

To consultative bodies

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Consultation – proposal for criteria for Nordic Swan Ecolabelling of outdoor furniture, playground and park equipment

Nordic Ecolabelling hereby invites you to comment on our proposal for the Nordic Swan Ecolabelling of outdoor furniture, playground and park equipment – generation 4. See more at www.svanemarket.no where you also find the background document and the submission form.

The proposed criteria have been prepared by representatives from the Nordic Ecolabelling offices under the leadership of Anneli Walden. Please contact the Norwegian office if you wish to receive a hard copy of the documents and/or a list of the bodies consulted.

The revision has focused on creating criteria with a strong climate and circular profile.

The main changes proposed are listed here:

- The criteria are written focusing on products standing permanently outdoors in public environment.
- Requirements for types of wood that must not be used and wood from certified forestry have been updated based on the Swan's new forest requirements. The Swan's forest requirements are also under review and there might be changes after the consultation period.
- Durability of solid wood has been updated and clarified in the text.
- For high-pressure laminate sheets, HPL, energy requirements for its paper and pulp production have been introduced with a new calculation formula and new score limits for paper and pulp.
- PAH content in plastic, rubber and silicone is a new requirement of this generation, applies only to playgrounds.
- New material, wood plastic composite (WPC), is introduced and thus new requirements.
- For metal, requirements for the proportion of recycled metal have been tightened.
- The chemical requirements have been updated, clarified and sharpened in several respects. For surface treatment of metal, bans on cadmium, lead, chromium and nickel and their compounds have been introduced.
- In order to support a circular economy, new requirements that include warranty, separability, repairability and spare parts, and maintenance have been introduced.

We are especially interested in comments on the following sections:

- Durability of wood and WPC, Chapter 6, requirement O6.
- High pressure laminate panels, HPL, Chapter 7, requirements O9 and O11.
- Metal, Chapter 10, requirement O22.
- Free formaldehyde in chemical products, Chapter 11, requirement O27.
- Other prohibited substances in chemical products, Chapter 11, requirement O25.

- Surface treatment of wood and wood-based boards, Chapter 11, requirements O29-O31.
- Lifespan / use phase, chapter 12, requirements O36-O40.
- Wood plastic composite material (WPC, Wood Plastic Composite), Chapter 9, requirements O18-O21.

Nordic Ecolabelling has chosen to include WPC in the consultation proposal. There are different views as to whether WPC has a place in the circular economy or whether it is a dead end, because plastics and wood are mixed and cannot be separated at the waste stage. The issue is very important for Nordic Ecolabelling and we therefore present both arguments for and against the fact that Swan-labelled outdoor furniture, playground and park equipment should be able to consist of WPC. In order to make a final decision on whether WPC will take a place as a material in this product group, your consultation responses are important.

We would very much appreciate your comments on the proposed requirements. The contact person in Norway is Kristian Kruse (phone +47 92656283 or e-mail kk@svanemarket.no). We kindly ask you to send your comments to us no later than **April 29th 2020**, via the submission form on our website, by mail or by e-mail to post@svanemarket.no. A summary of consultation comments that are received will be available at Nordic Ecolabelling.

Best regards
Nordic Ecolabelling



Anita Winsnes
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