

Nordic Ecolabelling for Alternative Dry Cleaning



Version 1.11 • 23 March 2006 – 31 December 2025

On 20 November 2019, the criteria for the CLP Regulation were updated.

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094 Alternative dry cleaning, version 1.11, 31 January 2023

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

Addresses

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

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www.svanemaerket.dk

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What is Nordic Swan Ecolabelled alternative dry cleaning?

The Nordic dry cleaning industry produces roughly 1000-2000 tonnes of organic solvent emissions, of which the majority are perchloroethane (PERC). PERC is environmentally harmful and suspected to be both carcinogenic and teratogenic.

Nordic Ecolabelled alternative dry cleaning is the cleaning of textiles without the use of volatile organic solvents. Nordic Ecolabelled alternative dry cleaning uses chemicals that are non-toxic and environmentally suitable. The cleaning agents and surfactants in the chemical preparations (stain removers and finishing agents) are readily biodegradable and do not have long-term effects on health or the environment. Nordic Ecolabelled alternative dry cleaning enables all types of textiles to be cleaned with excellent results. An example of a cleaning method that can be Nordic Ecolabelled is CO₂ cleaning possibly in combination with wetclean.

Why choose the Nordic Swan Ecolabel?

- The cleaners may use the Nordic Swan Ecolabel trademark for marketing. The Nordic Swan Ecolabel is a very well-known and well-reputed trademark in the Nordic region.
- The Nordic Swan Ecolabel is a cost-effective and simple way of communicating environmental work and commitment to customers and suppliers.
- Environmentally suitable operations prepare the cleaners for future environmental legislation.
- Environmental issues are complex. It can take a long time and extensive resources to gain an understanding of a specific area. Nordic Ecolabelling can be seen as an aid in this work.
- The Nordic Swan Ecolabel not only covers environmental issues but also quality requirements, since the environment and quality often go hand in hand. This means that a Nordic Swan Ecolabel licence can also be seen as a mark of quality.

What can carry the Nordic Swan Ecolabel?

Cleaners offering dry cleaning services can be Nordic Swan Ecolabelled, i.e. providers of mechanical textile cleaning using chemical cleaning fluids. Wet cleaning, which is a special form of cleaning that uses water in the cleaning process, see definition in ISO 3175-4. Wet cleaning can be Nordic Swan Ecolabelled where this is offered as a supplement to one or more dry cleaning methods.

Cleaners that also offer laundry have two options to be Nordic Swan Ecolabelled:

- a) In accordance with the criteria document “Textile services” where the full service is ecolabelled.

- b) According to these criteria where only the dry cleaning is Nordic Swan Ecolabelled on the condition that it is clear in the marketing which service is included in the licence and which is not.

How to apply

Application and costs

For information about the application process and fees for this product group, please refer to the respective national web site. For addresses see page 2.

What is required?

The application must consist of an application form/web form and documentation showing that the requirements are fulfilled.

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

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

All information submitted to Nordic Ecolabelling is treated confidentially. Suppliers can send documentation directly to Nordic Ecolabelling, and this will also be treated confidentially.

Licence validity

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.

On-site inspection

In connection with handling of the application, Nordic Ecolabelling normally 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.

Queries

Please contact Nordic Ecolabelling if you have any queries or require further information. See page 2 for addresses. Further information and assistance (such as calculation sheets or electronic application help) may be available. Visit the relevant national website for further information.

1 Environmental requirements

R1 Description of the cleaners

Describe the cleaners and how this fulfils the definition of what can be Nordic Swan Ecolabelled.

- Description as specified above. If the licence application is for only part of the cleaners, enclose a description of the traceability of processes and chemicals (see “What can carry the Nordic Swan Ecolabel?”).

R2 Cleaning fluids

The use of volatile organic compounds for textile cleaning is prohibited. Volatile organic compounds refer to organic substances with a vapour pressure of 0.01 kPa or greater at 293.15 K.

- Summary of which cleaning fluids are used and their vapour pressures. Safety data sheets for the chemical cleaning fluids.

R3 Classification of chemicals

Chemical products that are used for textile cleaning must not be classified according to Table 1.

Table 1 Classification of product

CLP Regulation 1272/2008:		
Classification	Hazard Class and Category Code	Hazard statement
Carcinogenicity	Carc. 1A or Carc. 1B	H350
	Carc. 2	H351
Reproductive toxicity	Repr. 1A or Repr. 1B	H360
	Repr. 2	H361
	Lact	H362
Germ cell mutagenicity	Muta. 1A or Muta. 1B	H340
	Muta. 2	H341
Acute toxicity	Acute Tox 1 or 2	H300
	Acute Tox 1 or 2	H310
	Acute Tox 1 or 2	H330
	Acute Tox 3	H301
	Acute Tox 3	H311
	Acute Tox 3	H331
	Acute Tox 4	H302
	Acute Tox 4	H312
	Acute Tox 4	H332
Specific target organ toxicity after single and repeated exposure	STOT SE 1	H370
	STOT SE 2	H371
	STOT RE 1	H372
	STOT RE 2	H373
Respiratory or skin sensitisation	Resp. Sens. 1, 1A or 1B	H334
	Skin Sens. 1, 1A or 1B	H317
Hazardous to the aquatic environment	Aquatic Acute 1	H400
	Aquatic Chronic 1	H410
	Aquatic Chronic 2	H411
	Aquatic Chronic 3	H412
	Aquatic Chronic 4	H413
Hazardous to the ozone layer	Ozone 1	H420

- Safety data sheets for the product in accordance with prevailing European legislation (Annex II to REACH Regulation, 1907/2006/E2EC).

R4 Readily biodegradable surfactants

Surfactants in chemicals that are released into the sewage network must be readily biodegradable according to test method 301 A-F in OECD guidelines for the testing of chemicals or equivalent test methods. The rule about “10-day window” does not apply

- Documentation with reference to the DID-list of 15 June 2004 or later. If a surfactant is not included on the DID-list, other documentation must be provided, such as test reports, literature references and analogue observations performed by an independent third party. Requirements regarding laboratories can be found in Appendix 2.

DID-list: Detergents Ingredients Database.

R5 Anaerobically biodegradable surfactants

Surfactants in chemicals that are released into the sewage network must be anaerobically biodegradable, i.e. at least 60% biodegradable under anaerobic conditions, in accordance with ISO 11734, ECOTOC nr 28 (June 1988) or equivalent test method.

Exception: surfactants in stain removers, used in quantities not exceeding 0,2g/kg washed goods are exempted from the requirement on anaerobic biodegradability

- See R4.

R6 LAS, APEO and APD

Chemicals used for textile cleaning must not contain linear alkyl benzene sulphonates (LAS), alkylphenol ethoxylates (APEO) or alkylphenol derivatives (APD).

- Declaration of fulfilment of the requirement from the chemical supplier.

R7 Laundry detergents

Laundry detergents (see the limitations under “What can carry the Nordic Swan Ecolabel”) must fulfil the Nordic Ecolabelling criteria for professional laundry detergents.

- Product names and licence number, or documentation from the producer showing that the requirements are fulfilled.

R8 Energy consumption

Washing machines must have an energy consumption of no more than 0.5kWh/kg cleaned textiles. This applies to all washing machines, including dry cleaning, wet cleaning and laundry.

- Measurements or calculations of the energy consumption

2 Performance requirements

R9 Cleaning performance

The cleaners must demonstrate that cleaning performance is satisfactory for the applicable textile types and soiling. The results of laboratory or service tests must be documented.

- Laboratory/service test results. If the machine and chemical supplier have performed testing that documents the performance of a cleaning system, this documentation can be used.

3 Quality and regulatory requirements

To ensure that Nordic Ecolabelling requirements are fulfilled, the following procedures must be implemented.

If the cleaner's environmental management system is certified to ISO 14 001 or EMAS, and the following procedures implemented, it is sufficient for the accredited auditor to certify that the requirements are observed.

R10 Legislation and regulations

The licensee must guarantee adherence to safety regulations, working environment legislation, environmental legislation and conditions/concessions specific to the operations at all sites where the Nordic Swan Ecolabelled product is manufactured.

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

R11 Nordic Swan Ecolabel licence person

The company shall appoint a person responsible for ensuring the fulfilment of Nordic Ecolabelling requirements, and a contact person for communications with Nordic Ecolabelling.

- A chart of the company's organizational structure detailing who is responsible for the above.

R12 Documentation

The licensee must be able to present a copy of the application and factual and calculation data supporting the documents submitted on application (including test reports, documents from suppliers and suchlike).

- Checked on site.

R13 Quality

The licensee must guarantee that the quality of the Nordic Swan Ecolabelled dry cleaning is maintained throughout the validity period of the licence.

- Procedures for collating and, where necessary, dealing with claims and complaints regarding the quality of the Nordic Swan Ecolabelled dry cleaning.

R14 Planned changes

Written notice must be given to Nordic Ecolabelling of planned changes that have a bearing on Nordic Ecolabelling requirements. Unplanned nonconformities that have a bearing on Nordic Ecolabelling requirements must be reported to Nordic Ecolabelling in writing and journalized.

☒ Copy of procedures.

R15 Marketing

The requirement is removed as decided by the Board of Directors 17 November 2014.

Regulations for the Nordic Ecolabelling of services

To easily identify Nordic Swan Ecolabelled services, the licence number and a descriptive sub text shall always accompany the Nordic Swan Ecolabel.

The described sub text for 094 Alternative dry cleaning is: **Dry cleaning**

More information on graphical guidelines, regulations and fees can be found at www.nordic-swan-ecolabel.org/regulations

Follow-up inspections

Nordic Ecolabelling may decide to check whether the textile service fulfils the Nordic Ecolabelling requirements during the licence period. This may involve a site visit or random sampling.

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

Criteria version history

Nordic Ecolabelling adopted the criteria for Alternative dry cleaning on 23 March 2006. The criteria are valid until 31 March 2009.

On 29 October 2007 the Secretariat Manager's Meeting prolonged the validity period of the criteria document until 30 June 2010. The new criteria version is called 1.1.

On 5 May 2009 the Secretariat Manager's Meeting prolonged the validity period of the criteria document until 31 December 2010. The new criteria version is called 1.2.

On 11 November 2009 the Secretariat Manager's Meeting prolonged the validity period of the criteria document until 31 December 2012. The new criteria version is called 1.3.

On 15 November 2011 the Secretariat Manager's Meeting prolonged the validity period of the criteria document until 31 March 2014. The new criteria version is called 1.4.

On 10 June 2014 the board of Directors prolonged the validity period of the criteria document until 31 March 2016. The new criteria version is called 1.5.

On 17 March 2015 the Nordic Ecolabelling's Criteria Group prolonged the validity period of the criteria document until 31 March 2018. 17 November 2014 the Board of Directors decided to remove requirement R15 Marketing. The new criteria version is called 1.6.

On 11 October 2016 the Nordic Ecolabelling's Criteria Group prolonged the validity period of the criteria document until 31 March 2020. The new criteria version is called 1.7.

On 15 January 2019 Nordic Ecolabelling prolonged the validity period of the criteria document until 31 December 2021. The new criteria version is called 1.8.

On 20 November 2019 Nordic Ecolabelling decided to adjust the product group definition. On 16 December 2019 Nordic Ecolabelling prolonged the validity period of the criteria document until 31 December 2023. The new criteria version is called 1.9.

On 19 January 2021 Nordic Ecolabelling decided to prolong the validity of the criteria to the 31 December 2024. The new version is called 1.10.

On 31 January 2023 Nordic Ecolabelling decided to prolong the validity of the criteria to the 31 December 2025. The new version is called 1.11.

Appendix 1

Marketing of Nordic Ecolabelled Alternative dry cleaning

Appendix 1 Marketing of Nordic Ecolabelled Alternative dry cleaning is removed as decided by the Board of Directors 17 November 2014.

Appendix 2

Analysis and test laboratories

Requirements on the analysis laboratory

The analysis laboratory used shall fulfil the general requirements of standard EN ISO 17025 or have official GLP status.

The applicant's analysis laboratory/test procedure may be approved for analysis and testing if:

- sampling and analysis is monitored by the authorities, or
- the manufacturer's quality assurance system covers analyses and sampling and is certified to ISO 9001 or ISO 9002, or
- the manufacturer can demonstrate agreement between a first-time test conducted at the manufacturer's own laboratory and testing carried out in parallel at an independent test institute, and the manufacturer takes samples in accordance with a fixed sampling schedule.