# **ECO LABEL SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT EVOLUTION**

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### Abstract

Through this article, we can see the rapid evolution of the Ecolabel and its licensing stages. Classification of eco-labels is also indicated in the article. Also, statistical data on obtaining a license by country and by product mark were analyzed.

**Keywords**: Green Stickers, Ecolabel, Evolution, Licences, Distribution, ISO 14000, per country.

### Introduction

Green Stickers on consumer goods have been evolving since the late 1970s, when the German Blue Angel (Der Blaue Engel) certification became the first ecolabel worldwide in 1978.<sup>[14]</sup> The main drivers have been energy and fuel consumption. These stickers first started appearing on major appliances after government agencies in the United States and Canada legislated their requirement. Manufacturers are also required to meet minimum standards of energy use. The automobile industry in North America is required to meet a minimum emissions standard. This led to fuel efficiency labels being placed on new automobiles sold. The major appliance manufacturers were required to use standard testing practices and place clear labels on products. The International Organization for Standardization has developed international standards for addressing environmental labelling with the ISO 14000 family which grew out of ISO's commitment to support the objective of sustainable development discussed at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, in Rio de Janeiro, in 1992.

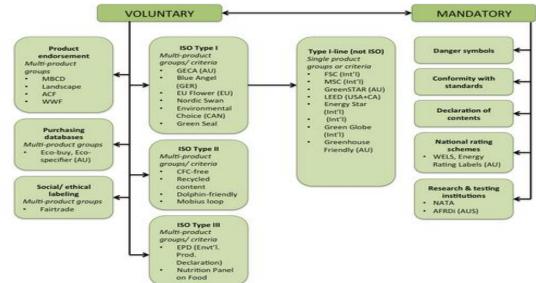


Fig.1. Classification of eco-labels

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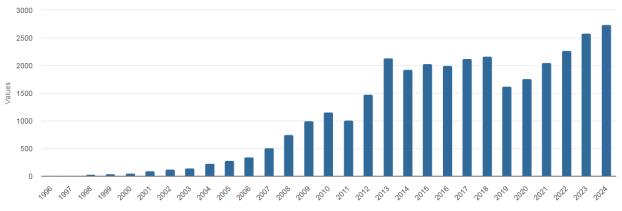
To date, the number of products with the Eco Label mark and enterprises receiving certification are growing day by day.

Since September 2023, there has been a consistent upward trend in the awarding of licences[1] and products, with most EU Ecolabel product groups experiencing growth. The number of current EU Ecolabel awarded licences and products is the highest ever registered so far. This increase reflects a sustained interest in eco-friendly products among businesses, consumers, and retailers.

Compared to the figures from September 2023 there has been a notable increase in:

- The total number of awarded products  $(+6\ 837\ \text{products} = +8\%)$
- The total number of awarded licences (+159 licences = +6%)

The leading product group in terms of awarded licences, remains Tourist accommodation services, with a total of 684 licences. During the last semester, it obtained an additional 85 new licences marking a +14% increase. Also, Cosmetic products, Printed paper, stationery paper and paper carrier bag products, and Furniture recorded high increments of +17, +14, +9 licences, respectively.



#### Fig.2. Evolution of the number of EU Ecolabel licences

When we analyzed the evolution of the number of EU Ecolabel licenses, the highest figure was observed in 2024, when more than 2,500 licenses were obtained.

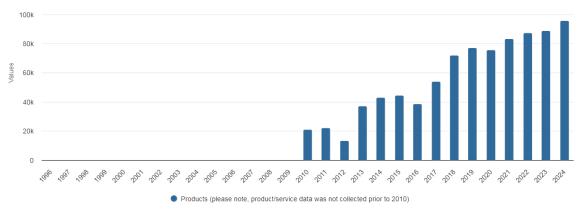


Fig.3. Evolution of the number of EU Ecolabel products.

Analysis of the evolution of the number of EU Ecolabel products shows that data on this indicator was not collected until 2010.

In this too, the highest rate is observed by 2024 with 95,758 products licensed.

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	Tab	le.1. Licen	ces per countr	V	
	Italy	464	Estonia	21	
	France	444	Greece	20	
	Germany	432	Ireland	19	
	Spain	367	Norway	13	
	Austria	292	Finland	12	
	Denmark	116	Lithuania	9	
	Netherlands	98	Bulgaria	8	
	Belgium	66	Luxembourg	8	
	Slovenia	65	Latvia	6	
	Poland	63	Malta	5	
	Romania	57	Hungary	4	
	Sweden	53	Cyprus	3	
	Czech Republic	38	Slovak Republic	3	
	Portugal	35	Iceland	0	
Licences per countr	464		Belar		Russia
ېږ ۱	Perte		man	kraine Idova Doge Turkiye	Kazakhstan Dorgia Uzbekistan Kyrg Aserbaitan Timenia Turkmenistan Tajikista

Fig.4. Licences and products per country

Most EU Ecolabel licences are awarded in Italy (17%), France (16%), Germany (16%), and Spain (13%). Similarly, the majority of products are awarded in Spain, (15%), Italy (15%), France (14%), and Germany (10%).



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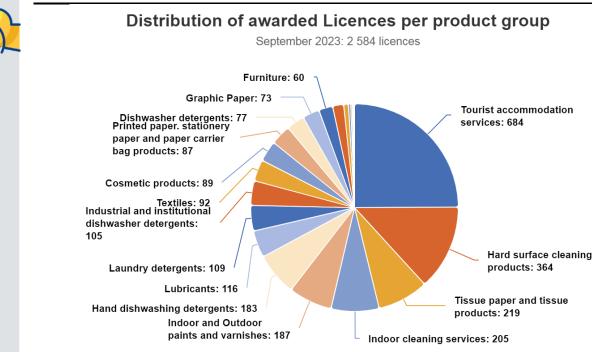


Fig.5. Distribution of awarded licences per product group

The most popular product groups in terms of number of products continue to be: Indoor and outdoor paints and varnishes (39%), Tissue paper and tissue products (17%), Textiles (10%), and Hard surface cleaning products (8%).

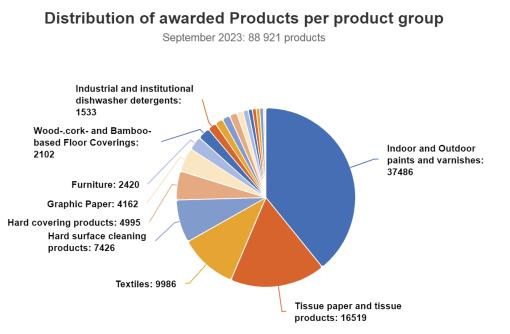


Fig.6. Distribution of awarded products per product group.

Most EU Ecolabel product groups have again witnessed an increase in the number of both licences and products.



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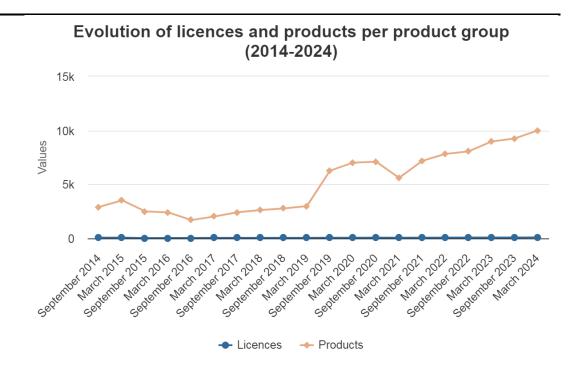


Fig.7. Evolution of licenses and products by product group 2014-2024y.

Evolution of licenses and products by product group Our analysis for 2014-2024 shows that the share of products based on licenses is increasing.

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