

A Monthly Newsletter Serving the



Defense Logistics Agency Community

# ENVIRONMENTALLY PREFERABLE PURCHASING (EPP)

*Providing Buyers, Catalogers and Item Specialists*

*The Information Busy People Need to Keep Current*

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*New date set for release of final CPG IV;  
CPG V proposal announced*

### **Biobased Products**

*Now that the Farm Bill has passed requiring  
a Biobased Products Preferable Purchasing  
Program, USDA is busily writing  
implementation rules.*

### **Implementation**

*Products qualifying for Environmentally  
Preferable Purchasing and non-qualifying  
products can share the same NSN under  
current procedures. It may be important to  
remedy this before the number of products  
explodes.*

### **New Attributes**

*DLA HQ has requested ideas for new  
environmental attributes. Think about  
what's meaningful to your customers.*

### **Next Meeting**

*The next meeting of the Joint Group on  
Environmental Attributes is scheduled to  
meet on February 13. Talk to your  
representative and make your input known.*

## **Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines (CPG)**

Last September, EPA estimated release of its final rule implementing CPG IV by the end of last December. Delays have changed that estimate. EPA now anticipates issuing a final CPG IV by the end of March. First proposed in August 2001, CPG IV adds 11 new items to the existing 54 CPG items. Just to recap, the new item categories are:

### Vehicle Products

Rebuilt vehicular parts

Tires

### Construction Products

Cement and concrete containing cenospheres

Cement and concrete containing silica fume

Modular threshold ramps

Nonpressure pipe

Nylon carpet and nylon carpet backing

Roofing materials

### Non-Paper Office Products

Office furniture

### Miscellaneous

Bike racks

Blasting grit

The product centers responsible for these product categories may want to review the list of new CPG items and begin identifying those that meet the new CPG criteria. The products and criteria can be viewed and downloaded at:

<http://www.epa.gov/cpg/products.htm>

EPA is also considering proposing two new items in a CPG V by March. The items being considered include compost made from manures and compost made from organic fertilizers. No other items are being contemplated at this time for CPG V.

## **Biobased Products**

Section 9002 of the 2002 Farm Bill requires the establishment of a government wide preferential procurement program for biobased products. The USDA is currently working on rules to implement this law. The initial draft of the proposed rule is near completion and will then be sent to the Office of Management and Budget for their approval. The proposed rule should be published in the Federal Register sometime in the April timeframe for comment by the public and other Federal agencies. DLA product centers should watch for its release, which will be announced in this newsletter. The Farm Bill established eleven product categories for preferential biobased purchasing. They are:

Adhesives  
Construction Composites  
Fuel Additives  
Landscaping Products and Compost  
Lubricants and Functional Fluids  
Materials, Fibers, Papers and Packing  
Paints and Coatings  
Plastics  
Solvents, Cleaners and Agricultural Chemicals  
Sorbents  
Vegetable Oil Inks

The list of products in these categories are far too numerous to mention, but the number could exceed the total number of products designated under the entire Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Program to date.

There are also products which already have environmentally preferable designations, such as solvents and paints (low-VOC), lubricants (re-refined oils in CPG), Paper (recycled content in CPG) and others. In addition, notice that Landscaping Products and Compost on this list looks very similar to the products EPA is considering under CPG V.

Product center teams and catalogers may wish to begin assessing the extent to which DLA will be affected by this rule in preparation for providing comments in April. Other bio-happenings in April include a Biobased Products Showcase being held in Washington DC to coincide with Earth Day. Product centers with products in the above categories may wish to consider requesting free booth space. The Showcase takes place April 22, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm at Jamie W. Whitten Building, 12<sup>th</sup> and Jefferson Street, SW. For further information, call Mike Kossey at USDA at 202.720.0025.

### **Implementation**

The two issues described above highlight some implementation issues that were discussed at the November Joint Group on Environmental Attributes (JG-EAtt) meeting. The first was raised by Linwood Gilman from Richmond, who observed some items in a particular NSN might satisfy an ENAC while others in the same NSN would not, since items in the same NSN can come from different producers and therefore have different characteristics. Resolving this issue is fundamental if Environmental Preferable Purchasing (EPP) is to work at all. If this situation exists with EPP items, a DLA customer ordering a “green” item could be sent a non-green item. Product center teams could be ordering both conforming and non-conforming products under the same contract, and same NSN. The consensus of the meeting affirmed the need for guidance on assigning stock numbers for different characteristics, and recommended the Cataloging Group discuss how to resolve the issue.

The second issue deals with getting a process in place to address the situation above before the number of products grows any larger. With qualifying products sharing NSNs with non-qualifying products, and no safeguards in place to keep it from continuing to happen, DLA may wish to consider the importance of resolving this before CPG IV rules are promulgated at the end of March.

### **New Environmental Attributes**

At the last meeting of the JG-EAtt, DLA DSS-E asked for ideas for new environmental attributes. Attributes are supposed to help DLA customers become more informed buyers. Offering environmentally preferable products and making information about those products available are value added services and should help increase sales. To date the following ideas have been offered for consideration: Organic, NESHAP Compliant (National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants), Biobased, Mercury free, and PBT alternative (Persistent, Bioaccumulative & Toxic pollutant). Some of these are relevant to only a very few product categories. There appears to be a trend towards increasing numbers of attributes relevant to fewer products. Is DLA set up to cope with this trend? If not, can it implement a process to cope? Bring your views to the next JG-EAtt meeting.