



ENVIRONMENTALLY PREFERABLE PURCHASING (EPP)

Providing Buyers, Catalogers and Item Specialists

The Information Busy People Need to Keep Current

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IN THIS ISSUE

Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines (CPG)

The EPA expects the next CPG products list to be signed this month and published and official next month. Affected item managers may wish to review EPA's background information to help identify new items and DLIS may wish to begin preparing new ENACs.

Biobased Products

Guidelines on procurement of biobased products expected in Federal Register this month have been delayed until later this summer. But once the product designations begin one year from now, expect them to happen quickly.

Mercury Containing Devices

A non-profit environmental research organization has developed an environmentally preferable purchasing initiative

Product Highlight Automatic Wall Switches

New research and technologies make the old room occupancy sensors smarter, more effective and less inconvenient. You're not as likely to left standing in the dark with these.

Next Joint Group Meeting

The next meeting of the Joint Group on ENACs was tentatively scheduled for June 25 or July 23, to accommodate publication of USDA's proposed biobased guidelines. THE JUNE 25 DATE is CANCELLED due to delays in publishing. Hold the July 23 date available. Confirmation and further details will be forthcoming.

Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines (CPG)

EPA officials expect the proposed CPG V to be signed during next week, meaning it will likely be published in the Federal Register by the end of June. CPG V adds 11 new product categories (EPA calls them "items") to the existing list of 54. DSCP appears to be the most affected by the new list. Product categories include vehicular products, construction products, non-paper office products and miscellaneous products. Item managers may wish to review the background information assembled by EPA describing the qualifying products. The background information is available at:

<http://tis.eh.doe.gov/p2/ap/Background.pdf>

EPA also expects the final CPG VI Federal Register notice to be published by end of July. It includes only organic compost and should have minimum impact on DLA.

Biobased Products

USDA was expecting to publish a Federal Register Notice in April describing the process they will use to designate product categories for Biobased Products procurement preference, but publication has been delayed while USDA resolves issues over interpretation of the 2002 Farm Bill language that established the program. A USDA official predicted the notice will be published sometime this summer, but was unable to predict a date. According to current plans, once the Federal Register notice is published, USDA will prescribe a three tier system of designations. The system being adopted by USDA will be familiar to DLA. The broadest designation is product "category". An example would be Lubricants/Functional Fluids. The next level will be "items." An example would be Hydraulic Fluids. The most specific level will be "products." An example would be Joe's #3 Biobased Hydraulic Fluid. Current plans are for companies to self certify that their products meet the parameters of the categories and items.

Like EPA's CPG program, an agency may only decide NOT to procure biobased designated items if the agency determines one of three conditions are met. 1) 1. An agency may buy a NON-biobased product if they determine that the biobased product is not reasonably available within a reasonable period of time. 2) An agency may buy a NON-biobased product IF the biobased product fails to meet the performance standards set forth in the applicable specifications or fails to meet the reasonable performance standards of the procuring agencies. 3) An agency may buy a NON-biobased product IF the biobased product is only available at an unreasonable price. The legislation places a responsibility on contracting offices to require that vendors certify only biobased

products will be used in the performance of their contracts. The law also requires that within ONE YEAR DoD assure that its specifications either REQUIRE the use of biobased products or satisfy one of the three exceptions above.

Following publication of the Federal Register notices, USDA will begin working with vendors to identify specific products that qualify for procurement preference under the program. USDA expects to establish about 12 product categories of products during the coming year. While technically DLA has one year from publication of the Federal Register notice to implement its preferential procurement program, it is likely that products will be identified much sooner. DLA's tasks of designating products and implementing the preferential procurement appear to be substantial. DLA product centers, DLIS and organizations responsible for maintaining specifications and standards may wish to consider the benefits using the next 12 months to implement procedures that will enable it to identify and assimilate a surge of biobased designated products into FLIS quickly and efficiently.

Mercury-Containing Devices

Mercury-containing switches and gauges are more broadly used than you might think. They're used in a wide range of facilities, such as cold rooms, medical facilities and power plants; and in equipment such as kitchen appliances and boilers. Awareness of mercury devices is important because when a building is demolished or electrical systems are upgraded old mercury-containing devices will likely be removed for disposition. Using mercury-free alternatives eliminates the problems of locating and managing this highly toxic material in demolition activities, eliminate risks to building workers, and reduces clean-up costs. DLA has not yet approved mercury alternative products as an environmental attribute, but avoiding mercury makes sense. A non-profit environmental research organization called "INFORM" has assembled information on mercury-free products, as well as many other environmentally preferable products; some DLA designated attributes and others not. To learn more about the cost, performance, and availability of environmentally preferable products, visit INFORM's website: <http://www.informinc.org/>. To learn more about mercury and mercury-free devices, visit: www.informinc.org/fact_P3industrialmeters.php INFORM has developed a toxics-free purchasing initiative to reduce the levels of certain toxics in products in order to prevent their release into the environment. DLA product centers and others involved in the Joint Group on Environmental Attributes may wish to consult this organization's web site when considering attributes appropriate for using to designate products in FLIS.

- Product Highlight - Automatic Wall Switches

A company called Wattstopper has developed a series of lighting and power controls that function based on whether or not people are in a room. Traditional "occupancy sensors" function in one of two ways. Either a timer flips after a predetermined length of time; or a motion detector activates after a predetermined length of time with no movement in the room. But new research offers better ways to maximize energy savings and minimize inconvenience. The Watt Stopper's WN-100 Motion Sensor Nightlight combines a nightlight and an occupancy sensor that uses passive infrared technology to turn lights off when a space is vacant. And when lights are off, a high efficiency LED nightlight goes on. The time delay can be adjustable from 15 minutes to 2 hours. It is intended for bathrooms in dorms or visitors quarters. The WA-200 is even more sophisticated. It uses a computer algorithm to optimize savings by automatically adjusting on and off time delays and sensitivity by "learning" a room's usage patterns. It is intended for offices, small conference rooms and copy rooms. These switches are installed just like any other any other wall switch, with the exception of some additional calibration, which an electrician is able to make. To compensate the electrician for the calibration step, the devices do not need wire twisting or wire nuts. Instead, the device uses terminal wiring system for quick installation. They can be used with incandescent, fluorescent and compact fluorescent lamps and up to 500W loads. They provide 180 degree coverage and can be used in rooms up to 300 sq ft in size. Other wall, ceiling and outdoor sensors are available for a wide range of applications. Wattstopper products are available through DSCP's lighting center: <http://dscp103.dscp.dla.mil/gi/general/light1.htm> or Wattstoppers website at: <http://www.wattstopper.com/>. To find the product best for your needs, visit their Occupancy Sensor Matrix at: <http://www.wattstopper.com/products/SensorMatrix.html>. For more personalized help choosing the right product, DSCP offers lighting training and hands on demonstrations free of charge. For additional information, contact Mr. Phil Cufaro of DSCP's lighting team by calling 1-800-DLA-BULB (1-800-352-2852) or by sending Phil an email at: Philip.Cufaro@dscp.dla.mil.