

To whom it may concern

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## **" Ecolabelling of toys" – Public Review**

### **The Nordic Ecolabelling organization**

Since 1989 the Nordic countries have operated a joint voluntary scheme for ecolabelling products: The Swan Label. The Swan Label enables consumers to choose the least environmentally harmful products available on the market.

To date, over 5000 products have been licensed to carry the Swan Label in marketing and sales campaigns, and ecolabelling criteria have been drafted for over 50 different product areas.

Responsibility for managing the Swan Label scheme is allocated to national ecolabelling organisations in each of the Nordic countries. In Norway, Ecolabelling Norway ([www.ecolabel.no](http://www.ecolabel.no)) manages the scheme on behalf of the Ministry of Children and Equality.

### **Ecolabelling of toys**

The draft proposal for "Ecolabelling of Toys", background memo and comment form can now be downloaded from the web site [www.svanen.nu/Eng/criteria/remisser.asp](http://www.svanen.nu/Eng/criteria/remisser.asp). Paper copies of the documents are sent on request. The draft has been prepared by the Nordic secretariats with Norway as the lead country.

Ecolabelling of toys will include toys for children aged under 14 years of age made of one or more of the following materials:

- wood-based materials
- metal
- plastic and rubber
- textiles
- padding materials

The criteria focus on the health and environmental requirements imposed on the various materials used in the products.

When the consultative process has been completed, all comments received will be compiled and reviewed with a view to determining whether the criteria need to be amended or adjusted. The final proposal for criteria for toys will be completed and adopted in March 2007. From March onwards it will be possible to apply for an ecolabelling licence for toys.

**Applications**

Applications for an ecolabelling licence should be submitted to one of the participant countries in the Nordic ecolabelling scheme. All documents relating to the application are subject to strict confidentiality. An application fee is payable, as is an annual fee for using the ecolabel. The period of validity of a licence is the same as for the criteria document.

**The market**

Recently, a great deal of attention has been focused on harmful constituent substances in products that are used by children or that children come into contact with. The Nordic Ecolabelling is particularly concerned that the parents of small children and other people responsible for children should have access to information that is both reliable and useful. The Good Start information campaign is aimed at parents of young children, and information is provided in for example health centres and kindergartens in Norway. We are particularly interested in contacting companies that would be interested in joining us in offering consumers and buyers ecolabelled alternatives for children.

**Languages**

The Draft proposal is available in Norwegian, English and Chinese.  
The Background Document is available in Norwegian and English.

If you have any comments to the draft proposal, please send them to us, in writing, preferably by fax or e-mail - [lise.sunsby@ecolabel.no](mailto:lise.sunsby@ecolabel.no), as soon as possible and no later than 20.11.2006.

Yours sincerely,  
for Ecolabelling Norway



Alvhild Hedstein  
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Enclosure