



eco-INSTITUT-Label

Certification scheme

Status: August 2023

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The mark of conformity

The eco-INSTITUT-Label marks construction products, mattresses, bedding goods and furniture as well as cleaning products meeting the strictest requirements on pollutants and emissions going far beyond existing legal obligations.

Suitable products

Products suitable for the label must be toxicologically harmless and to a large extent environmentally compatible.

Construction products	Mattresses & Bedding goods	Furniture	Cleaning products
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Painting and coating materials - Sealants - Timber floorings, laminate and panels - Timber materials/drywalls (e.g. MDF boards, chip boards, OSB boards) - Adhesives - Mineral construction products 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Latex mattresses - Polyurethane mattresses - Spring mattresses - Futons with padding materials from kapok, coconut, horsehair or synthetic fibre - Duvets and cushions with animal, vegetable or synthetic wadding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Furniture made from solid wood, from coated and uncoated timber material board - Furniture made from synthetics or metals - Padded furniture with textile covers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hard surface cleaners

Test criteria and limit values

Test criteria and limit values to be complied with are developed according to the latest state of the art and are also product group specifically defined by eco-INSTITUT.

The test criteria are available in the internet at www.eco-institut-label.de/en/downloads/

Scope of testing

Testing involves two or three sections:

- (1) Document review
- (2) Factory inspection (where necessary, mandatory for non-EU customers) incl. sampling
- (3) Laboratory testing

By means of the document review, the product's general certifiability is examined. Conformity with the basic requirements of the respective test criteria is checked on the basis of product data such as the materials used and other product properties as stated by the manufacturer. In addition, compliance with requirements regarding environment and health-relevant material prohibitions as well as the fulfillment of the requirements for the fitness for use are considered.

After a successful document review, for non-EU customers a **factory inspection** is required as part of the eco-INSTITUT-Label certification process. Extensive **laboratory tests** are then performed on representative samples. The emphasis is thereby on emission measurements (outgassings) in the test chamber (according to DIN EN 16516 and ISO 16000). In addition, depending on the product group, content analysis of selected parameters are being carried out (heavy metals, pesticides, halogenated organic compounds).

Validity period of the certification

The eco-INSTITUT-Label is valid for two years. Hereafter the product may be recertified. For this a document review and a laboratory test have to take place again complying with the latest test criteria of the eco-INSTITUT-Label. For non-EU customers another factory inspection is required in justified cases e.g. in case of changes to the goods, manufacturing process or manufacturing site.

Costs of the testing and certification

The document review costs 290 € (net per product). An individual offer may be provided in the case of a number of similar products. The cost of the factory inspection varies depending on the location of the facility (the standard price is 2.700 € plus expenses). The costs of the lab test and certification vary depending on the product group. The following standard prices apply (an individual offer may be made in the case of a number of similar products and additional materials:

Product group	Laboratory testing and certification (costs for 2 years net per product)
Construction products & Hard surface cleaners	2,800 – 3,000 €
Bedding goods	
with undyed coverings	1,800 €
with dyed coverings	2,300 €
Mattresses	
with undyed coverings	3,400 €
with dyed coverings	3,900 €
Furniture	
wood / synthetic / metal	2,880 € ¹
upholstery furniture (textile)	depends on the number of different fabrics and foams within scope of certification

¹ Testings of components in test chamber < 1 m³

Fee for the use of the label

Fee for the rights to use the eco-INSTITUT-Label on the product and in the product documentation is calculated on a yearly basis.

This fee depends on the annual gross income of the product marked by the eco-INSTITUT-Label. An individual offer is possible in the case of a number of similar products.

The label use fee is calculated annually in advance. The allocation into the appropriate fee class takes place via self-classification by the manufacturer. The maximum rate amounts to 3,000 €, the minimum rate amounts to 500 €.

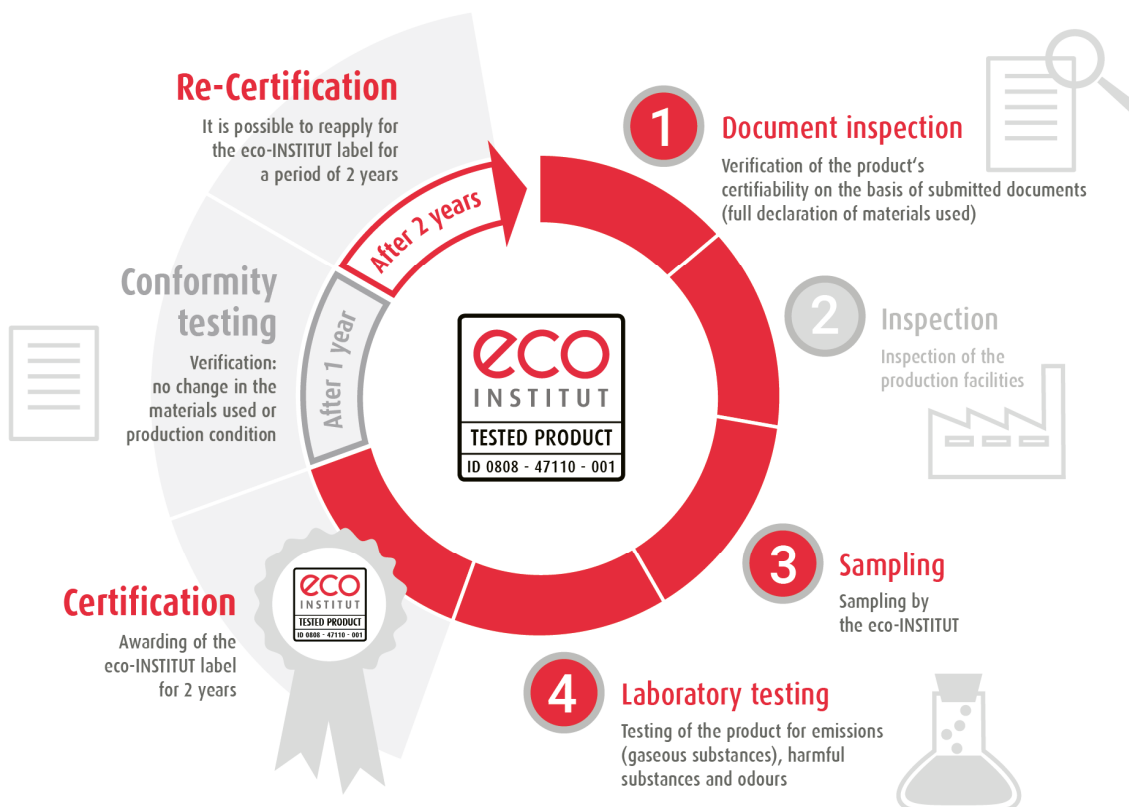
Revenue in M € (with the designated product)	Fee for use (per product per year, net)	Fee class
up to 1.0	500 € (minimum fee)	1
1.0 to 3.0	1,000 €	2
3.0 to 6.0	2,000 €	3
over 6.0	3,000 € (maximum fee)	4

Contact persons

Please contact the following if you have any questions regarding product testing and certification:

General information	info@eco-institut.de phone +49 (0)221 – 931245-0
Project management	M.Sc. Crystalline Materials Marc-Anton Dobaj phone +49 (0)221 – 931245-44 marc.dobaj@eco-institut.de Dipl. Chem. Vanessa Laumann phone +49 (0)221 – 931245-43 vanessa.laumann@eco-institut.de Nora Rasch phone +49 (0)221 – 931245-49 nora.rasch@eco-institut.de

The certification process



1 – Document review

- You receive information material and various documents from us regarding the eco-INSTITUT-Label, including: (forms are available on the internet at www.eco-institut-label.de/en/downloads/):
 - Certification scheme
 - Application for certification
 - Test criteria
- If you are interested in certifying your products, please send us the filled in and signed Application for certification (including full declaration of materials, information about all suppliers and the current material safety datasheets according to REACH decree). Of course, all data is treated confidentially.
- The document review (examination of certifiability) costs 290 € (per product, net) an individual offer may be provided in the case of several similar products.
- If your product fulfils the basic requirements for the eco-INSTITUT-Label it will qualify for laboratory testing. You will receive an offer from us for the factory inspection, complete testing and certification of your product.
- Please send an order confirmation.

2 – Inspection
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The factory inspection (mandatory for non-EU customers) includes the verification of the data given in the pre-certification review, inspection of the quality management system and supply chain as well as sampling. - Additionally sampling is carried out.
3 – Sampling
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If sampling does not take place in the context of the factory inspection, a remote sampling can be conducted by an employee of eco-INSTITUT via video conference. Alternatively, you choose an independent sampling party (e. g. notary or environmental expert) in compliance with us. - We send you the necessary sampling documents (sampling guidance and sampling sheet). The documents are available on the internet at www.eco-institut-label.de/en/downloads/ - The applicant bears for the sampling costs.
4 – Laboratory testing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The laboratory testing takes about 5 – 8 weeks depending on product group.
5 – Certification
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If the product passes the lab testing, please send us the signed contract as well as the declaration of conformity with which you confirm the composition as well as the production of the commodity distinguished with the eco-INSTITUT-Label corresponds to the test specimen and the given data. You will then receive the certification and permission contracts for signature. Please return the documents as soon as possible (latest after 14 days). - Declaration of conformity and contracts are available on the internet at www.eco-institut-label.de/en/downloads/ - The certification contract is concluded for a term of 24 months from the date of issue of the certificate. It is extended without any particular declaration for further two calendar years, if it is not terminated on notice 3 months prior to the end of the validity period. The right of both parties to terminate the agreement for good cause remains unaffected. - Once the signed contracts and declaration of conformity have been received, you will receive: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ certification document in three languages (D/E/F) as a pdf file ▪ detailed report ▪ associated eco-INSTITUT label with the individual certification number mmyy – xxxxx – yyy (date of issue – customer number – product number) - You can use the eco-INSTITUT label promotionally on your certified product and in your product documents. Please also see the accompanying document „How to advertise with the eco-INSTITUT-Label“. - Your product is entered in the list of certified products on the Internet at www.eco-institut-label.de/en/produkte/

6 – Conformity testing
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- After one year we send you a form for the declaration of conformity. Here you confirm that no changes have taken place with the materials used and/or the production specifications.
7 – Re-Certification
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- After two years you can acquire the eco-INSTITUT-Label again for a period of two years. For this we carry out a document review, a laboratory test according the latest eco-INSTITUT-Label-test criteria and – if applicable – an factory inspection (e.g. in case of changes to the goods, manufacturing process or manufacturing site).

Fee for use of the label

After successful testing and certification the label use fee for the first use year is calculated. You inform us in advance of the corresponding fee class (based on the annual turnover of the eco-INSTITUT-Label distinguished product).

After one year we calculate the use fee for the second use year. The basis is again the fee class provided by you.

Expansion of the rights of use

As a certificate holder, you can request an expansion of the use of the eco-INSTITUT-Label if you wish to market the product yourself under another name (1st case) and/or another distribution organisation would like to market the product under another name (2nd case).

1 st case	2 nd case
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- For the alternative product name, you will receive a new label with its own certification number, on which only the serial number changes.- Alternatively, the new product name can be listed on the certificate under the same certification number.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- The certificate can be issued to the certificate holder's retailer/distributor who wants to market the product under another name.- The retailer/distributor must also pay the label usage fee annually in advance for promotion using the label.- The retailer/distributor receives a label with its own certification number.

You will receive from us the licensing agreement and a form for the declaration of conformity, with which you (and, if applicable, the retailer/distributor) confirm to us that the composition and manufacturing of the product to be certified correspond to that of the originally certified product. An audit may be required to inspect the supply chain (mandatory for non-EU customers).

The contracts and declarations of conformity are published on the Internet at www.eco-institut-label.de/en/downloads/

Costs of expansion of the rights of use: 350 € (net) plus label usage fee and any audit expenses – depending on location.

Contract termination

You have the option of terminating the contract (prematurely).

You will receive from us the form Dissolution of contract, with which you confirm to us that the certification and licensing agreement for the corresponding product will be terminated prematurely and also agree to no longer use the eco-INSTITUT-Label on goods and in product advertising from the time of contract termination.

Compensation for contract termination: 300 € (net)