



Date 12 January 2022  
CHB

## Public Consultation of proposal for generation 4 of Criteria for Nordic Ecolabelling of New buildings

We hereby invite you to comment on our proposal for criteria for Nordic Ecolabelling of New Buildings – Residential, educational and office buildings. Your comments are important in order to ensure that the criteria are usable and suited for a Danish context.

We would like to receive your comments before March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022. **We prefer to receive your comments via the [Consultation input form](#).** It is also possible to submit your comments to [hoeringssvar@ecolabel.dk](mailto:hoeringssvar@ecolabel.dk). Your contact person in Denmark is Head of Criteria Lisbeth Engel Hansen [leh@ecolabel.dk](mailto:leh@ecolabel.dk) and Consultant Jimmi Schriver [jim@ecolabel.dk](mailto:jim@ecolabel.dk). You can find the proposal on our website under the heading "[Høringer på Svanemærket](#)" (Consultations Nordic Swan Ecolabel).

### Major changes

- The criteria now include **office buildings**, in addition to the building types included in the current criteria (generation 3): small houses, apartment buildings and buildings for schools and preschools.
- The section on **circular economy** has both revised and completely new requirements aimed at waste prevention, use of renewable materials, a mandatory requirement on reuse of construction products, reuse and recycling of construction materials and construction products. The building must be constructed according to design for disassembly and adaptability principles.
- In the section of **climate**, nationally adapted climate declarations are proposed in a mandatory requirement. National limit values will later be validated and entered the criteria, following a mini consultation. Strict requirements for materials with a high climate impact such as concrete, steel and aluminium have been introduced. A mandatory requirement for fossil-free construction sites and a point requirement for fossil-free construction machinery are introduced.
- In the section of energy, new limit values have been set for the building's energy use. The requirement scope now includes Iceland. Water-saving sanitary tapware will be a mandatory requirement.
- All requirements on **indoor environment** have been updated. Requirements have been clarified, tightened and some new requirements have been introduced. Daylight requirements have been revised in accordance with the new European standard EN17037. Thermal climate has become a mandatory requirement. Mandatory requirements for indoor acoustics have also been introduced for residential buildings. All buildings should always be

constructed radon-proof and a new mandatory requirement for indoor air quality based on the content of carbon dioxide in indoor air is proposed.

- Requirements for **chemical products** and ingoing substances in **construction materials** and **construction products** have mainly been revised with regard to changes in the chemical's legislation. In addition, exceptions have been reviewed and a new definition of potential endocrine disruptors has been introduced. The requirement for nanomaterials in construction products has been removed but is partly handled by a requirement for antimicrobial additives. Additives in concrete are no longer covered by the chemical requirements. A mandatory requirement for halogen-free cables is proposed.
- A mandatory requirement is introduced for **ecolabelled products** to be used in the Nordic Swan Ecolabelled building.
- **Biodiversity** has been given a more prominent role. The requirement for prohibited tree species has been modernised, and additional construction elements and materials are covered by the requirement for certified and traceable wood raw material. A mandatory requirement for ecological mapping and point requirements for the implementation of measures in order to preserve biodiversity has been introduced.
- The criteria have been adapted so that a Nordic Ecolabelled building according to generation 4 can be built in accordance with the first delegated act of the **EU taxonomy** for green investments, environmental goals "Limiting climate change", both in terms of the technical review criteria and the criteria for do not do significant damage (DNSH). The parts of the taxonomy that have not yet been published are handled in parallel with the consultation, and in subsequent version updates of the criteria.

## Most important issues

Nordic Ecolabelling would like to have comments on the complete criteria set, but would like to highlight the following points:

- Implementation of the criteria for office buildings.
- O2 Points achieved – is it possible for all building types to reach the minimum required points?
- O8 Cement and concrete – Will compliance be possible in all Nordic countries?
- O9 Steel – The required percentage of recycled material.
- O13 Construction waste management – The required percentage of materials sorted for reuse/recycling.
- O16 Reused construction products and materials – New requirement.
- O30 Infill of granules on playgrounds and outdoor areas – Rubber and plastic may not be part of the infill material.
- O35 Wood and bamboo: traceability and certification – Additional construction elements and products are included.
- O36 Ecology report and O37 Measures for biodiversity – new requirements.
- O39 Daylight provision – New simulation methods and requirement levels.
- O40 Thermal comfort – New requirement.
- O41 Radon - All buildings should always be constructed radon-proof.

## Who can submit comments?

All enterprises, institutions, or persons interested in the development of the criteria for Nordic Ecolabelling of New Buildings are entitled to submit comments.

We kindly ask you to spread the information about this consultation to anyone interested in the proposal.

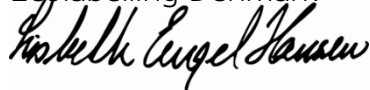
### Onward process

All comments will be examined and assessed at the end of the consultation period. Subsequently a revised proposal for criteria will be prepared. This proposal will be discussed by the Danish Ecolabelling Board and national Ecolabelling Boards in the other four Nordic countries. The final decision on the criteria is made by the Nordic Ecolabelling Board based on the opinions of the national boards. The material used for this process is, apart from a proposal for criteria, a compilation of all the public consultation comments together with the responses from Nordic Ecolabelling. This compilation will be published on our website [ecolabel.dk](http://ecolabel.dk).

We are looking forward to receiving your comments before *March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022*.

Kind regards

Ecolabelling Denmark



Lisbeth Engel Hansen

Head of Criteria