

Consultation concerning revised criteria for Nordic Ecolabelling for printing companies and printed matter

Nordic Ecolabelling gives you the opportunity to comment on the proposal for criteria for Nordic Swan Ecolabelling for printing companies and printed matter. Your comments are important and will be considered by the national Ecolabelling boards and the Nordic Ecolabelling Board.

We look forward to your comments, which should be sent to the Nordic Ecolabelling no later than **April 30, 2020** to be taken into consideration.

Nordic Swan Ecolabelled printing companies and printed matter are assessed based on a life cycle perspective and fulfil high environmental and health requirements.

Please find the proposed criteria for download further down on this page.

What has been changed?

The criteria has been re-structured and the requirements are calculated per tonne of paper purchased instead of the weight of the printed matter.

- Product definition Printing companies are only allowed to print on packaging made of paper-based materials.
- The requirement for consumption of inspected and Nordic Swan/EU Ecolabelled paper has been stringent from at least 25% to 70%.
- New requirements for printing substrates other than paper. As for paper, substrates other than paper needs to be inspected in order to be available for the printing company in the electronic application aid.
- The requirement for energy use has been re-structured and stringed.

Chemical requirement:

The requirement for classification of production chemicals has been updated in relation to CLP and the Nordic Ecolabelling's general chemical requirements. This means that several exemptions and trivial limits for specific chemical has been removed in generation 6 e.g.:

- Toluene-based washing agents and printing ink and chemicals containing chrome trioxide and copper sulphate used in gravure printing. This means that it is not possible to use rotogravure printing in the new generation 6;
- UV inks (energy-curable inks) used in inkjet machines. This means that there is limited opportunity to use UV inks in the new generation 6.

New:

- The chemical requirement has been restructured (no longer included in a matrix and point system) and replaced with absolute requirements for the individual chemical.
- New requirements have been introduced for the definition of ingoing substances and impurities in chemical products, and the limit for impurities in the chemical product is 100 ppm.
- Printing inks, toners, inks, varnished and adhesives must be tested for de-inkability according to INGEDE¹ and have a positive score according to EPRC² De-inkability Scorecard.

¹ www.ingede.org

² ERPC (2017). Assessment of Printed Product Recyclability



Use of the Nordic Swan Ecolabel logo on printed matter:

- The requirement has been expanded with the possibility to use the logo on Nordic Swan- or EU Ecolabelled textile or Nordic Swan Ecolabelled construction and facade panels such as acoustic panels.

We wish to highlight the following points in the consultation draft:

Regarding the chemical requirements:

- Please note the new definition of ingoing substances and impurities in chemical products in requirement O10 and appendix 1. We are aware of the fact that this is a sharp limit. We would especially like your comments on how this might affect the approval of your products according to the new criteria.
- Please note the new requirement for de-inkability regarding printing inks, toners, inks, varnished and adhesives. We would very much like your comments on the requirement it selves but also on other possible test methods.

Documents for download

- [Criteria proposal \(English\)](#)
- [Background to the proposal \(English\)](#)
- [Calculation sheet](#)

Please let us know if you prefer a hard copy, and we will send you one by mail.

Who can provide input?

All people, companies and institutions who are interested in taking part in the development work of Nordic Ecolabelling criteria for printing companies and printed matter can provide us with their opinions and comments. We would appreciate if you kindly distribute information about this review to whom it may concern.

How can comments be sent in?

Your input is most valuable to our criteria development. We prefer to receive your answers via the form below, via mail or by e-mail to joutsen@ecolabel.fi

For further questions, please contact our Product Specialist

Harri Hotulainen, e-mail: harri.hotulainen@ecolabel.fi or telephone +358(0) 400 417 884.

What happens next?

When the consultation period is complete, the answers will be compiled and evaluated. For this reason, a new revised proposal for criteria will be submitted to the Finnish Ecolabelling Board and the other national committees. On this basis, the Nordic Ecolabelling Board will then decide on new criteria.

Part of the decision document is the summary of all consultation responses together with answers from Nordic Ecolabelling. The summary will be public and available on the Ecolabelling Sweden's web page in connection with the publication of the new criteria.

We look forward to receiving your comments no later than **April 30, 2020**.

Best regards,

Harri Hotulainen
Ecolabelling Finland

