Nordic Ecolabelling of

Compost bins



Version 3 • datum - datum
Consultation draft

Nordic Ecolabelling

Content

What is a Nordic Ecolabelled compost bin? 4

Why choose the Nordic Ecolabel? 4

What can carry the Nordic Ecolabel? 4

How to apply 5

What are the requirements of the Nordic Ecolabelling? 6

1 Material composition 7
2 Environmental requirements 7
2.1 Plastics 7
2.2 Insulating material 7
2.3 Wood 8
2.4 Chemicals 9
2.5 Product function requirements 12
2.6 Waste and packaging 13
3 Quality and regulatory requirements 14

Marketing 15

Design of the Nordic Ecolabel 15

Follow-up inspections 16

How long is a licence valid? 16

New criteria 16

Appendix 1 Marketing of Nordic Ecolabelled compost bins
Appendix 2 Declaration by plastics supplier
Appendix 3 Declaration of classification of chemical products
Appendix 4 Constituent substances in chemical products
Appendix 5a Origin, traceability and certification
Appendix 5b Traceability and sustainable timber supply
Appendix 5c Requirements regarding forestry certification
Appendix 6 Content of user instructions
Appendix 7 Background memorandum on compost bins

019 Compost bins, version 3, 07 October 2013

This document is a translation of an original in Norwegian. In case of dispute, the original document should be taken as authoritative.

Addresses

In 1989, the Nordic Council of Ministers decided to introduce a voluntary official ecolabel, the Swan. These organisations/companies operate the Nordic ecolabelling system on behalf of their own country's government. For more information, see the websites:

Denmark
Ecolabelling Denmark
Danish Standards Foundation
Kollegievej 6
DK-2920 CHARLOTTENLUND
Tel: +45 72 300 450
Fax: +45 72 300 451
info@ecolabel.dk
www.ecolabel.dk

Finland
Ecolabelling Finland
Box 489
FI-00101 HELSINKI
Tel +358 424 2811
Fax +358 424 281 299
joutsen@motiva.fi
www.ecolabel.fi

Iceland
Ecolabelling Iceland
Umhverfisstofnun
Suðurlandsbraut 24
IS-108 REYKJAVIK
Tel: +354 591 20 00
Fax: +354 591 20 20
svanurinn@ust.is
www.svanurinn.is

Norway
Ecolabelling Norway
Henrik Ibsens gate 20
NO-0255 OSLO
Tel: +47 24 14 46 00
Fax: +47 24 14 46 01
info@svanemerket.no
www.svanemerket.no

Sweden
Ecolabelling Sweden
SE-118 80 STOCKHOLM
Tel: +46 8 55 55 24 00
Fax: +46 8 55 55 24 01
svanen@ecolabel.se
www.ecolabel.se

This document may only be copied in its entirety and without any type of change.

It may be quoted from provided that Nordic Ecolabelling is stated as the source.

What is a Nordic Ecolabelled compost bin?

Nordic Ecolabelled compost bins are containers for composting garden waste and organic waste from households. The criteria document covers year-round compost bins. The purpose of the criteria is to ensure that the bin composts the waste effectively.

Nordic Ecolabelled compost bins are among those on the market with the lowest environmental impact. Special features of these compost bins are that:

- Effective composting and robust design that tolerates low temperatures are assured thanks to extensive function testing
- There are environmental and health requirements on the chemicals used in the production of the compost bins.
- The bins offer good anti-rodent protection.

Thanks to thorough function testing, a Nordic Ecolabelled compost bin is documented to work in practice. Requirements are also set regarding the materials used in the compost bin, such as plastics and wood. Use of chemicals in production that are harmful to health and the environment is banned. Requirements regarding detailed user instructions make it easier for users to master the biological process in the compost bin and minimise operational problems.

Why choose the Nordic Ecolabel?

- Manufacturers and retailers can use the Nordic Ecolabel trademark in their marketing. This is a very well-known and trusted trademark in the Nordic region.
- The Nordic Ecolabel is a cost-effective and simple way for manufacturers to communicate their environmental work and commitment to customers and suppliers.
- More eco-aware operations can prepare the manufacturer for future environmental requirements.
- Environmental issues are complex and it can take a long time to gain an understanding of a specific area. Nordic Ecolabelling can be seen as an aid in this work.
- The Nordic Ecolabel not only covers environmental but also quality requirements, since the environment and quality often go hand in hand. This means that a Nordic Ecolabel licence can also be seen as a mark of quality.

What can carry the Nordic Ecolabel?

The criteria apply to bins for composting organic household and garden waste. The product group does not include compost bins with a capacity > 20 person-equivalents or closed toilet systems. Nordic Ecolabelling has separate criteria for closed toilets.

How to apply

If only obligatory requirements:

Each requirement is marked with the letter O (obligatory requirement) and a number. All requirements must be fulfilled to be awarded a licence.

Icons in the text

The text describes how the applicant shall demonstrate fulfilment of each requirement. There are also icons in the text to make this clearer. These icons are:

✉ Enclose

🔑 The requirement checked on site

🕮 Enclose procedure in environmental and quality management system

Application

Applications are made to the national ecolabelling organisation and the application is valid for 12 months. Applications may be processed by another ecolabelling organisation according to agreement between the organisations. The applicant is notified of this. Companies located outside the Nordic countries make applications to the national ecolabelling organisation of the primary market.

The application must consist of a completed application form together with all of the documentation required to demonstrate compliance with the requirements specified in the criteria document (this is specified for each requirement). The application form must specify in which Nordic countries the products in question are to be sold and the estimated turnover from the products in each country.

Further information and assistance may be available. Visit the relevant national website for information.

Sales in the Nordic region

Once granted, a licence is valid throughout the Nordic region. The licence document specifies in which Nordic countries the products are sold according to the information provided on the application. The products are published on Nordic Ecolabelling's website(s). The licensee undertakes to inform Nordic Ecolabelling of any changes as to where the product is sold. If the product is to be sold in other Nordic countries than those initially specified in the application, the licensee must provide written notification of this and submit any extra documentation required to Nordic Ecolabelling in the country that issued the license.

On-site inspection

In connection with handling of the application, Nordic Ecolabelling performs an on-site inspection to ensure adherence to the requirements. For such an inspection, data used for calculations, original copies of submitted certificates, test records, purchase statistics, and similar documents that support the application must be available for examination.

Costs

An application fee is charged to companies applying for a licence. There is an additional annual fee based on the turnover of the Nordic Ecolabelled compost bin.

Enquiries

Please contact Nordic Ecolabelling if you have any queries or require further information. See page 3 for addresses.

What are the requirements of the Nordic Ecolabelling?

To be awarded a Nordic Ecolabel licence, all requirements must be fulfilled.

In order to be granted a Nordic license, the following documentation must be attached to the application:

- User instructions in all relevant languages.
- Documentation showing compliance with national regulations, laws and any trade agreements on take-back systems for packaging.

1 Material composition

O1 Description of the products

A description of the compost bin must be provided. The description must include

- Type of compost bin
- Materials used in the compost bin such as type of plastics, metal, wood and insulating material, including percentage by weight
- Suppliers of the various materials

✉ Description in accordance with the above.

2 Environmental requirements

2.1 Plastics

O2 Halogenated plastics

Halogenated plastics must not be used in the compost bin.

✉ Declaration from manufacturer of compost bin or plastics supplier stating that no halogenated plastics have been used.

O3 Recovered plastics

The requirement applies if plastics make up more than 10% of the product by weight.

Plastics used in the compost bin (including insulation) must contain a minimum of 50% recovered materials by weight.

Recovered plastics are defined as post-consumer recovered material such as scrapped plastics products or packaging or production waste from external suppliers. Production waste from production of the compost container is not recovered material. This is in line with the definitions in standard ISO 14021 Environmental labels and declarations.

Recovered plastics must not contain halogenated flame retardants. However, impurities of up to 100 ppm are permitted.

✉ Declaration from plastics supplier that the raw material has been recovered and percentage of recovered plastics. Declaration from plastics supplier that the plastic does not contain halogenated flame retardants. Appendix 2 can be used.

✉ Calculation by applicant showing percentage of recovered/recycled plastics.

O4 Marking of plastics

Plastics parts weighing more than 50 g must be marked in accordance with ISO 11469 Generic identification and marking of plastics products.

✉ Declaration from plastics manufacturer or supplier. Appendix 2 can be used.

2.2 Insulating material

O5 Blowing agent

Blowing agents for insulating material must have an ozone depletion potential (ODP) = 0 and a global warming potential (GWP_{100}) < 15 (calculated as CO_2 equivalents over a period of 100 years).

The blowing agent must not contain halogenated organic impurities.

✉ Overview of blowing agent used and confirmation from manufacturer/supplier of blowing agent that the requirement is met.

2.3 Wood

O6 and O7 apply to all timber used in the product. O8 applies if wood makes up more than 10% of the product by weight. Small parts, e.g. handles, are exempt from the requirements.

O6 Origin and traceability

This requirement concerns all product parts containing wood, willow, or bamboo. The applicant must state the type of raw material (for example pine or bamboo), latin name, quantity, geographic origin (country/state and region/provins) and suppliers for the wood, willow or bamboo raw materials.

The licence holder must have written procedures covering sustainable wood supplies and a documented system for tracing the origin of raw materials. The Nordic Ecolabel may request further documentation in the event of uncertainty about the origin of the raw material.

Wood, willow and bamboo must not originate from:

- Protected areas or areas treated by means of an official procedure with a view to achieving protected status.
- Areas in which rights of title or of use are unresolved.
- Unlawfully harvested wood and fibre raw materials.
- Genetically modified trees and plants.

In addition, management of the forests must not damage or disrupt:

- Natural forest, biodiversity, special ecosystems and important ecological functions
- Socially and culturally significant assets.

✉ Type and latin name, quantity and geographical origin (country/state and region/province) of the raw materials used. Nordic Ecolabelling may request further documentation in the event of uncertainty about the origin of the raw material. Appendix 5a is to be completed by suppliers/manufacturer and Appendix 5b by the manufacturer.

✉ A written procedure ensuring traceability to the origin of the raw materials. The procedures must include an updated list of all suppliers of raw materials used in the product. Appendix 5b is to be completed by the manufacturer.

O7 Biocides

After felling wood must not be treated with insecticides classified by WHO as type 1A and type 1B.

This requirement applies to the treatment of timber after felling.

WHO classification: An overview can be found at: http:// www.who.int/ipcs/publications/pesticides_hazard/en, "The WHO recommended classification of pesticides by hazard and guidelines to classification 2009" or by contacting one of the secretariats.

✉ Statement by suppliers of wood on which pesticides have been used and declaration in accordance with Appendix 5a for each individual product.

O8 Wood from certified forestry

The requirement covers solid wood, laminated wood and veneer. It does not cover willow and bamboo. A total of 70% by weight of the wood purchased for Nordic Ecolabelled compost bins must come from certified forestry.

The requirement may be documented as purchased wood on an annual basis for the various types of wood used. Certification must be performed by a third party on the basis of a current forestry standard that fulfils the requirements applicable to standards and certification systems contained in Appendix 5c.

✉ Proportion (%) of certified wood used in the applicant's Nordic Ecolabelled production on an annual basis.

✉ Duly completed Appendix 5a.

✉ Copy of a forest certificate signed and authorized by a certification body.

Nordic Ecolabelling may request additional information in order to assess whether the requirements applicable to standards, certification systems and certified proportion have been met. For example a copy of the approval report issued by the certification body, a copy of the forestry standard including the name, address and telephone number of the organization that drafted the standard as well as references to persons representing parties and interest groupings invited to participate in the development of the forestry standard.

2.4 Chemicals

The requirements cover all chemical products such as glue, varnish, stain, oil, paint, wood preservatives and similar used by the manufacture in the production of the Nordic Ecolabelled products and by the manufacturer's subcontractors in the production of parts for the Nordic Ecolabelled products.

Impregnating agents for wood are subject to specific exemptions and requirements. See the individual requirements for information on exemptions.

Auxiliary substances such as lubricants and detergents are not subject to requirements.

Metals and metal coatings are exempt from the requirements.

Plastics are exempt from O9 and O10. See separate requirement for additives in plastics.

O9 Overview of chemicals

The manufacturer of the compost bin must provide an overview of the chemicals used in production, e.g. glue, wood preservatives and surface treatment. Chemicals which are used by subcontractors and in the production of parts for the Nordic Ecolabelled product must also be specified.

✉ Overview from manufacturer of compost bin of the chemicals used in production.

O10 Classification of production chemicals

Production chemicals used in production of the compost bin must not be classified in accordance with Table 1.

Chemical products used to impregnate wood are exempt from the requirements for chemicals that are harmful to the environment, very toxic or toxic. See O11 for specific requirements for impregnating agents.

Table 1: Classification

Classification	Danger symbols and R-phrases/Hazard classes, hazard category and hazard statement	
	EU Preparations Directive 1999/45/EC	**CLP Regulation 1272/2008**
Harmful to the environment	R52, R53 or R52/53. N with R50, R50/53, R51/53 and/or R59	Hazardous to the aquatic environment. Category: acute 1 H400, chronic 1 H410, chronic 2 H411, chronic 3 H412. Hazardous to the ozone layer EUH 059 or H420
Very toxic	Tx (T+ in Norway) with R26, R27, R28 and/or R39	Acute toxicity, category 1 or 2 with H330, H310 and/or H300 and/or Specific target organ toxicity – single exposure, category 1 with H370
Toxic	T with R23, R24, R25, R39 and/or R48	Acute toxicity, category 2 or 3 with H330, H331, H311 and/or H301 and/or Specific target organ toxicity – single exposure, category 1 with H370, and/or Specific target organ toxicity – repeated exposure, category 1 with H372
Carcinogenic	T with R45 and/or R49 (Carc 1 or Carc 2) or Xn with R40 (Carc 3)	Carc 1A/1B/2 with H350* and/or H351
Mutagenic	T with R46 (Mut 1 or Mut 2) or Xn with R68 (Mut 3)	Mut 1A/1B/2 with H340 and/or H341
Toxic for reproduction	T with R60 and/or R61 (Repr 1 or Repr 2) or Xn with R62, R63 and/or R64.	Repr 1A/1B/2 with H360*, H361*, H362

The classification applies under the EU's Preparations Directive 1999/45/EC as amended and/or the CLP Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 as amended. During the transition period, i.e. until 1 June 2015, classification under the EU's Preparations Directive or the CLP Regulation may be used. After the transition period, only classification under the CLP Regulation will apply.

** If it is definitively proven that the hazard cannot be caused by other routes of exposure, the route of exposure can be stated as part of the hazard statement. One or two letters after the hazard statement indicate the route of exposure (e.g. H350i – May cause cancer by inhalation) and/or type of effect. All additional codes are included in the criteria.*

Be aware that it is the manufacturer who is responsible for the classification.

✉ Confirmation from manufacturer of the chemicals and safety data sheet/product sheet in accordance with the relevant legislation in the country in which the application is being made, e.g. Appendix II of REACH (Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006). Appendix 3 can be used.

O11 Constituent substances in production chemicals

Chemical products used to impregnate wood are exempt from this requirement. See O13 for specific requirements for these products. Varnish, stain, paint and similar used for surface treatment are not exempt.

The following constituent substances* must not be contained in the chemical product:

- Persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic (PBT) organic substances
- Very persistent and very bioaccumulative (vPvB) organic substances
- Substances of very high concern (SVHC)
- Silicones and siloxanes
- Carcinogenic, mutagenic and reprotoxic (CMR) substances (category 1 and 2)

- Halogenated organic compounds (including chlorinated polymers). Exceptions to this are
  - The biocide CMIT: the mixture (3:1) of CMIT/MIT (5 chloro-2-methyl-4-isothiazolin-3-one [CAS No. 247-500-7] and 2-methyl-4-isothiazolin-3-one [CAS No. 220-239-6]) must not exceed 0.0015% by weight
  - Paint pigments that comply with EU requirements for pigments in materials that come into contact with food.
- PFOA (perfluorooctanoic acid and its salts/esters) and PFOS (perfluorooctane sulfonate and its compounds)
- Alkylphenols, alkylphenolethoxylates or other alkylphenol derivatives**
- Chlorophenols (their salts and esters) and dimethylfumerate (biocides)
- Isothiazolins in concentrations exceeding 0.05% by weight
- Bisphenol A compounds
- Phthalates
- Pigments and additives based on copper, lead, boron, creosote, tin, cadmium, chromium^{VI} or mercury, or their compounds.

PBT and vPvB substances are defined in Annex XIII of REACH (Regulation (EC) 1907/2006). Substances that meet the PBT or vPvB criteria, and substances that form substances that meet the criteria, may be viewed on the website of the European Chemicals Bureau, ECB: http://ecb.jrc.it/esis/index.php?PGM=pbt. Substances that are "excluded" or substances "under evaluation" are not considered to have the properties of PBT or vPvB.

** Unless otherwise stated, the term constituent substance refers to all substances in the product, including additives in the ingredients (such as preservatives and stabilisers) but does not include impurities from primary production. Impurity refers to residues from primary production which may be found in the finished product at concentrations below 100 ppm (0.01% by weight, 100 mg/kg), but not substances that have been added to a raw material actively and for a particular purpose, regardless of amount. Substances known to be degradation products of the constituent substances are also themselves considered to be constituent substances.*

*** Alkylphenol derivatives are defined as substances that release alkylphenols when they break down.*

✉ A declaration from the chemicals supplier/plastics supplier is required for each chemical product used in the compost bin. Appendix 4 can be used.

O12 Additives in plastics

Halogenated paraffins, halogenated flame retardants, phthalates, pigments based on copper, lead, boron, tin, cadmium, chromium VI or mercury, or their compounds, must not be actively added to plastics.

The requirement does not apply to recycled plastics.

✉ Declaration from the plastics supplier. Appendix 2 can be used.

O13 Wood preservation – impregnation

Wood that is naturally durable (durability class 1 or 2 under EN 350-2) must not be treated with wood preservatives.

Class A and M impregnation (in accordance with the classification used by the Nordic Wood Preservation Council) is not permitted.

Impregnation of the product must fulfil class B or AB under the Nordic Wood Preservation Council's system of classification (class AB is equivalent to class NP5/HC3 and class B is equivalent to class NP3/HC3 under European standards EN 335 and EN 351).

See list of approved products at http://www.ntr-nwpc.com.

Wood must not be impregnated with products in which the active ingredients are based on arsenic, chromium, organotin compounds or creosote oil.

✉ Confirmation from producer of wood, and safety data sheet/product sheet in accordance with the relevant legislation in the country in which the application is being made, e.g. Appendix II of REACH (Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006).

O14 Maintenance products – wood

If the user instructions contain recommendations for maintenance of timber, these products must satisfy O10 and O11. The trade name of the product in question must be stated. See also O20.

✉ The chemicals manufacturer for the maintenance product must provide a declaration that O10 and O11 are fulfilled. Appendices 3 and 4 can be used.

✉ Trade name of the product.

✉ Copy of user instructions.

O15 Mercury thermometer

Installing a mercury thermometer in the compost bin is not permitted.

✉ Confirmation from manufacturer of compost bin that no mercury thermometer has been installed.

2.5 Product function requirements

O16 Acid-resistant metal

Metal parts that are in contact with a corrosive medium (e.g. compost, seepage and air) must be acid-resistant, i.e. treated to prevent corrosion.

✉ Declaration from supplier of metal that the metal is acid-resistant, with description of treatment.

O17 Polyethylene density

Polyethylene must have a density greater than 935 kg/m^3, with the exception of crosslinked polyethylene.

✉ Confirmation of polyethylene density from plastics manufacturer or supplier.

O18 Design

The compost bin must be fitted with anti-rodent protection and a maximum opening of 7 mm x 7 mm.

If the compost bin is marketed for possible indoor use, there must be a facility for any seepage to be collected and drained.

The lid of the compost bin must be able to be closed so that it does not blow off. A hinged lid must be able to be locked while filling to stop it falling down.

Any insulating material must be protected against mechanical damage and ingress of water.

✉ Confirmation from manufacture describing anti-rodent protection, collection facility for seepage, hinging/closing of lid, and protection of insulating material.

O19 Product function test

The compost bin must be tested in accordance with SP method 2856, issue 2, 24.02.2002, "Product function test of all-year compost bins", or later versions. The test is published only in Swedish. The test must be conducted by an independent test institute, e.g. SP Technical Research Institute of Sweden, Borås. The compost bin must fulfil the requirements of the test method without the use of a power supply.

The test method is carried out at varying temperatures for a minimum of 12 weeks. The test method defines the organic material that must be added and the temperature that must be achieved in order for the compost bin to be approved.

✉ Copy of test report in accordance with SP method 2856, issue 2, 24.02.2002, "Product function test of all-year compost bins", or later versions, issued by an independent test institute.

✉ For licensees under version 2: Provided no changes of functional importance have been made, licensees with a licence under version 2 are exempt from this requirement, i.e. no new test or report is necessary. Confirmation that no functional changes have been made must be enclosed.

O20 User instructions

The compost bin must be supplied with user instructions in the language of the country in which it is sold. The user instructions must cover the points described in Appendix 6.

✉ Copy of user instructions.

O21 Warranty

The compost bin must have a 5-year warranty. The warranty requirement does not apply to parts that are subject to a high level of wear and tear. Replacement parts must be specified in the user instructions and must be available throughout the warranty period, i.e. for a minimum of 5 years after the last compost bin is sold.

✉ Confirmation from manufacturer describing warranty and availability of replacement parts.

2.6 Waste and packaging

O22 Production waste

Manufacturers of compost bins must have a waste plan that covers sorting relevant waste fractions by source material.

✉ Waste plan with description of how the waste is sorted according to source material.

O23 Packaging

Halogenated plastics can not be used as packaging.

✉ Description of the packaging.

3 Quality and regulatory requirements

The following procedures must be implemented to ensure that the Nordic Ecolabelling requirements are fulfilled.

If the applicant has a certified environmental management system in accordance with ISO 14001 or EMAS in which the following procedures are implemented, it is sufficient for the accredited auditor to document that the requirements are implemented.

O24 Legislation

The licensee must ensure compliance with the applicable health and safety provisions, environmental legislation and installation-specific terms/permits at all the production sites for the Nordic Ecolabelled product.

No documentation is required, but Nordic Ecolabelling may revoke the licence if the requirement is not fulfilled.

O25 Licence administrators

The company must appoint an individual responsible for the Nordic Ecolabelling requirements being fulfilled and a contact person for communications with Nordic Ecolabelling.

✉ Organisational chart showing who is responsible for the above.

O26 Documentation

The licensee must be able to provide a copy of the application and the supporting fact sheets and calculation data (including test reports, documents from subcontractors and so on) for the documentation submitted as part of the application.

🔑 On-site inspection.

O27 Product quality

The licensee must guarantee that the quality of the production of the Nordic Ecolabelled product is maintained throughout the licence period.

✉ Procedures for collating and, where necessary, dealing with claims and complaints regarding the quality of the Nordic Ecolabelled product.

O28 Planned changes

Planned product- and market-related changes affecting the Nordic Ecolabelling requirements must be notified in writing to Nordic Ecolabelling.

✉ Procedures detailing how planned product- and market-related changes are dealt with.

O29 Unforeseen non-conformities

Unforeseen non-conformities affecting the Nordic Ecolabelling requirements must be reported in writing to Nordic Ecolabelling and logged.

✉ Procedures detailing how unforeseen non-conformities are handled.

O30 Traceability

The licensee must have documented traceability for the production of the Nordic Ecolabelled product.

✉ Description of/procedures for how the requirement is fulfilled.

O31 Take-back system

Relevant national regulations, legislation and/or trade agreements regarding take-back systems for products and packaging must be complied with in all the Nordic countries where the Nordic Ecolabelled product is marketed.

✉ Declaration from the applicant regarding affiliation to existing recovery/processing agreements.

O32 Marketing

Marketing of the Nordic Ecolabelled compost bin must comply with "Regulations for the Nordic Ecolabelling of products" 22 June 2011 or later versions.

✉ Appendix 1 duly completed.

Marketing

The Nordic Ecolabel is a very well-known and well-reputed trademark in the Nordic region. Nordic Ecolabelled products and services may be marketed using the Nordic Ecolabel so long as the associated licence is valid.

The label must be positioned so that there is no doubt as to what the label refers and so that it is clear that the compost bin is ecolabelled.

More information on marketing can be found in "Regulations for the Nordic Ecolabelling of products" 22 June 2011 or later versions.

Design of the Nordic Ecolabel

Design of the Nordic Ecolabel:



Each licence has a unique six-figured licence number that must be displayed along with the label.

More information on the design of the label can be found in "Regulations for the Nordic Ecolabelling of products" 22 June 2011 or later versions.

Follow-up inspections

Nordic Ecolabelling may decide to check whether the compost bin fulfils Nordic Ecolabel requirements during the licence period. This may involve a site visit, random sampling or similar test.

The licence may be revoked if it is evident that the compost bin does not meet the requirements.

Random samples may also be taken in-store and analysed by an independent laboratory. If the requirements are not met, Nordic Ecolabelling may charge the analysis costs to the licensee.

How long is a licence valid?

Nordic Ecolabelling adopted the criteria for compost bins on DAY MONTH YEAR. The criteria are valid until DAY MONTH YEAR.

The ecolabel licence is valid providing the criteria are fulfilled and until the criteria expire. The validity period of the criteria may be extended or adjusted, in which case the licence is automatically extended and the licensee informed.

Revised criteria shall be published at least one year prior to the expiry of the present criteria. The licensee is then offered the opportunity to renew their licence.

New criteria

- Consider more stringent requirements for percentage of recycled plastics
- Consider chemical requirements for plastics production

Appendix 1 Marketing of Nordic Ecolabelled compost bins

We hereby certify that we are well acquainted with the regulations governing the use of the Nordic Ecolabel, as detailed in "Regulations for the Nordic Ecolabelling of products" 22 June 2011 or later versions. We agree to follow these regulations when marketing the Nordic Ecolabelled compost bin.

Further, we confirm that we are familiar with the criteria document regarding the Nordic Ecolabelling of compost bins.

We undertake to advise those individuals within the company involved in marketing the Nordic Ecolabelled compost bin of the criteria for the Nordic Ecolabelling of compost bins and "Regulations for the Nordic Ecolabelling of products" 22 June 2011 or later versions.

Date and place	Company
Signature, contact person	
Clarification of name	Phone
Signature, marketing director	
Clarification of name	Phone

In case of a change in personnel, a new declaration must be submitted to Nordic Ecolabelling.

Appendix 2 Declaration by plastics supplier

Type of plastic
Manufacturer/supplier

Do(es) the plastics material(s) contain(s) PVC? Yes □ No □

What percentage of the plastics raw material is recovered? _____%

Recovered plastics are defined as post-consumer recovered material such as scrapped plastics products or packaging or production waste from external suppliers. Production waste from production of the compost container is not recovered material. This is in line with the definitions in standard ISO 14021 Environmental labels and declarations.

Does the recovered plastics raw material contain halogenated flame retardants? Yes □ No □

Are plastics parts weighing over 50 g marked for recovery in accordance with ISO 11 469? Yes □ No □

Have any of the following been actively added: halogenated paraffins, halogenated flame retardants, phthalates, pigments based on copper, lead, boron, tin, cadmium, chromium^{VI} or mercury, or their compounds? Yes □ No □

The requirement does not apply to recycled plastics.

Signature of the manufacturer/supplier:

Date	Company name
Contact person	Phone

Appendix 3 Declaration of classification of chemical products

Product name and area of use
Manufacturer/importer of the product

Is the product classified in accordance with the table below?

Classification	**Danger symbols and R-phrases/Hazard classes, hazard category and hazard statement**		
	EU Preparations Directive 1999/45/EC	**CLP Regulation 1272/2008**	
Harmful to the environment	R52, R53 or R52/53. N with R50, R50/53, R51/53 and/or R59	Hazardous to the aquatic environment, category: acute 1 H400, chronic 1 H410, chronic 2 H411. EUH 059	Yes □ No □
Very toxic	Tx (T+ in Norway) with R26, R27, R28 and/or R39	Acute toxicity, category 1 or 2 with H330, H310 and/or H300 and/or Specific target organ toxicity – single exposure, category 1 with H370	Yes □ No □
Toxic	T with R23, R24, R25, R39 and/or R48	Acute toxicity, category 2 or 3 with H330, H331, H311 and/or H301 and/or Specific target organ toxicity – single exposure, category 1 with H370, and/or Specific target organ toxicity – repeated exposure, category 1 with H372	Yes □ No □
Carcinogenic	T with R45 and/or R49 (Carc 1 or Carc 2) or Xn with R40 (Carc 3)	Carc 1A/1B/2 with H350, H350i and/or H351	Yes □ No □
Mutagenic	T with R46 (Mut 1 or Mut 2) or Xn with R68 (Mut 3)	Mut 1B/2 with H340 and/or H341	Yes □ No □
Toxic for reproduction	T with R60, R61 and/or R33 (Repr 1 or Repr 2) or Xn with R62, R63	Repr 1A/1B/2 with H360, H361, H362	Yes □ No □

The classification applies under the EU's Preparations Directive 1999/45/EC as amended and/or the CLP Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 as amended. During the transition period, i.e. until 1 June 2015, classification under the EU's Preparations Directive or the CLP Regulation may be used. After the transition period, only classification under the CLP Regulation will apply.

** If it is definitively proven that the hazard cannot be caused by other routes of exposure, the route of exposure can be stated as part of the hazard statement. One or two letters after the hazard statement indicate the route of exposure (e.g. H350i – May cause cancer by inhalation) and/or type of effect. All additional codes are included in the criteria.*

Be aware that it is the manufacturer who is responsible for correct classification.

☒ Safety data sheet/product sheet for each product in accordance with current legislation in the country in which the application is being made, e.g. Appendix II of REACH (Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006).

Signature of the manufacturer/importer:

Date	Company name
Contact person	Phone

Appendix 4 Constituent substances in chemical products

The declarations below are for use by the manufacturer of the ingredient in connection with Nordic Ecolabelling in accordance with the criteria for compost bins, version 3.

Unless otherwise stated, the constituent substances are all substances in the product, including additives (i.e. preservatives or stabilisers) in the raw materials, but not impurities from the raw material production. Impurities are defined as residual products from the raw material production that can be found in the final product in concentrations below 100 ppm (0.01% by weight, 100 mg/kg), but not substances added to a raw material or product deliberately and with a purpose, regardless of amount. Substances/ products known to be liberated by a constituent substance are also themselves considered to be constituent substances.

This declaration states whether any of the substances/classifications below are constituent substances of the raw material, either as an impurity or not, and irrespective of the quantity.

The declarations are given in good faith and according to the knowledge possessed at this time. Reservations are made for developments and new knowledge. Should new knowledge emerge, the undersigned is obliged to submit an updated declaration to Nordic Ecolabelling.

The declaration covers the following raw materials: _____

_____

The undersigned hereby declares the following about the above raw materials:

Does the raw material contain:

- persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic (PBT) organic substances Yes □ No □
- very persistent and very bioaccumulative (vPvB) organic substances Yes □ No □
- substances of very high concern (SVHC) Yes □ No □
- silicones and siloxanes Yes □ No □
- carcinogenic, mutagenic or reprotoxic (CMR) substances (category 1 and 2) Yes □ No □
- halogenated organic compounds (including chlorinated polymers) Yes □ No □
  Exceptions to this are:
  - The biocide CMIT: the mixture (3:1) of CMIT/MIT (5 chloro-2-methyl-4-isothiazolin-3-one [CAS No. 247-500-7] and 2-methyl-4-isothiazolin-3-one [CAS No. 220-239-6]) must not exceed 0.0015% by weight
  - Paint pigments that comply with EU requirements for pigments in materials that come into contact with food.
- PFOA (perfluorooctanoic acid and its salts/esters) and PFOS (perfluorooctane sulfonate and its compounds) Yes □ No □
- alkylphenols, alkylphenolethoxylates or other alkylphenol derivatives Yes □ No □
- chlorophenols (their salts and esters) and dimethylfumerate (biocides) Yes □ No □
- isothiazolins in concentrations exceeding 0.05% by weight Yes □ No □
- bisphenol A compounds Yes □ No □
- phthalates Yes □ No □
- pigments and additives based on copper, lead, boron, creosote, tin, cadmium, chromium^{VI} or mercury, or their compounds. Yes □ No □

Signature of the manufacturer:

Date	Company name
Contact person	Phone

Appendix 5a Origin, traceability and certification

To be completed by supplier of wood material

Supplier:
Product type (e.g. logs, whole tree, shavings, veneer):

Tree species* (Nordic and Latin name)	**Geographical origin (country/state and region/province)**	**Certification** (including certificate no.)**

**Indicate here whether it is e.g. pine, spruce, birch, etc. and state Latin name*

***Indicate here whether the timber comes from certified forestry, e.g. certified in accordance with the FSC or PEFC system. Certificate no. refers to either Forest Management (FM) or Chain of Custody (CoC) certification no.*

Be aware that it is necessary to provide information on the forestry standard (i.e. FM certification no.) the timber has been certified under in order to document compliance with R8.

Has the wood been treated after cutting with pesticides classified by WHO as type 1A or 1B? Yes □ No □

Signature of the supplier/manufacturer:

Date	Company name
Contact person	Phone

Appendix 5b Traceability and sustainable timber supply

The enclosure is to be completed by the manufacturer of the compost bin.

For documentation of the raw material:

- Detailed description of the supplier chain from selection to manufacturer, possibly including a flowchart to illustrate the supplier chain:

_____

_____

_____

_____

Tree species/raw material * (Nordic and Latin name)	**Supplier**	**Certification** (including certificate no.)**

**Indicate here whether it is e.g. pine, spruce, birch, etc. and state Latin name*

***Indicate here whether the timber comes from certified forestry, e.g. certified in accordance with the FSC or PEFC system. Certificate no. refers to either Forest Management (FM) or Chain of Custody (CoC) certification no.*

Signature of the manufacturer:

Date	Company name
Contact person	Phone

Appendix 5c Requirements regarding forestry certification

Forestry certification requirements

Wood used in the product must be certified by a third party on the basis of a current applicable forestry standard, complying with the requirements placed on standard and certification system.

The following requirements apply to standards and certification systems that are acceptable to Nordic Ecolabelling.

The standards

The standard must balance economic, ecological and social interests and comply with the Rio Declaration's forestry principles, Agenda 21 and the Forest Principles and respect relevant international conventions and agreements.

The standard must contain absolute requirements and promote and be directed towards sustainable forestry.

The standard must be widely accepted nationally or internationally and be developed as a part of an open process in which ecological, economic and social interests are invited to participate.

The certification system

The certification system must be transparent, have broad national and international credibility and be capable of verifying that the requirements of the forestry standard (see above) have been met.

The certification body

The certification body must be independent, credible and capable of verifying that the requirements of the standard have been fulfilled. It must be able to communicate the results and to facilitate the effective implementation of the standard.

Appendix 6 Content of user instructions

The user instructions must contain the following points:

- Assembly and installation

If the compost bin has to be assembled before use, illustrated assembly and installation instructions must be supplied.

- Description of area of use

The area of use for the type of compost bin must be clear from the user instructions.

The capacity of the compost bin must be clearly stated as person-equivalents (pe).

The user instructions must contain a description of types of waste that are suitable and unsuitable for the compost bin.

- User instructions for the actual composting

The user instructions must contain instructions for the actual composting process, covering the following points:

- information on regulatory requirements for household composting
- general principles for composting
- positioning of compost bin with respect to health considerations
- initiating composting
- adding waste and composting compounds
- mixing
- temperature range and suitable moisture level for composting
- average composting time in normal conditions
- assessing the ripeness of the compost
- weight of compost bin when full
- weight of lid
- working height
- recommendations regarding aftercomposting
- what to do if the compost freezes
- troubleshooting instructions for the most common problems, such as:
    - the compost fails to warm up
    - the compost smells
    - vermin in the compost
    - large quantities of water in the compost

- Any recommendations on wood preservatives for untreated compost bins must meet the requirements for chemical products (O9 and O10).
- Overview of replacement parts

The user instructions must contain an overview of replacement parts available for parts subject to a high level of wear and tear.

- Material description

To make it easier to recycle or dispose of the compost bin itself, the user instructions must specify the materials used in the different parts of the bin and how they can be recycled.

Appendix 7 Background memorandum on compost bins

05.09.2013

History and licensing

Nordic Ecolabelling of compost bins has been in place since 1996. No background document has been written, and neither was the current revision project, which is smaller in scope, charged with drawing up such a document. It was, however, considered important briefly to summarise the most important points that we have worked on during the revision process. For this reason this document should not be viewed as a regular background document, which means that in order to find more detailed argumentation relating to requirements that are familiar from other criteria documents, we refer to these documents (e.g. outdoor furniture).

Since Nordic Ecolabelling of compost bins began, only minor adjustments have been made to the criteria because the products have not changed substantially over the years. The function test has proved sound, and the Nordic Ecolabelling test is the only one on the market carried out on these products by an independent third party. The function test has not been revised. This means that if the Nordic Ecolabelled product still has the same functional structure (documentation required), current licensees do not need to repeat the function test in connection with reassessment of current licences.

There are a total of four licences in the Nordic region: one Finnish (also registered in Norway), one Swedish and two Norwegian. There are no Danish licences in this area (data from 2013). The licences have been in place for a number of years and contact with the licensees shows that they remain interested in Nordic Ecolabelling of their products. They emphasised that the Nordic Ecolabel is important because it is the only labelling scheme for these products where an independent third party can select the most environmentally friendly products.

Market information, environmental impact and product group delimitation in brief

Private composting is declining in the Nordic region, with an ever-increasing number of municipalities organising collection of compostable waste from local residents. However, information from the Norwegian ecological consumer organisation Grønn Hverdag[1] shows that although more and more municipalities are introducing municipal collection of food waste, the same municipalities are expressing a wish for households with gardens to compost their food and garden waste themselves. Phosphorus from food and garden waste, for example, is then retained in a local cycle and there is no need to purchase phosphorus fertilisers. This is important, particularly in view of the fact that natural phosphorus resources are expected to decline significantly in 30-100 years and it is therefore important to make pre-emptive savings. A garden requires constant input of nutrients and soil improvers, and from an environmental perspective it is much better to produce this nutrient-rich soil improver locally in your own garden than to buy industrially manufactured products with an environmental impact in the form of raw material extraction (e.g. peat), manufacture and transport.

[1] Nina Berge, telephone contact, January 2013

In the Nordic region, interest in Nordic Ecolabelled compost bins is highest in Norway, and a number of municipalities offer households a discount on waste collection fees if they purchase and use a Nordic Ecolabelled compost bin. An example of this is Asker municipality[2]. Moreover, Grønn Hverdag[3] recommends Nordic Ecolabelled compost bins both on their website and on their composting courses. Grønn Hverdag considers Nordic Ecolabelled compost bins to be significantly better than other compost bins because they:

- function well and achieve a good composting result
- are manufactured from strong, long-lasting material that tolerates cold
- offer good anti-rodent protection that stops rodents getting in the compost.

The parameter for compost bins that has the greatest environmental impact is how well the bin works. The criteria therefore seek to ensure that the bin provides effective composting of organic waste. Nordic Ecolabelled compost bins must therefore undergo an extensive function test. The criteria previously covered both all-year compost bins and compost bins intended for use in the summer only. The revised criteria cover only all-year compost bins, as the function test has been developed for all-year compost bins to ensure effective composting in winter weather too. The test is conducted by SP (SP Technical Research Institute of Sweden – formerly the State Institute for Technical Research of Sweden – contact person: Catrin Lindblad), which developed the test in conjunction with Nordic Ecolabelling and subsequently made the test its own. The test is only available in Swedish.

In addition, the criteria comprise a number of material requirements. The environmental impact of the constituent materials derives mainly from the plastics. All compost bins contain plastics, and the main part – the bin itself – is made of plastic, e.g. polyethylene or polypropylene. The insulation comprises polystyrene or polyurethane. Sealing materials can comprise plastic/rubber and silicone. The table below shows examples of materials used in compost bins currently on the market:

Material
Polyethylene (main part)
Polyurethane (insulation)
Silicone in lid
EPDM rubber
Galvanised steel
Polyamide
Polythene
Polystyrene (insulation)
Base plate of perforated aluminium
Wood
Polypropylene (thin layer that protects insulation)

[2] http://www.asker.kommune.no/Bolig-og-eiendom/Avfall-og-gjenvinning/Hjemmekompostering/ and http://www.asker.kommune.no/Bolig-og-eiendom/Avfall-og-gjenvinning/Renovasjonsgebyr/
[3] http://www.gronnhverdag.no, Nina Berge

Background to Nordic Ecolabelling's requirements for compost bins in brief

Material and chemical requirements in the current criteria

The material requirements were previously

- 10% by weight recycled plastics (excluding insulation)
- polyethylene density
- metal parts in contact with a corrosive medium must be acid-resistant
- mercury thermometers not permitted.

Additionally, there were chemical requirements that were in part also material requirements:

- plastics materials must not include chemical compounds containing cadmium, lead, mercury, chlorinated/brominated paraffins, brominated diphenyl ethers or phthalates.

This requirement made it difficult to use PVC.

There were also the following chemical requirements:

- use of production chemicals (e.g. glue, wood preservatives, etc.) must not be classified as CMR
- substances classified as harmful to the environment must not exceed 2% by weight in any wood preservative used
- production of insulating material must not use gases classified as harmful to the ozone layer in accordance with the regulations in any Nordic country.

New material requirements

In order to determine what material and chemical requirements are relevant to set today, a review was carried out of the materials used in current compost bins; see above.

The following material requirements are proposed:

Requirement	New/old	Explanation
Ban on PVC	Partly new	The old material/chemical requirement that precluded a number of substances in plastics largely precluded the use of PVC. A ban in a separate requirement is therefore new, but there is no substantial difference in practice.
The percentage of recycled plastic is increased to 50%. The requirement applies if the plastic comprises more than 10% of the bin by weight, meaning that the requirement does not apply in the case of small parts made of plastics. Recovered plastics must not contain halogenated flame retardants.	Old, but made more rigorous	It is proposed that a requirement for a certain percentage of recycled plastics is retained. The supply of recycled plastic varies depending on the type of plastic. Based on information from the Norwegian recycling company Grønt Punkt, approx. 30% of EPS (expanded polystyrene (isopore)) undergoes material recovery. For hard plastics the figure is approx. 40% (not including drinks bottles). The current criteria require 10% by weight (excluding insulation). It is proposed that this is increased to 50%. It is proposed that there is no exemption for insulating material. EPS is commonly used as insulating material, and recovered EPS is also available. It is very light and will as such not account for much when measured as % by weight. Polyurethane is also used as insulating material. This cannot currently be recovered. This means that if polyurethane is used as insulating material, a higher percentage of recycled plastic of another type must be used. There is also a requirement that recovered plastics must not contain halogenated flame retardants, with a limit of 100 ppm. High levels of flame retardants are used in plastics and it is therefore desirable for the content of flame retardants in a Nordic Ecolabelled product to be limited. In addition, flame retardants are not permitted in virgin plastics (see chemical requirements)
Plastics parts must be marked in accordance with ISO 11469.	New	The marking will facilitate efficient sorting of plastics after use and thus increase plastics recycling.
Requirements regarding timber	New	The old criteria did not include any material requirements for timber. It is proposed that a traceability requirement is introduced (applicable to all wood used) and a requirement for the percentage to be certified if wood makes up more than 10% of the product. It is proposed that the requirements are formulated on the basis of Nordic Ecolabelling's Basic module for paper products.
Requirement regarding gas in production of insulating material	Old	The requirement is retained but reworded into a more current formulation that is more stringent than the present requirement.

The requirements regarding acid-resistant metal and polyethylene density have been moved to product function requirements. There has been discussion as to whether the requirement regarding polyethylene density should be retained, and the conclusion is that it should be. The requirement ensures that HDPE and not LDPE is used in the bin (LDPE is of too low a quality); the requirement of 935 kg/m^3 is based on standard ASTM D883 - 12 Standard Terminology Relating to Plastics.

The requirement banning mercury thermometers is retained, but is moved to chemical requirements.

Other materials for which no requirements are set

It is proposed that no requirements are set for metal or rubber/silicone as they represent a small part of the product. Some compost bins may have an aluminium base plate, and screws and fittings may be metal, but these represent a small part of the product.

New chemical requirements

In proposing new chemical requirements, reference has mainly been made to the criteria for outdoor furniture and toys in formulating new chemical requirements.

The following chemical requirements are proposed:

Requirement	New/old requirement	Explanation
Overview of production chemicals	New requirement	It is proposed that a requirement is introduced for an overview of production chemicals to be submitted in order to provide an overview of which chemicals are used and to ensure a declaration of classification requirements for the chemicals used. Plastics are exempt from the requirement.
Requirement regarding prohibited classification for production chemicals	Old, but extended to include more classifications (harmful to the environment, toxic++)	Impregnating agents for wood materials are partly exempt from the requirement. Effective impregnation requires the use of classified substances. However, a separate requirement is set for impregnating agents. Plastics are exempt from the requirement.
Requirement regarding constituent substances in chemical products	New requirement	The requirement will make the current criteria more stringent. The requirement will ban, for example, SVHC, PBT, vPvB ++++ substances. Plastics are exempt from the requirement.
Requirements regarding additives in plastics	Partly new	Requirements for additives were in place previously. Some of these have been retained, such as flame retardants and phthalates, whilst others have been removed as they were primarily used in PVC, which is banned in R2. Requirements regarding pigments have also been added.
Requirement regarding impregnating agents for wood	Partly new requirement	The previous requirement stated that use of production chemicals (e.g. glue, wood preservatives, etc.) should not be classified as CMR, and substances classified as harmful to the environment must not exceed 2% by weight in any wood preservatives used. The requirement now refers to different classes of impregnation in accordance with the Nordic Wood Preservation Council's classification and will ban impregnation with classes A and M. There is also a ban on active ingredients based on arsenic, chromium, organotin compounds or creosote oil. Note that pressure impregnation with copper is permitted.
Requirement regarding maintenance products for wood	Partly new requirement	The user instructions previously contained a requirement stating that substances classified as harmful to the environment must not exceed 2% by weight in maintenance products for wood. This has now been made a separate requirement in the chemicals chapter so that it is easier to see the requirements set for chemicals. The requirement also refers to the requirement regarding user instructions, such that this information is also included in the user instructions as before.
Requirements regarding mercury thermometers	Old requirement	Requirement retained but has now been moved from the materials chapter to the chemicals chapter.

Other requirements

No changes have been made to other requirements. Requirements regarding waste, packaging and function are therefore the same as in the current version of the criteria.