

Decision mandate and information flow:

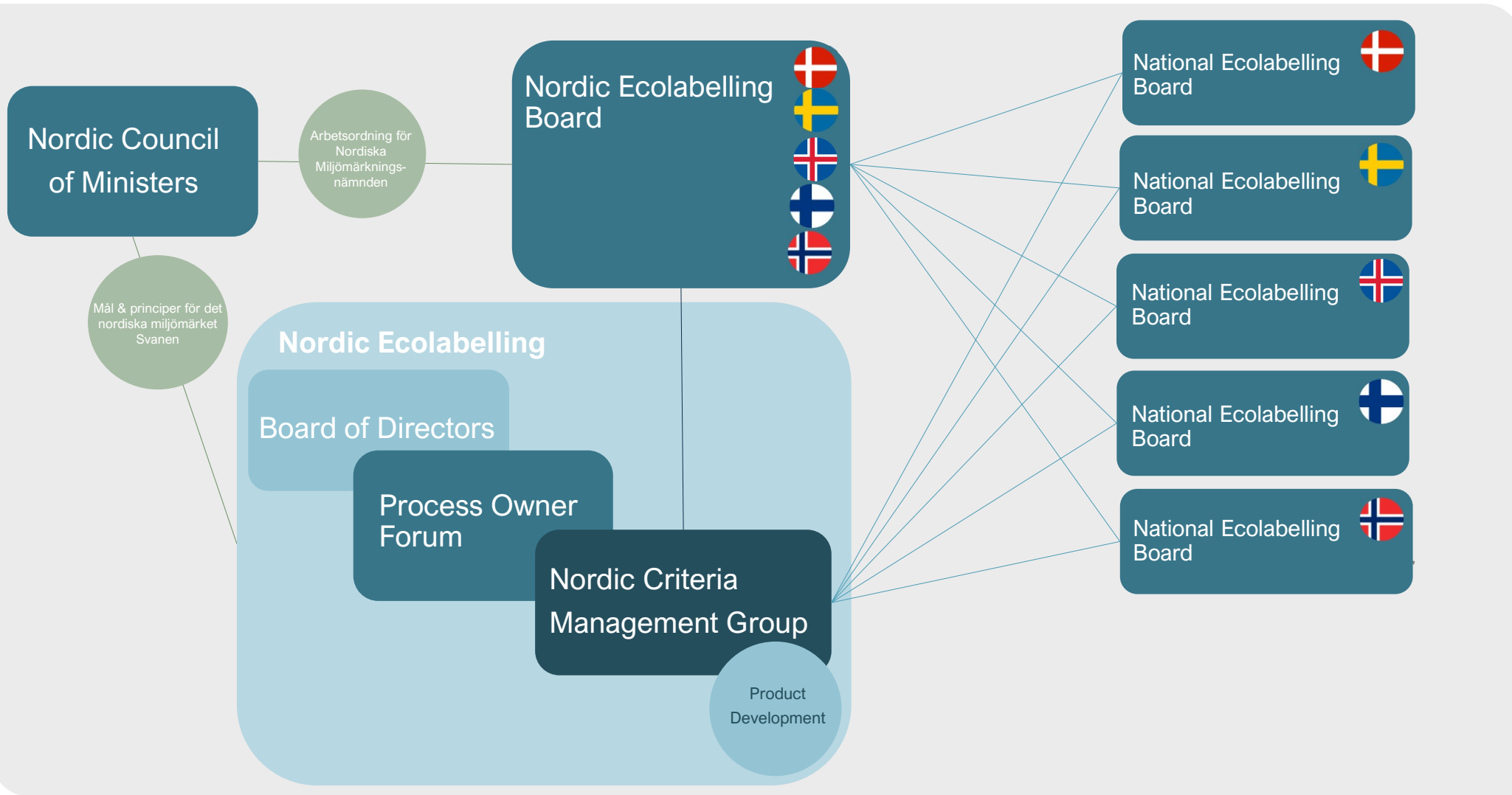
Nordic Ecolabelling Board
and
Nordic Ecolabelling

Decision mandate and information flow Nordic Ecolabelling (NE) and Nordic Ecolabelling Board (NEB)

Subject matter	National board (NB)	Nordic Ecolabelling Board	Comments
Prestudy – new areas	Orientation by NE. Pass mandate on to NEB member	Decision making body	
Prestudy – areas closely related to existing product groups	Orientation by NE	Orientation by NE	Mandate to decide has been allocated from NEB to NE
Evaluation	Orientation by NE	-	NE take up all evaluations to NB and collect input for the coming revision of product group.
Criteria in open consultation	On the receive list for open consultation. Mostly orientation by NE	-	If a national board meeting is at the same time as the open consultation, there will be dialog about it. NB members encouraged to send response.
New criteria	Orientation by NE. Pass mandate on to NEB member	Decision making body	
Revised criteria	Orientation by NE. Pass mandate on to NEB member	Decision making body	
Large changes of criteria and/or product group definition during the generation lifetime	Orientation by NE. Pass mandate on to NEB member	Decision making body	Including <i>all</i> strengthening of the criteria during the generation lifetime

Decision mandate and information flow Nordic Ecolabelling and Nordic Ecolabelling board

Subject matter	National board	Nordic Ecolabelling Board	Comments
Extensions of criteria	Orientation by NE	Orientation by NE	Mandate to decide has been allocated from NEB to NE
Smaller adjustments of the criteria	Orientation by NE	Orientation by NE	Mandate to decide has been allocated from NEB to NE However, only apply if all countries in NE agree on the adjustment. If NE is not unanimous in the case, NEB is the decision making body.
Prolongation of the criteria lifetime, less than 24 month	Orientation by NE	Orientation by NE	Mandate to decide has been allocated from NEB to NE
Prolongation of the criteria lifetime, more than 24 month	Orientation by NE. Pass mandate on to NEB member	Decision making body	
Closing down a criteria	Orientation by NE. Pass mandate on to NEB member	Decision making body	
Overall principals concerning criteria development or the position of Nordic Swan Ecolabel	Either orientation by NE and pass mandate on to NEB member Or orientation by NE	Either decision making body Or Orientation by NE	Depending on the principal issue it is either NEB to decide or a matter allocated from NEB to NE



Decision mandate and information flow Nordic Ecolabelling and Nordic Ecolabelling Board

The Nordic Ecolabelling Board's work is governed by "Arbetsordning för Nordiska Miljömärkningsnämnden" and Nordic Ecolabelling's work is governed by "Mål & principer för det nordiska miljömärket Svanen" both documents are regularly revised by the Nordic Council of Ministers.

The Nordic Ecolabelling board is the owner of the Nordic Swan Ecolabel scheme. It is the overall decision-making body on all areas concerning criteria and environmental position for the Nordic Swan Ecolabel (see § 1 in "Arbetsordning för Nordiska Miljömärkningsnämnden"). However, The Nordic Ecolabelling board has delegated the some of the responsibility for the criteria to Nordic Ecolabelling (decision date 15th of December 2003, 7th November 2018, and 17th of March 2021), with the certainty of being oriented (se p. 2-3) but has always the ability to object to a decision Nordic Ecolabelling have taken in the delegated responsibility.

The Nordic Ecolabelling board strives to reach an agreement and decide unanimously, but has a mandate to decide on a qualified majority (4 countries in favor and one against)

The National boards play a significant role in giving input on the evaluations and the consultations at an early stage of the product revision and development process.

The Nordic Criteria Management Group is the group in Nordic Ecolabelling that primarily manages everything related to criteria and requirements. They are the direct connection to National Boards and the Nordic Ecolabelling Board. However, certain cases where the Nordic Criteria Management Group cannot reach an agreement, the case will then be discussed in Process Owner Forum, which gives its recommendation for a decision to the Board of Directors, before the case is either decided on in Nordic Ecolabelling (delegated mandate) or goes on for decision by the National Boards and the Nordic Ecolabelling Board.

National board composition

Composition of National Boards

Denmark

Representatives from:

- The Confederation of Danish Industry
- Danish Chamber of Commerce
- The Danish society for Nature Conservation
- The Consumer Council
- The Main Organization of the Trade Union
- The Public Sector Procurement Service (SKI)
- Danish Ministry of Industry, Business and Financial Affairs
- Danish Ministry of Climate, Energy and Utilities
- Danish Ministry of Environment

The Danish Ministry of Environment has drawn up a [Statutory Order on the Nordic Swan Ecolabel in Denmark](#).

Finland

Representatives from:

- Ministry of Environment
- Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment in Finland
- Confederation of Finnish Industries
- Finnish Commerce Federation
- The Consumers' Union of Finland
- Natural Resources Institute Finland (LUKE)
- The Martha Association
- The Finnish Association for Nature Conservation (FANC)
- The Confederation of Finnish Construction Industries RT
- Finnish Environment Institute

Iceland

Representatives from:

- The Consumers' Association of Iceland (NS)
- The Housing and Construction Authority (HMS)
- The Federation of Icelandic Industries (SI)
- Federation of Trade & Services (SVÞ)
- The Icelandic Travel Industry Association (SAF)
- Icelandic Standards (IST)
- A national NGO working on environmental protection (currently Landvernd)

Formalized through [Regulation 160/2017 on Ecolabels](#)

Norway

Representatives from:

- The Norwegian Environment Agency
- The Consumer Council
- Representative from environmental organization (pt SABIMA)
- The Norwegian Confederation of Trade Unions,
- The Confederation of Norwegian enterprise
- Norwegian confederation of business and industry
- Grocery chains representative appointed by DMF (Daglivarehandelens Miljøforum)
- Representative for employees of Ecolabelling
- The Ministry responsible for consumer issues (Ministry of children and families) appoints the chairman of the board.

Members of the board are appointed for a period of 3 years, and can be reappointed once.

Formalized through [Vedtekter](#)

Sweden

- Confederation of Swedish Enterprise
- Swedish Consumer Agency
- Swedish Trade Federation
- The National Agency for Public Procurement
- Swedish Consumers' Association
- The Swedish Society for Nature Conservation
- Swedish Water & Wastewater Association
- Swedish Chemical Agency
- Swedish Environmental Protection Agency
- Swedish Energy Agency
- An independent expert on circular economy

Mandate from National Boards to Nordic Ecolabelling boards

Denmark

The chairman of the Danish board represent Denmark in Nordic Ecolabelling Board.

Ref. the [Statutory Order on the Nordic Swan Ecolabel](#) in Denmark the role of the Danish board is (among others):

..- To determine the board's mandate for negotiating criteria and guidelines for the Nordic Swan Ecolabel in the Nordic Ecolabelling board through the chairman.

Finland

The chairman of the Finish board represent Finland in Nordic Ecolabelling board.

The Ministry together with Ministry of the Environment is responsible of nominating the chairman and members of the Finish board.

Iceland

The chairman of the Icelandic board represent Iceland in Nordic Ecolabelling board.

Ref. Article 5 of [Regulation 160/2017 on Ecolabels](#):
...The chairman is a member of the Nordic board and has the task of conveying the opinion of the Icelandic board to the Nordic board.

Norway

The representative from the Norwegian board represent Norway in the Nordic Ecolabelling Board. It is practicing that the representative is the chairman of the Norwegian board.

Ref "vedtekter": *The boards' role is to approve proposed criteria and give the Nordic Ecolabeling Board representative mandate to negotiate and adopt criteria within given frames.*

Sweden

The chairman of Ecolabelling Sweden's board of directors represent Sweden in Nordic Ecolabelling Board.

The Ecolabelling Sweden's board of directors is responsible of nominating members of the Swedish Ecolabelling Board