



## The EU Ecolabel for Absorbent Hygiene Products "The official European label for Greener Products"

Choose the EU Ecolabel for your Absorbent Hygiene Product to show your commitment to a better environment.

### Once it's on your products, the EU Ecolabel guarantees:

- Reduced impacts from consumption of resources;
- Restricted use of hazardous substances;
- That performance and quality tests are satisfied.

The EU Ecolabel can be awarded to baby diapers, feminine care pads, tampons and nursing pads (also known as breast pads), which are disposable and composed of a mix of natural fibres and polymers, with the fibre content lower than 90 % by weight (except for tampons).

### Meet your customers' demand

Today, consumers are more aware that protecting the environment is fundamental. Four out of five European consumers would like to buy more environmentally friendly products, provided that they are properly certified by an independent organisation.

With your products bearing the EU Ecolabel, you offer consumers a reliable logo to easily identify high performing environmentally friendly products that are available on the European market.

## Give your absorbent hygiene product a credible sign of environmental excellence... Apply for the EU Ecolabel!

◆ For a quick test, use the check list on the back!

### For more information...

... on the scheme, its feature, the actors involved, the application process:  
<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/ecolabel>

... on the detailed criteria for "absorbent hygiene product" product group:  
<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/ecolabel/products-groups-and-criteria.html>



### They said it!

"The newly established criteria for Absorbent Hygiene Products allow forerunning companies to stand out in the market and be rewarded for their commitment to propose safe and sustainable products that are used by European consumers in their daily lives."

*Blandine Cupidon, [BEUC](#) (the European Consumer Organisation)*

...to market your EU Ecolabel products use our free E-catalogue: <http://ec.europa.eu/ecat>

# Checklist (for a first assessment only) in terms of requirements

This is a non-exhaustive list of EU Ecolabel criteria for Absorbent Hygiene Products.  
Please see the [Commission Decision \(2014/763/EU\)](#) for full details.

Life cycle step	Criterion	Expectations
Manufacturing	Fluff pulp; man-made cellulose fibres; cotton and other natural cellulosic seed fibres	<p>Relevant for fluff pulp, man-made cellulose fibres, and cotton / other natural cellulosic seed fibres:</p> <p><b>Sourcing</b> (fluff pulp and man-made cellulose fibres): All pulp fibres shall be covered by valid chain of custody certificates issued by an independent third party certification scheme (FSC, PEFC or equivalent). A minimum of 25 % pulp fibres shall be covered by valid Sustainable Forestry Management certificates issued by an independent third party certification scheme; the remaining shall be covered by a verification system which ensures that it is legally sourced and meets any other requirement of the certification scheme with respect to uncertified material. The certification bodies issuing forest and/or chain of custody certificates shall be accredited/recognised by that certification scheme. The pulp used in the product, used to manufacture fibres and cotton shall not be bleached with the use of chlorine gas. Optical brighteners and colouring agents shall not be intentionally added to the pulp, fibres or cotton.</p> <p><b>Specific to fluff pulp:</b> The emissions to air and water from the pulp production shall be expressed in terms of points, which calculation is specified in the full <a href="#">criteria document</a>. CO2 emissions from non-renewable energy sources shall not exceed 450 kg per tonne of pulp produced, including emissions from the production of electricity. References are specified in the full <a href="#">criteria document</a>.</p> <p><b>Specific to man-made cellulose fibres:</b> More than 50% of pulp used to manufacture fibres shall be obtained from dissolving pulp mills that recover value from their spent process liquor either by generating on-site electricity and steam, or manufacturing chemical co-products. Limit values for the emission of sulphur compounds to air are specified in the full <a href="#">criteria document</a>.</p> <p><b>Specific to cotton and other natural cellulosic seed fibres:</b> Cotton shall be grown according to the requirements listed in the full <a href="#">criteria document</a>. The organic cotton content may include organically grown cotton and transitional organic cotton. Such cotton shall be traceable from the point of verification of the production standard.</p>
Manufacturing	Plastic materials and superabsorbent polymers	<p><b>Production of synthetic polymers and plastic materials:</b> All plants producing synthetic polymers and plastic materials used in the product shall have implemented systems for water-saving, integrated waste management plan to optimise prevention, reuse, recycling, recovery and final disposal of waste, optimisation of energy efficiency and energy management.</p> <p><b>Additives in plastic materials:</b> Contents of lead, cadmium, hexavalent chrome and related compounds shall be lower than 0,01 % (100 ppm) of the mass of each plastic material and synthetic polymer used in the product. Additives used in plastics in concentration above 0,10 % by weight shall not be classified with any of the hazard statements listed in the full <a href="#">criteria document</a>.</p> <p><b>Superabsorbent polymers</b> are also subject to regulations listed in the full <a href="#">criteria document</a>.</p>
Manufacturing	Material efficiency in the manufacturing	The quantity of waste generated during the manufacture and packaging of the products, at the net of the fraction that is reused or converted into useful materials and/or energy, shall not exceed: 10% by weight of the end products for tampons or 5% for all other products.
Manufacturing	Other materials and components	<p><b>Adhesive materials</b> shall not contain any substances listed in the full <a href="#">criteria document</a>. The product and any homogeneous part of it shall not be dyed. Derogations to this requirement shall apply to materials listed in the full <a href="#">criteria document</a>. <b>Inks and dyes</b> used shall also comply with criteria of the full <a href="#">criteria document</a>.</p> <p>Products marketed as designed and intended for children as well as tampons and nursing pads shall be fragrance-free. The use of <b>frangrances</b> is restricted in the full <a href="#">criteria document</a>.</p> <p><b>Lotions</b> shall not be used in feminine care pads, tampons and nursing pads. The use of lotions in other products shall be indicated on the packaging. Any lotion used in products other than feminine care pads, tampons and nursing pads shall comply with criteria listed in the full <a href="#">criteria document</a>. Triclosan, parabens, formaldehyde and formaldehyde releasers shall not be used.</p> <p>Where components of the product are treated with <b>silicone</b>, the manufacturer shall ensure that employees are protected from the solvents. Neither octamethyl cyclotetrasiloxane D4 or decamethyl cyclopentasiloxane D5 shall be present in chemical products used in the silicone treatment of components. This requirement shall not apply to situations specified in the full <a href="#">criteria document</a>.</p> <p><b>Nanosilver particles</b> shall not be intentionally added to the product.</p>
Manufacturing	Excluded or limited substances or mixtures	<p>The EU Ecolabel may not be awarded if the product or any article of it, or any homogenous part of it contain substances or mixtures meeting the criteria for classification with the hazard statements or risk phrases specified in the full <a href="#">criteria document</a>, unless they have been specifically derogated from.</p> <p>No derogation from the exclusion in Article 6(6) of Regulation (EC) No 66/2010 shall be given concerning substances identified as substances of very high concern and included in the list provided for in Article 59(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006, present in mixtures, in an article or in any homogeneous part of the product in concentrations &gt;0,10% by weight.</p>
Manufacturing	Social aspects	Applicants shall ensure that the fundamental principles and rights at work shall be observed by production sites, as listed in the full <a href="#">criteria document</a> .
Use	Fitness for use and quality	The efficiency/quality of the product shall be satisfactory and at the least equivalent of products already on the market. Fitness-for-use shall be tested as per the full <a href="#">criteria document</a> .
Use	Information appearing on the EU Ecolabel	The EU Ecolabel logo shall be applied on the packaging and box 2 of the EU Ecolabel shall contain the text as provided in the full criteria document.
End of Life	Guidance on the product disposal	The producers shall write or indicate through visual symbols on the packaging: that the product must not be flushed into toilets, and how to dispose of the product correctly.

