the unborn child.	
	Sensitizing substances			
	H317	R43	May cause an allergic skin reaction.	

No.	Criterion	Comment	Criterion met, proof of compliance submitted ⁵ (to be completed by the tenderer)
6	Recycled-paper processing		
	<p>No chlorides, halogenated bleaching chemicals, or not readily biodegradable agents such as EDTA and DTPA are to be used.</p> <p>Optical lighteners are not to be used for product manufacturing or finishing.</p> <p>Any additional fibre needs are to be exclusively met using primary fibres that were manufactured without the use of any lightener, chlorine, or halogenated bleach.</p>	<p>Minimum criterion</p> <p>Proof of compliance via manufacturer's declaration</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	Primary-fibre origin (for wallpaper)		
	<p>The origin of the wood used for primary fibres is to be documented. Such wood is to stem from forests that are demonstrably managed in accordance with the principles of sustainable forestry. The managers of such forest are to carry out their work in accordance with high ecological and social standards, and are to be certified accordingly. Obtaining wood from forests that are in urgent need of protection such as tropical or Boreal rainforests is unacceptable.</p>	<p>Minimum criterion</p> <p>Proof of compliance: FSC or PEFC fibre certificate, or equivalent</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>

No.	Criterion	Comment	Criterion met, proof of compliance submitted ⁵ (to be completed by the tenderer)
8	Hazard avoidance		
	The products are to contain no substance that necessitates product labelling within the meaning of Germany's Hazardous Substance Regulation (Gefahrstoffverordnung)	Minimum criterion Proof of compliance via manufacturer's declaration	<input type="checkbox"/>

Imprint

Publisher:

Umweltbundesamt

Fachgebiet III 1.3

Postfach 14 06

06813 Dessau-Roßlau

Phone: +49 340-2103-0

info@umweltbundesamt.de

Website: www.umweltbundesamt.de

www.beschaffung-info.de

 [/umweltbundesamt.de](https://www.facebook.com/umweltbundesamt.de)

 [/umweltbundesamt](https://twitter.com/umweltbundesamt)

Design and layout:

KOMAG mbH Berlin

Link to publication:

[https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/
publikationen](https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/publikationen)

Photo credits:

Cover: © K.-P. Adler – Fotolia.com

Last updated: 17 November 2014

