To consultative bodies

Deres ref.	Vår ref.	Dato
	2014064/1.1.3/AW/ek	15.5.2014

Proposal for hearing on the revised criteria for Nordic Ecolabelling of Floor coverings

Nordic Ecolabelling is giving you the opportunity to comment on our proposal for the revised version 6.0 of the criteria for Nordic Ecolabelling of **Floor coverings.** We would be grateful if you could submit your written feedback by no later than August 22nd 2014.

Flooring is a heterogeneous project group that comprises several different materials/raw materials and combinations of materials. The main areas for the criteria are related to requirements on materials/raw materials, chemicals, surface treatment, pigments and other additives, emissions and indoor environment, energy consumption used in manufacturing and quality aspects.

The aim is to ensure that a Nordic Ecolabelled floor covering:

- Has a high proportion of renewable and/or recycled materials.
- Meets stringent requirements on chemicals harmful to health and the environment.
- Guarantees low emissions and a good indoor environment.
- Has been manufactured energy efficiently.
- Has good durability.

What are the major changes?

- The product group definition has been clarified. Flooring that can be Nordic Ecolabelled is solid timber, parquet, veneer, laminate, linoleum, cork, textile and bamboo flooring. A Nordic Ecolabelled flooring is free from PVC.

- Due to the fact that synthetic rubber is the predominant raw material in rubber flooring and rubber is difficult to recycle, rubber flooring would very likely fail to meet our ecolabelling requirements. Rubber flooring cannot be Nordic Ecolabelled but can, however, be used, for example as an intermediate layer and/or backing for other flooring materials.



- The requirement on proportion of renewable and/or recycled raw materials has been raised from 50% to 80% of the flooring by weight. At the same time an opportunity is provided to exempt fillers from the calculation of the percentage of the floor by weight, provided that the filler is available to an, in principle, unlimited extent in nature.

- The requirement for the proportion of certified wood has been raised from 30% to 70% of the timber contained on an annual basis. Requirement is set to 50% for certified bamboo and cork oak.

- The COD emission limit value from wool washing plants has been tightened from 60 g/kg to 20 g/kg unprocessed wool.

- The requirement on content of environmentally harmful substances has been reworked and now applies a weighting to environmentally harmful content using factors of 1, 10 and 100, the requirement level for quantity applied, has been set at 100g/m^2.

- Two alternatives to ensure low emissions from flooring and hence a good indoor environment are proposed. The background to this is that emission measurements and indoor environment labelling are increasing in the industry. Up to the present Nordic Ecolabelling's stringent chemical requirements on constituent substances, additives, surface treatment and other chemicals has ensured low risk of emissions from Nordic Ecolabelled floorings. Alternative 2 implies that we hold on to this way. If alternative 1 is chosen, an emission requirement is introduced. The response to the consultation will determine which alternative is decided on for the final criteria

- The energy requirement has been trimmed down to a purely energy-related requirement (proportion of renewable fuels and electricity and fuel consumption). The level of maximum electricity and fuel consumption has been tightened respectively.

- The requirement on durability now differentiates between private and public environments.

Nordic Ecolabelling would particulary appreciate your comments on the following:

- Is the requirement of 70% certified wood on reasonable and feasible level? See O5.
- Is the limit of oxygen demanding substances (COD) from wool treatment plants possible to meet? See O9.
- Are the requirements on paints, colourants and pigments relevant for other materials than textile floorings? See O24-O27.
- Is the requirement regarding the total amount of environmentally harmful substances in surface treatment systems (e.g. fillers, oils, stains, lacquers) on a feasible level? See O29.
- Which of the two proposed alternatives on emissions to the indoor environment you prefer. See O32-34.
- If the energy requirement is distinct and adequate expressed and on a reasonable level? See O36.



The criteria and background document can be downloaded from the following address: http://www.svanemerket.no/aktuelt/miljokrav/h_gulv/.

If you have difficulties downloading the documents or if you don´t have access to the internet, please contact me and I will send you the documents.

Who can submit responses to this hearing?
Any persons, companies and institutions that are interested in helping in the development of the Nordic Ecolabelling's proposed criteria for floor coverings can submit comments. Please pass on information about the hearing to those who might be affected by the proposal.

How can responses be submitted?
Please submit your responses via the website, by e-mail or by post. Send your responses to:

E-mail: ek@svanemerket.no
Post: Henrik Ibsens gate 20, 0255 OSLO, Norway
Fax: +47 24 14 46 01

We look forward to receiving your comments by**, at the latest, August 22nd 2014**.

Best regards
Nordic Ecolabelling

Elisabeth Kolrud
Norwegian Product Manager

