

APTAC Body of Knowledge Competency Guide

D. Specialized Knowledge

D.9 Green Procurement

Description

Background: Green procurement is also referred to as green purchasing, affirmative procurement or environmentally preferable purchasing. Green procurement by federal agencies is mandated by laws passed by Congress, Presidential Executive Orders (EO) or through agency guidelines and directives. Green procurement is not an option for federal agencies. Under EO 13423 “federal agencies are required to use sustainable environmental practices in the acquisition of goods and services”.

Agency Initiatives: The EPA, DOE and USDA provide guidance to federal agencies by recommending a group of products that are environmental preferred or energy efficient. In particular, the EPA has been in the forefront by developing a list of recycled content products called the Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines ([CPG program](#)) and it has also partnered to develop the [Federal Green Construction Guide for Specifiers](#). The USDA is the lead agency for bio-based products under its [BioPreferred Program](#) and DOE has developed the Federal Energy Management Program [FEMP](#). The Office of Federal Environmental Executive (OFEE) has created a database of “green products” known as [Green Products Compilation](#)

Like other agencies, the DOD has designed a Green Procurement Program (GPP) but because of the enormous buying power of the DOD, their green purchasing affects many contracting actions. The DOD GPP includes the acquisition of:

- Recycled content products
- Environmentally preferable products and services
- Biobased products, energy and water efficient products
- Alternate fuel vehicles and alternate fuels
- Products using renewable energy and
- Alternatives to hazardous or toxic chemicals

GSA also has a major influence in green procurement. GSA Public Buildings have adopted the concept of “sustainable design” when soliciting building improvements or in new construction. GSA Schedules offers a host of products and services available to federal buyers under Schedule 899-5 “Materials and Waste Recycling and Disposal Services.”

Contracting: Contracting officers are guided by [FAR Part 23](#) when buying goods or services and the contracting officer must justify a decision not to procure a green alternative. This may give some businesses an opportunity if they offer a “green” alternative. The SBA has a page devoted to [Green Contracting Opportunities](#) for suppliers to the government. Vendors can self certify their products as green and can use improved life-cycle costs as evidence of a best value option. Suppliers responding to solicitations should be aware of the “green procurement” clauses.

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These clauses flow down to subcontractors used on a contract. Some common contract clauses related to green procurement are:

- 52.223-1 Biobased Product Certification
- 52.223-2 Affirmative Procurement of Biobased Products under Service Construction Contracts
- 52.223-4 Recovered Material Certification
- 52.223-9 Estimate of Percentage of Recovered Material Content for EPA-Designated Items
- 52.223-10 Waste Reduction Program
- 52.223-11 Ozone Depleting Substances
- 52.223-15 Energy Efficiency in Energy-Consuming Products
- 52.223-16 IEEE 1680 Standard for the Environmental Assessment of Personal Computers
- 52.223-17 Affirmative Procurement of EPA –designated Items in Service and Construction Contracts

References/Resources:

GSA Environmental Products Overview:

<http://www.gsa.gov/portal/category/21162> and also <http://www.gsa.gov/portal/category/26433>

DOD Joint Service Pollution Prevention Opportunity Handbook:

http://205.153.241.230/P2_Opportunity_Handbook/16_1.html

EPA Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP): <http://www.epa.gov/epp/>

Comprehensive list of Federal “green” websites: <http://www.epa.gov/epp/pubs/relatedfed.htm>

[FAR Part 23](#)