

The European Eco-label Lubricants

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The European Eco-label lubricants has been established by Commission Decision on 26 April 2005 (2005/360/EC) and was published in the Official Journal of 5 May 2005. The criteria of the Eco-label lubricants have been developed with the object of identifying those products in loss and high-risk lubricants that present a relatively low danger to the aquatic environment and lead to reduced CO₂ emissions.

The criteria cover hydraulic oils, greases, chainsaw oils, two stroke oils, concrete release agents and total loss lubricants for use by private consumers and professional users. The European Eco-label has been based largely on existing national and international schemes specifically: Nordic Swan, Swedish standard (SS 155434), German Blue Angel, NF-Environnement Mark, Austrian eco-label, Dutch VAMIL and ISO 15380. To apply for the European Eco-label the products have to meet requirements for technical performance, show limited toxicity to aquatic organisms, have high biodegradability and low potential for bioaccumulation, and contain a certain percentage of renewable sources. The criteria have been developed with the object of identifying those products that present a relatively low danger to the aquatic environment as this compartment is both vulnerable, in that it is the final sink for many harmful substances, and the organisms that live there are sensitive.

A project funded by the European Commission and aiming to promote the European Eco-label lubricants is currently conducted by IVAM. The main objective of the project is to get new applicants by assisting individual companies understand and apply the Eco-label criteria to their product as well as complying their technical dossier. (National) policy makers are contacted in order to identify national support for the European Eco-label Lubricants and possible problems with current criteria and try to resolve them.

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Ref: <http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/ecolabel/pdf/lubricants>