



**Association for the Control of Emissions in
Products for Flooring Installation, Adhesives and Building Materials (GEV)**

Trademark Rules and Licensing Procedure

Updated version of 02.06.2025

§ 1 Name and registered office

- (1) The association – hereinafter referred to as "GEV" for short – is named "Gemeinschaft Emissionskontrollierte Verlegewerkstoffe, Klebstoffe und Bauprodukte e.V." (Association for the Control of Emissions in Products for Flooring Installation, Adhesives and Building Materials).
- (2) The GEV has its head office in Düsseldorf and is a registered association.
- (3) The postal address of the GEV is Völklinger Str. 4, 40219 Düsseldorf, Germany.

§ 2 Purpose of the association

- (1) As a non-profit association, the GEV safeguards and promotes the general economic and non-material interests of all manufacturers of chemical flooring installation products, building materials and adhesives in the areas of occupational safety, environmental protection and consumer protection.
- (2) To achieve its objectives, the GEV implements appropriate measures for the classification, labeling and control of chemical flooring installation products, building materials and adhesives with respect to their emission behavior.
- (3) On application, the GEV issues licenses that allow manufacturers the use of a trademark-protected label, hereinafter referred to as "license mark". These license marks are registered by the GEV as certification marks.
- (4) Being a non-profit organization, the GEV does not primarily pursue economic goals. In particular, it does not engage in any commercial activities involving the supply of goods or services for which a warranty exists as a certification mark under trademark law.

§ 3 Membership

- (1) Full membership of the GEV is restricted to the manufacturers of flooring installation products, building materials and adhesives. Only full members are entitled to use the license marks. This does not affect the validity of § 10 of these Trademark Rules.
- (2) Supporting membership is possible for producers of raw materials that are used for the manufacture of flooring installation products, building materials and adhesives as well as for institutes and associations active in this area.
- (3) Applications for membership must be addressed in writing to the Managing Director's Office. The GEV Board decides on the acceptance of applications for membership. In the event of rejection, an appeal can be submitted to the General Assembly of the GEV, which then takes the final decision.

§ 4 License marks

- (1) The license marks carry the name EMICODE® either on its own or in combination with the acronyms EC 2, EC 1 or EC 1^{PLUS}, or they carry the acronyms EC 2, EC 1 or EC 1^{PLUS} on their own. The marks are protected under trademark law as certification marks. Their reproduction is shown in **Appendix A**. In a continuous text of a general nature, the marks can be freely designed. On packaging labels and in product information sheets, they must be used as shown in **Appendix A** to these Trademark Rules. Further details on the requirements for granting the license are summarized in **Appendix B**.
- (2) When making changes to the formulation of a licensed product that result in a different emission class, the license will expire automatically. If the modified product is to be re-labeled, a new license must first be applied for and granted.
- (3) Translations of emission descriptions (e.g. "very low emission") into other languages are permitted and, for the sake of a uniform presentation, predefined by the Managing Director and the Chairperson of the Technical Council, unless already laid down in the Appendix.
- (4) The goods and services that are covered by the certification mark have been listed in **Appendix C**.
- (5) The certification marks pursuant to § 4 (1) of the Trademark Rules guarantee that all goods and services under § 4 (4) of the Rules – in conjunction with Appendix C – comply with the GEV classification criteria for volatile organic substances and semi-volatile organic substances. The characteristics of the goods and services that are to be confirmed by the certification mark (e.g. material, type of manufacture of the goods, provision of the services, quality or accuracy) are listed in detail in **Appendix B, Appendix D, Appendix E, Appendix F and Appendix G**.
- (6) The testing and monitoring of all goods and services according to § 4 (4) of the Trademark Rules (in conjunction with Appendix C) is carried out in keeping with the specifications of the GEV. More detailed descriptions can be found in §§ 6, 7, and 8 of these Rules as well as in **Appendices B, D, E, F, and G**. Both the initial testing according to § 7 (2) of the Rules and the monitoring are carried out by external neutral testing laboratories that are proficient in the GEV test methods and accredited according to ISO 17025. The accreditation also needs to include the GEV test methods or testing in accordance with EN 16516. A list of external neutral testing laboratories can be found at www.emicode.com/en/laboratories. To monitor compliance with the GEV classification criteria, random spot checks are carried out annually on goods and services bearing the certification marks.

§ 5 Representation of the GEV

- (1) The Board conducts the business of the GEV. The Chairperson and the Vice Chairperson constitute the Board as defined by § 26 BGB (German Civil Code). Each of these Board members has sole power of representation.
- (2) The Board appoints and dismisses one or more Managing Directors. When appointing more than one Managing Director, the Board can appoint a Chief Managing Director. The Managing Directors are obliged to follow the directions of the Board and to implement the resolutions of the General Assembly.
- (3) The Managing Directors are representatives as defined by § 30 BGB (German Civil Code) within the scope of the tasks assigned to them through the GEV's Articles of Association.

§ 6 General rights and duties

- (1) The members of the GEV commit themselves to promoting the objectives of the Association and to support the GEV in the fulfillment of its legal and statutory tasks.
- (2) Membership of the GEV entitles the holders to use the name "GEV" in their corporate presentation.
- (3) If it is possible to obtain the EMICODE® labeling (license mark) for their products, members are strongly advised to use it for the description of product emissions.
- (4) Members must observe the classification rules laid down by the Technical Council in accordance with § 10 (3) of the Association Articles. When presenting or describing EMICODE-licensed products, the assigned emission class must be indicated.
- (5) Brands or product lines that bear the EMICODE® label (license mark) or are advertised with the name EMICODE® are not allowed to carry any other eco label. Any exemptions require the approval of the Board.

To this end, a list of exemption decisions made by the Board is available at the Managing Director's Office.
- (6) The use of individual emission descriptions (e.g. corporate eco logos) and negative ecological declarations (e.g. "free of high boiling point solvents", "formaldehyde-free", "plasticizer-free" or "does not contain ...") is not permitted. The use of "solvent-free", however, is permitted. Any other exceptions require the approval of the Board.
- (7) Unless otherwise prescribed by law, full members of the GEV are not allowed to pass on test certificates or test results from emission tests for advertising purposes or sales promotion.

§ 7 Special rights and duties of authorized users

- (1) The license entitles full members to use the GEV's license marks, in particular the GEV trademark **"EMICODE®"** and the acronym **"EC"** in combination with the assigned emission class. These marks can be used either on their own or in combination when describing or presenting a product.
- (2) The classification of products into one of the EMICODE® emission classes is done by the full members on their own responsibility. It is based on the GEV's classification criteria and test methods defined by the Technical Council in accordance with § 12.
- (3) The application for the license to label a product must be submitted to the Managing Director's Office using the provided form. The self-declared product classification stated in the license application must be substantiated, e.g. by means of a test certificate.
- (4) After a positive review of the member's license application, the Managing Director's Office formally confirms:
 - full membership in the GEV
 - classification of the registered product in the specified emission class.
- (5) Authorized users themselves are responsible for ensuring that their products comply with the licenses. Any liability on the part of the GEV, its bodies or authorized third parties is excluded.

- (6) Authorized users are obliged to
- use the license mark in such a way that the reputation of the GEV and its affiliated members is not jeopardized
 - refrain from using other marks that are so similar to the license mark that there is a risk of confusion.

§ 8 Obligations of the parties involved in the event of trademark infringements

- (1) The GEV will maintain and defend the license marks against infringements in any manner it deems appropriate.
- (2) To this end, the license users shall provide the GEV with adequate support and shall notify the Association of any violations of the trademark protection that come to their attention.

§ 9 Loss of the right to use the license and sanctions

- (1) The right to use the license mark granted to members is valid only for the duration of their GEV membership.
- (2) If membership is terminated by resolution of the Board, the member shall be heard in accordance with the Articles of Association.
- (3) Upon expiry of the right to use the license mark, any further use of the reproductions in the member's possession must be discontinued, without claim to reimbursement of any kind.
- (4) In the event of a violation of the terms of use pursuant to §§ 6, 7, and 8 of the Trademark Rules, the GEV is authorized to sanction the affected authorized users following a Board resolution, with arbitration deciding in cases of doubt. Violations shall be assessed by the Board according to their severity, duration and frequency and shall be punished by one or more of the following measures: A) warning; B) imposition of the costs of testing and any costs of further tests; C) suspension or termination of individual rights to use the trademark/license; D) expulsion from the GEV and termination of all rights to use the trademark/license. This also applies if the violation is detected by a third party and reported to the GEV.

§ 10 Transferability

The members' right to use the license mark may only be transferred to non-members on condition that compliance with the GEV's Articles of Association and Trademark Rules is assured. In this case, the GEV member must act on behalf of the non-member and submit the license application for each product.

§ 11 The Board

- (1) In compliance with the Articles of Association, the Board monitors compliance with all provisions and resolutions of the responsible GEV bodies.
- (2) The Board decides on exceptions in accordance with § 6 (5) and (6).
- (3) In the event of violations concerning the testing and classification of products into emission classes, the Board may decide to impose control tests on the member concerned for a period of two years. The tests will be carried out at the member's expense by an institute determined by the Board in order to verify the classification.

§12 The Technical Council

The Technical Council decides on all important technical issues. In particular, it is responsible for:

- defining criteria for the classification of products into emission classes
- determining suitable test methods
- specifying the form for license application and the form for granting the license in accordance with § 7 (3) and (4).

§ 13 General Assembly / Other matters

- (1) Unless otherwise specified, the General Assembly decides on all further matters.
- (2) Unless otherwise specified, the GEV's Articles of Association and the decision-making procedures laid down therein apply accordingly.

Done at Düsseldorf, 2 June 2025

Appendix A to the Trademark Rules

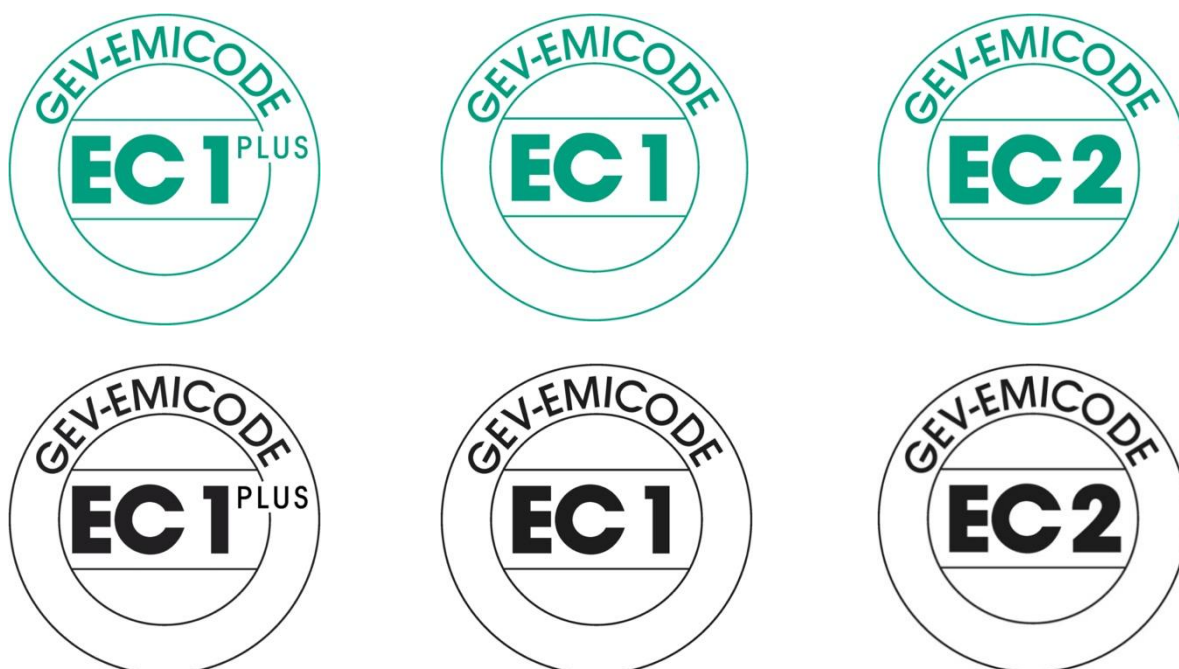
of the GEV (Association for the Control of Emissions in Products for Flooring Installation, Adhesives and Building Materials)

The GEV trademarks shall be displayed in accordance with § 4 (1) sentence 5, taking into account the provisions of § 4 (3), as shown below. Concerning the combined word/figurative marks, the additions "very low emission" or "low emission" are to be used in the lower part of the circle opposite the word component "GEV-EMICODE", using the respective language (see table with translation examples below).

Word marks

"EMICODE®", "EC 2®", "EC 1®", "EC 1^{PLUS}®"

Combined word / figurative marks



Basic design	Diameter 50 mm (= 100 %). All dimensions given below are based on a 100 % view.
Outer circle	Diameter 50 mm
Inner circle	Diameter 34 mm
Bottom line	Horizontal, 17 mm from the bottom edge of the outer circle
Upper line	Horizontal, 17 mm from the upper edge of the outer circle
Line thickness	0.3 mm
Font	Avant Garde
Font sizes	Circular text = 20 pts; inner label = 43 pts
Depiction	Size up to 50 mm; free choice of diameter Free choice of position, print color, rotation / angle

Example translation of the emission classes according to § 4 (3)

German	English	French	Italian
sehr emissionsarm	very low emission	à très faible émission	a bassissime emissioni
emissionsarm	low emission	à faible émission	a basse emissioni

Appendix B to the Trademark Rules

of the GEV (Association for the Control of Emissions in Products for Flooring Installation, Adhesives and Building Materials)

Requirements for granting the license marks in accordance with Appendix A

Before a product can be granted the GEV license mark, it needs to meet the criteria laid down by the GEV's Technical Council in the "Classification criteria". In the following, the term "EMICODE®" stands for all license marks and not just for the "EMICODE" license mark alone.

- Licensed products are manufactured without the addition of solvents. Exceptions are products for the surface treatment of parquet, mineral floors and resilient floor coverings, which may contain film-forming agents for technical reasons. If products in Germany can be assigned to a GISCODE product group, this must be specified.
- If required by local law, a safety data sheet must be prepared for all licensed products. It is recommended that the EMICODE® classification be indicated in the safety data sheet, e.g. "EMICODE® EC 1 – very low emission".
- Substances that have been included in the so-called "candidate list" under the European Chemicals Directive REACH (EC 1907/2006) in accordance with Art. 57 and Art. 59 (1) must not be actively used in EMICODE®-licensed products¹.
- Substances that have been proven under REACH to be carcinogenic, mutagenic or toxic to reproduction (CMR substances of categories 1A and 1B) must not be actively used¹. Emissions of all volatile organic carcinogenic substances of categories 1A and 1B must be below a limit value of 10 µg/m³ after 3 days and a limit value of 1 µg/m³ after 28 days.
- Licensed products that have been classified in categories 1, 2 or 3 under the European Hazardous Substances Regulation on account of acute toxic properties (CLP part 3, 3.1 Acute Toxicity) are excluded from the EMICODE® classification system.
- Methyl ethyl ketoxime (MEKO) and methyl isobutyl ketoxime (MIBKO) as well as acetone oxime must not be added or released during the curing process for reasons of occupational safety and odor nuisance.
- The required tests must be carried out in accordance with the predefined GEV test method. They must be performed by a laboratory that is proficient in the defined GEV test method and whose ISO 17025 accreditation covers tests in accordance with the GEV test method or EN 16516. The test results are documented by the manufacturers themselves according to in-house guidelines. A list of recommended laboratories can be found at <https://www.emicode.com/en/laboratories/>.
- Products with identical formulations but different product names require separate licenses, but only one emission test.
- When modifying the formulation of licensed products, a new emission test is only required if the modifications affect the level of emissions.
- Classification into one of the EMICODE® classes is based on the product group after all requirements from the tables below have been fulfilled. The applicable EMICODE® class must be used for product labeling.

¹ For details and exceptions please refer to the GEV's "Classification criteria".

Product group 1: Flooring installation products, adhesives and building materials

- **Liquid products**

Undercoats, primers, sealing primers or barrier primers, aqueous conductive coatings, reactive unfilled primers, ready-to-use low-viscous tackifiers and adhesives, anti-slip coatings for loose-lay floor coverings, roll-on tackifiers, spray adhesives, threadlocking adhesives, wood glues, dispersion-based additives for mineral tile mortars and leveling compounds, dispersion-based bonding courses (e.g. for bonded screeds), synthetic resin roll-on coatings (water-based), topcoats for floor coatings, textured paints for floor coatings, liquid sealants, liquid membranes, reactive surface sealants, binders for synthetic resin screeds, crack-sealing compounds, binders for granular flooring (e.g. quartz pebble flooring)

- **Powder products**

Cement- and calcium sulfate-based leveling compounds, repair fillers and mortars (max. grain size 3 mm), cementitious or other mineral tile adhesives (thin-bed, medium-bed and thick-bed mortars, max. grain size 4 mm), cementitious joint and masonry mortars, fast-setting cements, cement- and calcium sulfate-based screed mortars and screed binders, powder and liquid screed and concrete additives, powder adhesives (other than tile adhesives), cementitious waterproofing slurries and powder products for bonded waterproofing, powder bonding courses (e.g. for bonded screeds), filling and leveling primers

- **Paste-like products**

Flooring, parquet and ready-to-use tile adhesives, assembly adhesives and other paste-like adhesives, paste-like tackifiers for floor coverings, dispersion and reactive resin leveling compounds, dispersion and reactive resin sealants for use under tiles, dispersion-based or reactive resin-based grouts, self-leveling synthetic resin coatings for floors, synthetic resin roll-on coatings, topcoats for floor coatings, reactive filled primers, liquid plastics for indoor applications

- **Ready-to-use products that do not require chemical curing or physical drying**

Underlays (e.g. insulation underlays, underlays with an adhesive coating), adhesive tapes, floor installation boards, decoupling boards / insulation boards, sealing tapes and sealing collars for use on small surfaces (e.g. windows and facades, wet areas), waterproofing membranes for large surfaces (e.g. walls and floors in wet areas), vapor barriers for use under roofs, self-adhesive sealing strips for windows and doors

- **Sealing and insulation materials, sealing tapes**

Joint sealants based on dispersions or reactive resins, assembly foams and insulation foams, precompressed sealing tapes according to DIN 18542 and joint sealing tapes made of foam, chemical anchors

- **Products for wall application**

Mineral and gypsum-based base plasters for indoor application, mineral- and dispersion-based final renderings for indoor use, wall fillers and wall panels

$\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	EC 1 ^{PLUS}	EC 1	EC 2
TVOC after 3 days	≤ 750	≤ 1000	≤ 3000
TVOC after 28 days	≤ 60	≤ 100	≤ 300
TSVOC after 28 days	≤ 40	≤ 50	≤ 100
R-value based on German AgBB LCI-values after 28 days	≤ 1	≤ 1	-
Sum of non-assessable VOCs	≤ 40	-	-
Formaldehyde after 3 days	≤ 50	≤ 50	≤ 50
Formaldehyde after 28 days	≤ 10	≤ 10	≤ 10
Acetaldehyde after 3 days	≤ 50	≤ 50	≤ 50
Sum of formaldehyde and acetaldehyde after 3 days	$\leq 0.05 \text{ ppm}$	$\leq 0.05 \text{ ppm}$	$\leq 0.05 \text{ ppm}$
Sum of volatile CMR substances of categories 1A and 1B after 3 days	< 10	< 10	< 10
Any volatile CMR substance of category 1A or 1B after 28 days	< 1	< 1	< 1

Product group 2: Surface treatment products

- **Surface treatment products for parquet**

Water-based lacquers, primers and joint fillers for parquet, parquet oils, water-based UV lacquers for parquet, UV-curing lacquers for parquet (100 % solids content)

- **Water-based lacquers, impregnations and oils for mineral floors**

- **Water-based lacquers and primers for resilient floor coverings, water-based UV lacquers for resilient floor coverings, UV-curing lacquers for resilient flooring (100 % solids content)**

$\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	EC 1 ^{PLUS}	EC 1	EC 2
Sum of TVOC + TSVOC after 28 days	≤ 100 , with a maximum of 40 SVOCs	≤ 150 , with a maximum of 50 SVOCs	≤ 400 , with a maximum of 100 SVOCs
R-value based on German AgBB LCI-values after 28 days	≤ 1	≤ 1	-
Sum of non-assessable VOCs	≤ 40	-	-
Formaldehyde after 3 days	≤ 50	≤ 50	≤ 50
Formaldehyde after 28 days	≤ 10	≤ 10	≤ 10
Acetaldehyde after 3 days	≤ 50	≤ 50	≤ 50
Sum of formaldehyde and acetaldehyde after 3 days	≤ 0.05 ppm	≤ 0.05 ppm	≤ 0.05 ppm
Sum of volatile CMR substances of categories 1A and 1B after 3 days	< 10	< 10	< 10
Any volatile CMR substance of category 1A or 1B after 28 days	< 1	< 1	< 1

TVOC Total volatile organic compounds

TSVOC Total semi-volatile organic compounds

K1A-, K1B-VOC Volatile components of CMR substances categories 1A and 1B

Appendix C to the Trademark Rules

of the GEV (Association for the Control of Emissions in Products for Flooring Installation, Adhesives and Building Materials)

The GEV license marks are protected as certification marks for the goods and services listed below.

Class 1

Chemical products for industrial use; conductive adhesives; adhesives for industrial use; adhesives for floor coverings; adhesives for mortar; adhesives for cement structures; adhesives for construction purposes; adhesives for wall tiles; adhesives for the construction industry; adhesives for installing floor tiles; adhesives for wall coverings; adhesives for installing wall coverings; adhesives for fixing floor tiles; adhesives for laying floor tiles; adhesives for fixing tiles; adhesives for installing tiles; adhesives for use in the building industry; adhesives for fixing wall tiles; adhesives for bonding wall tiles; water-based adhesives for commercial purposes; industrial adhesives for use in construction; adhesives of synthetic origin for industrial purposes; chemical waterproofing agents for cement [excluding paints]; chemical additives for cement, mortar and concrete; waterproofing agents for masonry [excluding paints]; binders [chemical products for industrial use]; binders for mortar; bonding agents for cement and concrete; air-entraining agents as additives for mortar; binders for mixing with mortar; polymer dispersions; plastics in liquid form; putties, fillers and glues for industrial use; putties [leveling compounds]; coatings for repairing floor coverings [excluding paints and oils]; threadlocking fluids.

Class 2

(Liquid) coating materials/paints; oil-based coatings/paints; coatings/paints with dust-binding properties; coatings/paints with water-repellent properties for roofs, walls, and floors; non-stick coatings in the form of paints; waterproof paints; plastic coatings/paints in paste or liquid form for waterproofing wood and metal surfaces; concrete coatings for impregnation purposes, anti-corrosion agents, paints, dyes, varnishes, natural resins, lacquers, binding and thickening agents for paints and lacquers; leveling/filling compounds for use as coatings, also for smoothing painted surfaces; conductive paints; primers [lacquers and paints]; priming agents [paints, lacquers, and oils]; paints with elastic properties; paints for use as elastic facade coatings; priming paints; rust inhibitors; impregnating agents [paints] for wood, also for use as flame retardants; plastic coatings for construction purposes; liquid coatings [paints] based on cellulose, synthetic resin, or starch; binders for paints and putties; emulsion paints; floor sealants [varnishes and paints]; floor sealing finishes [varnishes and paints]; penetrating floor sealers [lacquers and paints]; lacquers and varnishes; floor sealants [paints]; floor coatings with sealing properties [paints and oils]; paint-like substances for filling cracks in plastic, wall and wood surfaces.

Class 17

Seals, sealants and fillers; sealing tapes; sealing compounds for sealing cracks; sealing films or membranes and semi-finished synthetic filter materials; joint sealants; fillers for joint sealing; mineral raw materials (insofar as included in class 17), namely substitutes for asbestos in raw or partially processed form, raw or partially processed mica, substitutes for mica in raw or partially processed form, mineral fibers, mineral wool, rock wool, glass fibers and glass wool; mineral raw materials (insofar as included in class 17) for insulation and building insulation, as insulating material, for insulating purposes, for soundproofing and for thermal insulation; joint sealants; joint grouting compounds; joint fillers/putties; thermal protection and insulation materials (insofar as included in class 17); non-metallic insulation boards and insulation underlays; panels and molded parts made of foamed plastic for covering and insulating walls and floors, ceilings and roofs of buildings; fabrics made of glass fibers and plastics for covering and insulating walls; adhesive tapes, strips and membranes; adhesive tapes for sealing pipe threads; adhesive tapes for filling joints; adhesive tapes for electrical insulation; self-adhesive tapes (except for medical purposes, household purposes, for paper or stationery).

Class 19

Building materials (non-metal); natural and artificial stone; screeds; floor screeds; mortars, construction adhesives, building protection agents (insofar as included in class 19); mortars [building material]; dry mortars; wall, ceiling and roof components made of non-metallic materials with a hard surface; joint mortars [building material]; screeds for use as a base; assembly foams for construction purposes; leveling compounds/fillers; mortars; mortar mixtures; mortars for construction; cementitious wall coatings; gypsum wall panels; plastic wall panels; acoustic wall panels made of wood.

Appendix D to the Trademark Rules of the GEV (Association for the Control of Emissions in Products for Flooring Installation, Adhesives and Building Materials)

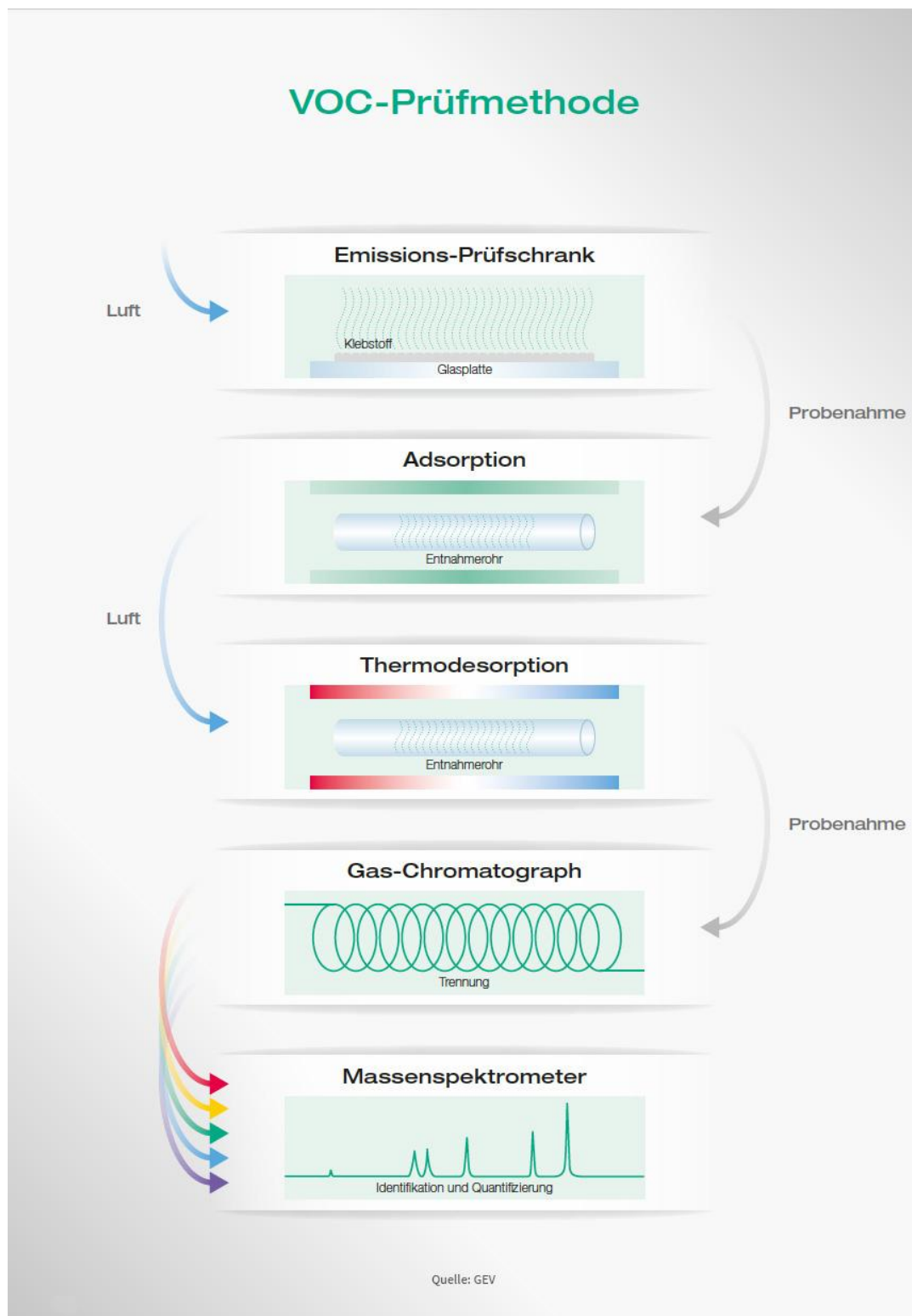
Characteristics of the goods or services to be confirmed by the certification mark, as well as the manner in which the certifying body is to verify these characteristics and monitor the use of the mark

With the help of highly sensitive laboratory analysis techniques such as gas chromatography and mass spectrometry, even the smallest traces of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in the air can now be identified and quantified using standardized procedures.

For this purpose, samples of the materials to be tested are placed into stainless steel test chambers with a minimum volume of 100 liters. In these test chambers, typical indoor climates are simulated. The chamber is continuously flushed with clean air. During this process, the chamber air is completely replaced every 2 hours. The test temperature is 23 °C, while relative humidity of the incoming air is 50 %. Measurements are first taken after 3 days and then after 28 days by sampling the exhaust air from the test chamber.

The test can be terminated when all classification values are met, but not before 10 days have elapsed. During the test, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), carcinogenic compounds as well as semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs) are measured. The test method is continuously optimized to reflect the state of the art. The result of a measurement using this test method forms the basis for every license application. Any subsequent control tests are exclusively carried out by means of this test method. Only laboratories accredited to ISO 17025 can be commissioned to perform the tests. Accreditation to ISO 17025 must also include the GEV test method or EN 16516.

The test procedure is illustrated by the following flow chart:



The details of the GEV test method are explained in [Appendix E](#), the classification criteria for flooring installation materials in [Appendix F](#) and those for surface treatment agents in [Appendix G](#).