

Environmental Requirements Conferences in the Nordics

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Approved by Procurement & Premises

Environmental Requirements for Service – Conferences in Denmark, Sweden, Norway and Finland

Conferences are defined as gatherings at an external location for more than 10 people. For each product or service category, a number of absolute requirements and a number of recommended requirements have been set up

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The absolute requirements are mandatory and are part of the contract terms and conditions. The supplier must be able to provide documentation to demonstrate compliance to these requirements upon request. These requirements apply to contracted suppliers as well as any sub-contractors. Danske Bank may conduct reviews on suppliers to ensure requirements are continuously met

Some of the absolute requirements are statutory EU requirements; however, they are specified in this requirement as they are areas where issues with compliance are often identified. Note that certifications (EU Ecolabel, Nordic Swan Ecolabel) are continuously updated and made more ambitious, therefore it is important to ensure the products are continuously aligned with the latest version of the certificate standards

Meeting the recommended requirements shall have a positive weighting when comparing competing products. The more numbers of approved labels within the industry – The higher sustainability rating

Category – Overall (applies to the whole venue/event)

Absolute requirements

At least one of the following standards are achieved

- The conference venue is labeled with private/industry labels (such as the Green Key, Green Globe or Norwegian ECO Lighthouse). Alternatively the conference venue is labeled with an official Ecolabel (such as the EU Ecolabel or the Nordic Swan Ecolabel) or other national or regional ISO Type I eco-labels (ISO 14024)

- The conference venue has implemented management systems as EMAS or ISO 14001 environmental management systems

Recommended requirements

- Initiatives to promote sustainability. Such as, but not limited to, the following examples
 - Local biodiversity (pollinators, habitat creation, water retention habitats)
 - Limit climate impact – Food production on site, consideration of what food is being offered and how it is transported
 - Location of the event, e.g., easy access by public transportation
 - Circularity (limit waste generation on site)
 - Renewable energy generation (solar panels, bioplant)
 - Energy retention (bioroof)

Category - Energy

Absolute requirements

- Energy consumption must be measured and reported, energy sources have to be indicated and there must be implemented measures to decrease the overall energy consumption at the facility
- At least 50% of the electricity used for all purposes shall come from renewable energy sources¹; either directly sourced by the energy supplier or through the redemption of renewable electricity certificates
- No fossil fuels are used for heating or cooling the establishment (also applies to the production of hot water and cooking)
- To have a heat recovery system for one or two of the following categories - Refrigeration systems, ventilators, washing machines, dishwashers, swimming pool(s), sanitary wastewater
- Automatic system that turns off the air conditioning and heating of rooms when windows are open

Recommended requirements

- All electricity used for all purposes shall come from renewable energy sources¹; either directly sourced by the energy supplier or through the redemption of renewable electricity certificates
- Energy is sourced from eco-labelled electricity. E.g., EKOenergy, Green-e and Bra Miljöval
- Facilities are LEED certified (or certified with an alternative sustainability certification towards buildings, e.g., BREEAM)
- Charging stations for electric vehicles

¹ Defined in Directive (EU) 2018/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council, renewable energy sources includes wind, solar, geothermal, ambient energy, wave and ocean energy, hydro power, biomass, landfill gas, sewage treatment plant gas and biogas (art. 21).

Category – Water

Absolute requirements

- Water consumption must be measured and reported and there must be implemented measures to monitor and decrease the overall consumption
- Tap water must be the first choice for guests instead of bottled water

Recommended requirements

- Rainwater collected and used for irrigation, non-sanitary and non-drinking purposes

Category – Waste

Absolute requirements

- Conference venue must sort their waste
- Waste must be measured and reported per waste category (food, paper, glass, metal, plastic, incineration and landfill or other relevant fractions for that municipality) and there must be implemented measures to decrease the overall waste production, e.g., through minimal use of single-use products
- Conference venue has implemented initiatives to reduce the amount of food waste
- Guests must be given the ability to sort their waste

Category – Food offerings

Absolute requirements

- The species that are vulnerable, endangered or critically endangered on the IUCN's Red List of Threatened Species or the CITES (convention on International Trade in Endangered Species) may not be served
- Minimum 50% proportion of organic (as laid down in Regulation (EC) No 834/2007) foodstuffs and beverages (not fish and shellfish) must be served on a daily basis. To count, the organic foodstuffs and beverages must constitute a significant part of the dish, e.g., potatoes, meat, fish, egg, dairy products or vegetables
- Certain requirements are dependent on food category, as follows
 - Fish and shellfish - Must be MSC or ASC certified (dependent on source). Other certifications may be GGN label or BAP. Fish species with a red rating on local fish or seafood guides must be avoided
 - Beer and wine - Must be labeled as organically produced
 - Coffee and tea - Must be organic by a third-party certification, e.g., EU ecolabel or KRAV
- Vegetarian and/or vegan food must be one of the standard alternatives of the menu

Recommended requirements

- Locally grown and seasonal food offerings should be prioritized
- Coffee and tea - Must be certified by **Rainforest Alliance and/or Fairtrade**

Category – Chemicals

Absolute requirements

- Chemical herbicides or pesticides must not be used on conference venue
- All hand dishwashing detergents, detergents for dishwashers, laundry detergent, all purpose cleaners, sanitary detergents, soaps and shampoos is labeled with an official Ecolabel (as the EU Ecolabel or the Nordic Swan Ecolabel) or other national or regional ISO Type I eco-labels (ISO 14024)