

Fee regulations for the Nordic Swan Ecolabel

Nordic Ecolabelling

November 29, 2023

In November 1989, the Nordic Council of Ministers adopted a measure to implement an official voluntary ecolabelling scheme, the Nordic Ecolabel, also known as the Nordic Swan Ecolabel. The organisations/companies listed below administer the Nordic Ecolabelling scheme on assignment from their national governments.

For further information, please visit the following websites.

Danmark

Miljømærkning Danmark
info@ecolabel.dk
www.svanemaerket.dk

Finland

Miljömärkning Finland
joutsen@ecolabel.fi
www.ecolabel.fi

Island

Norræn Umhverfismerking á Íslandi
svanurinn@ust.is
www.svanurinn.is

Norge

Miljømerking i Norge
info@svanemerket.no
www.svanemerket.no

Sverige

Miljömärkning Sverige AB
info@svanen.se
www.svanen.se

Nordic Ecolabelling

www.nordic-swan-ecolabel.org

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

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1 Introduction

The following fee regulations apply to companies that apply for a licence, hold a licence for the right to use the Nordic Swan Ecolabel, request inspection of raw materials for Nordic Swan Ecolabelled products, or pay for a listing of inspected raw materials. The regulations follow the guidelines for ecolabelling issued by the Nordic Council of Ministers and were ratified by the Board of the Nordic Ecolabelling Association on October 17, 2017. The current fees for the different product groups are shown on the websites of each country's ecolabelling organisation.

The Board of the Nordic Ecolabelling Association may establish/amend the fee systems for each individual product group. Fee systems are communicated on our websites 3 months before they come into effect (and are effective from January 1). All affected licencees and relevant companies with a registered licence application are notified in writing.

2 Index/salary and price regulation

The fees can be annually adjusted according to the "price and salary index" determined by the Danish Ministry of Finance with one year's development.

Regulated fees are communicated on our websites 3 months before they come into effect (until January 1).

3 Application fee

Application fees are payable by the applicant in conjunction with application. The application fee is non-refundable in case of rejection. The application fee normally covers processing time on up to three occasions, i.e., one when the application is submitted and two for processing supplementary documentation. Subsequent work may be invoiced by the relevant national ecolabelling organisation according to the prevailing hourly rate.

4 Fees for on-site inspection

No fee other than the application fee will be charged for carrying out an on-site inspection at one production site in the Nordic region. If multiple on-site inspections are necessary, e.g. to multiple production sites, an additional fee shall be paid. For on-site inspections outside the Nordic region, the applicant shall also be charged an additional fee.

If products or production do not fulfil the requirements at the time of the on-site inspection or on subsequent inspection, the ecolabelling organisation is entitled to invoice costs for on-site inspections and follow-up inspections i.e. work, on-site inspections and testing which are evaluated to be necessary.

5 Licence fee

After being granted a licence, the applicant must pay a licence fee. The licence fee is payable annually for the right to use the ecolabel. The licence fee is payable in advance. It is primarily based on the turnover of the Nordic Swan Ecolabelled product and is adjusted annually thereafter. Information on turnover must be supplied, as required by the ecolabelling organisation, without delay at the start of each new calendar year, by March 31 at the latest. For certain product groups, the licence fee may be based on other factors, which will then determine the fees for the product group.

Should information on turnover not be provided by March 31, the ecolabelling organisation reserves the right to charge a licence fee based on the Nordic Ecolabel's own estimate of turnover, plus an additional fee of one thousand five hundred (1 500) EUR. The licence fee will be adjusted upon receipt of accurate turnover information, but the additional fee will not be refunded. Failure to provide turnover information, or pay the invoiced licence fee, constitutes grounds for revocation of the licence.

The ecolabelling organisation has the right to demand documentation in support of the information on the turnover of the Nordic Swan Ecolabelled product and to contact the licensee's accountants. Random samples may also be taken. Information in respect of turnover for the past five (5) years may be checked and adjusted by the ecolabelling organisation.

Within most product groups, the licence is valid in all countries (see 2.1.2 Regulations for the Nordic ecolabelling of products). In such cases a common Nordic fee system applies, and the licensee shall normally pay a licence fee based on sales throughout the Nordic market, even if a third party is responsible for sale of the product. The company or the group of companies, which have several licences in product groups included in the common Nordic fee system, must pay at least a minimum fee per product/commodity group per certifying country (the country which processes the application). Nordic Ecolabelling also charges a fee for sales outside the Nordic countries if they exceed a certain level.

Even for other product groups, the fee is usually calculated based on sales. The licensee must inform Nordic Ecolabelling if the Nordic Swan Ecolabelled product is sold in another country within the Nordic region or outside the Nordic region. Sales in another Nordic country enables the licence to be registered in this country and that the products are shown on that country's website.

For new applications granted after July 1, a fee reduction applies for the first year. The minimum or maximum fee and any breakpoint¹ will be multiplied by the result of the following formula: "number of remaining days in the current year" x 2/365.

¹ Breakpoint = turnover where the percentage is changed in the calculation of the licence fee.

Minimum fee = the minimum licence fee that the ecolabelling organisation invoices annually to a company or group per product/category and per licencing country.

Maximum fee = the highest licence fee the ecolabelling organisation invoices a company or a group per product/commodity group.

Special regulations for groups of companies

Within the Nordic fee system, it is possible for a group of companies to request in advance that Nordic Ecolabelling combine the fee basis from all of the group's licences within the same product and commodity group in the calculation fees. It is the responsibility of the group to communicate this before the licence fee is invoiced. The invoice can later be changed (with reference to the group regulation) during the business year, for an additional fee of three thousand five hundred (3 500) EUR. No subsequent changes or adjustments may be made. In order for the group regulation to apply, subsidiaries with such licenses must be consolidated into the parent company's consolidated financial statements. Additional requirements for invoicing as a group are as follows:

- The group may have only one administrative contact with Nordic Ecolabelling.
- The group must report all sales figures for its ecolabelled products for each licence included in the group calculations by March 31 at the latest.
- The group undertakes to provide an auditor's certificate of the sales of the group's ecolabelled products if required by Nordic Ecolabelling.

6 Fee for the extension of scope and amendment

A licensee wishing to amend the contents or extend the scope of the licence must pay an amendment and/or an extension fee, as well as any adjusted licence fee, for the work thus carried out by the ecolabelling organisation.

7 Fee in the event of termination

Immediately after the licence has expired, the licensee must report the realized sales for its Nordic Swan ecolabelled products for the current year and the previous year, as well as the value of its remaining stock of ecolabelled products. Nordic Ecolabelling may also require provision of an auditor's certificate. The licence fee will be calculated based on realized sales and the value of sales of ecolabelled products. The licence fee shall be paid throughout the termination notice period.

If the licensee cancels the licence or decides not to renew its licence, fees paid in advance will be adjusted after the licence has expired. Nevertheless, the licensee must provide information on the value of its remaining stock of ecolabelled products. No reduction will be granted on any minimum/maximum fee or breakpoint. A fee shall be paid for realized sales during the licence period and for the value of remaining stock of ecolabelled products, even on expiry of the licence.

8 Other fees

Nordic Ecolabelling may charge a fee for the inspection of raw materials for Nordic Swan ecolabelled products and for listing inspected raw materials. Fees for inspection and listing are shown on the ecolabelling organisation's website.

9 Changes of fee regulations

The Board of the Nordic Ecolabelling Association reserves the right to change these regulations. All licencees and companies with an ongoing licence application registered will be informed of such changes in writing.