



NMN basis for decision

Issue:	Approval of revised/new criteria for product group "110 Food services and conference facilities (without accommodation)" version 1.0 valid to 2026-06-30.
Send date:	2021-05-24
Responsible PA:	Vivian Grønhaug Ottemo

Background information

Food services and conference facilities (without accommodation)" are divided from the original criteria for the product group 055 "Hotels, restaurants and conference ". The same was done during consultation, with positive feedback, for meeting the industry in a good way. In addition, the division of the two criteria gives us the opportunity to work more independently with launch, marketing and communication for this product group.

The criteria for hotels, restaurants and conferences, generation 4 were adopted 23rd October 2013, and are valid until 31st December 2022.

The new criteria for Food service and conference facilities (without accommodation), have been given product group number 110. Version 1 will be valid until 30. juni 2026.

We have the following number of licenses (from product group 055):

Canteens: 20
Restaurants: 10
Cafes: 7
Conference facilities: 1

In addition, we are working on several applications for canteens, and several stakeholders waiting to apply until we publish the new criteria.

Evaluation

NMN approved the evaluation of the product team 055 Hotel, restaurant, and conference, on 18 November 2018. The evaluation concluded that the requirements should be revised.

We want to set strict relevant requirements, and at the same time ease the documentation burden for applicants.

Focus areas for the revision from the evaluation:

- An improved digital application solution, which will simplify the application process for both applicant and our environmental consultants at Nordic ecolabelling.
- The limit values for water and waste are proposed to be tightened. At the same time, we propose to introduce requirements for those businesses that do not have the opportunity for measuring water and waste.
- We propose to revise and strengthen the requirements for food:
 - We propose to focus more on sustainable food, and not organic purchasing alone.
 - We propose to tighten the requirements for organic food.
 - We propose to set new stricter requirements for food waste.
- We propose a simpler annual update, handled by the application tool. The reporting must give the customer added value.
- Merge and gather requirements regarding routines.
- Maintain good relevant requirements, but look at opportunities to simplify, as well as ease the documentation burden.
- We propose to expand the product group, by developing requirements for Day Conferences facilities without accommodation.
- We propose to expand the product group definition and include those who do not identify with the HRK concept, Hotel Restaurant Conference, such as a canteen service.
- We propose stricter chemical requirements with higher focus on eco-labeled consumption
- We propose to change our requirements for energy consumption and limit values, and rather set requirements for energy-optimizing measures.
- «Go Global»: We propose to develop the requirements in such a way that companies outside the Nordic countries can apply for the Nordic Ecolabel.

- We propose to make it possible for chains to apply together for a chain license.
- We propose a clear strategy for how the new requirements contribute to the UN's sustainability goals

Changes compared to previous version

Product group change

Food Services and conference facilities is a new product group, which originates from the criteria for Hotel, restaurant and conference. We have chosen to change the use of the word "restaurant" and now use "food service", to meet the industry more broadly, as the interest from canteens is great and even increasing. Conference facilities without accommodation are included in the product group, based on the increased interest from the industry and that the potential for environmental improvements is great.

Structure

The structure has been changed to make the criteria more intuitive. It is clear which requirements apply to whom, since the product group includes different combinations of companies. The number of point requirements has been reduced considerably, at the same time as the flexibility has been maintained by introducing mandatory measure requirements, where it is possible to choose between different measures. The criteria consist of 38 mandatory requirements and 6 point requirements.

Environmental management

Requirements for annual follow-up have changed, because we want a greater focus on annual follow-up of the requirements and a better dialogue with the licensees. New in the chapter are for example mandatory requirements for "continuous improvement".

Energy

Brand new energy requirements have been developed for restaurants and day conferences. The requirements no longer require energy meters but focus on efficient energy use. New are requirements for "New purchase of energy-intensive equipment", "Routines for daily energy saving", "Energy and CO2-reducing measures", and "Training in efficient use of energy-intensive equipment".

Water

New water requirements have been developed for restaurants and day conferences. The relevance, potential and steerability is lower than for a hotel, and requirement regarding measurements, is removed. New are requirements for "New purchase of water-intensive equipment" and "Training in efficient use of water"

Waste

The requirements contain a new and comprehensive requirement for food waste, which involves measurement, analysis, information to guests, training of employees and annual follow-up. The requirements for disposable items have been tightened considerably.

Sustainable food and drink

New requirements have been introduced regarding palm oil and GMOs, and the requirements for organic food and drink, and vegetarian food have been changed and tightened. Locally produced food is rewarded more than before. Table service of bottled water tapped at brewery is prohibited. The requirements for food and drink include point requirements to motivate improvements.

Chemicals

The requirements have been changed and tightened. 100% of the products for general cleaning, dish washing and laundring must be eco-labeled. We set requirements for classification and ingredients for the other chemicals that are used in smaller quantities.

Purchasing

Requirements for the purchase of eco-labelled products and services have been changed, tightened, and simplified. 100% of tissue paper and copy paper must be eco-labelled. 100% of all printed matter must be from an eco-labelled printing company. The business is rewarded with points for purchasing other eco-labelled products and services.

Consultation proposal

The project group has worked well with the conclusions from the evaluation, and the targets for the audit work have been reached, with the exception of the goal of developing requirements that could apply globally. The requirement, which includes a limit value for organic food and drink, contains national limit values for the Nordic countries.

The criteria are well adapted to the industry, with focus on sustainable food and food waste. The documentation burden for the applier has been eased, the requirements are easy to communicate. We have a great focus on the UN's sustainability goals, and we have developed a good solution for companies in chains.

Consultation

The consultation period was between 9 September and 8 November 2020. We totally received 56 consultation responses from the entire hotel, restaurant, and conference industry. Several of our most important licensees have provided good and constructive feedback.

The most important changes implemented after consultation are:

- Changes in the limit value for organic food and drink
- A new requirement regarding a ban of the use of plastic granules for dishwashing, have been added
- A new requirement regarding a ban of PVC in plastic film
- Some mandatory requirements have been reformulated from mandatory to point requirements, including "Energy and CO2-reduction measures" and "measures to reduce of food waste"
- The total number of points required, have been increased by 10% (from 30% to 40%)

A single company rejects the proposal, based on our requirement regarding a ban on "frying oil" that contains palm oil. The consultation body disagrees that we do not approve RSPO-certified frying oil. We have decided to keep the ban on frying oil based on our aim of trying to avoid the use of palm oil when we can. Frying oil is used in large quantities, and the availability of products without palm oil is more than adequate. We do accept RSPO in other requirements in other product groups, where this is the best solution.

Handling of input from national boards

The involvement of the national boards has been good.

Danish national board had input regarding sustainable food. The board focused on organic food and stated that the limit value was too low. The limit value has now been increased and the requirement for Danish companies is 30%. This is stricter than the other Nordic countries. They also focused on palm oil and animal feed that does not contain soy. We reward sustainable feed but have chosen to keep the requirement for palm oil due to the reasons mentioned above. The Danish national board was also concerned about companies that could not measure energy and water consumption. This has been solved by developing completely new requirements for energy and water, which do not require meters, but focus on efficient use.

The Finnish board has provided input regarding a climate study which showed that shrimp are bad from a climate point of view. We have changed the requirement "food with a low environmental impact" so that it also includes the climate impact of fish and shellfish. In addition, the Finnish board wanted a greater focus on food waste, something we now have developed comprehensive requirements for.

Iceland's board wants us to help licensees with marketing and make the Nordic Ecolabel more attractive to licensees' customers, especially travel agents / "brokers". We have updated our "unique selling points" as well as we have a strong focus on the UN's sustainability goals. The requirements have been developed with an aim to make it easy to communicate.

Relation to EU Ecolabel

EU Ecolabel does not have criteria for this product area.