

Workshop in Paris, 13 september 2013

Questions and answers raised during the meeting and after. To be discussed with other Member States.

Question	Response
1. Do criteria regarding hazardous substances apply to the final product or manufacturing?	Constraints regarding hazardous substances apply to the final product, unless it has many potential impacts and concentration limits in the manufacturing process are specified in the criteria (see commission decision).
2. What is the purpose of having the EU Ecolabel when we are a printing company (selling to corporate clients) as the label is dedicated to the final consumer ?	The label is also dedicated to public buyers therefore you will have a competitive advantage if you offer editors for exemple a guarantee that the final product will be EU Ecolabelled.
3. Does the company apply for one of its product or a range of products?	The EU Ecolabel is given to a family of products. E.g: brochures (see the powerpoint of Murielle Gauvain, AFNOR Certification, for the list of product categories). A company will apply for a product category.
4. If a company complies to ISO 14001 is it enough for Ecolabel?	No, it depends. The EU Ecolabel is designed to identify the best products available on the market regarding environmental criteria, therefore the criteria may sometimes be stricter than the national regulation or ISO 14001.
5. Why AFNOR Certification is the only organisation that can award the EU Ecolabel in France?	Historically, AFNOR Certification has managed the NF environnement (the French national ecolabel) since a long time therefore it was logical to assign them as a competent body as they had previous experience in criteria and auditing.
6. If I am a publisher willing to be awarded the EU Ecolabel and I have several service providers, do I have to ask all of them to apply for the EU Ecolabel and will the audit be conducted in each printing house?	No it is the publisher who has to apply for the EU Ecolabel in that case. The audits will be performed on a sample (this response is not satisfactory for the moment but the product group is new and the CB has not received any demand yet for the EU Ecolabel for printed paper, thus has no experience for that matter)
7. Similarly, a company that has several production sites will be audited in each?	No, it will most probably be carried out on a sample.
8. How do we differentiate an ecolabelled printer paper product to a product printed on EU Ecolabel paper only?	The products printed only on EU Ecolabel paper won't be able to carry the EU Ecolabel logo on their product anymore, but only the mention "printed on EU Ecolabel paper".