



Article 1 Definitions

Applicant	The ship owner or manager who requests an inspection with the aim of obtaining a Green Award Inland Shipping Certificate
Application form	The form with which the applicant requests a ship inspection. When the application form has been signed by the applicant, the applicant is bound to meet the requirements of the Green Award Regulations and the Requirements Green Award Inland Shipping in order to be able to obtain the Green Award Certificate
CvB	Board of Appeal
CvD	Board of Experts
Green Award Bureau	The Green Award Foundation's executive body (hereinafter also Bureau)
Certificate	Document which indicates that the ship satisfies the requirements of the Green Award Inland Shipping Regulations and the Green Award Inland Shipping Terms of Reference (hereinafter also GA Certificate)
Certificate holder	Owner or manager of the ship which has obtained the GA Certificate
Board	The Board of the Green Award Foundation
Foundation	The Green Award Foundation
GA	Green Award
Green Award logo	The logo which the GA certificate holder may use. The logo may only be used in combination with the ship to which a GA Certificate applies, or for general purposes, where Green Award's prior consent has been obtained
Requirements Green Award Inland Shipping	The terms of reference referred to in Appendix 3, containing the criteria on the basis of which ships may be considered for a certificate
Initial Review	A first assessment of the application, carried out by the Green Award Bureau, based on documents and certificates. Information may also be obtained from third parties, in particular government agencies
Environmental incident	An event which has a negative effect on the environment and is contrary to legislation or agreements
Ship owner	The person or organisation which has the right of ownership of a ship
Inspection	Examination of whether a ship satisfies the Requirements Green Award Inland Shipping Terms of Reference. The inspection takes place on board



Article 2 General

2.1

These regulations are referred to hereafter as the 'Green Award Inland Shipping Regulations.

2.2

The Green Award Inland Shipping Regulations, the application form and the Requirements Green Award Inland Shipping are part of the Green Award Regulations which in turn are part of the Green Award certification system.

2.3

The Requirements Green Award Inland Shipping form the basis for the awarding of the GA Certificate. The certification criteria are determined by the Board of the Foundation, once the Board of Experts has provided a recommendation.

2.4

The requirements on the basis of which a GA Certificate is awarded remain in force for the period in which the certificate remains valid.

Article 3 The Bureau

3.1

The Green Award Bureau is the Green Award Foundation's executive body.

3.2

The Bureau will issue a certificate to the ship owner/manager once it has been established, on the basis of the inspection and the checklist filled out in relation thereto, that the requirements set have been satisfied.

3.3

The Bureau is responsible for the planning and execution of the On-Board inspection.

3.4

The Bureau retains all information concerning certified ships and ships for which an application for certification has been made.

3.5

The Bureau will publish a complete list of certificate holders and certified ships in its annual report each year.

3.6

The Bureau is responsible for providing information to third parties. This concerns information related to Green Award, such as the composition of the Board, the Board of Experts, the Board of Appeal and a list of certificate holders. Certificate holders are the owners or managers of ships for which valid certificates have been issued. This list includes ship names and their owners/managers, dates of certification, certification numbers and percentage scores.

3.7

The Bureau will provide the applying party with the following information:

- Application form
- Regulations
- Requirements Green Award Inland Shipping



3.8

The Bureau will inform the applying party as quickly as possible in relation to the status of the application.

Article 4 The Board of Experts

4.1

The Board of Experts is appointed by the Green Award Foundation's Board.

4.2

The Board of Experts advises the Board of the Foundation both on request and on its own initiative concerning the following:

- The Green Award Regulations
- The form and content of the certification system
- Requirements Green Award Inland Shipping and the means of inspection on which the certification system is based
- The frequency with which inspections must be carried out
- Rules for the use of a certificate and/or logo
- All relevant rules and developments in relation to certification which must be included in the Green Award Requirements.

Article 5 Application procedure

5.1

The applicant will provide the Bureau with the following:

- A legally valid signed application form
- Copies of certificates as indicated on the application form

Alternatively, these will be made available for on-board inspection by the GA inspector

5.2

If the information and documentation is incomplete or unclear, the Bureau may request additional information.

5.3

The application for an inspection intended to lead to a GA Certificate must be signed by the applicant. With that signature, the applicant confirms he/she is familiar and in agreement with the Regulations, the Terms of Reference and the certificate costs.

5.4

The Bureau has the right to obtain information concerning the ship from a third party. The application cannot be taken up if the ship has been

- arrested by competent authorities, insofar as this is relevant to Green Award certification
- involved in environmental offences

5.5

The certification process consists of an initial review of the application and an inspection. Once the application has been received, the Bureau sends an invoice. The inspection on board the ship for which the application has been made is carried out once the invoice has been paid.

5.6

The initial review consists of an examination on the basis of the details provided in the application form and accompanying documents, to see if the ship satisfies the basic requirements. During the inspection, a check is made as to whether the ship and its crew meet the Green Award requirements.



5.7

If processing of the application is delayed, the applicant will be informed of this. If the delay is caused by the applicant, for example because information is not provided in a timely manner, or in full and/or accurately, the Bureau retains the right to terminate the application procedure. No reimbursement or remission of certificate costs is made.

5.8

The inspection on board only takes place once the initial review has been successfully completed.

5.9

The applicant can withdraw the application at any time during the inspection. Payment for the inspection cannot be reimbursed.

Article 6 Obligations of the applicant

6.1

The applicant is not permitted to associate or identify himself/herself with the Green Award logo or to have himself/herself associated or identified therewith, or to use it, before a Green Award certificate has been awarded. Acting contrary to this provision will result in the immediate termination of the certification process without reimbursement of any application costs paid, and potentially in further legal action.

6.2

In case of an application to renew the certificate, the ship owner or manager will provide the Bureau with complete and accurate information concerning the ship and its function. The information and documents must be made available in a timely manner, and must be sufficient to facilitate implementation of the inspection to be carried out to establish whether the ship satisfies the Requirements Green Award Inland Shipping.

6.3

All information referred to in Article 6.2 that is provided by the applicant remains in the possession of the Bureau for a period equal to at least that of the certificate's validity.

6.4

The applicant will cooperate with the inspection in every way necessary and will provide employees of the Bureau (or persons carrying out the inspection on the Bureau's behalf) with access to the ship to be inspected. All information pertaining to the application or supplementary information requested later by the Bureau, will be sent by the applicant within six weeks of the application.

6.5

If a ship certified by Green Award is involved in an environmental incident, the certificate holder is obliged to report this to the Green Award Bureau immediately (once the first response to the incident has been completed). Moreover, the certificate holder is obliged to inform the Bureau of any corrective measures taken or to be taken as soon as any investigation has been completed. All information received by the Bureau in relation to the incident will remain strictly confidential.

Article 7 The inspection

7.1

The initial review commences within 14 days of receipt of the payment, unless otherwise agreed.

7.2

The initial review is to be completed within no more than 2 weeks, provided that all necessary documents are available.



7.3

In case the necessary documents are not available, the applicant will be informed thereof within 2 weeks of receiving the application form.

7.4

The inspection takes place in consultation with the applicant and, where possible, during normal operations. The applicant is obliged to provide the necessary cooperation during an inspection.

7.5

If the inspection so requires, the Bureau will draw up an interim report for the applicant. If the conclusion of the report is that the certification process is not expected to be brought to a positive conclusion, the procedure may be terminated by mutual consent. In such a case, there will be no reimbursement of certification costs.

7.6

The Bureau will send the results of the inspection to the applicant within two weeks of the inspection.

7.7

The applicant may submit objections pursuant to the results of the inspection. Such must be done in writing, within 14 days of receipt of the results of the inspection.

7.8

The Bureau will evaluate the objections and respond within 14 days of their receipt.

Article 8 The outcome of the inspection

8.1

The Bureau assesses the results of the inspection of the ship on the basis of the Requirements Green Award Inland Shipping.

8.2

On the basis of the results of the inspection, the Bureau decides whether the ship receives the GA Certificate.

8.3

If a ship is refused or the application process is terminated by mutual consent, the Bureau will not accept any new applications for the same ship unless the applicant has demonstrated that adequate measures have been taken to improve the aspects in respect of which the previous application was rejected or if the causes of the premature termination no longer exist.

Article 9 Certificates

9.1

The GA Certificate will be awarded as proof that the ship satisfies the Requirements Green Award Inland Shipping.

9.2

The GA Certificate will be valid for a period of 3 years, subject to the provisions of Articles 10.1, 11.3, 14.4 and 14.6. The period of validity of the certificate begins on the date on which the inspection takes place.

9.3

The GA Certificate does not replace any certificate or document whatsoever which is required by national or international rules or conventions.



Article 10 Extension of the certificate – after three years

10.1

No less than three months before expiry of the GA Certificate, the Bureau will remind the certificate holder of the fact that the end of the certificate's period of applicability is approaching. The certificate holder is invited to request an inspection in order to renew the certificate.

10.2

Within three months of the expiry of a GA Certificate, at the certificate holder's request, the Bureau will carry out an inspection of the ship. The new certificate replaces the old certificate.

11.2

Once the procedure concerning the renewal of the certificate has begun, the Bureau may extend the validity period of the previous certificate by a maximum of three months.

Article 11 Corrective measures and sanctions

11.1

Should shortcomings arise and the certificate holder no longer be able to satisfy the rules and requirements of Green Award, depending on the seriousness of the shortcomings, the Bureau may take the following measures

- Provide a written warning
- Arrange an additional visit, of which the costs – including any travel and accommodation expenses necessary – will be charged to the certificate holder
- Suspend the right to use the certificate and the logo for a specific period
- Give the certificate holder a specific period in which to take corrective measures

11.2

The Bureau has the right to verify whether adequate corrective measures have been taken. This is done at the certificate holder's expense, including any travel and accommodation expenses incurred.

11.3

If the certificate holder fails to take adequate corrective measures within the stated time, the Bureau will withdraw the certificate.

11.4

Once the Bureau has provided formal notification that the certificate is being withdrawn, the certificate holder is obliged to return the certificate and the flag to the Bureau within 10 working days. In addition, the certificate holder is not permitted to make reference to the certificate or to use the logo.

11.5

If the certificate holder fails to observe Article 11.4, the Bureau retains the right to take legal action due to breach of contract and any damage arising therefrom.



Article 12 Costs

12.1

The costs of certification are published on the Green Award website. The costs include the initial review, the inspection on board and the right to use the logo once the certificate has been awarded.

12.2

The costs for the extension of a certificate are the same as the costs of a new certificate.

12.3

The certification costs include the travel and accommodation expenses for one inspection in the Netherlands. If an inspection has to take place abroad, Green Award will reach agreement with the applicant in advance, concerning the division of the costs. If an additional inspection has to be made as a consequence of shortcomings on the part of the certificate holder and/or ship, any travel and accommodation expenses are charged to the applicant. In case of additional inspection, Green Award also has the right to charge hours on at the rate stated on Green Award's website.

Article 13 Payment terms

13.1

The costs of the certificate must be paid in advance. The applicant/certificate holder receives an invoice for these from Green Award.

13.2

Invoices for travel and accommodation expenses in case of additional inspections must be paid within 30 days.

13.3

If a certificate is no longer valid or is withdrawn, the Bureau does not provide any refunds.

Article 14 Withdrawal of the certificate

14.1

The certificate holder is responsible for the maintenance and management of the ship such that the minimum requirements as stated in the Green Award Inland Shipping Terms of Reference are satisfied throughout a certificate's period of validity. The Bureau is permitted to check whether the certificate holder is satisfying such requirements.

14.2

The certificate holder is obliged to report any deviations from the points reported in the inspection results to the Bureau.

14.3

Any changes in relation to the management and/or ownership of the ship must be reported immediately to the Bureau.

14.4

A certificate may be withdrawn by the Bureau with immediate or retroactive effect without judicial intervention, if

- The Bureau obtains information concerning facts which, had they been known during the inspection, would have resulted in a certificate not having been awarded
- The certificate holder fails to satisfy the obligations stated in these Regulations within 14 days of receipt of a registered letter in which the nature of the issue is stated



- The certificate holder fails to meet his/her payment obligations
- There is documentary evidence that the ship has illegally discharged waste
- It is demonstrated that the ship has unintentionally discharged and that, at that time, the ship failed to satisfy the Requirements Green Award Inland Shipping.
- The ship proves to have been involved in an emergency

14.5

The Bureau will inform the certificate holder in writing concerning the withdrawal of the certificate and the reasons therefor in respect of Article 14.4.

14.6

The GA Certificate will become invalid immediately and without legal notice if

- A name change or change in manager/owner is not reported to the Bureau
- The certificate holder is declared insolvent
- The ship is scrapped or is no longer in use for another reason
- The ship does not have a valid Inland Navigation Certificate
- The certificate holder ends the certification
- The certificate holder fails to meet his/her payment obligations

Article 15 Confidentiality

15.1

Unless required otherwise by law, the Bureau is obliged to maintain secrecy concerning all information related to the certification process. This does not apply to information concerning certificate holders, the certified ships, the date of certification, certification numbers and the percentage score. Information concerning scores per requirement may be provided to incentive providers in the certificate holder's interest.

15.2

The Bureau is obliged to take all measures necessary to ensure that the Foundation and its employees maintain confidentiality concerning all information with which they have become acquainted during the certification process.

15.3

Each Green Award inspector signs a confidentiality statement on his/her appointment.

Article 16 Publicity

16.1

The certificate holder is authorised to use the Green Award logo during the period of validity of the Green Award certificate.

16.2

Following a written warning from the Bureau, the certificate holder is obliged to withdraw or rectify any misleading or potentially misleading information in respect of the GA Certificate or the Bureau which may have a negative effect on the Green Award Foundation.

16.3

For the duration of the period of validity of the GA Certificate, the Bureau grants the certificate holder the right to publish the certificate and the inspection report drawn up by the Bureau.



Article 17 Complaints concerning failure to satisfy GA requirements

17.1

If a third party has submitted a complaint to the Bureau in writing concerning the failure of a certified ship to satisfy any of the points referred to in the Requirements Green Award Inland Shipping, the Bureau will inform the certificate holder in respect of its receipt of the complaint. An investigation will be carried out by or on behalf of the Bureau.

17.2

If a written complaint is submitted to the certificate holder, the certificate holder will inform the Bureau hereof. The certificate holder is obliged to carry out a proper investigation or to refute the complaint.

17.3

The investigation must take place within a reasonable period and both the Bureau and the party which has submitted the complaint must be informed of the results of the investigation. If the complaint is found to be fully or partially justified, Articles 14.4, 14.6. or 11 apply.

17.4

If the complaint submitted to the Bureau is unjustified, the costs of the investigation are charged to the party which has submitted the complaint. The Bureau may reasonably waive these costs fully or partially. If the complaint is proven justified, the costs of the investigation are charged to the certificate holder.

17.5

Both the Bureau and the certificate holder are obliged to register complaints. The handling of the complaints must also be registered. When the complaint is justified, the certificate holder must take the necessary measures to avoid repetition.

17.6

If the abovementioned investigations indicate that the complaint can be ascribed to the erroneous certification of the ship or to certification on the basis of an assessment based on insufficient requirements, the Bureau will immediately take corrective measures.

Article 18 Applicable law

18.1

The law of the Netherlands applies to every dispute between the applicant/certificate holder and the Bureau.

18.2

The Court of Rotterdam is the competent authority.

Article 19 Objections

19.1

The applicant or certificate holder may raise an objection against a decision of the Bureau within 30 days of his/her having been informed of this decision. The Board of Appeal handles the objection.



Article 20 Liability

20.1

Neither the Green Award Foundation nor the Bureau nor those who are contracted by the Foundation or the Bureau may be held liable for any damage related to the certification process or the termination of the GA Certificate's validity.

20.2

The certificate holder will indemnify Green Award Foundation, the Bureau and those contracted by the Foundation or the Bureau from demands for compensation related to the certification process or to the awarding or withdrawal of a GA certificate.



The following appendices are part of the Regulations

Appendix 1 Ship types

Green Award Inland Shipping applies to ships used for the transportation of goods or persons. The types are specified in the appendix.

Appendix 2 Application form

The Green Award Inland Shipping Application Form is part of the Green Award Inland Shipping Regulations and may be found on the Green Award website, www.greenaward.org. The certification process begins with the submission of the signed application form.

Appendix 3 Requirements Green Award Inland Shipping

The Requirements Green Award Inland Shipping indicate the requirements which must be met in order to be eligible for a Green Award Certificate and may be downloaded via www.greenaward.org.

Appendix 4 Green Award Inland Shipping Rates

The rates are set annually by the Board and published at <http://www.greenaward.org>. The rate for application to extend the certificate is the same as the rate for the application for a first certificate and is in accordance with the rates applicable at the time of extension.

Appendix 5 Regulations of the Board of Experts

The primary activity of the Board of Experts is to provide advice concerning the Terms of Reference. These regulations describe the role of the Board of Experts.

Appendix 6 Regulations of the Board of Appeal

The Board of Appeal is called upon when there is a difference of opinion between the Green Award Bureau and any certificate holder or potential certificate holder. The procedure is described in the Board of Appeal's Regulations.