Decision mandate and information flow:

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject matter</th>
<th>National board (NB)</th>
<th>Nordic Ecolabelling Board</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prestudy – new areas</td>
<td>Orientation by NE. Pass mandate on to NEB member</td>
<td></td>
<td>Decision making body</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prestudy – areas closely related to existing product groups</td>
<td>Orientation by NE</td>
<td>Orientation by NE</td>
<td>Mandate to decide has been allocated from NEB to NE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evaluation</td>
<td>Orientation by NE</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>NE take up all evaluations to NB and collect input for the coming revision of product group.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criteria in open consultation</td>
<td>On the receive list for open consultation. Mostly orientation by NE</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New criteria</td>
<td>Orientation by NE. Pass mandate on to NEB member</td>
<td></td>
<td>Decision making body</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revised criteria</td>
<td>Orientation by NE. Pass mandate on to NEB member</td>
<td></td>
<td>Decision making body</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large changes of criteria and/or product group definition during the generation lifetime</td>
<td>Orientation by NE. Pass mandate on to NEB member</td>
<td></td>
<td>Decision making body</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Decision mandate and information flow Nordic Ecolabelling and Nordic Ecolabelling board

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<tr>
<th>Subject matter</th>
<th>National board</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Extensions of criteria</td>
<td>Orientation by NE</td>
<td>Orientation by NE</td>
<td>Mandate to decide has been allocated from NEB to NE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smaller adjustments of the criteria</td>
<td>Orientation by NE</td>
<td>Orientation by NE</td>
<td>Mandate to decide has been allocated from NEB to NE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prolongation of the criteria lifetime, less than 24 month</td>
<td>Orientation by NE</td>
<td>Orientation by NE</td>
<td>Mandate to decide has been allocated from NEB to NE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prolongation of the criteria lifetime, more than 24 month</td>
<td>Orientation by NE. Pass mandate on to NEB member</td>
<td>Decision making body</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closing down a criteria</td>
<td>Orientation by NE. Pass mandate on to NEB member</td>
<td>Decision making body</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall principals concerning criteria development or the position of Nordic Swan Ecolabel</td>
<td>Either orientation by NE and pass mandate on to NEB member Or orientation by NE</td>
<td>Either decision making body Or Orientation by NE</td>
<td>Depending on the principal issue it is either NEB to decide or a matter allocated from NEB to NE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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
- Technology Industries of Finland
- Finnish Commerce Federation
- The Consumers’ Union of Finland
- Natural Resources Institute Finland (LUKE)
- The Martha Association
- Service Union United PAM
- The Finnish Association for Nature Conservation (FANC)
- Finnish Association of Civil Engineers RIL
- Finnish Environment Institute

Finland

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 (SVB)
- 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.

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.

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

**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.

**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.