REFERENCE SHEET

AIR LABEL SCORE

Summary

Introduction

The Air Label Score certification was created to provide the best available information on the emissions of products into indoor air. The tested products are given a score between A+ (very low emissions) to C (high emissions), which represents their emission level.

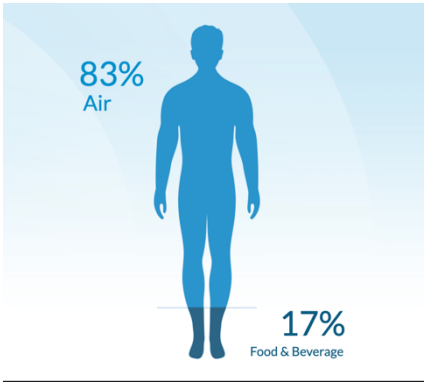
The objective of this *reference sheet* is to introduce the methodology developed by the scientific committee of **Air Label Score**. It will allow companies and consumers to understand the general philosophy and promises of the certification.

This reference sheet addresses the problem of indoor air quality as well as the different possible sources. The certification's mission and processes are also developed.

The annexes specify the Sample Sending Procedure and the Commitments to which companies must adhere when entering the certification process.

1) The issue of indoor air quality

1.1 Alarming findings



Air Label Score was developed in response to an increase in alarming observations: indoor air is on average 8 to 10 times more polluted than outdoor air, whether in the countryside or in the city. Moreover, we spend more than 80% of our time indoors[1].

83% of our daily consumption is *air*, while only 17% is food and beverage. So, the air is the component we are the most exposed to; it is therefore vital to breathe clean air.

In recent years, general awareness of the indoor air quality issue has increased, as well as consumer demand for a solution that enables them to make informed purchases.

The results of successive market studies demonstrate significant consumer interest in the certification[2] . Indeed, we note that the main motivation for purchasing an "eco-labelled" product is the belief that it protects consumer's health.

In view of this **consumer need and the lack of available solutions**, it was necessary to develop a clear and uncompromising certification that informs the consumer of the level of emissions from products into their indoor environment.

1 Pour une meilleure qualité de l'air - Ministère de la Transition Écologique France (Guide Pratique 2019)

2 Own studies by IFOP (2019), Qualtrics (2020), YouGov (2021)

1.2 Key figures

Indoor air pollution, a threat to health

- Every day we breathe **12,000 litres of air**,[3].
- We spend more than **85% of our time**[4] in closed environments (work, school, home, transport...).
- Indoor air is up to **10 times more polluted** than outdoor air[5].
- More than **900 chemical substances** may be present in our indoor air, including some that are toxic, carcinogenic, allergenic, teratogenic, and they sometimes also include endoctrine disruptors[6].

A significant impact on the health*

- **€20 Billions =** Annual cost for social security (in France).[7]
- **20 000 =** National death rate due to poor air quality (in France).[8]
- **30 000 =** Number of diseases that can be caused by poor indoor air quality, including:
  - Respiratory diseases,
  - Cancer,
  - Cardiovascular diseases,
  - Developmental problems of the embryo,
  - Allergies,
  - Hyperactivity,
  - Endocrine diseases, etc.

Concerned consumers*

- **45%** people declare to be worried about air quality.[9]
- **88%** people consider air fresheners to be harmful to their health[10]
- **78%** people consider cleaning products to have an impact on their health[11]

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[3] CNews

[4] Pour une meilleure qualité de l'air - Ministère de la Transition Écologique France (Guide Pratique 2019)

[5] Observatoire de la Qualité de l'Air Intérieur (OQAI) / Atmo BFC 2020

[6] Comité scientifique des risques sanitaires et environnementaux (CSRSE) *Qualité de l'air intérieur*
* Data on the French market

[7] Étude exploratoire du coût socio-économique des polluants de l'air intérieur - Anses et l'Observatoire de la Qualité de l'Air Intérieur (2014)

[8] Planétoscope Conso Globe / Rainett - Air Intérieur Contrôlé

[9] Les français et l'environnement - Enquête annuelle Ademe (2018)

[10] LSA Conso

[11] LSA Conso

1.3 What are the possible sources of indoor air pollution and their health risks?

Indoor air pollutants can be emitted by whatever is in our homes: **cleaning products, air fresheners, perfumes, candles, furniture, paint, floorings, building materials, etc.**

Cleaning products and air fresheners can be an important source of indoor air pollution in the short term. When used, certain chemical substances (volatile organic compounds) are emitted into the air.

It is impossible to know the emissions of a product without laboratory analysis because the components react with each other or with the exterior environment and can create new compounds. For example, a product containing just a few **substances** displayed on the composition label may in fact emit more than a hundred volatile compounds!

The inhalation of VOCs can have many health impacts: respiratory diseases, headaches, reprotoxic, neurotoxic, carcinogenic and endocrine disruption effects, etc.

Concerned about their health and that of their families, consumers are now vigilant when buying and using everyday products.







2) The Air Label Score certification

2.1 Its creation

Air Label Score is an international independent c**ertification institute** whose **experts** have been **working in the field of indoor air quality for over 10 years prior the founding of Air Label Score.**

Before the certification was created, some of the experts were responsible for testing indoor environments such as the air inside schools, nurseries, offices and private homes. Air samples were collected and analysed in a laboratory to determine the level of air toxicity. A report with recommendations for improving indoor air quality was then produced.

> During the submission of the report, a recurring question from both private and professional consumers was:
> **"How can I identify products with the least impact on indoor air quality?"**

It was impossible to recommend products to consumers then because there was no comprehensive information on the emission of products available. In response, the **Air Label Score** was developed.

After 3 years of research and development (R&D), the first certified products arrived in 2019. The R&D process was carried out in collaboration with the **most specialised air quality laboratories accredited** by COFRAC (the French national accreditation body for organisations involved in conformity assessment in France) and BELAC (the Belgian in-stance), who carry out analyses on the basis of international standardisation agency (ISO) standards for 165 countries.

Air Label Score is in contact with various **national entities** —such as the ADEME (Agence De l'environment et de la Maitrise de l'Energie) in France, the Ministry of Energy and Spatial Planning of Luxembourg and the Walloon region, among others—, in order to stay informed of the latest regulatory developments and to anticipate them. **Air Label Score** is also in contact with medical, consumers and health **associations**, in order to inform as many people as possible about the indoor air quality challenge.

2.3. Mission

The international **Air Label Score** certification aims to **protect consumers' health**.

In order to prevent and reduce the impact of indoor air pollution on public health, **Air Label Score** endorses its mission across several axes:

- **Guaranteeing consumers the best information about the level of emissions of products.**
- Encouraging industries to develop products with lower emissions.
- Raising public awareness about indoor air pollution and steps to be taken.
- Inciting authorities to act on the issue.

2.4 The certification in a nutshell

Air Label Score guarantees consumers the best information on the emission of products into the air. Each product tested receives a score between A+ (very low emissions) to C (high emissions), which represents their emission level.

International: the most advanced and comprehensive certification for indoor air quality. "Air Label Score" is based on all the existing, most stringent national and international recommendations, standards, laws and regulations. These include standards from more than 50 countries including the United States, Germany, Finland, Canada, Japan or Singapore, multinational institutions like the European Union, as well as international organisation such as the World Health Organisation...The certification is therefore **applicable across all countries world-wide.**

Reliable: analyses are carried out by laboratories accredited COFRAC (French accreditation body) in accordance with the ISO standards. Aleatory control analyses are carried out annually and independently to verify that the formulae of certified products have not been altered.

Independent: it is essential for a certification entity to be independent of any interest group in order to maintain its objectivity and credibility. That is why **Air Label Score** ensures its independence at all levels.

- **States and institutions**: full independence to any interest group.
- **Laboratories**: in order not to be both judge and jury, the analyses are carried out by independent, approved and accredited laboratories.

Clear and uncompromising: a scoring system understandable at first glance with full transparent explanation of the ratings and certified products online.

Controls: Products are randomly checked every year and all rating for officially marketed products with the Air Label Score are adapted to a potential change in regulation.

Products with an A+ score guarantee very low emissions on indoor air

The **score** given to the product reflects the result of the worst rated emitted substance. In other words, in order to receive an A+ score, all emitted substances must respect the most stringent norm that is applicable for the substance internationally.

This score is also influenced by the total amount of VOCs detected:

For example, a product whose emitted substances have a good score separately may still have a lower score if the sum of all the substances released exceeds a certain limit.

What does this rating mean?				
Emissions in the air	**Very low** Very low emissions into indoor air.	**Low** Low emissions into indoor air.	**Average** Average emissions into indoor air.	**High** High emissions into indoor air.
Standards met	All standards and recommendations are met in full.	One slight breach of the limit tolerated.	A maximum of three slight breaches of the limit tolerated.	More than three slight breaches of the limit found or at least one substantial breach.
Certain carcinogens and teratogens	No limit exceeded.	No limit exceeded.	No limit exceeded.	Possible non-compliance with the standard found.
Recommendations for use	Adhere to the quantities indicated. Think about airing the house.	Adhere to the quantities indicated. Think about airing the house.	If possible, reduce the quantities indicated. Limit the exposure of people to risks. It is important to air the house.	Avoid using the product. Limit long-term exposure. Air the house without fail. Wear a face mask during use or application.

Source : https://air-label.com/en/the-label/understand-the-ratings

2.5 A certification initially developed for the consumer

The certification allows consumers, at first glance, to choose the least emissive products. The label is intuitively understandable and can be compared to other rating systems.

From a graphic and technical point of view:
- Clear and understandable colour coding;
- Clear, recognisable and known gradation;
- A house in mirror effect;
- A white cross for health;
- A green "V" for validation.

2.6 A certification also available for professional users

Professional staff can also be affected by level of emission of the products they use. Therefore, **Air Label Score** has developed a professional version of the certification.

The professional version of the certification gives a double information
- Protection of the personal who uses the products;
- Protection of the final customer who move in the environments where the products were used (patients, children, workers, etc.)

3) The certification process

3.1 Independent laboratories

The analyses are carried out by **independent laboratories**. This is essential in order not to be judge and jury simultaneously. There is also independence between the companies having their products analysed, the certification experts and the laboratories doing the analyses. Each element can therefore be checked by a third party to verify results.

3.2 Accredited laboratories

The laboratories are accredited by national accreditation bodies. In France, it is the **COFRAC**, in Belgium the **BELAC** and in Germany the **DAkkS**. This guarantees the quality of the analyses.

3.3 Analyses carried out in accordance with NF EN ISO 16-000 standards

Analyses are performed according to **NF EN ISO 16-000** protocols. ISO standards are issued by the International Standardisation Organisation. The standards are validated by more than **164 member countries**.

3.4 Analysis scenarios based on real-life product use

The analyses are carried out **based on real-life situations**. How, where and for how long the product is used is taken into consideration. The scenarios are defined to establish the **normal use of the product** by the consumer. There are **specific scenarios** for each product/material category.

The scenarios for the analyses consider three key elements. Note that the goal is to provide users with the most complete real-life exposure information. Thus for each the most emissive possible normal usage circumstance is chosen:

- **Product use: t**he quantity of product put into the chamber is calculated on the basis of a user panel. For example, for a window cleaner, the actual usage of a consumer is 8 sprays per sq. If the certification experts notice that a user might use more than what is recommended by the manufacturer, they will apply more product than recommended. The scenario in which the product is the most emissive will be chosen.
- **Product's destination:** The results of the test are not standardised to a single room. Again, the scenario with the destination room where the normal user will use the product, in which the user may be exposed to the highest level of emission concentration, will be chosen. For example, a toilet gel will be tested in a 2.5m3 volume (representing a WC), a washing powder in an 8m3 (representing a laundry room), etc.
- **Duration of exposure to the product:** The duration of exposure to a product will have an impact on the analysis scenario. If the user is exposed to a product over a long period of time, this exposure is taken into consideration in the analysis. For instance, a toilet cleaning gel may be used on average for a short time once or twice a week, while wall paint emits continuously into the living space.

Some scenarios are pre-existing and come from the ISO standards or other internationally recognised bodies. Other scenarios are developed by the **Air Label Score** experts in collaboration with national research programs or partner laboratories. Depending on the products type to be analysed, **Air Label Score** can provide the detailed scenarios.

In order to be able to select the analysis scenario corresponding to the product to be certified, the certification managers will first have to analyse the use of the product. We therefore invite you to contact our experts via this e-mail address: contact@air-label.com .

The philosophy of the scenarios remains the same: to realistically determine the maximum concentration at which a consumer can come into contact with the product in order to guarantee the most complete information for the quality of his indoor air.

A scenario for each product and material

Air Label Score can perform analyses for any product, substance, material, object, etc. The are already established scenarios for the following product categories:

- Household cleaning products (descaler, toilet gel, toilet blocks, multi-purpose or floor cleaners, anti-mite spray, etc.)
- Air fresheners (mists, diffusers, gels, wicks, electric...)
- Detergents (softeners, washing powder, washing balls, etc.)
- Candles, incense,...
- Building materials (insulation, panels, parquet...)
- Bedding and clothing (fabrics, mattresses, cushions, clothes...)
- Paints, lacquers, varnishes,...
- Furniture
- Electronic equipment (all types)
- Miscellaneous (toys, pens, notebooks, etc.)

Certifiable product categories

A non-exhaustive list of product categories that can be certified is given below.

Paints, varnishes, lacquers; rust and wood preservatives; dyes, stains; printing, marking and engraving inks; natural resins in raw form; metals in sheet and powder form for painting, decoration, printing and artwork; coatings (paint) in liquid form; decorative spray coatings; coatings (paint) in powder form; water repellent products and preparations in the form of paints or oils.

Non-medicated cosmetics and toilet preparations; non-medicated toothpastes; perfumery products, essential oils; bleaching and other laundry preparations; cleaning, polishing, degreasing and abrasive preparations; bleaching preparations for household use; bleaching products for laundry use; massage candles for cosmetic purposes; cleaning chemicals for household use; colour brightening chemicals for household use [laundry]; household perfumes; household soaps; household detergents; household descalers; household washing products; household aromatic products; floor wax removers; deodorants [perfumery]; pet deodorants; stain removers; detergents [cleansers] other than those used in manufacturing operations and those for medical use; air fresheners; incense; flower extracts [perfumery]; fumigants [perfumes]; essential oils / ethereal oils; cleaning oils; perfumery oils; detergents; cleaning products; dry-cleaning products; wallpaper cleaning products; laundry scents; room fragrances; scented potpourri; antiperspirant toilet preparations; cleaning cloths im_ pregnated with detergent; roll-on deodorants; toilet cleaning gels; toilet cleaning tablets; fabric softeners; fabric cleaners; fragrances for ceramic diffusers; fragrance refills for non-electric room fragrance diffusers; refills for electric room fragrance diffusers.

Industrial oils and greases, waxes for industrial use; lubricants; dust absorbers, and binding dust; fuels and illuminants; scented candles; candles and wicks for lighting; fuel briquettes; charcoal [fuel]; fuels; alcohol-based fuels; mineral fuels.

Disinfectants; pest control products; fungicides, herbicides; deodorisers; air fresheners; deodorisers for clothing or textile materials; detergents for medical use; animal washing products [insecticides].

Base metals and their alloys, ores; metal building materials; transportable metal structures; non-electrical wire and cable; small metal hardware hardware; safes.

Vehicles; devices for locomotion by land, air or water.

Paper and paperboard; printed matter; bookbinding material; photographs; stationery and office supplies, except furniture; adhesives for stationery or stationery and office supplies, except furniture; adhesives for stationery or household purposes drawing materials and artists' materials; paint brushes; instructional or teaching materials (except devices); plastic sheeting, film and bags for packaging and transporting goods; printing plates; pens.

Rubber, gutta-percha, gum, mica and substitutes for all these materials plastics and resins in extruded form used in manufacturing operations; caulking, sealing and insulating materials; flexible non-metallic pipes; insulation material; thermal insulation blankets; acoustic insulation materials.

Non-metallic building materials; non-metallic building components; non-metallic rigid
for construction; asphalt, pitch, tar and bitumen; non-metallic transportable structures; non-metallic monuments; concrete building materials; glass building materials; wood building materials; natural stone building materials; plastic building materials; mineral fibres building materials; non-metallic fireproof building materials; fireproof gaskets in the form of building materials.

Furniture, mirrors, frames; foam; amber; bedding, mattresses, pillows and cushions. Textiles and textile substitutes; fabrics, cloth; household linen; curtains of textile or plastic materials; bedding plastics. Clothing, shoes, headgear. Carpets, mats, linoleum and other floor coverings; wall hangings not of textile materials.

Games, toys; video game devices; gymnastic and sports equipment; Christmas tree decorations (other than confectionery and lighting equipment).

3.5 Analyses are carried out in emission chambers

Analyses are carried out in **emission chambers**. These are hermetically sealed boxes in which a sample of the product to be analysed is placed. A ventilation system allows the collection of the emitted substances on filters, which are analysed by a complete screening.

3.6 Complete screening - All detected substances

The screening allows the identification and quantification of all VOCs (Volatile Organic Compounds) emitted by the product. Each VOC can be identified and quantified in µg/m3.

These analyses are carried out by gas chromatography coupled with mass spectrometry.

Compounds name	CAS no°	Type of substance	Concentration in µg/m³	Limit A+ (µg/m³)	Strictiest source standard
Formaldéhyde	50-00-0	Aldéhyde	4,08	30	Awac
Acétaldéhyde	75-07-0	Aldéhyde	6,59	200	OEL UE
Butane	106-97-8	COVTV	> Limit value	10800	Ontario
Pentane	109-66-0	COVTV	> Limit value	106500	Ontario
Butane, 1-(2-chloroethoxy)-	10503-96-5	COV	195	-	No Value
Citronellal	106-23-0	COV	27,2	1000	ECHA

(partial example - cleaning product)

3.7 Analysis of allergens, endocrine disruptors, carcinogens, teratogens...

VOCs are divided into several families of substances, which can be **irritants, allergens, endocrine disruptors, carcinogens, teratogens, etc.**

- Aliphatic hydrocarbons: alkanes, alkenes (e.g. ethylene, propylene, butylene), alkynes...
- Alicyclic hydrocarbons: cycloalkanes (e.g. cyclohexane), cycloalkenes, terpenes (α-pinene, β-pinene, Δ3-carene, limonene), Cycloalkadienes...
- Aromatic hydrocarbons: benzene, toluene, xylenes, ethyl benzene, styrene as well as PAHs (polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons) such as naphthalene.
- Alcohols: ethanol, propanol, methanol, etc.
- Aldehydes: formaldehyde, acetaldehyde, acrolein...
- Ketones: butanone, cyclohexanone,
- Ethers and esters.
- Acids.
- Amines, Amides and nitriles.
- ...

The performed analyses have a detection limit of 0.5 µg/m3 and a quantification limit of 2 µg/m3. These limits are are specified in the ISO 16000.

3.8 Comparison to the most stringent international standards

The detected concentrations are compared to all the regulations and norms taken into account globally. More than 125 organisations and institutions, including the World Health Organisation (WHO), the European Union (EU), the CNRS, ECHA, etc., have defined VOC listings and limit values above which these VOCs can be harmful to health.

These include:

- Supra-national: WHO, EU,...
- National: Reach, DFG, ECHA, CNRS, AGS,...
- Regional: Ontario, Walloon region, California...
- Other certifications: +BREEAM, Emicode...
- Relevant scientific literature.

Air Label Score is the strictest international certification certifying the level of emission of products into indoor air.

3.9 What scores do the products get?

To obtain an A+ grade, the underlying methodology compares each substance concentration level with the most stringent limit available. If all values from all norms and regulations are met, the product can be rated A+.

Other criteria such as the total VOC load, the number of standard overruns observed or the type of substances detected (carcinogenic or teratogenic) are considered to provide the best information to the consumer.

After receiving the results of the analyses, a report is drawn up which includes all detected compounds and the respective applicable norms that provide the most stringent limit.

3.10 How do scores change?

It should be noted that different limit values are used for different product categories. This is because consumers are not exposed to different types of products the same way. For example, consumers are exposed to emissions from cleaning products during use, whereas emissions of a parquet flooring is continuous.

To move from one grade to another, several criteria are applied.

1) Each compound emitted must meet the strictest standard from all the included 125 reference bodies. The ratio to go from a score to another is the following. Considering that « x » is the strictest limit value for a substance:

- If the compound detected is below « x », the product will get an A+
- If the compound detected is over « x » and lower than 2*« x», the product will get an A
- If the compound detected is over 2*« x » and lower than 3*« x», the product will get a B
- If the compound detected is over 3*« x », the product will get a C

2) The number of substances that overrun their limits in the same product also have an impact.
-If there are 2 "A" substances in the same product, the product will get a B
-If there are 2 "B" substances in the same product, the product will get a C.

3) The total amount of VOC emitted also needs to respect a value which depends on the product category.

4) The type of substance which overruns a limit can also have an impact on the rating. Even a small overrun of carcinogenic or teratogenic substances leads the product to a "B" or "C" score depending on the type of substance.

3.11 The score is valid for one formula? One market?

The score is valid for **one formula in its integral composition**:

- The rating is valid for one fragrance and one composition only. This applies to both raw materials and dosages.
- The suppliers of raw materials may vary. However, they must provide the same CAS No.

The score is valid **all over the world**. Since all substances are checked against all existing standards, an A+ is valid everywhere in the world.

3.12 How long is the score valid for?

After receiving the report, companies have 1 year to start communicating (if they wish) on their score. If they start communicating over one year later, an update of the report should be requested in view of changes in standards that may have an impact on the rating.

The score obtained is therefore valid as long as:

- **The formula** has not been altered
- **The score is not modified by new standards.** Once a year, **Air Label Score** updates the listings of the 125 organisations and adds new standards and recommendations. It is therefore possible that the strictest value changes, as well as the received scores: upwards or downwards. The products are not re-analysed, but the ratings are cross-checked to the results obtained from the previous year. In short, the scores are compared with the updated values. The product can therefore gain or lose a score. **100% of the results are updated annually with the latest developments.**

3.13 Control analyses

Control analyses are done regularly to verify that there has been no change in the composition of the product (voluntary or involuntary). **10% of the products placed on the market with the Air Label Score certification from the previous year are checked** at random.

Fines may be applied if changes have been made. Consult the *"Air Label Score" Terms and Conditions* for further details.

3.14 The methodology in a nutshell

Independent and accredited laboratories carry out analyses —by full screening of all emitted substances— based on ISO standards and applying the strictest scenarios. **Air Label Score** compares the results with the strictest international values and randomly checks 10% of the references and updates the scores every year according to the latest developments. Full transparency of scientific testing and user scenarios is provided to consumers on the **Air Label Score** website for all certified products.

4) ANNEXES

Commitments of the Air Label Score certification and of certified companies

The international Air Label Score certification guarantees consumers the highest level of information about emissions in indoor air. Thanks to this certification, they can choose the least harmful products in terms of inhalation.

Air Label Score gives each product tested a pollution index between A+ (very low emissions) to C (high emissions) to express the toxicity risk of inhaling the pollutants detected.

The certification process is totally independent and is based on the strictest national and international recommendations. Analyses are carried out by laboratories that have been accredited by national accreditation bodies such as COFRAC (the French accreditation committee). They carry out analyses in accordance with international ISO standards (International Organization for Standardization for 165 countries).

Find out more about the commitments of the certification and of the companies that decide to certify their products.

ARTICLE I – Commitments of the Air Label Score certification

The strictest international standards

The Air Label Score certification is based on all recognised national and international recommendations, standards, laws and regulations.

From Europe to the United States, via Germany, Finland, Canada, Japan and Singapore... More than 125 regulations and recommendations are respected, including:

WHO, OEL, AgBB, MAK, AGS, ACGIH, NIOSH, PEL, TWAEV, BREEAM, AFSSET, ANSES and OQAI.

The Air Label Score label is the most advanced international certification in terms of the number of standards that it encompasses.

A monitoring process has been put in place so that the label can anticipate any new legal standards.

Scenarios according to ISO standards

The analysis methods used in laboratories are based on the internationally renowned ISO16000-3, ISO16000-6, ISO16000-9 and ISO16000-11 standards.

To supplement the ISO standards, Air Label Score certification experts work with laboratory staff to define analysis scenarios according to the type of exposure and the way the product is used.

Consistent scoring

When a product is certified, each volatile substance is analysed and quantified separately. Each of these substances is given a score between A+ and C for all of the international regulations and standards.

The final score given to the product is the one for the substance that it contains that achieves the lowest score. This score will also be influenced by the total quantity of volatile substances detected.

A product where each of the substances has been given a good score separately could still have a bad score if all the substances together present a risk to the consumer.

The scores are also updated according to changes to regulations.

Total independence

It is vital that a label is independent of any interest group in order to ensure objectivity. That is why Air Label Score strives to uphold its independence on all levels:

- Governments and institutions: The label is not given any institutional funding and is therefore independent of any interest group;
- Laboratories: In order to maintain impartiality, the label works with independent laboratories.

Certified, reputable, standardised laboratories

Partner laboratories have all the national and international recognition and accreditations needed for the analyses. They are therefore:

- Accredited by national accreditation bodies, COFRAC for France and BELAC in Belgium;
- Checked and accredited to carry out: ISO16000 11, ISO16000 9, ISO16000 3 and ISO16000 6 tests established by the International Organisation for Standardization.

Products checked at random every year

In order to make sure that certified products have not been subject to any deliberate or accidental changes, random checks are carried out on a selection of products every year.

These checks are based on products purchased from retail outlets or on samples collected from the factory or production site.

Clarity for the consumer.

To guarantee clear information for consumers, Air Label Score publishes its commitments on its website.

The analysis scenarios are also freely available on the website.

Air Label Score experts are available to answer any questions consumers may have.

ARTICLE II – Commitments of certified companies

Use of the certification

Certified companies undertake:

- to use the label exclusively on products whose ingredients are 100% equivalent to those analysed.
- to send batch numbers so that products using the label can be tracked before they are put on the market.
- not to create any confusion for the consumer between products with and without the label.

Undertaking as to the authenticity of products

Certified companies confirm that the products collected from their premises, or from their factories or sent for analysis, are original, unadulterated and in their final versions.

Changes to composition

Certified companies undertake to inform Air Label Score in advance of any changes to the composition of a product, leaving a record in writing.

Certified companies will say if they would like new analyses to be carried out. If it is decided that the analysis will not be repeated, the label cannot be used on the new product.

Sworn statement

Certified companies agree to sign a sworn statement every year, within the context of renewing the certification, confirming that the composition of the product has not changed.

Penalties

Certified companies are subject to penalties if these commitments are not respected. These penalties are defined in the cooperation agreement and 50% of their value will be reinvested in organisations involved in pollution control in Belgium and abroad.