



Austrian eco-label directive - abstract

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Recycled paper products

The objective of the directive is the promotion of envelopes, college pads and note pads, till rolls, loose leaf inserts or school books produced in accordance with environmentally-friendly conditions. This should be guaranteed, on the one hand, through the use of collected recycled paper from fibrous raw materials, strict sanctions on substances used and the production process itself, and, on the other, through the products' recycling-friendly design.

The fibrous raw material used as the papers' basis must be of 100% recycled paper (5% tolerance). The use of recycled paper contributes to resource sustainability and waste reduction. In particular, the required use of 60% "low and medium types" (from household collections, for example) contributes to the inclusion of lower paper qualities in the recycling process.

The legal waste water emission limits (see table) must not be exceeded in order to reduce environmental strain as a result of paper production as far as possible. In addition, the production plant must have a biological waste water purification system at its disposal.

The most important waste water emission limits for pulp and paper production

Parameters	kg/t*
CSB (calculated as O ₂)	5 (6 if peroxide is used)
BSB ₅ (calculated as O ₂)	1.2
AOX (calculated as Cl)	0.01

specific freights related to tonnes of air-dried paper

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The use of energy during production must not exceed a minimum level. Residue materials, especially those resulting from the recycled paper preparation process, should be recycled materially or thermally. A waste management plan must be submitted on behalf of both the paper production plant and the plant which is

responsible for the products' continued processing. Procedural simplifications as regards production requirements and providing proof of these are being implemented for businesses operating an environmental management system in accordance with EMAS or ISO 14001.

Strict rules exist for substances which endanger health or the environment. Chemicals requiring labelling by law (such as "poisonous", "harms reproduction" or "carcinogenic") are generally excluded from use.

Optical brighteners and ethylenediaminetetraacetate (EDTA) are prohibited. Chlorine and chlorine compounds may not be used during pulp bleaching. During dying or printing, no azo dyes may be used, as these release carcinogenic amines, and no dyes containing mercury, lead, cadmium or chrome⁶⁺ compounds may be used during the production process.

Only water-based adhesives are permitted and adhesives based on natural latex for gluing during the products' completion phase. Items which are exposed to a stronger, mechanical strain may be finished using varnishes in order to increase their durability. However, film laminations are not permitted in order to ensure that the products can be recycled after use.

The products are subject to specific quality requirements, depending on their composition and function. The observance of these requirements will be determined using, among other things, special practical tests.

Bonding materials and halogenated synthetic materials may not be used as packaging materials.

Discover eco-label products in the internet – go to

www.umweltzeichen.at

For more information, please contact one of the Eco-label addresses:

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