



Pollution Prevention | Appendix X: Green Procurement

Across the government, environmentally preferable purchasing practices are known by a variety of titles, including Affirmative Procurement and Green Procurement. Environmentally preferable purchasing relies on the consideration of several factors, including energy use, conservation of resources, price, and safety. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2004, the Department of Defense (DoD) established a formal Green Procurement Program (GPP) to encourage DoD Components to purchase environmentally preferable and biobased products. As the largest federal buyer of goods and services, DoD strives to ensure that every procurement meets the requirements of all applicable federal green procurement preference programs.

Executive Order (E.O.) 13423, entitled “Strengthening Federal Environmental, Energy, and Transportation Management,” published in the Federal Register on January 26, 2007, identifies green purchasing requirements as important environmental practices required for all federal agencies. E.O. 13423 replaced and expanded on former E.O. 13101, entitled “Greening the Government Through Waste Prevention, Recycling, and Federal Acquisition.” The “Instructions for Implementing E.O. 13423” require federal agencies

responsible for Green Purchasing Programs to assist other agencies in meeting new requirements, coordinate green product designations, and provide adequate guidance for GPP implementation.

Other drivers include the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Section 6002, which established the Affirmative Procurement Program and requires federal agencies to purchase recycled-content products. Additionally, Section 9002 of the 2002 Farm Security and Rural Investment Act (Farm Bill) created the Federal Biobased Products Preferred Purchasing Program, which requires federal agencies to purchase biobased products that fall within designated item categories. These drivers ensure that DoD’s GPP will increase the purchase of items composed of recycled, recovered, and biobased materials to the maximum extent possible.

The purpose of the GPP is to enhance and sustain mission readiness through cost-effective acquisition that achieves compliance and reduces resource consumption as well as solid and hazardous waste generation. DoD’s GPP objectives as defined in the DoD GPP Policy are to:

- ▶ Educate all appropriate DoD employees on the requirements for federal green procurement preference programs, their roles and responsibilities relevant to these programs and DoD’s GPP, and opportunities to purchase green products and services
- ▶ Increase purchases of green products and services consistent with the demands of mission efficiency and cost-effectiveness, with continual improvement toward federally established procurement goals
- ▶ Reduce the amount of solid waste generated
- ▶ Reduce consumption of energy and natural resources
- ▶ Expand markets for green products and services.

DoD’s GPP applies to all acquisitions, from major systems programs to individual unit supply and service requisitions. Products and services included in DoD’s GPP are office products, printing services, fleet maintenance products, traffic control, park and recreation services, appliances, building construction, renovation, and maintenance. These products and services are addressed in one or more of the following components of the federal green procurement preference program:

- ▶ Recovered material
- ▶ Environmentally preferable materials
- ▶ Energy-efficient products
- ▶ Biobased products
- ▶ Alternative fuels and fuel efficiency
- ▶ Non ozone-depleting substances.

The GPP encompasses many federal procurement preference programs with diverse management practices; however, the framework used for the GPP is the same basic framework of an environmental management system. This framework consists of policy, planning, implementation and operation, checking and corrective action, and management review. DoD uses this framework to place orders, make purchases, and establish contracts for products and services.

Green Procurement Program Metrics

GPP metrics continue to be updated and revised to encompass E.O. 13423 requirements and revisions to the Farm Bill. These GPP metrics will allow DoD to review and monitor green procurement performance trends, including:

- ▶ The percent change in codes from the individual contracting action report
- ▶ The percent increase of purchases of federally defined indicator items
- ▶ The percent increase of contracting personnel trained in green procurement.

Additional information on GPP progress is available in the DoD RCRA Section 6002 Report.

Environmentally Preferable Product Procurement

Section 314 of the FY2003 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) required the Secretary of Defense to develop and implement a system for tracking Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) procurements of environmentally preferable items. This section describes the tool that was developed to meet this requirement. A report detailing the results obtained from the tracking system is no longer required.

In November 2003, DLA enhanced an existing system, the Environmental Reporting Logistics System (ERLS), with a Web-based Green Procurement Reporting capability to meet the requirements of FY2003 NDAA, Section 314. Initially, ERLS captured DLA requisitions daily from a variety of ordering systems and compiled the transaction records together with the National Stock Numbers (NSNs) identified as green in the Federal Catalog System (FCS), to calculate the dollar value of green requisitions. Over time, the ERLS has evolved along with other DLA business systems and now tracks the dollar values of sales rather than requisitions for items managed by DLA. In addition to reporting data on green purchases from DLA, the Web-based ERLS Green Procurement Report also provides customers a method for tracking their green purchases from the General Services Administration (GSA) stock system. Customers can track sales at the level of the individual purchasing unit or across the organization, and can customize the reports by parameters such as category of item or timeframe, with multiple format options available for the readily downloadable reports.

DLA-Managed Environmentally Preferable Products

The NSN items in the FCS that are considered environmentally preferable, or “green,” have been designated as such on the basis of environmental attributes defined by the Joint Group on Environmental Attributes (Joint Group). The Joint Group is responsible for selecting, evaluating, and approving proposed attributes for inclusion in the FCS on the basis of regulatory or policy priority, availability of a technical definition, and evidence of cost benefit. The Joint Group does not create its own attribute descriptions; rather, it uses specific definitions and criteria provided by governing bodies and/or recognized standards-setting organizations.

DLA chairs the Joint Group, while the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and GSA are voting members. The current list of environmental attributes includes:

- ▶ Recycled content
- ▶ Energy efficiency
- ▶ Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT) Registered Products
- ▶ Water conservation
- ▶ Low volatile organic compounds
- ▶ Asbestos alternative
- ▶ Non-mercury alternative
- ▶ Biobased.

This set of attributes reflects the federal procurement preference mandates established in E.O. 13423, RCRA Section 6002, the Energy Policy Act of 2005, and the Farm Bill. Each item determined to conform to one of the environmental attributes is identified in the FCS with an alphanumeric code known as an Environmental Attribute Code.