

# DEUTSCHE GÜTEGEMEINSCHAFT MÖBEL E.V.



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JW / Ra

**Confirmation  
of the requirements for harmful substances for furniture  
according to the Quality and Test Requirements RAL-GZ 430  
while respecting the LEED requirements (Leadership in Energy  
and Environmental Design) and Greenguard in the US**

The Walter Knoll business concern is a member of the German quality assurance association and has its furniture tested by neutral testing institutes with regards to harmful substances and performance characteristics on a regular basis.

The furniture requirements are laid down in the RAL-GZ 430. These requirements and their corresponding test methods have been set to ensure the respective reproducibility and to obtain distinct results. The defined limit values are periodically adapted - regarding toxicology and the advancement of measuring techniques - in close collaboration with the Federal Environment Agency. They are practice oriented and rest upon sophisticated analytical techniques. The requirements for harmful substances concerning the maximum permissible emission of formaldehyde and volatile organic compounds (VOC) comply widely with the requirements established by the German "Blue Angel" for furniture (RAL-UZ 38 and RAL-UZ 117). These requirements are similar to those of the US Greenguard. In addition, the German quality association claims smell tests.

Furniture that is marked by the quality label is expected to display a product adequate and professional manufacturing of appropriate materials and components. The function and usage quality will be assessed according to the respective level of technical advancement in terms of a solid quality level. Furniture that is marked with the quality label is examined as to usage suitability and security.

The objective is to provide the consumer with furniture that is solid, secure and low in harmful substances. Apart from health considerations, the German quality association focuses on energy saving, indulgent use of accessible resources as well as the use of recyclable material.

Jochen Winning  
Chief Executive Officer (CEO)