

## Criteria for allergy-friendly vacuum cleaners

### BACKGROUND

It's impossible to keep allergens outside at all times. Pollen, mould spores and bacteria can make their way indoors despite preventive measures such as only airing out rooms early in the morning.

Special vacuum cleaners can remove some allergens from floors, surfaces and the indoor air, resulting in significantly reduced symptoms in people with hay fever or allergic asthma. The European Centre for Allergy Research Foundation (ECARF) certifies allergy-friendly vacuum cleaners that achieve a measurable reduction in the indoor allergen load and securely trap the vacuumed allergens.

The Seal is granted if compliance with the following criteria is demonstrated. The criteria are based on the principle that a lower allergen exposure generally results in better outcomes.

### 1. CRITERIA

#### 1.1. Necessary Product Features and Measurements

- **Dust emission** of the vacuum cleaner according to DIN EN 60312 with mineral dust type 1
- **Threshold value**  
Dust emission < 0.02 % for particle sizes:  
0.3 µm, 0.5 µm, 0.7 µm, 1 µm, 1.5 µm, 2 µm, 2.5 µm, 3 µm, 3.5 µm, 4 µm, 5 µm, 6 µm, 7 µm, 8 µm, 9 µm, 10 µm
- **User manual provides instructions for operation and filter change.**  
Warning that the inside of the appliance may become contaminated if the instructions in the user manual are not followed.
- **Optional: Wipe function:** An additional wipe function is helpful for hard floors because no dust is stirred up during the simultaneous vacuuming and wiping, but is bound by moisture.
- **For bagless vacuum cleaners,** the following applies according to the operating instructions: Enclose the opening of the container with a dust-tight plastic bag when emptying. Carefully remove the dust container, close the plastic bag tightly and then dispose of it, ideally outdoors, so as not to inhale any dust.

## 2. QUALITY CONTROL AND COMPLAINT MANAGEMENT

**The manufacturer has established a functional system of quality control that responds effectively to consumer complaints.** The system ensures the following:

- The manufacturer's contact details, such as the address, telephone number and/or email address, are clearly visible on the product packaging;
- Consumer complaints are handled and followed up in an appropriate manner by qualified and experienced personnel of the manufacturer;
- The assessment of consumer complaints and, if applicable, any inferred areas of improvement are reapplied to product quality and safety. The manufacturer agrees to make this data available to ECARF on an ongoing basis.