

natureplus e.V.

Award Guideline 0113

## **Cork Insulation Boards**

Issued: June 2015

For the Awardance of the Eco-Label





# Award Guideline 0113 Cork Insulation Boards Version: June 2015

Page 2 of 10

## 1. Application Areas

The following criteria contain the requirements for the awardance of the natureplus eco-label for cork insulation boards according to EN 13170 for use as thermal insulation. The award guideline is to be applied exclusively to those products mentioned in this guideline.

## 2. Award Criteria

The prerequisite for the awardance of the natureplus eco-label is the fulfilment of the basic criteria GL-0000 and of the chemicals directive GL-5001.

### 2.1 Suitability of Application

The manufacturer provides information about technical and physical characteristics of the product and specifies the standards, test procedures and methods used to determine these properties. If the applied standards contain requirements for the products, it is to be clearly indicated whether they are met.

The product meets the requirements for the suitability of application by holding the state-specific or the European technical approval.

The thermal nominal value at 10°C and  $u_{dry}$  as per EN ISO 10456 or a comparable standard must comply with the following requirements:

- Insulation not subject to pressure load (W, WL, WV)  $\lambda_{90,90} \leq 0,045$  W/mK
- Insulation subject to pressure load (WD)  $\lambda_{90,90} \leq 0,065$  W/mK
- Insulation functioning as plaster base (WD-PT)  $\lambda_{90,90} \leq 0,050$  W/mK

The fire behaviour of the product must correspond at least to building material class E according to EN 13501-1.

In case the product is supplied to countries in which other requirements apply as the ones in the standards mentioned so far, these requirements must be met as well. The manufacturer states the countries where the product is distributed and provides official certification by approved testing institutions to confirm compliance with the requirements. The product must not, however, fall short of the requirements established by natureplus.

The product must not be treated with compounds which prevent or strongly reduce its ability for water uptake or water release.



# Award Guideline 0113

## Cork Insulation Boards

Version: June 2015

Page 3 of 10

The product must be resistant to mould growth under the conditions of a professional installation. Evidence has to be provided in form of a rating of mould fungus growth as category 0 (no growth visible with microscopic analysis) according to EN ISO 846.

The product must fulfil the requirements of EN 13170: The product must comply with the classes L2 (Length), W2 (Width) and T1 and/or T2 (Thickness). Proof must be provided of the squareness, evenness, dimensional stability, bending strength, fire behaviour, moisture content and apparent density. Cork insulation boards used in external thermal insulation composite systems must also comply with the classes L1 (Length), W1 (Width) and T1 (Thickness). The manufacturer must provide proof based upon applicable inspections and documentary evidence.

## 2.2 Composition, Forbidden Substances, Substance Restrictions

The product must be made to 100% from renewable raw materials. No other binding agents may be used in the production process other than the inherent, natural binding agents contained within the cork itself.

Biocides and flame retardants are prohibited.

The application of biozides are not permitted.

The product is subject to laboratory analyses as laid down in section 3 and has to comply with the limit values stated therein.

## 2.3 Raw Material Sourcing, Production of Preliminary Products, Production

A certificate of origin must be provided for cork as a raw material.

The manufacturer has to state and to place his suppliers under the obligation that no synthetic plant protecting product with agents included on the list of banned pesticides of the chemicals directive GL-5001 are used during the cultivation of cork oak forests, harvest, storage or transport of cork. Compounds based on arsenic or mercury must not be employed. Implementing the obligation and the supplier's declarations are a part of the certification procedures.

The use of biocides during the cultivation of cork oaks is not permitted. Exceptions to this rule may include treatments to avoid severe economic losses. In such cases the alternative method of pest control chosen should represent the lowest possible risk factor available.

The sustainable harvesting of the raw materials must be confirmed. This applies in particular to the following:



# Award Guideline 0113

## Cork Insulation Boards

Version: June 2015

Page 4 of 10

- The first peeling of the cork bark may only take place when the tree is at least 25 years old and the trunk circumference (including the bark layer) is a minimum of 60 cm at a height of 1,2 m.
- The peeling of branches may only take place when the diameter above the phellogen (the cell developing layer) is no less than 15 cm or the circumference is no less than 47 cm.
- The second and all subsequent peelings of the cork bark may only take place after a period of 9 years has elapsed between individual peelings.
- The cropping of branches must not cause any damage to the trees.
- The peeling of the cork bark must not cause any lasting reductions in the yield levels.

It must be assured that the baking temperature does not exceed 350 - 380 °C via relevant quality control measures.

The manufacturer must demonstrate that a hazardous substance management according to national standards and regulations is available at the production facility for employee protection. Information on dust release and compliance with general dust limit values must be included therein. Where compliance with the general dust limit values or other occupational limit values cannot be guaranteed despite technical and organisational measures, personal protection equipment must be available. It must be aimed for a minimisation of avoidable burdens of the employees.

Treatments with halogen compounds (e.g. washing with hypochlorite) are not permitted.

Freight transport and especially road transport has manifold negative effects upon the environment: noise, dust, road construction, energy consumption, emissions (e.g. 0.014 kg CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalent for 1 km Jumbo-truck-transport of 1 m<sup>3</sup> cork insulation boards). Due to the fact that the distances between the production site and the installation sites of the cork insulation boards are usually very large, the licensees are called upon to minimise the negative environmental effects of transportation.

## 2.4 Usage

The product must not exhibit any unpleasant or foreign smells or odours.

The emissions during use have to be in compliance with the limit values according to section 3.

## 2.5 Disposal

The product must be suitable for safe disposal in a waste incineration facility.

## 2.6 Ecological Parameters

The manufacturing of all products of this product group must be in compliance with the ecological parameters listed below.

Ecological parameters per FU <sup>2</sup>	Guide values <sup>1</sup>	
	Apparent density <90kg/m <sup>3</sup>	Apparent density >90kg/m <sup>3</sup>
Primary energy input of non renewable total resources (PENRE <sup>3</sup> ) [MJ]	50	140
Primary energy input of non renewable and renewable total resources (PET <sup>4</sup> ) [MJ]	90	400
Photochemical ozone creation potential (POCP) [kg ethylen-equiv.]	0,0015	0,02
Acidification potential (AP) [kg SO <sub>2</sub> -equiv.]	0,012	0,045
Eutrophication potential (EP) [kg PO <sub>4</sub> <sup>3-</sup> -equiv.]	0,007	0,018
Global-warming potential (GWP) [kg CO <sub>2</sub> equiv.]	3	8
Abiotic depletion potential (ADP) [kg Sb equiv.]	0,00003	0,00005

If a single guide value is exceeded, it will be decided on a case by case basis whether this is permissible for the purpose of optimising the complete product manufacturing process.

<sup>1</sup>Testing method: Calculation of the ecological parameters according to natureplus® implementing provisions for life cycle assessments; inventory analysis analogous to ISO 14040ff; efficiency categories according to CML-IA version 4.1 from October 2012 and characterised as baseline; primary energy requirement according to Frischknecht 1996; global-warming potential 1994/100 years; system limits: raw material sourcing to products ready for shipment

<sup>2</sup> FU: Functional Unit, corresponds to a thermal resistance of 1 m<sup>2</sup>K/W.

<sup>3</sup> PENRE: **p**rimary **e**nergy input of **n**on renewable **t**otal resources

<sup>4</sup> PET: **p**rimary **e**nergy inputs of renewable and non renewable **t**otal resources

## 2.7 Declaration

The product packaging should display a full declaration of the input materials listed, analogue to the EU-Cosmetic Regulations, according to the declining mass percentage. If it is not possible to display this information directly on the product packing, it should be provided with the product in a technical datasheet or sales leaflet (in English or in the national language). If intermediate/preliminary products or formulations are used as input substances and the proportion present in the final product is  $>0.1$  M-%, then all the substances used within these must also be taken into account for the declaration.

For naming the input materials as part of the declaration the following applies:

- More than 1 M-% - designation of the substance in question
- Less than 1 M-% - at least a functional designation (e.g. "moth proofing agent")

Furthermore, it is obligatory to provide the following information in a suitable form to the consumer or user (eg. online):

- Instructions for use and safety precautions
- Indications for storage and disposal
- Batch numbers
- City/town and country of production
- Indication of geographical origin of the key input material

When employing components with a potential for environmental hazard, the manufacturer has to suitably indicate measures to be taken to ensure environmental protection during removal and demolition (i.e. controlled deconstruction).

Additionally, the following product-specific information must be made available to the consumer or user.

- Labelling according to the guidelines of the European Community (Communauté Européenne, CE marking) or the respective general technical approval, including a scope specification
- Apparent density in  $\text{kg/m}^3$
- Thermal nominal value  $\lambda_D$  according to EN ISO 10456 or an equivalent standard
- Thermal design value  $\lambda_R$  according to EN ISO 10456 or an equivalent standard
- Type and field of application, i.e. as per DIN 4108, Austrian standard ÖNORM B 6000
- Euro class according to EN 13501-1



## Award Guideline 0113 Cork Insulation Boards Version: June 2015

Page 7 of 10

### 2.8 Processing

The manufacturer must demonstrate whether working procedures avoiding dust release are available for the processing of the product. If this is the case, these procedures are to be recommended and suitably presented within the processing guidelines. If compliance with the general dust limit values might not be guaranteed, wearing personal protection equipment must be recommended.

### 2.9 Packaging

The packaging used must be recyclable. The manufacturer must participate in a recycling system if there is one for the corresponding material.

Paper and cardboard packaging must be made from recycled paper. Alternatively, paper from sources as per GL-5002 is permitted.

Plastic packaging must be comprised from polyolefins. PET, polystyrene or polycarbonates are allowed exceptionally in reasonable cases. Packaging made from PVC is generally not permitted.

Packaging must not contain biocides.

The natureplus certification mark has to be printed on the packaging after the awardance of the product.

## 3. Laboratory Tests

The products are subject to laboratory analyses to test for harmful substances and undesirable ancillary ingredients. A representative sample is collected during the site inspection. If the sample collection can not be conducted by a natureplus examiner, an independent person designated by natureplus can collect the sample. For products with different sizes but the same composition, a single sample is sufficient.

### 3.1 VOC - TVOC

The product is subject to a test-chamber examination to survey the emissions of VOC, SVOC and other volatile compounds and to check compliance with the limit values. Measurements usually occur after 3 and 28 days. When low VOC emissions are to be expected, the emissions test can be terminated early, if a measurement 7 days after loading of the test chamber does not object to this. The test-chamber examination is performed according to the current version of the test method TM-01 VOC.

**Emission measurement after 3 days**

Test parameters	Limits	Unit
VOC (VOC, VVOC, SVOC) classified in:  Regulations (EC) No. 1272/2008: categories Carc. 1A und 1B, Muta 1A und 1B, Repr. 1A und 1B; TRGS 905: K1, K2, M1, M2, R1, R2; IARC groups 1 u. 2A; DFG MAK-list III1, III2	< 1	$\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
Total volatile organic compounds (TVOC)	$\leq 3000$	$\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

**Emission measurement after 28 days**

Test parameters	Limits	Unit
Total volatile organic compounds (TVOC)	$\leq 300$	$\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
of which:		
Total bicyclic terpenes	$\leq 200$	$\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
Total sensitising substances per MAK IV, BgVV-list cat. A, TRGS 907	$\leq 100$	$\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
Total VOC (VOC, VVOC, SVOC) classified in:  Regulation (EC) No. 1272/2008: Kategorie Carc. 2, Muta 2, Repr. 2; TRGS 905: K3, M3, R3; IARC: group 2B; DFG MAK-list: III3	$\leq 50$	$\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
Total aldehyde, C4-C11, acyclic, aliphatic	$\leq 100$	$\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
Styrene	$\leq 10$	$\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
Methylisothiazolinone (MIT)	< 1	$\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
Benzaldehyde	$\leq 20$	$\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
Total (VOC) without non-identified compounds	$\leq 100$	$\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

A calculation of the r-value is performed. The limit value is  $\leq 1$ .

**Other emission measurements after 28 days**

Test parameters	Limit values	Unit
Total semi-volatile organic compounds (TSVOC)	$\leq 100$	$\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
Formaldehyde	$\leq 48^{(1)}$	$\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
Acetaldehyde	$\leq 48^{(1)}$	$\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$



<sup>(1)</sup> 48 µg/m<sup>3</sup> ≈ 0,04 ppm

**Termination criteria:**

The emissions test can be terminated 7 days after loading the test chamber, if the values measured at this time are lower than 50% of the 28-day threshold limits.

### 3.2 Elementanalysen

Zur Überprüfung der Gehaltes an bedenklichen Elementen und zur Kontrolle von unerwünschten Verunreinigungen wird bei dem Produkt eine Elementanalyse durchgeführt. Dabei müssen die Grenzwerte eingehalten werden. Die Analyse wird gemäß der Testmethode TM-02 Metalle in der jeweils aktuellen Version durchgeführt.

Element	Grenzwert	Einheit
Arsen (As)	2	mg/kg
Cadmium (Cd)	0,5	mg/kg
Cobalt (Co)	5	mg/kg
Chrom (Cr)	10	mg/kg
Kupfer (Cu)	50	mg/kg
Quecksilber (Hg)	0,2	mg/kg
Nickel (Ni)	10	mg/kg
Blei (Pb)	5	mg/kg
Antimon (Sb) <sup>(1)</sup>	2	mg/kg
Zinn (Sn)	10	mg/kg
Thallium (Tl)	1	mg/kg
Zink (Zn)	500	mg/kg

<sup>(1)</sup> Bei der Verwendung von Polyesterstützfasern ist der Grenzwert für Antimon nicht anwendbar, da Antimon bei der Polyesterherstellung als Katalysator eingesetzt wird.

### 3.3 Other Analyses

Test parameters	Limit values	Unit	Method
Halogenic organic compounds: AOX/EOX	≤ 1	mg/kg	TM-03 Halo

Odour	≤ 3	<b>Odour intensity</b>	TM-04 Odour
Total pesticides	≤ 1	<b>mg/kg</b>	TM-05 Pesticides
Individual pesticides			
Organochlorine pesticides: Aldrin, Chlordane, DDD, DDE, DDT, Dichlofluanid, Dieldrin, Endrin, Heptachlor, Hexachlorobenzene, Lindane, Pentachlorophenol			
Organophosphate pesticides: Dimethoat, Fenthion, Parathion-methyl, Parathion-ethyl, Phosalon	≤ 0,5	<b>mg/kg</b>	TM-05 Pesticides
Pyrethroids: Cypermethrin, Lambda-Cyhalothrin, Permethrin			
Other: Benomyl, Carbendazim, Prochloraz			

Test parameter	Limit values	Unit	Method
Total PAH (Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons), according to EPA	≤ 10	<b>mg/kg</b>	HPLC/GC-MS

## Test Methods

**TM-01 VOC:** Volatile Organic Compounds VOC/TVOC, formaldehyde, acetaldehyde and TSVOC: DIN EN ISO 16000 series expanded by the natureplus implementation rules.

**TM-02 Metals:** ICP-MS measurements according to DIN EN ISO 17294-2, supplemented with the natureplus implementation rules and a sample preparation adjusted to the issue analysed.

**TM-03 Halo:** Halogenic organic compounds after combustion, determined by microcoulometry according to the natureplus implementation rules "AOX/EOX".

**TM-04 Odour:** natureplus implementation rules "odour intensity", 6-degree grading scale 24h after loading the test chamber

**TM-05 Pesticides:** DFG S 19 supplemented with the natureplus implementation rules.