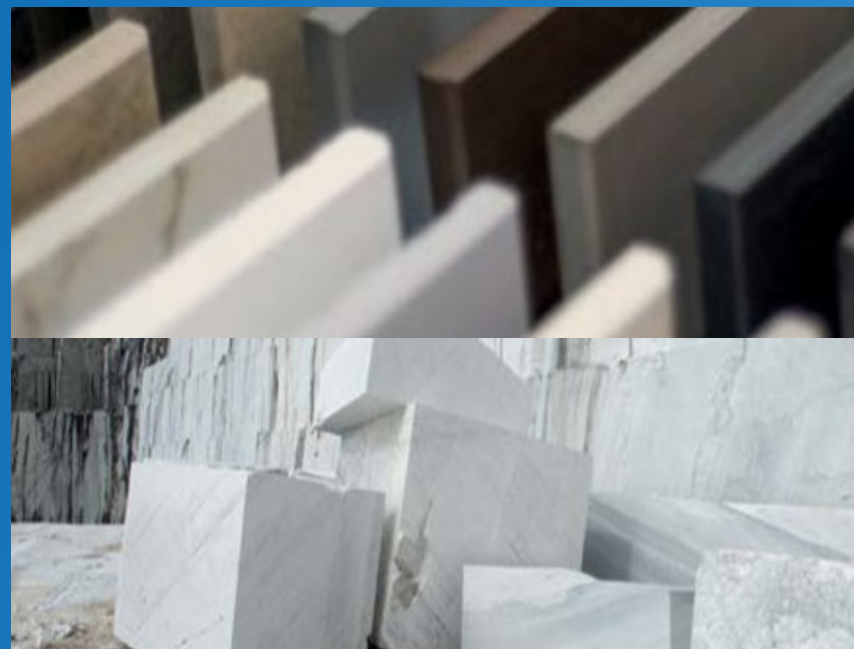


EU Ecolabel for Hard Covering Products

Webinar

20th April 2021

Shane Donatello (JRC)
Sylvie Ludain (DG ENV)



Housekeeping

- There will only be a very brief introduction from the speakers, no table round. So please state your name and organisation clearly when connecting.
- Please keep cameras switched off to save bandwidth.
- Please ask any questions via the chat box and we will go through them at opportune times in the presentation (if time permits)
- If time does not permit, we shall endeavour to respond in writing after the webinar.
- The meeting will be recorded and the slides (and hopefully recording) will be uploaded on the DG ENV website (<https://ec.europa.eu/environment/ecolabel/products-groups-and-criteria.html>).

Webinar Agenda

- *Introduction (10 min)*
- *Presentation of the criteria + Q/A sessions (1 h 30)*
 - *Aim for 30 minutes on criteria slides, 30 minutes in User Manual excel and 30 minutes Q+A about User Manual and criteria*
- *Practical information on application process + Q/A session (15 min)*
- *Closure (5 min)*

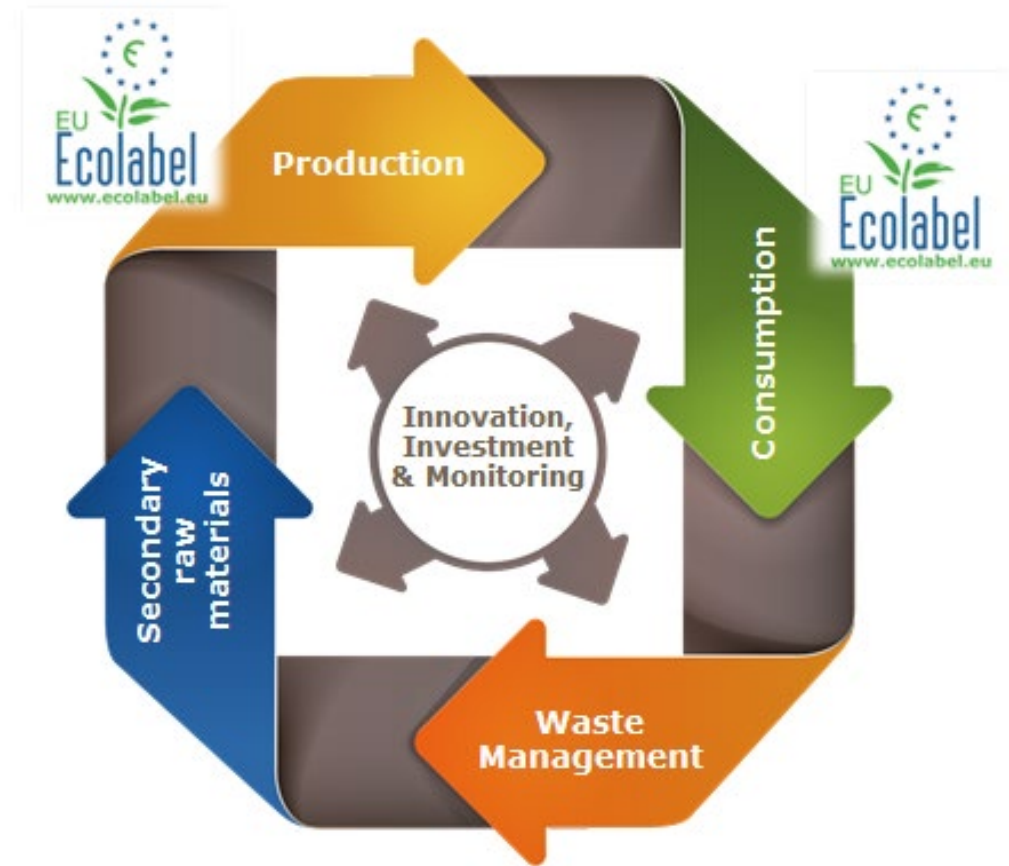
What is the EU Ecolabel?



- The **official European Union label for environmental excellence**
- Established in **1992** (EU Ecolabel Regulation n. 66/2010)
- Managed by the **European Commission** and Member States **Competent Bodies**
- A **voluntary** scheme (**ISO 14024-type I** - ecolabel) for companies aiming to promote products and services with a **lower environmental impact**
- An effective tool to **empower consumers' and procurers'** sustainable choices

EU Ecolabel: powerful tool ...

- Supports the implementation of:
 - the **EU Green Deal**
 - the new **Circular Economy Action Plan**
 - the new **Consumer Agenda**
- Represents the **opportunity for a sustainable recovery** in the circular economy context



...connecting citizens and market actors to overall political objectives

The EU Ecolabel

- **Scope**: applies to **goods and services** (for which criteria have been established), supplied **for distribution, consumption or use** on the **EU market**
- **Excluded from scope**: medicinal products for human/veterinary use, any type of medical device. Currently food and feed.
- **Potential applicants**: **producers, manufacturers, importer, service providers, wholesalers or retailers.**
- **Awarding bodies**: National **Competent Bodies** designated by MS
- **Strengths**: **Transparent**, multi-stakeholder criteria development
Reliable, third party verification system.



24 Eligible Product Groups

| | |
|---|---|
|  Rinse-off Cosmetic Products |  Electronic Displays |
|  Absorbent Hygiene Products |  Electronic Displays |
|  Hard Surface Cleaning Products |  Wood-, cork- and bamboo-based floor coverings |
|  Detergents for Dishwashers |  Hard Covering Products |
|  Industrial and Institutional Automatic Dishwasher Detergents |  Furniture |
|  Hand Dishwashing Detergents |  Bed Mattresses |
|  Laundry Detergents |  Growing Media, Soil Improvers and Mulch |
|  Industrial and Institutional Laundry Detergents |  Lubricants |
|  Textiles |  Printed Paper, Stationery Paper, Paper Carrier Bag Products |
|  Footwear |  Printed Paper, Stationery Paper, Paper Carrier Bag Products |
|  Paints and Varnishes |  Graphic paper |
|  Tissue paper and tissue products |  Graphic paper |

 Indoor Cleaning Services

 Tourist Accommodation

www.ecolabel.eu

**Retail financial products
(under development)**

ECAT:
Catalogue of awarded products
<http://ec.europa.eu/ecat/>



EU Ecolabel key figures

as per March 2021

78 071 products (goods and services) awarded with the EU Ecolabel (1 892 licenses) in 24 different product categories

Fastest growing product categories over the past 6 months

Laundry detergents
+26%

Lubricants
+31%

Indoor cleaning services
+37%

Absorbent hygiene products
+50%

Number of products

Number of products awarded per country



Do-it-yourself
30 282



Personal care products
2 749



Paper
20 364



Furniture and bed mattresses
813



Coverings
9 493



Holiday accommodation
440



Cleaning up
8 072



Gardening
160



Clothing and textiles
5 698



Electronic displays
/



> 4 000 products >2 000 < 4 000 > 500 < 2 000 <500

| | | | | | |
|----------------|--------|-------------|-------|------------------|----|
| Spain | 16 145 | Denmark | 2 477 | Hungary | 87 |
| Italy | 11 698 | Netherlands | 1 314 | Cyprus | 84 |
| France | 8 628 | Estonia | 901 | Croatia | 40 |
| Germany | 7 443 | Austria | 721 | Romania | 37 |
| Belgium | 5 358 | Finland | 647 | Latvia | 36 |
| Czech Republic | 5 152 | Lithuania | 461 | Malta | 6 |
| Sweden | 4 877 | Ireland | 177 | Slovak Republic | 5 |
| Portugal | 4 773 | Norway | 175 | Luxembourg | 1 |
| Greece | 3 559 | Slovenia | 105 | Iceland | 0 |
| Poland | 3 075 | Bulgaria | 89 | Northern Ireland | 0 |

TOTAL 78 071

www.ecolabel.eu

March 2021 EU Ecolabel figures

EU Ecolabel figures keep growing!

1 892 licenses awarded for 78 071 products.

Major product groups are: indoor and outdoor paints and varnishes (39%), tissue paper and tissue products (16%) and hard coverings (10%).

Hard coverings: 15 licences for 7769 products.

In the past 6 months, increase in total number of awarded licenses * (+135 licenses = +8%); increase in total number of awarded products (+2 275 products = +3%)

More info available at:

<https://ec.europa.eu/environment/ecolabel/facts-and-figures.html>

The EU Ecolabel criteria

- Address **10-20%** env. best products on the market
- Cover the **main environmental impacts** of the product and their technical performance
- Determined on **scientific basis** considering the whole life cycle of products
- Include **health, safety, social and ethical aspects**, where appropriate
- Favor substitution of **hazardous substances** with safer ones
- Support **durability, reusability, recyclability and recycled content** of products
- Guarantee compliance with **existing EU legislation**
- Include **fitness for use** requirements
- Are **regularly revised** to follow technological evolution
- Adopted as **Commission Decisions**



Hard Covering Products - scope

- Extends to 4 main types of product: Natural Stone; Agglomerated Stone; Ceramic and Precast Concrete (Art. 1 of Decision (EU) 2021/476).
- All have their own specific production processes and impacts.
- Product/material specific criteria defined for each across common themes.

Material
efficiency

Energy
efficiency

Emissions
to air

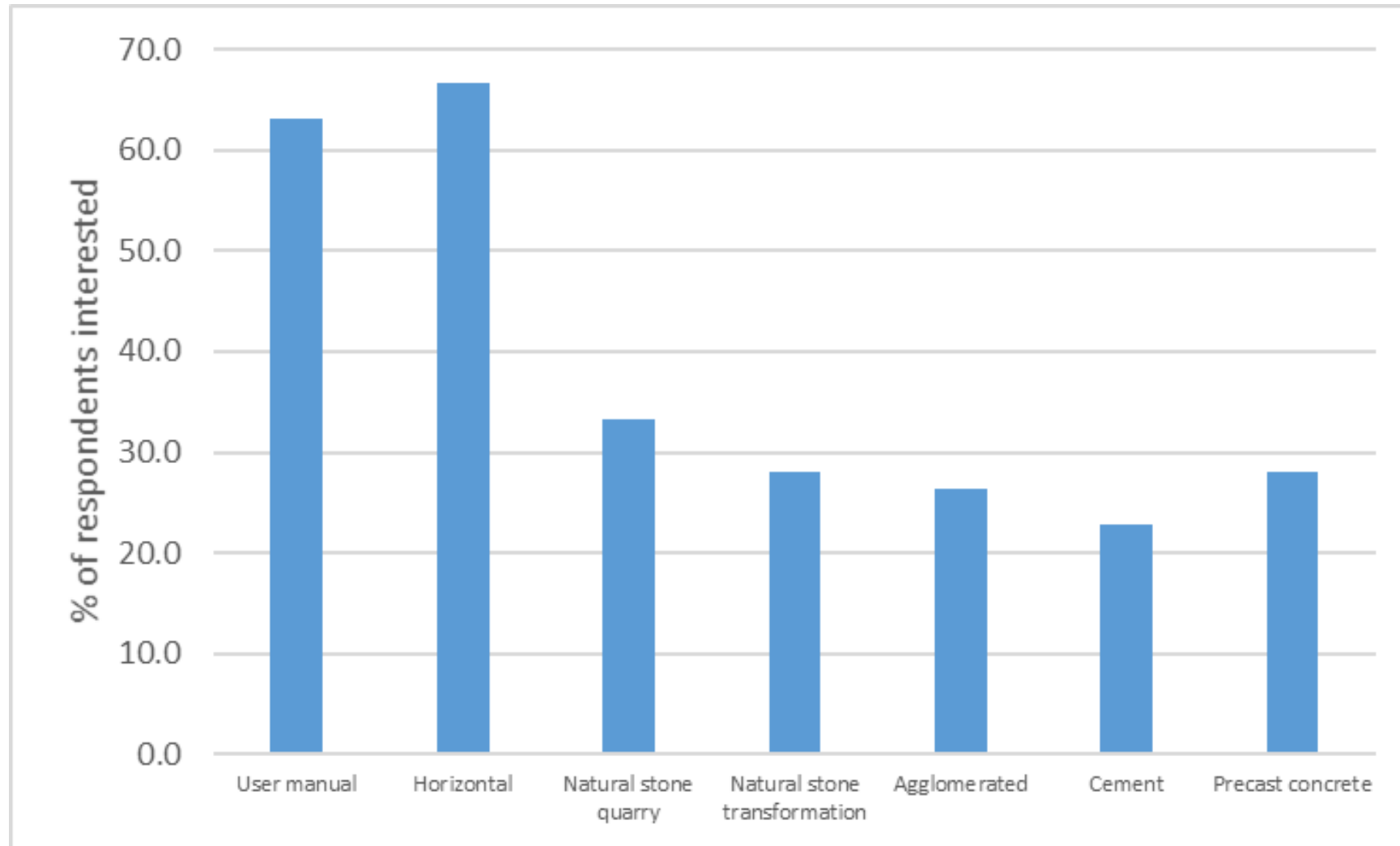
Water
efficiency

- All contribute to improving air quality, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, protecting the aquatic environment, less waste, less raw materials and less cost for producers!

Hard Covering Products – criteria structure

- Horizontal criteria: 1.1 to 1.7
- Natural stone criteria: 2.1 to 2.6 (quarry) and 2.7 to 2.11 (transformation plant)
- Agglomerated stone criteria: 3.1 to 3.5
- Ceramic criteria: 4.1 to 4.7
- Precast concrete/compressed earth criteria: 5.1 to 5.3 (binders) and 5.4 to 5.6 (precast plant).
- A combination of mandatory and optional requirements. Need a minimum number of points to get the EU Ecolabel (i.e. going beyond mandatory).

Interest from respondents (n=57)



Hard Covering Products – User Manual

22.3.2021

EN

Official Journal of the European Union

L 99/37

Structure of the manual:

Part A: General

Part B: Product Assessment and Verification

Part C -D: (separate files) – Verification of the application and declaration of compliance

- ❑ Application worksheets, Summary worksheet, horizontal criteria worksheet and material specific worksheet
- ❑ Annex I. Declarations from an external suppliers

Part E: Checklist

DECISIONS

COMMISSION DECISION (EU) 2021/476
of 16 March 2021
establishing the EU Ecolabel for hard covering products
(notified under 2021/1579)

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EC) No 66/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the EU Ecolabel (¹), and in particular Article 10 thereof,

After consulting the European Union Agency for Environment and Climate Change,

Whereas:

- (1) Under Regulation (EC) No 66/2010, the EU Ecolabel is awarded to products which have a reduced environmental impact throughout their life cycle.
- (2) Regulation (EC) No 66/2010 provides for the award of the EU Ecolabel to products belonging to certain product groups.
- (3) Commission Decision (EU) 2017/1301 of 12 September 2017 amending Commission Decision (EU) 2015/1579 of 15 October 2015 concerning the award of the EU Ecolabel to products belonging to certain product groups has been extended to cover hard covering products.
- (4) In order to ensure the environmental benefits of the EU Ecolabel for hard covering products, it is necessary to establish a new set of criteria for 'hard covering products'.
- (5) The EU Ecolabel Fitness Check, carried out by the European Commission in 2019, concluded on the need to develop a new set of criteria for the EU Ecolabel, also including the bundling of closely related product groups where appropriate.
- (6) In line with these conclusions and after consulting the European Agency for Environment and Climate Change (EA) and the European Ecolabeling Board (EEB), it is appropriate to establish the EU Ecolabel for hard covering products.



Hard Covering Products – User Manual

- **Part C-D:** The heart of the application process (now as excel file).
- Where quantitative and qualitative inputs are compiled.
- Automatically calculates scores for individual criteria and adds them together in the summary worksheet.
- Allows for separate data to be compiled in Summary worksheet (one row per product or per group of products with common data).
- **Go to excel file...**

Horizontal criteria

- **1.1. Industrial and construction mineral extraction** – need to know where your raw materials are coming from. Requirements set on virgin raw materials, legal compliance, EIA and rehabilitation plan.
- **1.2. Restricted substances** – linked to Arts. 6(6) and 6(7) of the EU Ecolabel regulation (explained in more detail with the UM). Need to know your process chemicals and dosing rates.
- **1.3. VOC emissions** – applies when VOC-containing surface treatments are used. Due to testing costs, looking for worst case data here.
- **1.4. Fitness for use** – mainly looking at quality control and relevant standards related to CE marking.

Horizontal criteria

- **1.5. User information** – providing customer AND end user with information necessary for correct product choice, installation, cleaning, maintenance and disposal.
- **1.6. Information appearing on the EU Ecolabel** – quite standard commitment to ensure consistent marketing signal. Obviously other information can also be used elsewhere on packaging.
- **1.7. Environmental Management System (optional)** – points awarded for being ISO 14001 certified and/or EMAS registered. Companies with these are already well geared to having or getting the data needed to assess compliance with the EU Ecolabel criteria.

Any questions on the horizontal criteria?

Please type into the chat

Natural stone criteria

- Now quarry owners/operators can obtain the EU Ecolabel for all blocks and slabs leaving their quarry! Marketing opportunity for the quarry operator and makes life simpler for transformers who also want the EU Ecolabel for their products.
- Quarry operators need to obtain a minimum number of points from criteria 2.1 to 2.6 and comply with mandatory parts of 2.1 to 2.6 (plus relevant horizontal criteria).
- Scoring requirements are as follows:

Natural stone criteria – scoring system

| Criteria where points can be awarded | Intermediate blocks or slabs of dimension stone | Final transformed natural stone hard covering products |
|---|---|--|
| 1.7. Environmental Management System of the quarry (optional) | 0,3 or 5 points | n/a |
| 1.7. Environmental Management System of the transformation plant (optional) | n/a | 0,3 or 5 points |
| 2.1. Energy consumption at the quarry | Up to 20 points | Up to 20 points |
| 2.2. Material efficiency at the quarry | Up to 25 points | Up to 25 points |
| 2.6. Quarry landscape impact ratios (optional) | Up to 10 points | Up to 10 points |
| 2.7. Energy consumption at the transformation plant | n/a | Up to 20 points |
| 2.8. Water and waste water management at the transformation plant | n/a | Up to 5 points |
| 2.10. Reuse of process waste from the transformation plant | n/a | Up to 10 points |
| 2.11. Regionally integrated production at the transformation plant (optional) | n/a | Up to 5 points |
| Total maximum points | 60 | 100 |
| Minimum points required for EU Ecolabel | 30 | 50 |

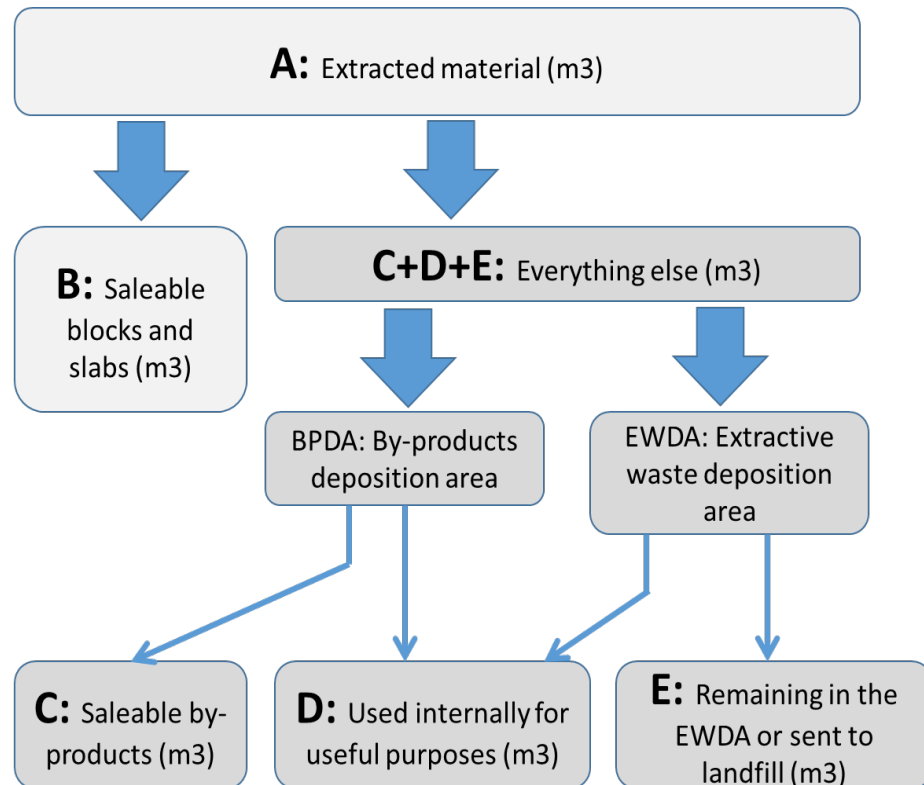
- Quarries need a minimum of **30 from 60 points** (from criteria 1.7 + 2.1 to 2.6).
- Transformed products need a minimum of **50 from 100 points** (from criteria 1.7 + 2.1 to 2.11).
- In latter case, quarries do not need to have the EU Ecolabel – but it would help!
- **Optional points could be crucial but are not essential to totals.**

Natural stone criteria – quarries (2.1 to 2.6)

- **2.1. Energy consumption** – no actual benchmarks set, but applicants need an inventory of fuel and electricity consumption, records of output of saleable products and a plan to reduce specific energy consumption and CO2 emissions (i.e. per tonne of product).
 - Up to 10 points for using up to 100% **renewable energy** (i.e. fuel plus electricity).
 - Up to 5 points depending on how renewable electricity is procured
 - 3 points if an ISO 14067 carbon footprint has been done (5 points if PEF-method).
- Most applicants will obtain some points for the % renewable energy and procurement of renewable electricity.
- **Indirectly encourages a shift towards electrification of machinery.**

Natural stone criteria – quarries (2.1 to 2.6)

- **2.2. Material efficiency** – at least 50% of the material extracted needs to result in saleable products or by-products.



- Saleable blocks and slabs should be easy to account for → core business activity.
- Saleable by-products is less clear. Need to distinguish from other by-products that cannot be sold and from any extractive waste that might be reused onsite for useful purposes.
- The term « saleable » is debateable, but « sales » could have been unfair due to fluctuating records.
- **25 points for going from 50% up to 100%**
- **Encouraging more efficient extraction techniques and require efforts to find outlets for by-products.**

Natural stone criteria – quarries (2.1 to 2.6)

- **2.3. Water/wastewater management** – no quantitative measures required, just a commitment to ensuring that stormwater flows do not result in pollution of natural watercourses with dust from the site and that these same flows can be used as a source of process water, if needed.
- **Anyone can do this with relatively low-tech engineering and planning.**
- **2.4. Dust control** – again, no quantitative measures required, but a solid risk management approach and planning with clear measures to reduce dust emissions from the quarry is required.
- **Again, anyone can do this with suitable planning and management.**

Natural stone criteria – quarries (2.1 to 2.6)

- **2.5. Personnel safety and working conditions** – natural stone quarries are one of the sectors with a high % of informal labour. Hence the justification for this more « social » criterion.
- **Anyone can do this with suitable planning and management.**
- **2.6. Quarry landscape impact ratios (optional)** – all quarries have opportunities to make better use of the site land area (some more than others).
- **Aim here is to reward owners and operators who minimise % of site area dedicated to extraction activities and who maximise biodiverse areas and/or areas used to generate renewable energy.**

Natural stone criteria – transformation plants (2.7 to 2.11)

- **2.7. Energy consumption** – exactly the same idea as for the quarry (criterion 2.1), but the scope for the inventory is completely different.
- **2.8. Water and wastewater management** – very similar to the quarry (criterion 2.3) when wet cutting processes apply there. Obligations to clarify wastewater and reuse it. **5 points awarded for rainwater collection.** *(It is currently 0 points or 5 points. Perhaps a scale should apply? Not all rainwater collection systems are equally significant.)*
- **2.9 Dust control** – very similar to the quarry (criterion 2.4), but the scope is limited to the transformation plant and staff working there.

Natural stone criteria – transformation plants (2.7 to 2.11)

- **2.10. Reuse of process waste** – considered a more appropriate approach than something like « *transformation efficiency* » because the latter is to a large extent dictated by the quality of the incoming material and the thickness of slabs or tiles demanded by the customer.
 - Necessary to distinguish between **scrap** (i.e. fragments etc.) and **sludge** (i.e. settled solids removed from wastewater).
 - Much easier to recycle the former than the latter.
 - So need to be >80% or scrap reuse (up to 5 points for 100% reuse) and $\geq 0\%$ for sludge (up to 5 points for 100% reuse).
- Basis of evidence is a waste inventory (in units of kg). Reuse includes onsite applications as well. Any offsite disposal or reuse should be covered by shipment notes in the inventory.

Natural stone criteria – transformation plants (2.7 to 2.11)

- **2.11. Regionally integrated production (optional)** – the aim is to encourage closer links between quarry and transformation plants. Better knowledge of product quality, better traceability, reduced transport emissions and opportunities for joint approaches to waste management.
- Very simple approach, based on transport distance estimations (from quarry gate to transformation plant gate) on a satellite view map.
- Up to **5 points** awarded for distances that are 10km or less. If the distance is above 260km, no points are awarded.

Any questions on the natural stone criteria?

Please type into the chat

Agglomerated stone criteria – scoring system

| Criteria where points can be awarded | Agglomerated stone products |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1.7. Environmental Management System (optional) | 0, 3 or 5 points |
| 3.1. Energy consumption | Up to 30 points |
| 3.3. Recycled/secondary material content | Up to 35 points |
| 3.4. Resin binder content | Up to 20 points |
| 3.5. Reuse of process waste | Up to 10 points |
| Total maximum points | 100 |
| Minimum points required for EU Ecolabel | 50 |

- No intermediate products, so simpler than natural stone.
- Need a minimum of **50 from 100 points** (from criteria 1.7 + 3.1 to 3.5).
- **Optional points could be crucial but are not essential to totals.**

Agglomerated stone criteria – scoring system

- **3.1. Energy consumption** – well-defined and consistent production process, possible to define specific energy consumption benchmarks
 - Up to **10 points** for have specific electricity consumption as low as **0.7 MJ/kg**. (Mandatory element is that it needs to be **<1.1 MJ/kg**).
 - Up to **10 points** for having up to **100% renewable electricity** (no, minimum requirement, same idea as for natural stone quarries and transformation plants).
 - Up to **10 points** for how the renewable electricity **is contracted** (same idea as for natural stone quarries and transformation plants).
- No focus on fuels since process is electricity-based. Information about consumption for stone grinding also requested (possibly supplier).

Agglomerated stone criteria – scoring system

- **3.2. Dust control** – virtually identical to the requirements for natural stone transformation plants (mandatory elements & no points).
- Additional specificity of styrene emissions (related to resins).
- No focus on fuels since process is electricity-based. Information about consumption for stone grinding also requested (possibly supplier).

Agglomerated stone criteria – scoring system

- **3.3. Recycled / secondary material content** – production process is batch nature, possible to have very tight control over these contents and with specific allocations.
- But 2 conditions placed on recognition of these materials for this criterion:
 - That they come from no further than 2.5x as far away as the virgin raw materials that would otherwise be used.
 - That an inventory of inputs and outputs of recycled and secondary materials is kept for the site and that in no point it falls into a negative balance.
- Up to **35 points** for recycled content up to 35% (no minimum content required).

Agglomerated stone criteria – scoring system

- **3.4. Resin binder content** – this content will be tightly controlled as it has a crucial effect on technical properties. Can differ from one product to another.
 - Up to **20 points** for how the binder content is reduced towards **5%** (mandatory requirement that binder content is not **>10%**).
- **3.5. Reuse of process waste** – similar to criterion for natural stone transformation plants (criterion 2.10) although no distinction made between sludge and scrap. Waste inventory needs to be kept.
 - Up to **10 points** for how the waste reuse rate increases towards **100%** (mandatory requirement that reuse is **>70%**).

Any questions on the agglomerated stone
criteria?

Please type into the chat

Ceramic criteria – scoring system

| Criteria where points can be awarded | Ceramic and fired clay products |
|---|---------------------------------|
| 1.7. Environmental Management System (optional) | 0, 3 or 5 points |
| 4.1. Fuel consumption for drying and firing | Up to 20 points |
| 4.2. CO2 emissions | Up to 25 points |
| 4.4. Emissions of dust, HF, NOx and SOx to air | Up to 40 points |
| 4.6. Reuse of process waste | Up to 10 points |
| Total maximum points available | 100 |
| Minimum points required for EU Ecolabel | 50 |

- No intermediate products, so simpler than natural stone.
- Need a minimum of **50 from 100 points** (from criteria 1.7 + 4.1 to 4.6).
- **Optional points could be crucial but are not essential to totals.**

Ceramic criteria – scoring system

- **4.1. Fuel consumption for drying and firing** – scope now includes fuels used in spray dryers and ware dryers.
- Separate limits for ware dryer and kiln fuel depending on mode of data collection (higher limits for longer term and broader data collection due to intermittent periods of lower production).
 - **For ceramic tiles**, up to **20 points** for having specific fuel consumption as low as **1.3 MJ/kg** spray dried powder (when used) and **3.2 or 4.3 MJ/kg** for the ware dryer and kiln. Mandatory upper limits also apply.
 - **For fired clay pavers**, up to **20 points** for having specific fuel consumption as low as **1.3 MJ/kg** spray dried powder (when used) and **2.1 MJ/kg** for the ware dryer and kiln. Mandatory upper limits also apply.
- Fired clay pavers are different kiln technology.

Ceramic criteria – scoring system

- **4.2. CO2 emissions** – scope matched to that of fuel consumption – so it now includes fuels used in spray dryers and ware dryers.
- Does not account for grid electricity used but does account for process emissions from raw materials – ETS approach. **But, applies to product level, not installation level.**
 - **For ceramic tiles**, up to **25 points** for having specific CO2 emissions as low as **54 kg/t** spray dried powder (when used) and **230 or 290 kg/t** for the ware dryer and kiln. Mandatory upper limits also apply.
 - **For fired clay pavers**, up to **25 points** for having specific CO2 emissions as low as **54 kg/t** spray dried powder (when used) and **129 kg/t** for the ware dryer and kiln. Mandatory upper limits also apply.
- Fired clay pavers are different kiln technology.

Ceramic criteria – scoring system

- **4.3. Process water consumption** – separate limits apply depending on whether spray is carried out onsite or not (ISO 17889-1 way of thinking).
 - No need to calculate if zero waste discharge system in place.
 - Mandatory (conditional) requirement only, no points available.

Ceramic criteria – scoring system

- **4.4. Emissions of dust, HF, NOx and SOx to air**– scope now includes mandatory requirement for dust emission from spray dryers.
- May be complicated to allocate emissions to products depending on how many different production lines share same abatement system and how many products are covered by EU Ecolabel. Best approach to data compilation to be agreed with Competent Body.
 - Key input data for UM during monitoring period is: air flow (Nm³), product output (kg) and clean gas concentration (mg/Nm³).
 - Up to **40 points (10+10+10+10)** for having dust+HF+NOx+SOx emissions at or below defined thresholds. Mandatory upper limits also apply.
 - These emissions are already monitored under IED, no new efforts required to get data.

Ceramic criteria – scoring system

- **4.5. Wastewater management** – mandatory (conditional) approach taken. No points awarded.
- **4.6. Reuse of process waste** – same approach as taken for agglomerated stone (criterion 3.5). Waste inventory needs to be kept.
 - Up to **10 points** for how the waste reuse rate increases towards **100%** (mandatory requirement that reuse is **>90%**).
- **4.7. Glazes and inks** – mandatory (conditional) approach taken. Declaration from external suppliers of glazes or inks needed.

Any questions on the ceramic criteria?

Please type into the chat

Precast concrete criteria – scoring system

| | Hydraulic binder | Alternative cement | Cement-based hard covering products | Lime-based hard covering products |
|---|------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1.7. Environmental Management System for hydraulic binder production plant (optional) | 0, 3 or 5 points | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| 1.7. Environmental Management System for hard covering production plant (optional) | n/a | n/a | 0, 3 or 5 points | 0, 3 or 5 points |
| 5.1. Clinker factor | Up to 15 points | Up to 15 points | Up to 15 points | n/a |
| 5.2. CO2 emissions | Up to 20 points | Up to 20 points | Up to 20 points | Up to 20 points |
| 5.3. Emissions of dust, NOx and SOx to air | Up to 15 points | n/a or Up to 15 points | Up to 15 points | Up to 15 points |
| 5.4. Recovery and responsible sourcing of raw materials | n/a | n/a | Up to 25 points | Up to 25 points |
| 5.5. Energy consumption | n/a | n/a | Up to 20 points | Up to 20 points |
| 5.6. Environmentally innovative product designs (optional) | n/a | n/a | Up to 10 points | Up to 15 points |
| Total maximum points available | 55 | 35 or 50 | 110 | 100 |
| Minimum points required for EU Ecolabel | 27,5 | 17,5 or 25 | 55 | 50 |

- Possibility for intermediate products and final products.
- Different criteria apply depending on the binder used → different maximum points possible → different thresholds applying to obtain EU Ecolabel.
- The most complex of the 4 groups in terms of User Manual.
- Correction to table should actually apply as follows for better clarity:

Precast concrete criteria – scoring system

| | Intermediate products | | | | Final precast products | | | |
|---|-----------------------|------------------|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| | EN 197-1 cement | Hydraulic lime | Alternative cement (>30% clinker content) | Alternative cement (<30% clinker content) | EN 197-1 cement-based hard covering products | Lime-based hard covering products | Alternative cement (>30% clinker content)-based products | Alternative cement (<30% clinker content)-based products |
| 1.7. Environmental Management System for hydraulic binder production plant (optional) | 0, 3 or 5 points | 0, 3 or 5 points | n/a | | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| 1.7. Environmental Management System for hard covering production plant (optional) | n/a | n/a | n/a | | 0, 3 or 5 points | 0, 3 or 5 points | n/a | n/a |
| 5.1. Clinker factor | Up to 15 points | n/a | Up to 15 points | Up to 15 points | Up to 15 points | n/a | Up to 15 points | Up to 15 points |
| 5.2. CO2 emissions | Up to 20 points | Up to 20 points | Up to 20 points | Up to 20 points | Up to 20 points | Up to 20 points | Up to 20 points | Up to 20 points |
| 5.3. Emissions of dust, NOx and SOx to air | Up to 15 points | Up to 15 points | Up to 15 points | n/a | Up to 15 points | Up to 15 points | Up to 15 points | n/a |
| 5.4. Recovery and responsible sourcing of raw materials | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | Up to 25 points | Up to 25 points | Up to 25 points | Up to 25 points |
| 5.5. Energy consumption | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | Up to 20 points | Up to 20 points | Up to 20 points | Up to 20 points |
| 5.6. Environmentally innovative product designs (optional) | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | Up to 10 points | Up to 15 points | Up to 10 points | Up to 15 points |
| Total maximum points available | 55 | 40 | 50 | 35 | 110 | 100 | 105 | 95 |
| Minimum points required for EU Ecolabel | 27,5 | 20 | 25 | 17,5 | 55 | 50 | 52,5 | 47,5 |

Precast concrete criteria – binders

- **5.1. Clinker factor** – mandatory to report on clinker factor and up to **15 points** available if as low as **0.60** for EN 197-1 cements or **0.00** for alternative cements. Upper limits corresponding to 0 points also apply (**0.90** for EN 197-1 and **0.30** for alternative cements).
- **5.2. CO2 emissions** – takes ETS type approach (for fuel combustion and process emissions, but not for electricity). **But, applies to product level, not installation level.** Some sort of allocation may apply.
 - Separate approach taken for alternative cements since embodied CO2 may be associated with not only clinker but also other chemical « activators ». An embodied CO2 approach required in this case. ISO 14067 specifically mentioned, **should clarify that PEF methodology accepted if it can be limited to same A1 to A3 life cycle stages.**
 - Up to **20 points** available. Mandatory upper limits apply.

Precast concrete criteria – binders

- **5.3. Emissions of dust, NO_x and SO_x** – mandatory to report on and mandatory upper limits apply.
 - These emissions already need to be measured under IED, so no extra efforts required to obtain data.
 - But, data needs to be allocated to product level (g/tonne product) whereas IED requires reporting on clean gas concentrations (mg/Nm³) → so it is important to have accurate air flow rates and have a logical approach to any allocation of emissions to different products using the same abatement system.
 - Up to **15 points** (5+5+5) available for emissions of dust+NO_x+SO_x reaching defined thresholds.

Precast concrete criteria – precast plant

- **5.4. Recovery and responsible sourcing of raw materials** – a mix of mandatory requirements and chances to gain points.
 - Need to be able to reincorporate reject or returned concrete into reuse process (onsite or offsite).
 - Can claim up to **20 or 25 points** for recycled or secondary material content – same approach as for agglomerated stone (criterion 3.3), which requires these materials to not be >2.5x further away than virgin materials and that an inventory of inputs and outputs of these materials is kept at site level.
 - Up to **5 points** available for responsibly sourced virgin aggregates (in line with an initiative in the sector, the CSC).
 - Up to **5 points** available for responsibly sourced cement (when used, and again in line with the CSC initiative).

Precast concrete criteria – precast plant

- **5.5. Energy consumption** – exact same approach as defined for natural stone transformation plants. Need an energy inventory.
- Unable to define specific benchmarks so:
 - Up to **10 points** for using up to 100% **renewable energy** (i.e. fuel plus electricity).
 - Up to **5 points** depending on how renewable electricity is **procured**
 - **3 points** if an ISO 14067 carbon footprint has been done (**5 points** if PEF-method).

Precast concrete criteria – precast plant

- **5.6. Environmentally innovative product designs (optional)**
- Not equally applicable to all product types, so multiple innovations included.
- Even though optional, many products might be able to achieve some points here (for example on the lower binder content).
- Can claim up to a total of **10 or 15 points** through any combination of the innovations listed in criterion 5.6.

Any questions on the precast concrete criteria?

Please type into the chat

The EU Ecolabel-Benefits for consumers

- **A reliable, third-party** certified label that can be trusted (covers all main environmental, health, social issues)
- A **logo** easy to recognize
- Certifies that the product is among the **most environmentally-friendly** in its class
- **Guarantees by a transparent** process for establishing the criteria
- Helps making **informed choices**
- Allows to empower consumers to **choose green products** thus stirring the market of sustainable products in a **circular economy**.



The EU Ecolabel-Benefits for applicants

- Contributes to **improve the image of the company**: recognizes efforts to make sustainable products/services
- Contributes to **resource and monetary savings** (eg. in raw materials, water and energy consumption, reducing waste production, improving CO2 footprint etc)
- Contributes to the **growth of the company and job creation**
- Certifies that the product/service is **among the most environmentally-friendly in its class**
- Increases the **visibility of the product** on the market (the **EU Ecolabel logo** is recognised throughout Europe by millions of EU consumers)
- Featuring of the products and company on the **EU Ecolabel official catalogue** (<http://ec.europa.eu/ecat/>)
- Benefits from **marketing activities** undertaken by the EC and the national Competent Bodies (eg. collaboration with online retailers).
- Easier access to **GPP** (Green Public Procurement).



EU Ecolabel products and services



<http://ec.europa.eu/ecat/>

EU Ecolabel-promoting success stories

EU Environment @EU_ENV · Nov 3
 Let's boost #CircularEconomy in Europe

Check our tools & instruments to help YOU, stakeholders and consumers:
 Level(s) for Green Public Procurement
 #EUEcolabel products & services
 EMAS and more!
ec.europa.eu/environment/gr...
 #CEStakeholderEU #BuildCircular #EUCircularTalks



European Investment Bank and 9 others
 2 replies 28 retweets 68 likes

EU Ecolabel Ambassador: Holiday Apartments UTJEHA

Company name: Holiday Apartments UTJEHA
Product category: Tourist Accommodations
Country of origin: Montenegro
License holder since: 2012
Website: <https://utjeha.me>
 Available throughout Europe

Holiday Apartments UTJEHA is the first Tourist Accommodation in Montenegro to be awarded with the prestigious EU Ecolabel and is recognised as a model for sustainable tourism in Montenegro and throughout Europe.

Since becoming awarded with the EU Ecolabel in 2012,



I. Success stories: EU Ecolabel Ambassadors

| NORTHERN EUROPE Montana Furniture, Denmark | SOUTHERN EUROPE Mobilferro, Italy |
|---|--|
| <p>"Acquiring the EU Ecolabel has been very important to us, and it's something we've worked towards for a long time. I'm delighted that Montana is one of the first furniture manufacturers in Europe to achieve it because I consider sustainability a key part of our responsibilities as a furniture manufacturer in Denmark"</p> <p>Joakim Lassen, Montana Furniture's CEO</p> <p>Montana Furniture is a Danish family-owned company that produces and supplies shelving systems, tables, and chairs for homes and modern office environments. In 2019, the company was awarded the EU Ecolabel for its shelves, becoming one of the very first Danish furniture manufacturers to achieve it.</p> | <p>"School chairs used by children potentially transmit harmful hazardous substances. Mobilferro's furniture have restricted use of chemicals such as formaldehyde, solvents and flame retardants and act as a guarantee for safer products."</p> <p>Marco Canazza, Mobilferro's Marketing and Contract Manager</p> <p>The Italian company Mobilferro, awarded with the EU Ecolabel, manufactures eco-friendly furniture mainly for public schools. The company's suppliers are carefully selected, and the internal laboratories closely monitored to directly verify the characteristics of the products.</p> |
| | |

How to apply for the EU Ecolabel?

- Contact your National Competent Body
- Prepare your technical dossier
- Register your product on ECAT
- Submit your application and pay fee
- Assessment of your application
- Award of a licence
- Communicate about your products/services!

Important links and contacts:

European Commission EU Ecolabel website:
<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/ecolabel/eu-ecolabel-for-businesses.html>

EC contact Email: EU-Ecolabel@ec.europa.eu



The screenshot displays the 'How to apply for EU Ecolabel' page on the European Commission's environment website. The page features a navigation menu with options like 'Home', 'About us', 'Policies', 'Funding', 'Legal compliance', and 'News & outreach'. A central section titled 'How to apply for EU Ecolabel' lists seven steps: Step 1: Getting Started, Step 2: Getting Advice, Step 3: Starting the application, Step 4: Collecting the Evidence, Step 5: Submitting the Application, Step 6: Ecolabel awarded, and Step 7: Marketing your product with the EU Ecolabel. A red arrow points from the 'EU Ecolabel for Businesses' link in the left sidebar to the 'How to apply for EU Ecolabel' section. The right sidebar contains links to 'Product Catalogue', 'Tourist Service Catalogue', 'Facts and figures', 'Did you know?', 'FAQ', and a video section titled 'Discover the "Fall in love with EU Ecolabel" videos'. At the bottom, there is a 'Useful material' section with links to 'EU Ecolabel Logo Guidelines', 'EU Ecolabel User Manual - Part A', 'ECAT User Manual for Licence Holders', and 'Marketing guide'.

Factsheet available on the EU Ecolabel product groups [page](#).



The EU Ecolabel is the official European Union label for environmental excellence. The EU Ecolabel is awarded to sustainably designed products, thereby encouraging innovation, and contributing to the EU's goal of climate neutrality by 2050 and to the circular economy. Industry can use the EU Ecolabel to offer consumers an **eco-friendly alternative** to conventional products and help them lower their daily environmental impact.

With some specific exceptions, the hard covering product group generally covers:

- floor tiles, wall tiles, roof tiles, blocks, slabs, panels, pavers, kerbs, tabletops, vanity tops and kitchen worktops made of natural stone, agglomerated stone, ceramic, precast concrete or compressed earth; and
- intermediate products, specifically blocks and slabs of dimension stone from natural stone quarries, and hydraulic cement, hydraulic lime and alternative cement binders.

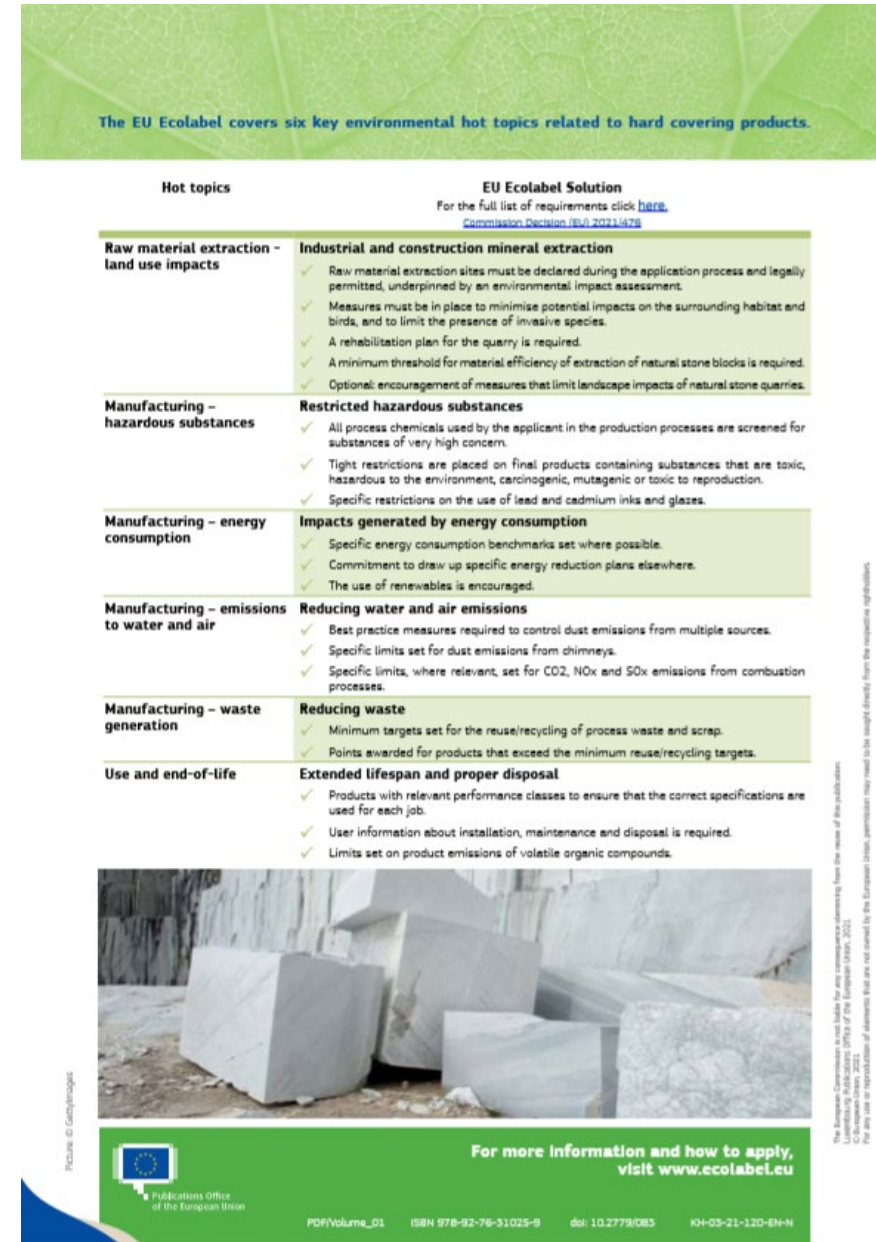
Ambitious criteria have been set focusing on the main environmental impacts generated over the lifecycle of these products. This ensures that EU Ecolabel hard covering products are among **the best on the market in terms of environmental performance**. Specifically, the EU Ecolabel criteria:

- reduce land use impacts caused by quarrying of raw materials;
- restrict the use of hazardous substances;
- require production processes to be energy efficient;
- encourage the use of renewable energy;
- require production processes to be material efficient, including the reuse/recycling of process waste; and
- limit emissions of pollutants that contribute to global warming, acidification, and eutrophication, and which are detrimental to human health.

Access the full list of EU Ecolabel criteria for hard coverings products [here](#).

Environment

The EU Ecolabel covers six key environmental hot topics related to hard covering products.



The EU Ecolabel covers six key environmental hot topics related to hard covering products.

| Hot topics | EU Ecolabel Solution For the full list of requirements click here . Commission Decision (EU) 2021/479 |
|---|---|
| Raw material extraction - land use impacts | Industrial and construction mineral extraction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raw material extraction sites must be declared during the application process and legally permitted, underpinned by an environmental impact assessment. Measures must be in place to minimise potential impacts on the surrounding habitat and birds, and to limit the presence of invasive species. A rehabilitation plan for the quarry is required. A minimum threshold for material efficiency of extraction of natural stone blocks is required. Optional: encouragement of measures that limit landscape impacts of natural stone quarries. |
| Manufacturing – hazardous substances | Restricted hazardous substances <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All process chemicals used by the applicant in the production processes are screened for substances of very high concern. Tight restrictions are placed on final products containing substances that are toxic, hazardous to the environment, carcinogenic, mutagenic or toxic to reproduction. Specific restrictions on the use of lead and cadmium inks and glazes. |
| Manufacturing – energy consumption | Impacts generated by energy consumption <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specific energy consumption benchmarks set where possible. Commitment to draw up specific energy reduction plans elsewhere. The use of renewables is encouraged. |
| Manufacturing – emissions to water and air | Reducing water and air emissions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Best practice measures required to control dust emissions from multiple sources. Specific limits set for dust emissions from chimneys. Specific limits, where relevant, set for CO₂, NO_x and SO_x emissions from combustion processes. |
| Manufacturing – waste generation | Reducing waste <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum targets set for the reuse/recycling of process waste and scrap. Points awarded for products that exceed the minimum reuse/recycling targets. |
| Use and end-of-life | Extended lifespan and proper disposal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Products with relevant performance classes to ensure that the correct specifications are used for each job. User information about installation, maintenance and disposal is required. Limits set on product emissions of volatile organic compounds. |

For more information and how to apply, visit www.ecolabel.eu

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Any general questions on practical issues or the application process?

Please type into the chat

Keep in touch



EU Science Hub: ec.europa.eu/jrc



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Thank you



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