

Nordic Ecolabelling of
Grease-proof paper



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

Addresses

In 1989, the Nordic Council of Ministers decided to introduce a voluntary official ecolabel, the Nordic Swan Ecolabel. These organisations/companies operate the Nordic ecolabelling system on behalf of their own country's government. For more information, see the websites:

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It may be quoted from provided that Nordic Ecolabelling is stated as the source.

What is a Nordic Swan Ecolabelled grease-proof paper?

The Nordic Swan Ecolabel is an official ecolabel with absolute requirements. Nordic Swan Ecolabelled grease-proof paper has less impact on the environment than most other papers in its product group and the Nordic Swan Ecolabel signifies that the product fulfils strict environmental requirements.

The Nordic Swan Ecolabel on a paper product confirms that resources have been used efficiently and that environmentally suitable production methods have been employed. The raw materials used in the product have been evaluated by Nordic Ecolabelling and only raw materials of the highest quality in environmental terms may be used in Nordic Swan Ecolabelled products. Characteristics for the grease-proof paper are:

- They contain fibre raw materials from certified forestry.
- They have been produced with low energy consumption and with a limited use of chemicals. Chromium and fluorine compounds are strictly forbidden.
- The production has low emissions to air and water.

Nordic Ecolabelling's environmental requirements provide individual manufacturers guidance on how they can contribute to the development of an ecologically sustainable society.

Why choose the Nordic Swan Ecolabel?

The licensee may use the Nordic Swan Ecolabel trademark for marketing. The Nordic Swan Ecolabel is a very well-known and well-reputed trademark in the Nordic region.

The Nordic Swan Ecolabel is a cost-effective and simple way of communicating environmental work and commitment to customers and suppliers.

Environmental issues are complex. It can take a long time and extensive resources to gain an understanding of a specific area. Nordic Ecolabelling can be seen as aid in this work.

The Nordic Swan Ecolabel not only covers environmental issues but also quality requirements, since the environment and quality often go hand in hand. This means that a Nordic Swan Ecolabel licence can also be seen as a mark of quality.

What can carry the Nordic Swan Ecolabel?

Grease-proof papers are in this criterion defined as cellulose based papers coated with various substances. Grease-proof paper marketed for use in contact with foodstuffs must be made from virgin fibre. The product group includes:

- grease-proof paper (parchment paper) such as baking paper, food paper, interlay paper, baking tray liner, sandwich paper and other grease-proof paper used for food wrapping and various types of 'high density paper' (e.g. for tracing).
- converted products made from the aforementioned paper types. Examples of converted products are baking cups (e.g. cupcake and muffin cups).
- Various types of release paper and grease-release paper. (Release paper is used, for example, as a base for adhesive labels).

Grease-proof paper products have a close association with products included in the criterion for 'Disposables for food', as this product group also includes papers used for food packaging. The definition is as follows: when grease-proof paper is used to wrap food, e.g. sandwich paper, etc., the paper can be Nordic Swan Ecolabelled under the Supplementary Module for grease-proof paper. The same applies to grease-proof paper that is converted into various types of baking cases. However, if the grease-proof paper has been converted into/is used in various types of disposable items, these cannot be Nordic Swan Ecolabelled through the criteria for grease-proof paper. They can, however, be labelled based on the criteria for Nordic Swan Ecolabelling of Disposables for food. These in turn require the grease-proof paper used in the disposable items to meet the requirements presented in the Supplementary Module for grease-proof paper.

Please contact Nordic Swan Ecolabelling if you have any queries concerning which products can be labelled by these requirements.

How to apply

Application and costs

For information about the application process and fees for this product group, please refer to the respective national web site. For addresses see page 2.

What is required?

The application must consist of an application form/web form and documentation showing that the requirements are fulfilled.

Each requirement is marked with the letter O (obligatory requirement) and a number. All requirements must be fulfilled to be awarded a licence.

The text describes how the applicant shall demonstrate fulfilment of each requirement. There are also icons in the text to make this clearer. These icons are:

- ☒ Enclose
- 📍 The requirement checked on site.

All information submitted to Nordic Swan Ecolabelling is treated confidentially. Suppliers can send documentation directly to Nordic Swan Ecolabelling, and this will also be treated confidentially.

Licence validity

The Nordic Swan Ecolabel licence is valid providing the criteria are fulfilled and until the criteria expire. The validity period of the criteria may be extended or adjusted, in which case the licence is automatically extended and the licensee informed.

Revised criteria shall be published at least one year prior to the expiry of the present criteria. The licensee is then offered the opportunity to renew their licence.

On-site inspection

In connection with the handling of the application, Nordic Swan Ecolabelling normally performs an on-site inspection to ensure adherence to the requirements. For such an inspection, data used for calculations, original copies of submitted certificates, test records, purchase statistics, and similar documents that support the application must be available for examination.

Queries

Please contact Nordic Ecolabelling if you have any queries or require further information. See page 2 for addresses. Further information and assistance (such as calculation sheets or electronic application help) may be available. Visit the relevant national website for further information.

1 Environmental requirements

1.1 Description of the grease-proof paper

01 Description of the product and the manufacturing process

Describe the product and how it meets the definition of a product that can be given the Nordic Swan Ecolabel (see above under the heading ‘What can carry the Nordic Swan Ecolabel?’).

Describe the manufacturing process, including conversion. State the trade name of the finished product, the type designation, grammage (g/m²), weight by volume (kg/m³) and moisture content.

- Description and documentation pursuant to the above. Product samples must be submitted on Nordic Ecolabelling’s request.

1.2 Basic requirements for pulp and paper manufacturing

Manufacturing of the Ecolabelled grease-proof paper and all paper pulps used in it must meet the requirements of the Basic module and the Chemical module, version 2 or more recent, where relevant, unless otherwise indicated in the requirements below. The Basic Module and the Chemical Module contain the general requirements for pulp and paper manufacturing.

02 Basic requirements for pulp and paper manufacturing

Production of the grease-proof paper must meet the requirements specified in the Basic Module and the Chemical Module, version 2 or more recent, where relevant and unless otherwise stated in the Supplementary Module requirements. The reference and limit values below should be used when calculating energy (requirement O4), CO₂ (requirement O5) and emissions (requirement O6).

For documentation of the requirements in the Chemical Module, see requirement O7.

Has the pulp or paper been assessed by Nordic Ecolabelling before?

- Documentation showing the pulps/paper types used. Trade name of the pulp/paper, name of supplier and manufacturing mill.
- Documentation showing how the requirements of the Basic Module, version 2 or more recent, are met. Documentation of the Chemical Module requirements should be documented in O7. To document the requirements concerning pulp, the pulp producer shall use Nordic Ecolabelling’s electronic application aid My Swan Account.
- If pulps used to manufacture the Nordic Swan Ecolabelled grease-proof paper have already been approved by Nordic Ecolabelling pursuant to the Basic Module, version 2, or more recent versions; documentation stating the name of the pulps and the time of approval shall be attached.
- If the paper used to manufacture the Nordic Swan Ecolabelled grease-proof paper has already been approved by Nordic Ecolabelling pursuant to the criteria for grease-proof paper, version 4 or more recent versions; documentation stating the name of the paper and the time of approval shall be attached.

03 Requirement for pulp used to manufacture paper for contact with food

Only virgin fibre may be used in the pulp used to manufacture the paper.

- Declaration from the pulp supplier/suppliers that the requirement is met.

1.3 Energy, CO₂ and emissions

The pulp/paper manufacturer shall submit calculations to demonstrate fulfilment of the requirements in the Basic Module, version 2 or more recent. The calculation methods and more detailed description of documentation of requirements are provided in version 2 of the Basic module. The energy calculation includes the entire production process – both paper manufacturing and the constituent pulps. The energy score is calculated with the aid of a technical description of the production processes, where the energy consumption and the emissions are compared to reference values for the production. Reference values for various pulps are to be found in the Basic Module, version 2 or more recent. In this supplementary module, the reference values for the energy consumption and emissions for paper machines manufacturing grease-proof paper are given. The total electricity and fuel points score limits and the total limit value for CO₂ are also stated.

Nordic Ecolabelling provides a worksheet that is to be used for these calculations.

04 Energy requirements

For Nordic Swan Ecolabelled grease-proof paper, the total electricity and fuel scores must each be less than 1.15.

$$P_{\text{electric}(\text{total})} < 1.15$$

$$P_{\text{fuel}(\text{total})} < 1.15$$

$P_{\text{electric}(\text{total})}$ and $P_{\text{fuel}(\text{total})}$ includes the energy scores for both paper production and pulp production.

The reference values for the paper machine's fuel are 3,500 kWh/tonne and for electricity 2,200 kWh/tonne.

- Calculation pursuant to Appendix 2 in the Basic Module, version 2, showing that the score requirement is fulfilled. The calculations shall be made on a calculation sheet developed by Nordic Ecolabelling.

05 CO₂ emissions

CO₂ emissions from purchased electricity* and from the combustion of fossil fuels for heat generation and for own electricity production must not exceed 1,750 CO₂/tonne paper. The calculation contains CO₂ emissions both from paper production and from the production of the pulps used.

**CO₂ emissions from purchased electricity shall be calculated by factor 385 g CO₂/kWh.*

- Calculation pursuant to the Basic Module, version 2, showing that the requirement is met. The calculations shall be made on a calculation sheet developed by Nordic Ecolabelling.

06 Total emission score, P_{emissions total}

A total emission score, P_{emissions total}, shall be calculated for grease-proof paper.

This score must not exceed 4.0.

$$P_{\text{emission total}} = P_{\text{COD}} + P_{\text{P}} + P_{\text{S}} + P_{\text{NO}_x} \leq 4.0$$

No individual emission score ($P_{\text{COD}} + P_{\text{P}} + P_{\text{S}} + P_{\text{NO}_x}$) may be ≥ 1.5

In the calculation of the product's individual and total emission scores for pulp and paper manufacturing emissions, product-specific reference values for paper manufacturing (see Table 1 below) are used together with reference values for various pulp types found in the Basic Module, version 2 (Appendix 3, Table 3.1).

For sulphite pulp the COD reference value 35.0 kg/tonne pulp shall be used.

Table 1 Reference values for emissions from paper machines manufacturing grease-proof paper.

Paper type	Reference values for emissions (kg/tonne paper)			
	COD _{ref}	P _{ref}	S _{ref}	NO _{x,ref}
Grease-proof paper	4.0	0.01	0.5	1.2

- ☒ The paper manufacturer shall submit calculations and background data showing that the requirement is fulfilled. The calculations shall be made on a calculation sheet developed by Nordic Ecolabelling.

1.4 Chemicals

All chemicals involved in the production of grease-proof paper must fulfil the requirements in the chemical module, version 2 or later, where relevant, and all the requirements specified in the Supplementary module for grease-proof paper.

The type, trade name, supplier, field of application and amounts used per tonne of paper shall be stated for each chemical. The requirement includes also all chemicals used specifically in the production of grease-proof paper or for conversion (e.g. glue and printing inks).

The term “constituent substances” encompasses all substances contained in production chemicals, including additives (such as preservatives and stabilisers) in the ingredients, but does not encompass impurities from primary production. Residues from raw material production calculated as present in the finished product in concentrations under 100 ppm (0.01% by weight, 100 mg/kg), are regarded as contaminants. Substances that are actively added to an ingredient or product for a particular purpose are not considered to be impurities, irrespective of quantity. Residuals in the raw materials above 1.0 % are regarded as ingoing substances. Known substances realised from the raw materials are also regarded as ingoing substances.

07 Production chemicals

The pulp/paper manufacturer must report all chemicals used in production and in converting, providing documentation in respect of the product's complete name, product safety data sheets, function, classification, area of use, supplier and quantities used in kg/tonnes pulp/paper.

All chemicals must fulfil the requirements in the chemical module, version 2 or later.

This requirement also applies to chemicals used for printing on the paper, but not for packaging printing.

The safety data sheet/product sheet must comply with Appendix II to REACH (Regulation 1907/2006/EC).

- ☒ Complete declaration of all production chemicals used, pursuant to Appendix 2, and complete safety data sheets for all chemical products. Documentation showing that the chemicals meet the requirements.

08 Optical whiteners and antibacterial substances

Optical whiteners must not be used.

Chemicals intended to provide antibacterial properties must not be added.

An antibacterial chemical is a chemical that impedes or stops the growth of microorganisms such as bacteria, fungi or protozoa (unicellular organisms). The requirement does not apply to preservatives used to preserve the chemical product, so-called in-can preservatives.

Silver compounds, nanosilver and nanogold are considered antibacterial substances.

- Declaration from the pulp/paper manufacturer stating that the requirement is fulfilled.

09 Chemicals used for impregnation and coating

Chemicals added to the pulp or to impregnation/coating must not contain chromium or fluoride compounds.

The following requirements must be met in connection with silicone treatment of the paper:

- Solvent-based painting/coating agents must not be used.
- Octamethylcyclotetrasiloxane, D4, (CAS 556-67-2) and decamethylcyclopentasiloxane, D5, (CAS 541-02-6) must not be used. D4 and D5 impurities are exempt from this requirement*.
- Organotin catalysts may not be used.

Requirement for residual monomers (apart from acrylamide) in R6 in the Chemical Module, version 2 or more recent does not apply for chemical products used in silicone treatment of grease-proof paper.

** Impurity refers to residues from primary production which may be found in the commercial product at concentrations below 800 ppm (0.08% by weight, 800 mg/kg), but not substances that have been added to a raw material or the product actively and for a particular purpose, irrespective of quantity. The commercial product refers to the coating bath of silicone emulsion.*

- Declaration from the pulp-/paper manufacturer stating that the product does not contain chromium or fluoride compounds. Declaration from the chemical supplier stating that the requirement for silicone treatment is fulfilled. Appendices 3 and 4 can be used.

1.5 Product function

010 Function properties

The product must meet the function requirements applicable within the industry.

It must be possible to reuse baking paper. See also O12 Labelling.

- Overview of tested function properties and the associated test results. Example of technical information about this.

011 Paper that comes into contact with foodstuffs

Paper marketed as coming into contact with foodstuffs must, besides laws and regulations comply with one of the following regulations:

- European Council 'Policy statement concerning paper and board materials and articles intended to come into contact with foodstuffs', version 4, 2009, or more recent versions, or more recent versions.
- BfR's recommendation XXXVI. Paper and Board for Food Contact, or XXXVI/2. Paper and Paperboard for Baking Purposes, June 2013 or more recent versions.

- CEPIs Industry guideline for the Compliance of Paper & Board materials and articles for food contact, Issue 2, September 2012 or more recent versions.

Fulfilment of the requirements must be certified by an independent third party.

- ☒ Copy of certificate or declaration from an independent control body (third party) stating that the requirement is fulfilled.

1.6 Packaging

012 Labelling

The following text must be visibly printed on baking paper packaging: “The paper can be used more than once before being discarded”.

For labelling with the Nordic Swan Ecolabel logo, see the section on ‘Design of the Nordic Swan Ecolabel’ at the end of these criteria.

- ☒ Examples of packaging labelling shall be submitted, showing the label and any text for baking paper.

1.7 Waste

013 Waste

Waste generated in the mill area shall be separated and the various fractions reused as far as this is possible. The waste fractions and the treatment of these shall be outlined.

If the waste falls into a national definition of hazardous waste, this too shall be stated.

No further documentation is required in cases where the paper manufacturer and converter are certified to ISO 14001.

- ☒ The paper manufacturer/converter shall account for the following:
 - Waste sorting process.
 - Sorting fractions.
 - Treatment of the individual fractions (internal and external recycling, energy use, landfill or other).

2 Quality and regulatory requirements

To ensure that Nordic Ecolabelling requirements are fulfilled, the following procedures must be implemented.

If the licensee's environmental management system is certified to ISO 14 001 or EMAS, and the following procedures implemented, it is sufficient for the accredited auditor to certify that the requirements are observed.

014 Legislation and regulations

The licensee must guarantee adherence to safety regulations, working environment legislation, environmental legislation and conditions/concessions specific to the operations at all sites where the Nordic Swan Ecolabelled product is manufactured.

No documentation is required, but Nordic Ecolabelling may revoke the licence if the requirement is not fulfilled.

015 Person responsible for the Nordic Swan Ecolabel licence

The company shall appoint a person responsible for ensuring the fulfilment of Nordic Ecolabelling requirements, and a contact person for communications with Nordic Ecolabelling.

- A chart of the company's organizational structure detailing who is responsible for the above.

016 Documentation

The licensee must be able to present a copy of the application, and factual and calculation data supporting the documents submitted on application (including test reports, documents from suppliers and suchlike).

- Ⓟ Checked on site.

017 Quality of the grease-proof paper

The licensee must guarantee that the quality of the production of the Nordic Swan Ecolabelled grease-proof paper is maintained throughout the validity period of the licence.

- Procedures for collating and, where necessary, dealing with claims and complaints regarding the quality of the Nordic Swan Ecolabelled grease-proof paper.

018 Planned changes

Planned changes affecting the Nordic Ecolabelling requirements must be approved by Nordic Ecolabelling in writing.

- Procedures detailing how planned changes are dealt with.

019 Unforeseen non-conformities

Unplanned nonconformities that affect Nordic Ecolabelling requirements must be reported to Nordic Ecolabelling in writing and logged.

- Procedures detailing how unplanned nonconformities are handled.

020 Traceability

The licensee must have a traceability system for the production of the Nordic Swan Ecolabelled grease-proof paper.

- Description of/procedures for the fulfilment of the requirement.

021 Take-back system

The Nordic Ecolabelling's Criteria Group decided on the 9 October 2017 to remove this requirement.

022 Annual follow-up

The environmental requirements must be followed-up annually based on a checklist (Appendix 1 to this document or the Basic Module) from Nordic Ecolabelling. The checklist should be signed by the person responsible for the Nordic Swan Ecolabel licence and then sent to Nordic Ecolabelling. Note that this applies to both paper and pulp.

- Duly completed Appendix 1.

Regulations for the Nordic Ecolabelling of products

When the Nordic Swan Ecolabel is used on products the licence number shall be included.

More information on graphical guidelines, regulations and fees can be found at www.svanen.se/regulations/ or at www.nordic-swan-ecolabel.org/regulations/

Follow-up inspections

Nordic Ecolabelling may decide to check whether the grease-proof paper fulfils Nordic Ecolabelling requirements during the licence period. This may involve a site visit, random sampling or similar test.

The licence may be revoked if it is evident that the grease-proof paper does not meet the requirements.

Criteria version history

Nordic Ecolabelling adopted version 4.0 of the criteria for grease-proof paper on 18 November 2014. The criteria are valid until 31 December 2018.

Nordic Ecolabelling decided on 15 March 2017 to prolong the criteria with 24 months. The new version is called 4.1 and it is valid until 31 December 2020.

On the 9 October 2017 Nordic Ecolabelling decided to remove requirement O21 Take-back system. And on the 19 December 2018 Nordic Ecolabelling decided to prolong the criteria with 24 months to the 31 December 2022. The new version is called 4.2.

On 13 October 2020 Nordic Ecolabelling decided to prolong the criteria with 12 months. The new version is called 4.3 and it is valid until 31 December 2023.

On 26 April 2022 Nordic Ecolabelling decided to prolong the criteria with 6 months. The new version is called 4.4 and it is valid until 30 June 2024.

On 29 November 2022 Nordic Ecolabelling decided to prolong the criteria with 6 months. The new version is called 4.5 and it is valid until 31 December 2024.

On 28 November 2023 Nordic Ecolabelling decided to prolong the criteria with 6 months. The new version is called 4.6 and it is valid until 30 June 2025.

Terms and definitions

Term	Explanation or definition
BfR	German Risk Assessment Institute
COD	Chemical Oxygen Demand. A measurement of the quantity of oxygen that is consumed during the chemical breakdown of organic material.
CEPI	Confederation of European Paper industry
NO _x	Collective chemical symbol for nitrogen oxides (NO, N ₂ O and NO ₂). In this document, NO _x refers to the total of NO and NO ₂ , expressed as NO ₂ .
P	Phosphorus. In this document, P refers to emissions of phosphorous compounds to water.
S	Sulphur. In this document, S refers to all forms of sulphur compounds emitted in gaseous form to air.
Release paper	Paper used in different types of self-adhesive systems. E.g. in label rolls and in diapers/pads.

Appendix 1 Annual reporting to Nordic Ecolabelling

Form for annual reporting for paper covered by a Nordic Swan Ecolabel licence. Form for paper manufacturers:

Year: _____

Mill name: _____

Paper name: _____

Produced amount _____ tonnes paper. The quantity produced is the amount of paper to which the annual emissions figures refer to.

Emissions from the paper machine (if not integrated):

COD _____ kg/tonne paper

P _____ kg/tonne paper

S _____ kg/tonne paper

NO_x _____ kg/tonne paper

CO₂ _____ kg/tonne paper

Form for annual reporting for pulp covered by a Nordic Swan Ecolabel licence. Form for pulp manufacturers:

Year: _____

Mill name:	Unit
Pulp name:	
Produced amount*:	tonnes of pulp
% wood from certified forestry**:	%
COD	kg/tonne 90% pulp
P	kg/tonne 90% pulp
S	kg/tonne 90% pulp
NO _x	kg/tonne 90% pulp
AOX	kg/tonne 90% pulp
Chlorate	kg/tonne 90% pulp
EDTA/DTPA	kg/tonne 90% pulp
CO ₂	kg/tonne 90% pulp

* The quantity produced is the amount of paper to which the annual emissions figures refer to.

** Only wood certified according to standards approved by Nordic Ecolabelling may be included.

Submit a list of production chemicals used (preferably using Appendix 2)

Pulp/paper manufacturer's or converter's signature.

Company	Date
Signature	Title/position
Name (block capitals)	Tel./e-mail

Appendix 2 Information about production chemicals

Pulp/paper manufacturer or converter:

The term "production chemicals", as used in this document, is a collective term for chemical additives, auxiliary chemicals and process chemicals. The term is further used to refer to starch, filler material and so on.

List of production chemicals:

Chemical name	Function	Manufacturer/ supplier	Amount used (kg/tonne)	Process in the mill	Safety data sheet (X) with date	Classification

We hereby certify that the above classifications are correct pursuant to the safety data sheets submitted (the classification applies at the date of signing).

Pulp/paper manufacturer's or converter's signature.

Company	Date
Signature	Title/position
Name (block capitals)	Tel./e-mail

Appendix 3 Chemicals used for coating/ impregnating/added to the pulp

Certificate from the pulp/paper manufacturer

Pulp/paper manufacturer:

What chemicals have been used to impregnating /coating or added to the pulp?

Do any of the chemicals listed above contain chromium or fluoride compounds? Yes No

We hereby certify that Nordic Ecolabelling will be notified immediately in the event of any changes to the product composition.

Pulp/paper manufacturer's signature:

Company	Date
Signature	Title/position
Name (block capitals)	Tel./E-mail

Appendix 4 Silicones used for coating/ impregnation/added to the pulp

Certificate from the chemical supplier

Product name:
Function:
Manufacturer/supplier:

Is the product solvent-based? Yes No

Are organotin compounds used? Yes No

Does the product contain octamethylcyclotetrasiloxane, D4, (CAS 556-67-2) or decamethylcyklopentasiloxane, D5, (CAS 541-02-6)? Yes No

D4 and D5 impurities are exempt from the requirement*.

If Yes to question above, state the CAS-number and concentration:

	ppm
	ppm

** Impurity refers to residues from primary production which may be found in the commercial product at concentrations below 800 ppm (0.08% by weight, 800 mg/kg), but not substances that have been added to a raw material or the product actively and for a particular purpose, irrespective of quantity. The commercial product refers to the coating bath of silicone emulsion.*

We hereby certify that Nordic Ecolabelling will be notified immediately in the event of any changes to the product composition.

Chemical supplier's signature:

Company	Date
Signature	Title/position
Name (block capitals)	Tel./e-mail