

Appendix A: Summary of the 33 individual Blue Flag Beach criteria under the four categories

A. ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND INFORMATION

1. Information about the Blue Flag Programme must be displayed.
2. Environmental education activities must be offered and promoted to beach users.
3. Information about bathing water quality must be displayed.
4. Information relating to local eco-systems, environmental elements and cultural sites must be displayed.
5. A map of the beach indicating different facilities must be displayed.
6. A code of conduct that reflects appropriate laws and/or regulations governing the use of the beach and surrounding areas must be displayed.

B. WATER QUALITY

The Blue Flag Programme requires that beaches achieve Excellent bathing water quality.

7. The beach must fully comply with the water quality sampling and frequency requirements.
8. The beach must fully comply with the standards and requirements for water quality analysis.
9. Industrial, waste-water or sewage-related discharges must not affect the beach area.
10. The beach must comply with the Blue Flag requirements for the microbiological parameter *Escherichia coli* (faecal coli bacteria) and intestinal enterococci (streptococci).

11. The beach must comply with the Blue Flag requirements for physical parameters (i.e. it must not be affected by physical and chemical parameters, such as oil and floatables).

C. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

12. The local authority/beach operator should establish a beach management committee.
13. The local authority/beach operator must comply with all laws and/or regulations affecting the location and operation of the beach.
14. Sensitive areas must be managed (some sites at/near the Blue Flag beach may be very sensitive and require special management).
15. The beach must be clean.
16. Algal vegetation (e.g. seaweed) or natural debris must be left on the beach.
17. Waste disposal bins/containers must be available at the beach in adequate numbers, and they must be regularly maintained.
18. Facilities for the separation of recyclable waste materials must be available at the beach.
19. An adequate number of toilet or restroom facilities must be provided.
20. The toilet or restroom facilities must be kept clean.
21. The toilet or restroom facilities must have controlled sewage disposal.
22. There must be no unauthorised camping or driving and no dumping on the beach
23. Access to the beach by dogs and other domestic animals must be strictly controlled.
24. All buildings and beach equipment must be properly maintained.

25. Marine and freshwater sensitive habitats (such as coral reefs or seagrass beds) in the vicinity of the beach must be monitored.
26. A sustainable means of transportation should be promoted in the beach area¹.

D. SAFETY AND SERVICES

27. Appropriate public safety control measures must be implemented.
28. First aid equipment must be available on the beach.
29. Emergency plans to cope with pollution risks must be in place.
30. There must be management of different users and uses of the beach so as to prevent conflicts and accidents.
31. There must be safety measures in place to protect users of the beach, and free access must be granted to the public.
32. A supply of drinking water should be available at the beach¹
33. At least one Blue Flag beach in each municipality must have access and facilities provided for the physically disabled.

¹ Guidance only