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## The EU Eco-label

### The Hydraulic Oils series, BioSafe HO XE and BioSafe HO SE has been awarded the licence to use EU-Ecolabel.

Established 1992, the EU Eco-label "Flower" is a unique certification scheme aimed to help European consumers distinguish greener, more environmentally friendly, products and services.

Over the past ten years, the "Flower" has become a European-wide symbol for products, providing simple and accurate guidance to consumers.

All products bearing the "Flower" have been checked by independent bodies for complying with strict ecological and performance criteria.

There are currently twenty-three different product groups.

The EU Eco-label is administered by the European Eco-labelling Board (EUEB) and receives the support of the European Commission, all Member States of the European Union and the European Economic Area (EEA). The Eco-labelling Board includes representatives such as industry, environment protection groups and consumer organisations.

#### Lubricants

This is a new product group. It comprises hydraulic oils, greases, chainsaw oils, two stroke oils, concrete release agents and other total loss lubricants, for use by consumers and professional users.

The criteria were adopted by the Commission on 26 April 2005. They aim, in particular, at promoting lubricants that are of reduced harm to water and soil during use and lead to reduced CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

The adopted criteria documents can be found here:

Commission Decision of 26 April 2005 establishing and the related assessment and verification requirements for the award of the Community eco-label to lubricants, as published in the Official Journal of 5 May 2005.

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/ecolabel/product/pg\\_lubricants\\_en.htm#Commissiondec](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/ecolabel/product/pg_lubricants_en.htm#Commissiondec)

#### The European Union Eco labelling board (EUEB)

The EUEB is the new central body of the scheme. It will consist of the Competent Bodies and the members of the Consultation Forum (representatives of consumer and environment NGOs, trade unions, industry, SMEs and commerce).

In practical terms, all existing partners together with UEAPME, representing the European small and medium enterprises (SMEs), will get the chance to interact within one common body. The future roles of the EUEB and the Commission have to be seen as highly complementary.

The EUEB will in particular contribute to the setting and reviewing of eco-label criteria. The Commission has a role as a steward of the scheme, in operating the EUEB secretariat.

The summary below tries to give you a quick overview of the rules of the procedures of the EUEB. For more details please consult the full document or your EUEB member.

**Summary of EUEB procedures Roles:** Setting the product group criteria, consulted on working plan, promotion. **Composition:** Competent Bodies (CBs) and interest groups. The EUEB may adapt the given membership as appropriate.

**Chair:** Rotating (generally following the EU Presidency), two vice-chairs (previous and next chair). The possibility exists for the EUEB to adopt another system.

**Secretariat:** The European Commission. EUEB meetings are organised by the chair, vice-chairs and the secretariat.