



ISO / TC-207 Meetings on June 1998

The event more important in this year about the ecolabelling systems is the approval by the SC3 of the ISO/TC 207 of the first international standards which in the future may affect our activity.

It is expected that the ISO standards ISO 14020, 14021 and 14024 are approved and in the future the ecolabelling systems can refer to these standards.

In spite of there are ecolabelling systems of GEN's members with a strong success, if we measure it in number of products which have awarded the ecolabel, the greater part of the ecolabelling systems have several common problems which would be necessary to solve, some of them are the follows:

- The interest of the manufacturers is short, in general
- The manufacturer associations, in many cases, tend to prolong unjustifiably the elaboration of the product environmental criteria to hinder the existence of ecolabel for certain products.
- The actions of the consumers in the market buying products with ecolabel facing products without it, is short, in some countries it is because of the knowledge shortage of the ecolabel meaning in others because there is not a sufficient environmental sensibility and they give priority to other purchase's reasons as the smaller cost.

To solve the first problem it would have to interest more to the manufacturers, show them the added value that to the ecolabel given to the product. In this sense the mutual recognition agreements among ecolabelling systems give an added value to the ecolabel and they increases the interest of the manufacturers in it. GEN make in the sense of the mutual recognition will be positive to solve the problem

with the manufacturers.

The environmental sensibility increases of the consumers is linked to the better knowledge of the ecolabel meaning and all actions made by GEN to divulge among the consumers the concept " ecolabel " will be profitable.

Also, the greater stockist can make an important labour in favour of the ecolabel and so it would have to bear in mind into the general process.

The international recognition of the value that the ecolabelling has for the environment improvement has to entail increasingly in which the Institutions, Administrations and Governments use it as a tool of environmental improvement.

Also, in this sense the GEN members have to work in their countries to try to include the ecolabelling systems into environmental policy.

José L. Tejera
GEN Chair
Asociación Española de
Normalización y Certificación

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New Members Report



Federal Environmental Agency (Germany)

THE GERMAN “BLUE ANGEL” -SCHEME

I. Foundation and Principles

The German Environmental Label “Blue Angel” was founded in 1978 by the Environmental Ministers of the Federation and the Federal States. Products can be awarded the Environmental Label, which

- compared with other products fulfilling the same function and
- considered in their entirety, taking into account all aspects of environmental protection (including the use of raw materials), are, as a whole,
- characterized by a particularly high degree of environmental soundness
- without thereby significantly reducing their fitness for use and impairing their safety.

In the outer circle there are references to the special environmental attributes of the product (see above).

II. Institutions involved

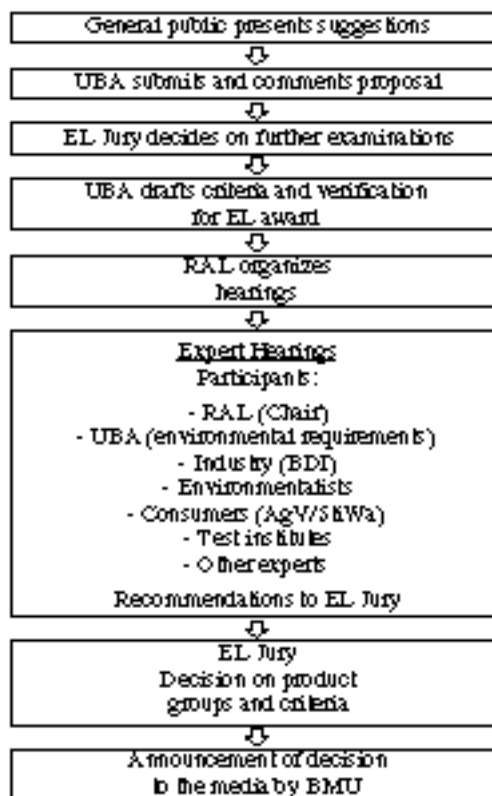
The Environmental Label is jointly sponsored by

- the Jury Umweltzeichen - an independent panel with representatives from the scientific, business and environmental communities and from consumer organizations,
- the German Institute for Quality Assurance and Labelling (Deutsches Institut für Gütesicherung und Kennzeichnung e.V. - RAL), Siegburger Straße 39, 53757 St. Augustin, Tel.: 02241/1605-23, -36 and
- the Federal Environmental Agency (Umweltbundesamt), Postfach 33 00 22, 14191 Berlin, Tel.: 030/8903-3705, -3678
- Information on the Internet-Web-Side: <http://www.blauer-engel.de>
- An additional brochure “The Environmental Label Introduces Itself” can be awarded from the Federal Environmental Agency;

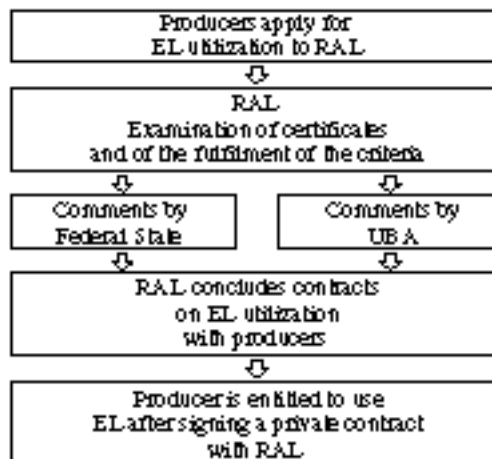
III. Decision-making process

The decision-making process comprises the following two steps:

Step 1: Development of Criteria



Step 2: Applications by Manufacturers



Explanation of abbreviations:

RAL	German Institute for Quality Assurance and Labelling	UBA	Federal Environmental Agency
AgV	Consumers' Association	BMU	Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety
BDI	Federation of German Industries Agency	EL	Environmental Label
StiWa	“ Stiftung Warentest ” Foundation		

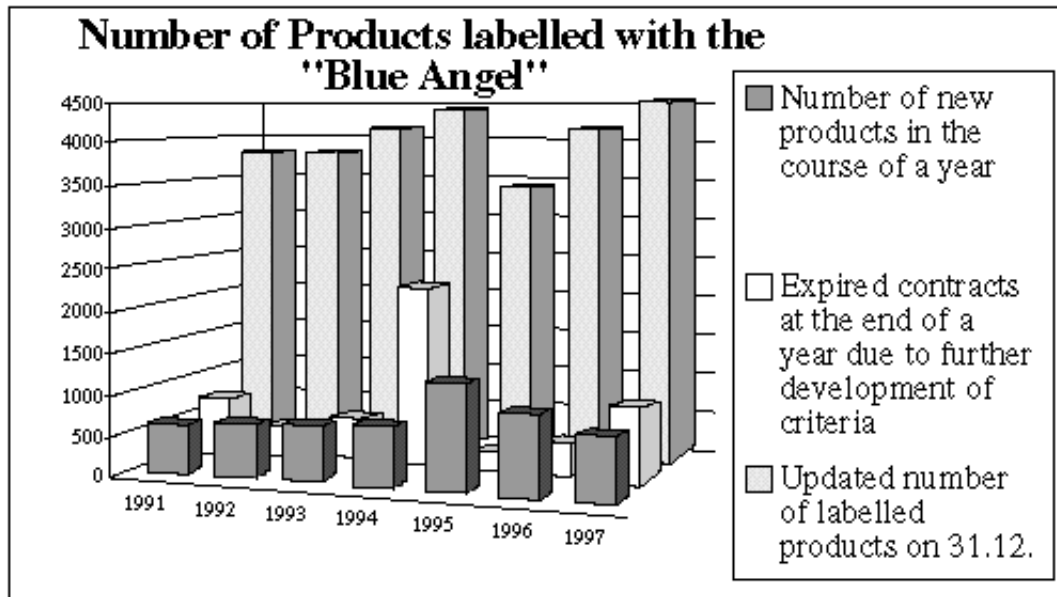
IV. Present Status (December 1997)

- Criteria are available in 79 different product-categories
- 944 companies are involved
- 4.485 products are certified
- 14 % of the companies and 16 % of the products come from importing companies. But in reality the share of importers is higher because a lot of non-domestic manufacturers have concluded contracts for use of the label in the name of their German importers.

The following table shows the situation in some selected product-categories. The period of validity is continuously decided by the Jury Umweltzeichen, based in general on suggested improvements:

	Product-Category	Decision taken in	Valid through	Number of EL products	Number of manufacturers
RAL-UZ 2	returnable bottles	1978	1998	83	42
RAL-UZ 5	sanitary paper made from recycled paper	1978	2001	183	14
RAL-UZ 9	low-emission oil burners	1979	2001	84	24
RAL-UZ 12 a	low-pollutant paints	1980	2001	1,345	102
RAL-UZ 14	recycled paper	1981	2001	315	91
RAL-UZ 27	reusable packings for transportation	1984	2000	19	19
RAL-UZ 30 a	products made from recycled plastics	1990	2001	68	39
RAL-UZ 38	furniture from wooden materials	1986	1998	105	40
RAL-UZ 39	low-emission gas burners	1986	2001	86	29
RAL-UZ 47	solar-energy products	1987	2000	34	10
RAL-UZ 48	lubricants for power saws	1987	2000	94	10
RAL-UZ 51	environment ticket in public transport	1988	2001	17	11
RAL-UZ 52	highly heat-insulating window glass	1988	2001	15	10
RAL-UZ 53	low-noise construction machines	1988	1999	191	52
RAL-UZ 61	gasfired condensing boilers	1990	2001	59	23
RAL-UZ 62	copiers	1990	1998	174	18
RAL-UZ 73	solar collectors	1991	2000	17	10
RAL-UZ 78	computer	1994	1998	73	16
RAL-UZ 79	rapidly biodegradable hydraulic fluids	1994	2000	27	3
RAL-UZ 85	printers	1996	1999	8	4

The following figure shows the dynamic process of the “ Blue-Angel ”-scheme in terms of certified new products and also expired contracts because of criteria improvements:



Source: Federal Environmental Agency / RAL 1997

V. Test Orders

The Environmental Label Jury has awarded the Umweltbundesamt test orders for numerous other product groups. The life cycle of a product (manufacture, use and consumption, disposal) affects in most cases several environment-related aspects. An overview of the some important test orders is provided in the following:

1. Electrical appliances and products

- household-appliances as washing machines, dishwashers or dryers
- rechargeable consumer batteries
- television sets
- coffee machines
- appliances of office communication
- gas stove and electric cooker
- low-noise and low-emission motor-lawnmower

2. Products for do-it-yourselfers and the handicraft

- dispersion paints in returnable containers
- graffiti cleaners
- construction materials made of recycled material for use in building construction
- heat insulation materials made of renewable resources

3. Others

- biological pest control agents
- car sharing systems
- dry cleaning systems for textiles
- flame retardents

VI. News from the “ Blue-Angel ”-Scheme

- The year 1998 is the year of the 20th anniversary of the German “ Blue Angel Scheme ”. The most important

event will be the “ Green Goods V Environmental Labelling ”, organised in cooperation with the OECD, scheduled for the 26 - 28 October in Berlin.

- There is to a certain extent a growing interest from foreign companies, e.g. from Corea (computers and constriction machines), United States or Japan. An OECD-Report 1997 (Ecolabelling - Actual Effects On Selected Programmes) confirm a comparable high share of importing companies.
- First awards for printers (RAL-UZ 85) are adopted and certified: Hewlett-Packard, Kyocera, Lexmark, Siemens-Nixdorf. The reviewed criteria document for computers is still a “ success story ”.
- Other new important product categories in which products have been certified are
- thermal insulating products made of glass wool (from waste glass)
- environmentally sound sanitary additives for mobile toilets
- rapidly biodegradable hydraulic fluids (lubricants)
- Ready for certification are “ low-noise and energy saving tires ”; at the last meeting of the Environmental label panel decided criteria documents for televisions and for PE-bags for milk.
- Most important future projects (“ test orders ”) concern varnishes, household equipments, office communication techniques, car-sharing systems, and dry-cleaning systems for textiles.

- Some important product-categories have not yet found the interest of companies for certification as detergents, refrigerators, municipal vehicles (with gas drive).
- Growing concern is risen by a tendency in industry to discuss and to create alternative labels in terms of self-declaration claims or labels organised by industrial associations.
- "Blue Angel" finds high attention by professional purchasers in trade, handicraft or procurement but there is a need to consider a stagnation in public attention: 50 % of the people (former west part) and 33 % (former east part) recognize the "Blue Angel" as the label for environmentally sound products.
- There is too much confusion about considerably different

environmental-related labels, some of them might be valued as a misuse.

- The new Internet Homepage for the "Blue Angel" Scheme will improve information transfer. Included are basic information in German and English, a summary of the criteria, continuous updated lists of certified companies and products Address: <http://www.blauer-engel.de>

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International Accreditation New Zealand (New Zealand)

Environmental Choice New Zealand

Environmental Choice New Zealand is New Zealand's official environmental Labeling programme. The Programme is operated by International Accreditation New Zealand under an agreement with the Minister for the Environment. The programme is endorsed by the Minister for the Environment and the Minister owns the Environmental Choice New Zealand label. International Accreditation New Zealand (IANZ) is a government-owned agency established under its own Act of Parliament. IANZ provides accreditation services for laboratories and inspection bodies.

The objectives of Environmental Choice New Zealand are set out in the agreement with the Minister for the Environment and are to:

- provide incentive for manufacturers and importers to reduce the environmental impacts of products sold in New Zealand
- recognize the genuine moves made by companies to reduce environmental impact of their products.
- provide a clear, credible and independent guide for consumers wishing to take account of environmental factors in their purchase decisions
- encourage consumers to purchase goods that have lower environmental impacts
- ultimately improve the quality of the environment and to encourage the sustainable management of resources.

Environmental Choice New Zealand was established by the New Zealand Government in 1990 and formally launched in 1992. The first license to use the Environmental Choice

New Zealand label was granted in 1994. In 1995/96 IANZ (at the time called Telarc New Zealand) carried out a major review of the programme. The review looked at how the programme should respond to international developments in environmental labeling and trade. As a result of this review, programme procedures have been aligned with the requirements of ISO 14020 and ISO 14024. Environmental Choice New Zealand has also formally adopted the World Trade Organization, Technical Barriers to Trade Agreement, Code of Practice for standard writing. The review also led to the decision to join the Global Ecolabelling Network.

During 1997, Environmental Choice carried out a promotional project, targeted primarily at manufacturers and importers of products. The project involved producing new promotional material (including a video) and a major advertising campaign in the business press. On World Environment Day (5 June 1997), Environmental Choice also hosted a national conference on Environmental labeling and marketing. Response to the promotional project has been good and IANZ expects to be soon announcing some new licenses for products that have high consumer profile.

IANZ is advised on the operation of the programme by the Environmental Choice Management Advisory Committee (ECMAC) whose membership includes people with expertise in environmental science, consumer interests, manufacturing, wholesaling, retailing, environmental policy and environmental improvement.

The programme has published specification documents for eighteen product categories covering, paper, battery, carpet,

detergent, paint, recycled plastic and re-refined oil products. These specifications were published between 1992 and 1995. IANZ and ECMAC are completing a review of all of these specification documents and IANZ expects to be publishing revised specifications in May 1998. Copies of proposed review drafts for all specification documents are available on www.ianz.govt. ECMAC has just established a new expert task group to prepare group is expected to begin its work in April 1998.

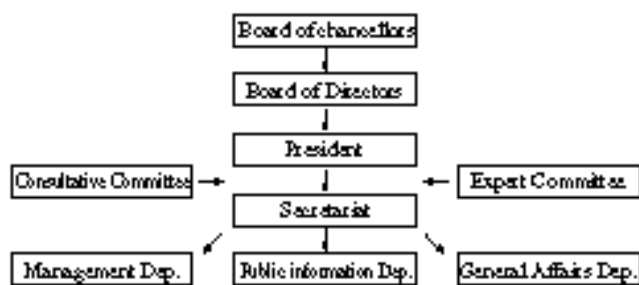
There are three current licenses to use the Environmental Choice New Zealand label and these cover some 60 paint and carpet products. Further applications for licenses are in progress and will extend the licensed product range to other product categories.



Korea Environment Labelling Association (KELA) (Korea)

The object of environmental labelling program in Korea is primarily intended to encourage enterprises to design, product, distribute, and to use the products which have reduced environmental impacts during their life cycle and to provide consumers with better information on the environmental impacts of products. By doing so, it contributes to reducing environmental burdens and impacts associated with the consumption of goods, and in turn encourages the manufacturers to develop environmental technologies.

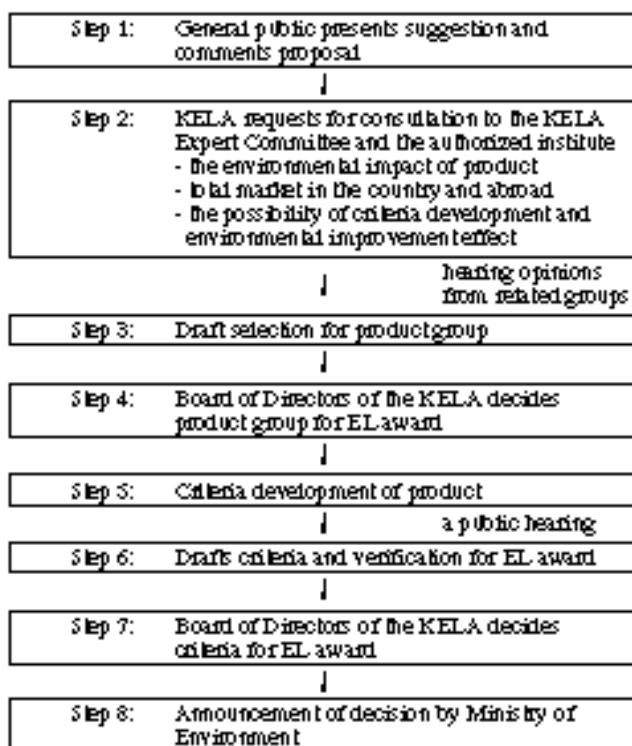
The Korea Environmental Labelling program introduced in 1992 and the Korea Environmental Labelling Association (KELA) is composed of representatives from industry, commerce, consumer, and environmental organizations. The KELA operates the program. The KELA is composed as follows:



The Eco-label logo of Korea is represented as the shown below. The curved-center line is the inside circle and is invoked from the national flag (" Tae-guek " flag) which implies the harmony of the universe. The bird and trees shown in the upper part of the circle represent all the plants and animals in the world. The lower part of the curved center line implies the water and the soil. The logo of the Eco-label is " Cleaner and Greener " which is expressed between the two circles.

The working program of the KELA consists of two categories. The first program is a selection of appropriate

product groups and establish the criteria for the chosen products. That is, in the event of applications being submitted for products with no criteria, applications for the awarding of the Eco-label may only be submitted after the publication of the award criteria for the relevant product group. The procedure for selecting the product category and developing criteria is as follows.



The second program is the procedure for the certification of products which have existing criteria. As a first step, the applicant for the awarding of Eco-labels should submit an application form along with the descriptive information of product and the report of tested products following the lines of the criteria from accredited laboratories. On receipt of an application's complete documentation, the implementation

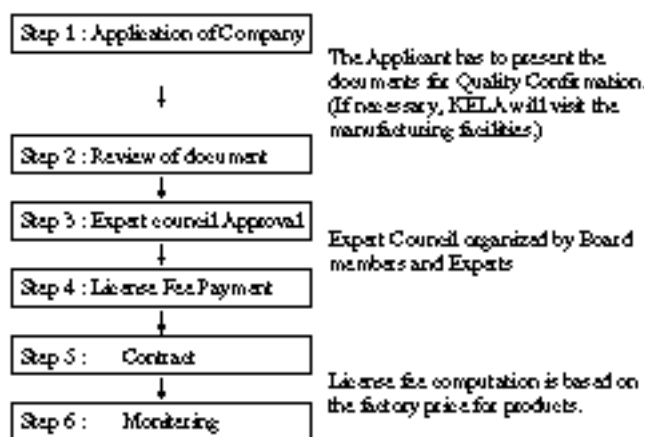
body reviews the data to ensure all requirements are met, and it determines whether or not a site visit is required. Also, the implementation body asks a third party for an examination if necessary. The final evaluation report is sent

to the Expert council which decides if the level should be awarded. For products receiving the Expert Council's approval, the applicant signs a contract with KELA covering evaluation and certification.

Table.1

At present		After publication in May, 1998	
No.	Name of Criteria	No.	Name of Criteria
1.	Products made from recycled paper	1.	Printing paper (R)
2.	Toilet paper made from recycled paper	2.	Toilet paper (R)
3.	Products made from recycled plastics	3.	Poly-resin product (R)
4.	Low harmful textile products	4.	Clothing (R)
5.	Asbestos free brake linings & clutch facing for brake system of vehicles	5.	Non-Asbestos transportation parts (R)
6.	Filters for kitchen sinks	6.	Water saving equipment (R)
8.	Valve for adjusting flow and water saving-type faucets	7.	Filter for air cleaner (R)
9.	Products made from cotton/fiber	8.	Soap (R)
10.	Soap made from waste cooking oil	9.	Material for civil engineering and architecture (R)
11.	Building materials made from recycled inorganic materials	10.	Rubber products (R)
12.	Products made from waste glass	11.	Fluorescent lamps (R)
13.	Products made from waste tires	12.	Maritime two Cycle engine oil (R)
14.	Bulb-type fluorescent lamps	13.	Engine oil for oil pump (R)
17.	Biodegradable engine oil for 2-Cycle engines	14.	Wooden Molding (R)
18.	Biodegradable hydraulic oil	15.	Petroleum (R)
19.	Bricks made from inorganic sludge of wastewater treatment plants	16.	Refillable part (R)
20.	Products made from waste wood	17.	Solar water heater (R)
21.	Water economizing toilet stool	18.	Refrigerator (R)
22.	Diesel, Kerosene and gasoline	19.	Spray (R)
24.	Cement made with furnace slag	20.	Toner cartridge (R)
25.	Returnable can collector	21.	Water based paint (N)
26.	Refill products	22.	Printing ink (N)
27.	Water economizing fitting for toilet stool	23.	Industrial batteries (N)
28.	Biodegradable sponge	24.	Gas boiler (N)
29.	Machine for recycling used antifreeze	25.	Copier (N)
30.	Gravel made of waste materials	26.	Air conditioner (N)
31.	Oil filter for vehicle	27.	Washing machine (N)
32.	Energy saving low mercury fluorescent bulb	28.	Detergent (N)
33.	Plastic container with the same material label attached		
34.	Solar water heater		
35.	Low pollution ferro-concrete pipe		
36.	Low pollution electric refrigerator		
37.	Aerosol product using Compressed Air for Propellant		
38.	Refillable toner cartridge for laser beam printer		
	Total 34 product groups		Total 28 product groups

(R) : Revising product group (N) : Newly established product group



The Applicant has to pay an application fee when applying for the label. The initial fee for the Eco-label is 30,000won (approximately US \$20). If the application is approved, and label usage is, the user of the Eco-label has to pay an annual fee which ranges from 300,000 won (approximately US \$200) to 1,000,000 won (approximately US \$665) and the fee will be decided by the consideration of the factory price of the goods. The usage of the Eco-label is permitted for

one year. To extend the label utilization, the applicant must extend the contract for the following year and this will be determined by an expert report after checking that the product still meets in the requirements of the award criteria.

From Mar. 1997, KELA has revised the existing product groups and developed new product groups by the approaching method based on life cycle assessment. The project for revising and developing criteria was executed by the Korea Testing & Research Institute for Chemical Industry (KOTRIC) which is a subcontractor the Ministry of Environment (MOE) and KELA. Through the study of KOTRIC, the existing 34 product groups that had to be integrated and nullified have been revised to 20 product groups and the criteria for 8 new product groups have been developed. The environmental labelling criteria for a total of 28 product groups as shown on the right side of the Table 1. will be published in May.1998.

The basic information is as follows :

1. Total number of valid criteria - 34 product groups
2. Number of certified products - 215



Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (Sweden)

The Swedish Society for Nature Conservation and eco-labelling

There are many ways of working for a better environment. One way is to make life easier for consumers who want to buy environmentally friendly products and make it more difficult for companies that pollute. The Swedish Society for Nature Conservation, founded in 1909, is Sweden's largest democratic environmental organisation. Since we began eco-labelling, in 1987, several thousand products have been reformulated and adapted so that they can use our Good Environmental Choice eco-label. Today, companies compete over who has the best products in environmental terms, and most consumers are interested and knowledgeable.

How does eco-labelling work?

Before a product is allowed to display the Good Environmental Choice eco-label, it must meet certain requirements. These requirements or criteria, as they are called, are drawn up by various experts. They check the requirements carefully, work out how they might lead to improvements in the environment, and decide whether they will have an impact on the market. After several revisions, the proposal is handed over to industry, the retail trade and the authorities to find out what their views are. It is

important that everyone agrees and that no-one feels victimised. Although the requirements may be stiff, they must not be unreasonable. Otherwise no-one would get involved.

Before the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation draws up environmental criteria for a group of products, we first carry out a careful assessment of the environmental impact of the product. Every product affects the environment in several ways during the different phases of its life cycle. We must consider how the raw materials are extracted (or what is consumed in providing a service). We must also think about how the product is made and what happens to it when it has been used and discarded. This method of assessing the total environmental impact of a product is usually called a life cycle analysis.

We keep on raising targets.

The criteria can entail setting limits for, or even prohibiting, one or more substances that are especially harmful to the environment. But it is important that the requirements are not too strict in the beginning. Some products must have a reasonable chance of meeting them, otherwise consumers will not find any eco-labelled products in the shops. Once eco-labelling has become established and most products have been adapted to the requirements, it is time to make

them stricter. Then perhaps we can prohibit a substance completely, or focus on manufacturing processes or other aspects that have a negative influence on the environment. And so it progresses, step-by-step, as products become more and more environmentally adapted.

Tightening up and inspection.

In order to be certain that products continue to deserve the eco-label, we carry out inspections by random sampling, or if we suspect that something is not quite right. Any manufacturer who cheats will lose his licence.

The Good Environmental Choice scheme also lays down rules for how the eco-label can be used, e.g. in advertising. The rules are intended to prevent consumers from being misled. Some companies are keen to give the impression that the eco-label applies to the whole company. But an eco-label applies solely to the product it was issued for.

Which products can be eco-labelled?

Drawing up sensible environmental requirements takes a lot of time and hard work.

To make eco-labelling a product worthwhile, the product should therefore be fairly widely used. The nature of the product should also be such that it has a major impact on the environment. The Swedish Society for Nature Conservation is currently involved in eco-labelling products in thirteen different criteria groups:

Laundry detergents • stain removers and bleaches • cleaners • toilet cleansers • dishwasher detergents • washing-up detergents • soap and shampoos • paper • nappies and similar products • textiles • electricity supplies • public transport • goods transport.

Electricity and transport.

It is not just consumer goods that affect the environment. Factors such as travel and electricity consumption also have major environmental consequences. The Swedish Society for Nature Conservation has therefore begun eco-labelling services. So far, criteria have been drawn up for public transport, goods transport and electricity supplies.

Transport creates a whole range of problems: noise, accidents, air pollution and waste. It uses large amounts of energy and resources, claims large areas of land and can create obstacles in the landscape or city environment. The criteria favour efficient transport. They also place requirements on the use of non-renewable energy, the manufacturing and distribution of energy that drives the vehicles, and correct disposal of materials when the vehicle is scrapped. They also set limits for emissions of acidifying substances.

As a result of the deregulation of the electricity sector, it has become possible for consumers to choose their supplier. This has also made it possible to set environmental requirements when we buy electricity. In order to use the Good Environmental Choice eco-label, electricity generation must be based on renewable sources. Hydroelectric plants built before 1996, solar power, wind power and biofuel are all regarded as renewable energy sources by the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation.

Swedish Society for Nature Conservation

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European Commission

(co-ordinator of the European Community eco-label award scheme)

About our organisation and program:

Within the European Commission, the Directorate General for the Environment, Nuclear Safety and Civil Protection is responsible, together with the Competent Bodies appointed by each of the 15 EU Member States, Norway and Iceland, for administering and co-ordinating the European Community Eco-Label award scheme.

Established in 1992 (Council Regulation EEC No 880/92), the scheme intends to:

- promote the design, production, marketing and use of products which have a reduced environmental impact during their entire life-cycle, and
- provide consumers with better information on the environmental impact of products.

The program is a Type I eco-label scheme, based on life-cycle analysis (the cradle to grave approach) with third party certification, and is in line with the ISO 14024 standard. Criteria are developed with extensive consultation of industry, commerce, consumer and environmental organisations, the governments of the participating countries and other interested parties. Products awarded the EU eco-label may bear the flower logo.

More information may be found on the EU eco-label homepage (<http://europa.eu.int/en/comm/dg11/ecolabel>).

Brief history of the program:

Since 1992, thirteen product groups have been developed, covering currently washing machines, refrigerators, indoor

paints and varnishes, soil improvers, tissue and copying paper, laundry detergents, single- and double-ended light bulbs, and bed-linen and T-shirts. To date 43 “ licences ” have been granted to 24 manufacturers and 1 importer for 184 products. Work on ten other product groups should be completed soon.

Total number of valid criteria: 10

Number of certified products: 43 “ licences ” granted to 24 manufacturers and 1 importer for 184 products

Number of newly developed criteria (last 6 months): 2

Number of criteria under development now: 10



Thailand Environment Institute (Thailand)

About Thailand Environment Institute

The Thailand Environment Institute (TEI) is a non-profit, non-government organization established in 1993 that plays a catalytic role in environmental issues in Thailand. TEI is an action oriented policy-research institute and its principle mode of operation is to mediate between the government, other NGOs, academia, the private sector, industry, and the media. TEI has 9 separate sections, these are; Urbanization and the Environment, Environmental Information Centre, National Resource Management, Industry and the Environment, Energy and the Environment, Business and the Environment and the Grassroots Action Program. These seven programs are supported by the Presidents Office and the Administration Department.

The Thai Green Label Scheme

The Thai Green Label Scheme was initiated by the Thailand Business for Sustainable Development (TBCSD) in October, 1993. It was formally launched in August 1994 by the Thailand Environment Institute (TEI) in association with the Ministry of Industry, in consultation with the Federal Environmental Agency of Germany and the Regional Institute of Environmental Technology, Singapore.

The Thai Green Label Scheme applies to products and services excluding food and beverages, and

pharmaceuticals. Products or services which meet the Thai Green Label criteria can carry the Thai Green Label. Participation in the scheme is voluntary and the scheme is open to both domestic and foreign suppliers.

Information

Total number of valid criteria: 15
Number of certified products: 79 (brands/models)
Name of newly developed criteria: Detergents, Computers, Clothes Washers, Building Materials: Thermal Insulation

Name of criteria under development:

1. Products Made From Cloth
2. Dry Cleaning and Laundry Services
3. Motors
4. Electronic Ballast for Fluorescent Lamps
5. Metal Furniture
6. Parawood Furniture
7. Shampoos
8. Dishwashing Detergents
9. Lubricant Oil
10. Photocopiers
11. Refillable Containers
12. Wood Construction Substitute Products



Environment 2000 Foundation (Zimbabwe)

Environment 2000 is a young and dynamic non-profit making organisation, staffed primarily by Zimbabweans, that works with all sectors of the community to facilitate the protection and conservation of the environment; promoting sustainable utilisation and sustainable development. Known as a pressure group, Environment 2000 stimulates awareness and action on environmental issues.

The Environmental Labelling Programme is one of several Programmes of Environment 2000. Launched in 1991, the ELP is endorsed by the Ministry of Mines, Environment and Tourism. Organisations of all kinds in Zimbabwe are increasingly concerned to achieve and demonstrate sound environmental performance by controlling their impact of the activities, products and services on the environment. They do so in the context of increasing concern by the regulatory authorities, competitors and customers (particularly overseas) about environmental matters and the need for sustainable development.

To foster this move Environment 2000 launched the ELP, which acknowledges and advertises - through an "environmentally conscious" management label - an organisation's commitment to sound environmental performance. Environment 2000 also endorses environmentally more sound products through our "environmentally friendly" product label.

The ELP has two major sectors, business and tourism. The recently revised (finalised October 1997) management label criteria are appropriate to both sectors. The management label is based on the environmental management systems approach. There are 47 companies with the old management label, and at present none with the new criteria. We are

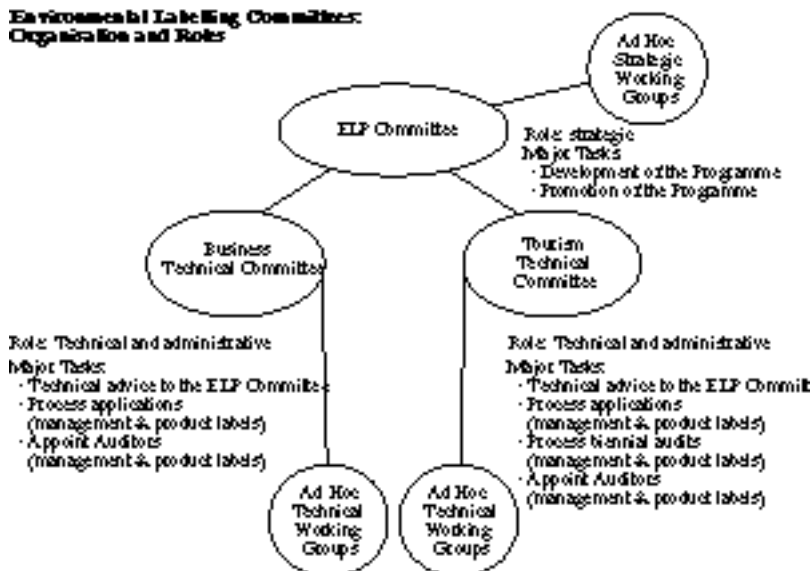
working with these companies, in phases, to assist them make the change. However, we can realistically expect some losses. Further criteria for the tourism industry are being developed under the "Environmentally Sustainable Tourism" Programme of Environment 2000.

The product label can only be applied for once the applicant has achieved the management label. Our aim is to encourage "cleaner production" in industry. This first requires the right management approach and commitment, which is acknowledged through the management label. The cleaner production approach will lead to "cleaner" products which can then be acknowledged through the product label. In the past, we have used European product label criteria when a product was assessed. In 1998, we will be setting the general product criteria which will be based on life cycle assessment, and we will be reviewing specific product criteria for those products already labelled. These are namely: toilet paper, handmade paper and dish washing liquid.

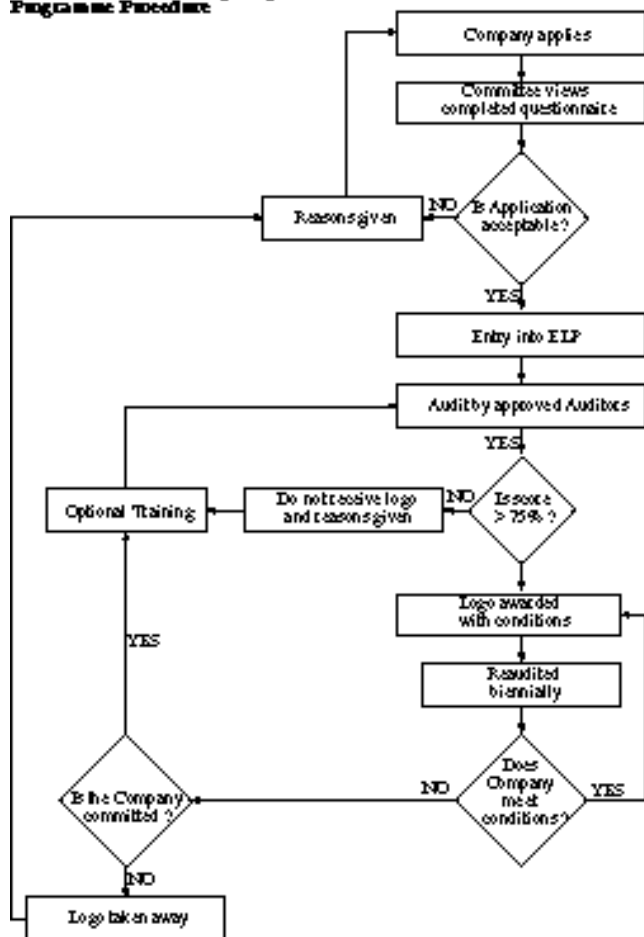
For the first time since the initiation of the Programme, a full-time ELP coordinator has been appointed, and the Programme will have its own budget in 1998. The ELP consists of the ELP Co-ordinator (from Environment 2000), accredited ELP Auditors (third party auditors) and the ELP committees (stake holder group representatives). The organisation and role of the ELP committees is given below.

The ELP committee includes representatives from the Ministry of Environment and Tourism and the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, Standards Association, business, tourism and consumer associations.

Environmental Labelling Committees: Organisation and Roles



Environment 2000 Logo Program Procedure



The general consensus from participating organisations is that the ELP should become a National initiative, which may necessitate changing the logo. The logo presently used is a registered trademark of Environment 2000.

From 1997 onwards Zimbabwean export industries have witnessed increasing pressure to have environmental labels from overseas. Many of these “ environmental ” labels appear to be knee jerk reactions by Industrial associations overseas to environmental scandals, and pay little attention to the appropriateness of the requirements to local environmental conditions. It is essentially an uncoordinated invasion which is not in the best interests of the Zimbabwean environment. For example, the cut flower industry in Zimbabwe is seeking two different environmental labels, both of which come from Holland! The cost of the certification process by accredited bodies from Europe is very expensive and is simply prohibitive to small and medium sized companies in Zimbabwe. It is against this background that the Environment 2000 has sought membership of GEN, and that the ELP seeks to become a National initiative.

Environment 2000
 P O Box A639 Avondale Harare Zimbabwe
 Tel 263 4 302276 or 302886 fax 263 4 339691

ISO Ecolabelling Standards

Dr. Arthur Weissman (Green Seal, USA)

The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) is about to issue several standards concerning principles and practices of environmental labelling. This article is a summary of the standards involved and some of the key issues that have arisen in their development.

First, a few comments about ISO and the significance of its standards. ISO is a private international standard-setting body with over a hundred national members that was set up after World War II to help harmonize standards for the purpose of fostering international trade. ISO standards have considerable weight because under the World Trade Organization agreement (GATT), anything that conforms with an ISO standard is presumed not to create a trade barrier. Conversely, although ISO standards are voluntary, non-compliance raises questions about trade barriers as well as being at variance with internationally accepted standards. ISO standards are in principle developed on a consensus basis, but the working groups tend to be dominated by participants from industry or sectors of government representing industry.

While it has historically covered quite narrow technical

subjects such as machine parts or chemical measurement methods, ISO has in recent years also entered the broader policy realm with its quality management standards (ISO 9000 series) and environmental management standards (ISO 14000 series). The environmental labelling standards are part of the latter series, which also covers environmental management systems, environmental auditing, environmental performance evaluation, and life-cycle assessment. It must be emphasized that the labelling standards do not establish an ISO environmental labelling program; rather, they lay out the principles and procedures under which all voluntary environmental labelling, including seal programs, should operate.

Four ISO environmental labelling standards are currently under development:

- 14020 on general principles of environmental labels
- 14021 on manufacturers' self-declarations (“ Type II ”), including verification methods and symbols
- 14024 on third-party, multi-criteria-based seal programs (“ Type I ”)

- 14025 on informational labels (“ Type III ”)

ISO 14020 will be final by mid-1998, 14021 and 14024 by late 1998 or early 1999; 14025 will be completed at a later time. While 14021 contains relevant definitions of common claims, such as biodegradable, 14020 and 14024 are the standards of primary importance to seal programs.

ISO 14020 consists of nine general principles of ecolabelling. In summary form, the principles require: (1) accuracy; (2) avoiding trade barriers; (3) scientific basis; (4) provision of information on methodology; (5) life-cycle approach; (6) allowance of innovation; (7) minimal administrative burden; (8) open, consensual process; (9) provision of information on products. Several of these principles, in particular, those on trade (#2) and process (#8), have been the subject of prolonged controversy in the development of the standard. Also, an original goal statement (later transformed into an “ objective ”) provoked intense debate on whether environmental labelling is intended to cause environmental improvement or simply to communicate accurate information.

The trade issue primarily concerned the relative significance of upholding free trade versus protecting the environment through international agreements, and whether the World Trade Organization should be explicitly referenced for guidance on the principle. In the final draft standard the principle is a terse re-statement of GATT language on avoiding unnecessary barriers to trade, and the explanatory text simply refers, in one sentence, to the WTO for guidance. The earlier versions contained a few pages of examples of acceptable and unacceptable trade barriers as well as mention of multi-lateral environmental agreements to be considered.

The process principle calls for an open, participatory process in developing an environmental label, with “ reasonable efforts ” being made to achieve a consensus throughout the process. The latter part of the principle caused the greatest furor: seal programs were concerned that requiring consensus would give industry the opportunity to obstruct their programs. The resulting compromise allows

for something short of consensus to be achieved as long as a genuine effort is made to reach consensus.

The standard for third-party seal programs (ISO 14024) consists of principles, program procedures, and certification procedures. Many of the principles echo those in 14020, with special application to seal programs. For example, the life-cycle principle stipulates that all life-cycle stages should be taken into account in developing criteria for environmentally preferable products and any omission should be justified. The transparency principle requires that information be provided and comments allowed on product categories, review and validity periods of criteria, and funding sources, among others. The standard also has principles for such matters as confidentiality, compliance, accessibility, selectivity, and fees.

The program procedures in 14024 cover the range of activities from selection of product categories to development of criteria. One provision requires that for selecting product categories a feasibility study be conducted, including a market survey and consultation with interested parties, and that a proposal be prepared of selected categories for interested parties. The standard also gives some detail on how to apply a life-cycle approach in developing criteria for programs. The provision requiring that exclusions of substances be based on a risk assessment was modified favorably in the June 1998 meeting of the working group; it now states simply that such exclusions should be based on scientific methodology in accordance with ISO 14020, and that risk assessment may provide useful information in this respect. This is a major issue for the Global Ecolabelling Network: such a requirement could prevent chemical restrictions by requiring costly, often useless risk assessments (see GENews, Issue No. 3, p. 1, for more discussion of this issue).

The certification procedures cover general rules, documentation, compliance monitoring, and protection of the label, among others. The general rules of the program should cover publicity by licensees, conditions leading to withdrawal of a license, procedures for corrective action and dispute resolution, and fee structure.

Life Cycle Assessment. Principles and Framework

Jose L. Tejera (AENOR, Spain)

Technical Committee 207 is carrying out the work of preparing International Standards related to environmental management.

Standards are prepared to establish the consensus on management tools and systems. The Standards in the ISO 14000 series can be separated into management tools for products and services (LCA, ecolabelling) and management tools for organizations (environmental management systems, environmental audit, evaluation of environmental performance). Standards concerning management tools for products are applied mainly to products, and also potentially

to services. The objective is to validate tools to support decision making that may be used by companies for the design and improvement of their products, as well as by public authorities for the preparation of public policies.

TC 207 Subcommittee 5 is in charge of developing standards in the LCA area.

SC5 was created on June 1993 with the scope of Standardization in the field of life cycle assessment as a tool for environmental management of product and service systems. Working structure includes 5 working groups as follows:

WG1 Life Cycle Assessment - General Principles and Procedures

WG2 Life Cycle Inventory Analysis - General

WG3 Life Cycle Inventory Analysis - Specific

WG4 Life Cycle Impact Assessment

WG5 Life Cycle Assessment Interpretation

Standards are being developed, and before the end of 1998, it is expected to have ready various standards. The situation of the project is:

ISO 14040 LCA. Principles and Framework. Published in 1997

ISO 14041 LCA. Goal and Scope Definition and Inventory Analysis. At Final Draft stage.

ISO 14042 LCA. Life Cycle Impact Assessment. At Committee Draft stage.

ISO 14043 LCA. Life Cycle Interpretation. At Committee Draft stage

ISO TR 14049. Illustrated Examples on How to Apply ISO 14041. At first draft edition.

The ISO 14040 Standard, Environmental Management. Life Cycle Assessment. Principles and Framework, has been the first standard approved within ISO/TC 207/SC5.

The Standard defines LCA as a compilation and evaluation of the inputs, outputs and the potential environmental impacts of a product system throughout its life cycle. It is recognized that LCA is still at an early stage of development and a considerable amount of work remains to be done.

LCA studies the environmental aspects and potential impacts throughout a product's life from raw material acquisition through production, use and disposal.

The standard serves as a general framework for the method and the deontology. It gives requirements for life cycle assessment more in terms of transparency of the methods and data being used. The scope of the standard is to specify the general framework, principles and requirements for conducting and reporting LCA studies.

ISO 14040 describes LCA phases (goal and scope definition inventory analysis, impact assessment and interpretation) and the requirements concerning reporting of the results of the LCA and the critical review process, but the standard does not describe the LCA technique in detail. Additional details regarding methods are provided in the complementary standards ISO 14041 (LCA Goal and Scope Definition and Inventory Analysis), ISO 14042 (LCA Life Cycle Impact Assessment) and ISO 14043 (LCA Interpretation).

LCA technique can be used to assist in decision-making procedures, selection of environmental performance indicators and in supporting the environmental understanding of products (environmental claim, eco-labelling scheme).

Ecolabel schemes require the use of a methodology capable of comparing in a systematic way the potential environmental impacts of different products belonging to the same product group. LCA is the recommended tool to identify key environmental aspects and can make a significant contribution in providing a scientific and transparent basis for establishing ecological criteria.

However, LCA does not eliminate the need of other considerations and processes within the decision-making procedure aimed at setting ecological criteria. In this context a clear definition should be made between the LCA study and the procedure for drawing up ecological criteria. This last procedure should take into account other considerations such as market share, visibility of the ecolabel, technical and economic aspects which affect the selectivity of the label.

Products are often the sole point of contact between companies and its customers. ISO 14000 series provide guidelines to address two important issues related to products; the total effect of the product on the environment and the consistent communication of a product's environmental attributes to general public

Ecolabeling standards being developed at subcommittee 3 of ISO/TC 207 references are made to LCA tool. In ISO 14020, Environmental Labels and Declarations-General Principles, it is said that the development of environmental labels and declarations should, whenever appropriate, take into consideration the life cycle of the product or service. Consideration should be given to the life cycle of a product or service in order to help identify appropriate and relevant characteristics and criteria for environmental labels and declarations, or to determine the significance of an environmental claim.

In addition to this, the requirements applying to all environmental claims defined in the ISO 14021, Environmental Labels and Declarations include that a self declared environmental claim and any explanatory statement shall be true in relation to the final product and they will take into consideration all relevant aspects of its life cycle as well.

Finally, in ISO 14024, Environmental Labels and Declarations. Environmental Labelling Type 7. Guiding Principles and Procedures, it is stated that the criteria for environmental labelling shall be based on indicators arising from life cycle considerations.

The objective of reducing environmental impacts and not merely transferring impacts across media or stages of the product life is best served by considering the whole product life cycle when setting environmental labelling criteria.

As we can see the relationship between ecolabeling and LCA is quite close, the standards under development in the LCA area will be an important milestone in the future functioning of the ecolabel schemes and self-declarations.

Mutual Recognition and the GEN

John Polak (TerraChoice, Canada) & Arthur Weissman (Green Seal, USA)

To promote cooperation and facilitate trade in environmentally preferable products, the GEN has agreed to establish a mutual recognition framework and process. The goal is to enable reciprocal acceptance of tests, inspections, conformity assessment, administrative procedures, and where appropriate, environmental criteria.

To implement mutual recognition between programs, the following four step approach to mutual recognition has been adopted by the GEN at its 1997 annual meeting:

1. Co-operation and interchange of information, including policy objectives;
2. Establish mutual confidence on the basis of following:
 - compliance with ISO 14024
 - follow rules of GEN membership
 - implementation of ISO 9001
 - have codes of good practice
3. Establish mutual recognition of testing, verification and assessment procedures;
4. Analyse environmental criteria:
 - if criteria are identical, mutual recognition is accepted for that product category;
 - if criteria are different, the potential for equivalence can be assessed in terms of environmental impact and program credibility.

In order to make this approach a reality, an Action Plan has been developed that contains three main elements:

- the GEN will develop a Code of Good Practice for ecolabelling programs that elaborates on the GEN membership criteria and is based on the principles for eco seal programs delineated in the current draft of ISO 14024. The code will effectively deal with Step 2 above. The code will provide a baseline for program design and practice, thus constituting a standard for ecolabelling programs world-wide upon which mutual confidence can be built.
- the GEN will develop a Mutual Recognition Process which includes compliance with the Code of Good Practice as a prerequisite. This process will be based on existing experience with mutual recognition in ecolabelling and include such matters as testing, verification and criteria for evaluating equivalency and addresses Step 3 & 4 above.
- the GEN will develop Mutual Recognition Capability by encouraging GEN members to engage in bilateral pilots in mutual recognition with other GEN members during 1998. These pilots should follow the four steps outlined above and make use of Mutual Recognition Process and Code of Good Practice.

The GEN will monitor progress in the application of mutual recognition for ecolabelling, and review the Process on an ongoing basis.

European Green Purchasing Network Launched

Michael R. Jones (UK Ecolabelling Board)

In a development that is likely to have ecolabel criteria at its heart, the European Green Purchasing Network was launched in Brussels at the end of last year. The Network is the brainchild of European Partners for the Environment and the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI), with encouragement and support from the European Commission. Membership of the Network will be open to both the public and private sector.

Those attending the launch foresee the benefits of the Network to include the gathering and processing of product, service, legal and tendering information, supplying answers

to particular questions, sharing experiences, and identifying emerging trends. Operation of the Network will involve workshops, which will be hosted in member states, and publications. Much use is expected to be made of the Internet for supplying information and facilitating interaction between members.

Michael Jones, in charge of operations at the United Kingdom Ecolabelling Board, was invited to the launch of the Network. Following an approach by the organisers, it is likely that the UKEB will host a workshop on a product topic later this year.

News from Members



Environmental Choice^M Program (Canada)

ECP Certification Criteria Documents:

As of March 31, 1998, Canada's Environmental Choice^M Program (ECP) has 100 certification criteria documents in force, including:

- guidelines (3 of which are currently under review or revision: ECP-05 Biodegradable Non-toxic Hydraulic Fluids; ECP-08 and ECP-11 Fine Paper from Recycled Paper and Newsprint from Recycled Paper respectively); and
- additional certification criteria documents developed through its Panel Review and Certification Process.

The ECP has revised its paint guidelines: ECP-07 Waterborne Surface Coatings was changed to ECP-76 Surface Coatings, and ECP-12 Solvent Borne Paints was revoked. The lowering of allowable volatile organic compounds (VOC) levels was the most significant change.

Two (2) of the ECP's paper guidelines, ECP-08 and ECP-11 Fine Paper from Recycled Paper and Newsprint from Recycled Paper respectively, are currently under revision, with the ECP moving away from solely recycled content criteria to a multi-parameter guideline (i.e. more similar to the ECP sanitary paper guidelines which were developed in 1995. A new, single product category guideline should be available in the Spring to replace the 2 existing guidelines.

Recently, the ECP has, through its Panel Review and Certification Process, developed

criteria documents in the following areas:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| -Cork Flooring Products | - PRC-043 |
| -Compost from Fish Offal and Peat | - PRC-044 |
| -Garment Cleaning Services | - PRC-045 |
| -Industrial Hand Cleaners | - PRC-046 |
| -Photochemical Recovery Service | - PRC-047 |
| -Hospital Grade Disinfectants | - PRC-048 |
| -Biodegradable Polymer | - PRC-049 |
| -Thermostat Control | - PRC-050 |

The next ECP Panel Review meeting will be held March 31st; as many as 10 new certification criteria categories could be determined at this meeting.

ECP Licensees and Applicants:

There are 168 ECP licensees; in the past twelve months, 52 companies have become licensees. Over 30 companies are at various stages in the verification and licensing process.

ECP Certified Products:

More than 2000 products, services and technologies have been certified by the Program ranging from automotive engine oil to water well rehabilitation services.

ECP's EcoBuyer Catalogue:

The 1998 EcoBuyer Catalogue is now available. In addition, the ECP intends to produce and provide the 1998 EcoBuyer on the web. Please watch for it this Spring at www.terrachoice.ca



Eco Mark (Japan)

Basic Information (at the end of Feb.1998)

1. Total number of valid criteria:72
2. Number of certified products:2,229
3. Name of newly developed criteria:
 - Clothing made from recycled PET resin (28.Nov.1997), (revised)
 - Household textile products using recycled PET resin

- (ditto), (separated from above criteria)
- Textile products for industrial use using recycled PET resin (ditto), (ditto)
- Paper for communication (ditto), (revised)
- Printing paper (ditto), (ditto)
- Sanitary paper (ditto), (revised and merged " toilet paper using 100% recycled paper " and " Tissue paper using

- recycled paper ")
4. Name of criteria under developing now
- (1) Draft stage
- Packaging paper and paper bags using recycled pulp (revised)
- Packaging materials made from recycled pulp (revised)
- Paper stationaries (revised)
- Tiles and blocks made from waster materials (revised)
- Boards made from waste woods (revised)
- Biodegradable lubricating oil (revised and merged 2-cucle engine oil, hydraulic oil and lubricants)
- (2) Discussion in the working groups
- Copy machines (new)
- Personal computers(new)
- Products made from used plastics (revised)
- Products made from used lumber (revised)
- Product made from culled logs and small diameter logs

- (revised)
- Flow-reducing valves and water saving faucets (revised)
5. Other information
- The Eco Mark programme procedures have been revised in March 1996 to conform to the draft ISO14024. In accordance with revised programme procedures, the revising work for all certification criteria established by old procedures, were launched in 1996. The revising work for old criteria will be completed next year. The programme also challenges to establish the criteria for assembly products such as copy machines and personal computers.
- The number of the awarded products is increasing again according to enlargement of the Green purchasing movement in governmental and institutional procurement.



MARCA AENOR-Medio Ambiente (Spain)

The Spanish ecolabelling system was created in 1994 with the objectives of promoting the production and use of products and services which reduce the stress on the environment and to provide accurate, verifiable and relevant information to the consumer of environmental aspects of products.

Today, June 1998, there are 10 criteria standards approved. Last two criteria standards are related to services. Thus the Marca AENOR-Medio Ambiente has open its scope to products and services. The total number of labelled products or services is 90.

* **Total number of labelled products: 90**

* **Total number of valid criteria: 10**

UNE 48300 EX	Paints and Varnishes
UNE 53970 EX	Shopping bags
UNE 53971 EX	Dustin bags

UNE 71901 EX	Photocopiers
UNE 156000 EX	Paper envelopes
UNE 1180 EX	Organizers
UNE 1181 EX	Paper labels
UNE 206001 EX	Solar cells
UNE 134001 EX	Paper recovering and warehousing centers
UNE 26470 EX	End of life care recovering & scrapping centers

* **Criteria under development**

- * Facsimile machines
- * Printers
- * Wooden doors
- * Insulating materials

* **Internet Homepage : <http://www.aenor.es>**



Green Mark Program (ROC(Taiwan))

Basic Information (as of March 31, 1998)

1. Total number of valid criteria: 45
2. Number of certified products: 538
3. Number of recently developed criteria:
 - (a) No.42 - Fluorescent (Lamp) Tubes
 - (b) No.43 - Regenerated Glass Containers
 - (c) No.44 - Regenerated Textile Products
 - (d) No.45 - Office Copiers
 - (e) No.46 - Computer Keyboard (in cooperation with TerraChoice, Canada)
 - (f) No.47 - Computer Mouse (in cooperation with TerraChoice, Canada)
4. Name of Criteria under development now;
 - (a) Wooden Toys (in cooperation with TerraChoice, Canada)
 - (b) Lubricant Oils

Activities

1. A liaison office of EDF was established in Taipei in February, 1998. This office will enable EDF to work more closely with government agencies, news media, NGOs and businesses.
2. EDF is starting a series of promotion activities for the Green Mark Program, including four lectures by celebrities on Green Consumerism in April, one Carnival in June and many radio programs/ interviews.
3. A "Buyers Guide for Green Mark Products" will be published in June. It will be distributed to 5000 interested stakeholders for free.



Nordic Eco-labelling

(Sweden, Norway, Finland, Iceland, Denmark)

Nordic Ecolabelling

The Nordic ecolabelling system was earlier described in GENews no 2. In January this year Denmark joined this Nordic scheme and all the five Nordic countries are now in this multinational ecolabelling scheme.

The Nordic scheme was launched in December 1989. The first set of criteria were approved in November 1991 and the first ecolabelling licenses during spring 1992. Today, April 1998, there are 46 criteria documents approved. In 31 of these product groups, there are ecolabelled products. The latest product groups with ecolabelling criteria are

Approved criteria (Number of licenses)

Adhesives (3)
 All purpose cleaners (32)
 Building materials: chipboard fibre board and gypsum board (8)
 Batteries, Primary (6)
 Batteries, Rechargeable (7)
 Car care products (9)
 Chain lubricants (1)
 Chemical de-icers
 Closed toilet systems (3)
 Coffee filters
 Composters (10)
 Copying machines (13)
 Correction fluids
 Detergents for sanitary facilities (17)

Diapers/nappies (6)
 Diapers textile
 Dishwashing machines
 Female sanitary products
 Flooring materials (7)
 Floor care products (6)
 Grease proof paper
 Hand dishwashing detergents (5)
 Lawn-mowers (8)
 Light sources
 Marine engines
 Oil burners & oilburner/boiler combinations (4)
 Paper envelopes (11)
 Personal computers (3)

Printed papers (146)
 Printing papers (72)
 Printers & Telefaxes
 Refrigerators, freezers
 Shampoo & Soap (5)
 System for towels in dispensers (2)
 Textile detergents (42)
 Textiles (4)
 Tissue paper (9)
 Toner cartridges (16)
 Wallpapers and wallcoverings
 Washing machines
 Wooden furniture and fittings (7)
 Writing instruments (1)
 Windows

" Chemical de-icers for roads "and " Windows "

The total number of licences is 460 and the number of labelled products is more than 1500.

There are several criteria under development. These are among others " Packaging paper ", " Folders and ring binders ", " Forestry, sawmill products ", " Boats ", " Heating systems for solid fuels ", " Sewage pipes ", " Refrigerating and heat pump plants ", " Industrial degreasing ", " Tires ", " Watertaps with fittings " and " Audio-visual products ".



Green Seal (USA)

Green Seal, the U.S. ecolabelling program, now has 33 standards and criteria, covering 85 product categories, and has over 255 certified products in the market today. Standards for several additional product categories, including degreasers, fast-food packaging, photovoltaics, central heat pumps, and room air conditioners, are in various stages of completion. Green Seal's purchasing program now has over 500 members and subscribers, who receive near-monthly technical reports recommending environmentally responsible products in a variety of categories appropriate to institutional purchasing.

Green Seal has expanded its work with the US Federal government to improve the environmental aspects of the products the government uses. A project with a major US Army base and supply center, Aberdeen Proving Ground, will evaluate the paints used on the base against Green Seal's paint standard; another project with the same organization will develop a standard for degreasing solvents and then certify products that meet the standard. These are anticipated to be ground-breaking projects for the military and for the government as a whole.

Meanwhile, Green Seal continues to press the Federal

government to allow the use of third-party seals in government purchasing. While manufacturers' own claims are permitted in government sales catalogues without verification, some key factions in the government oppose the use of third-party seals. This position has been forcefully refuted, and the government has just issued an interim policy that allows third-party recommendations to be used on a pilot basis.

Green Seal is an active Board member of and participant in the Consumer's Choice Council, the NGO coalition formed to defend and promote third-party labeling. The CCC has helped to persuade the Federal government to consider use of third-party labeling in its purchasing. The CCC held the first international labelers meeting in Washington, DC, in late April, and it is developing a movie for television that promotes labeling by highlighting some current efforts, such as coffee labeling. The Council now has 41 member organizations, including GEN.

Green Seal is also exploring the feasibility of establishing a green certification program in the hotel industry. This would build on Green Seal's previous work on hotels, including the green-buying guide, Greening Your Property.

GEN Member List (March '98)

Austria:	Verein für Konsumenteninformation (VKI)
Brazil:	Associação Brasileira de Normas Técnicas (ABNT)
Canada:	Environmental Choice ^M Program, Environment Canada (ECP)
Croatia:	State Directorate for Environment, Republic of Croatia
Germany:	Federal Environmental Agency (FEA)
Greece:	A A , Supreme Council for Awarding the Ecolabel
Israel:	The Standards Instituion of Israel
Japan:	Japan Environment Association (JEA)
Korea:	Korea Environmental Labelling Association (KELA)
Luxembourg:	Ecolabel Commission, Ministry of Environment
New Zealand:	International Accreditation New Zealand (IANZ)
Norway:	Norwegian Foundation for Environmental Labelling
ROC (Taiwan):	Environment and Development Foundation (EDF)
Spain:	Asociación Española de Normalización y Certificación (AENOR)
Sweden:	SIS Ecolabelling AB Swedish Society for Nature Conservation
Thailand:	Thailand Environment Institute (TEI)
U.K.:	UK Ecolabelling Board (UKEB)
USA:	Green Seal
Zimbabwe:	Environment 2000 Foundation
International Organization:	European Commission (EC)

*For latest membership, please contact Secretariat.

News from GEN Secretariat

The Executive Committee has by written procedure approved the European Commission as a provisional GEN member. The formal decision will be taken by the full membership at the next annual meeting. GEN welcomes the EU Commission as the 21st member after GEN was launched in November 1994.

The next Executive Committee meeting will take place in June. At this meeting the ExCom will follow up items discussed and decided by the annual meeting in Tokyo and by the ExCom meeting in Madrid last year. The members are reminded about the action plan for the mutual recognition, which was circulated in January. The Executive Committee will also plan the next annual meeting and activities in connection with this meeting. The annual meeting will take place in Berlin, Germany, on October 29-30.

The members are also reminded about the possibility to get support by the Technical Assistance Programme, which is an important part of the GEN activities. Members which would be nominated for this program, should preferably apply for support not later than June 12th for a possible decision by the ExCom in June. As informed earlier, this assistance program is open for members only and intended primary to help developing programs.

Remember that you are always welcome with questions and the GEN Secretariat will try to assist you with answers and help.

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Kerstin Sahlén
GEN Secretariat

From GEN General Affairs Office

Product Category List

We published Product Category List - Preliminary Version - which carry product category of world-wide ecolabel programs. It is consisted of two parts - part 1 is Product Categories List by products and part 2 is Product Categories List by program. Please contact us for the list.

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GENews is evolving !

In order to make this newsletter more reader friendly, we will continue our efforts to do so. We will carry more information not only focused on ecolabel but around ecolabel such as trends of green procurement. Your information are highly appreciated as well as comments.

Hiroyuki Sato
GEN General Affairs Office



GEN Home Page Address: <http://www.interchg.ubc.ca/ecolabel/gen.html>

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