

Summary of California's Regulations on Chemicals in Cleaning Products

Website: <http://www.green.ca.gov>

Summary

1. State Law. [Public Contract Code sections 12400-12404](#), enacted in September 2002, directs the Department of General Services (DGS), in consultation with the California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA), members of the public, industry, and public health and environmental organizations, to provide state agencies with information and assistance regarding environmentally preferable purchasing including, but not limited to, the following:

- The promotion of environmentally preferable purchasing;
- The development and implementation of a strategy to increase environmentally preferable purchasing. This may include the development of statewide policies, guidelines, programs, and regulations;
- The coordination with other state and federal agencies, task forces, workgroups, regulatory efforts, research and data collection efforts, and other programs and services relating to environmentally preferable purchasing;
- The development and implementation, to the extent fiscally feasible, of training programs designed to instill the importance and value of environmentally preferable purchasing.
- The development, to the extent fiscally feasible, of an environmentally preferable purchasing best practices manual for state purchasing employees.

2. Green California Web Site. Governor Schwarzenegger has introduced a comprehensive new "[Green California](#)" website, designed to assist government agencies and California businesses in making environmentally preferable business decisions. Focused primarily on two general areas, the new website will provide crucial reference materials for the purchase of environmentally preferable products and services and for the design, benchmarking and operation of "green" buildings.

The site, <http://www.green.ca.gov>, will be filled with guidelines, engineering data, and environmentally preferable purchasing criteria to help government agencies and private businesses shift their practices toward environmental sustainability, energy conservation and waste reduction.

Perhaps most notably, the site is expected to include a complete online version of the [Environmentally Preferable Purchasing \(EPP\) Best Practices Manual](#). While the Manual presently does not specifically address cleaning products, the state is expected to eventually establish criteria to assist in the identification of green cleaners. In the meantime, the Manual encourages state and local governments to develop green purchasing criteria and references [Green Seal](#) as a source of environmentally friendly standards that can be used in creating such criteria.

Summary

1. Background. Alameda County, California established an Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Model Policy that encourages the purchase of products that minimize environmental impacts, toxics, pollution, and hazards to worker and community safety.

2. Toxics and Pollution.

- To the extent practicable, no cleaning or disinfecting products shall contain ingredients that are carcinogens, mutagens, or teratogens.
- All surfactants and detergents shall be readily biodegradable and, where practicable, shall not contain phosphates.
- When maintaining buildings, use products with the lowest amount of VOCs, highest recycled content, and low or no formaldehyde.
- Reduce or eliminate the use of products that contribute to the formation of dioxins and furans. This includes, but is not limited to:
 - o Purchasing paper, paper products, and janitorial paper products that are unbleached or that are processed without chlorine or chlorine derivatives, whenever possible.
 - o Prohibiting purchase of products that use polyvinyl chloride (PVC)

3. Recycled Content. All products for which the U.S. EPA has established recycled content standard guidelines, such as those for janitorial paper, shall contain the highest postconsumer content practicable, but no less than the minimum recycled content standards established by the U.S. EPA Guidelines.

Nevada County, California

Website: <http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/BuyRecycled/Policies/GPpolicy.pdf>

Summary

1. Background. The County of Nevada's [Green Procurement and Sustainable Practices Policy](#) directs county agencies to purchase environmentally preferable products, and products with recycled content.

2. General Policy. All Nevada County personnel will specify recycled content and environmentally preferable products unless such products do not perform satisfactorily and/or are unreasonably expensive. The priority for purchasing recycled content products shall be as follows:

- The highest percentage of recycled content of post-consumer recovered material, available in the marketplace; and
- The highest percentage of pre-consumer recovered material, available in the marketplace.

3. Best Procurement Practices. The Dept. of General Services and the Recycling Coordinator shall work in collaboration with the Green Procurement and Sustainable Practices Committee to evaluate various environmentally preferable product categories, and produce a list of such products. Agency, departments and divisions of Nevada County shall order from the list of products that meet the environmentally preferable criteria.

Including in the environmentally preferable product categories is:

- Paper products including janitorial supplies, shop towels, hand towels, facial tissue, toilet paper, and other paper products.
- Janitorial cleaning supplies, and building and maintenance products

San Francisco, California:

Summary

1. Background. The City and County of San Francisco have adopted a total of 19 mandatory specifications for the procurement of janitorial products based on the Green Seal Standard for Institutional Cleaners (GS-37).

2. Specifications based on Green Seal Standard for Institutional Cleaners (GS-37). The following specifications for the procurement of environmentally preferable janitorial cleaners is based on the Green Seal Standard for Institutional Cleaners (GS-37):

- Toxic Compounds—Acute Toxicity
- Carcinogens and Reprotoxins
- Eye and Skin Irritation
- Skin Sensitization
- Combustibility
- VOC Content
- Aquatic Toxicity
- Aquatic Biodegradability
- Euthrophication
- Packaging
- Concentrate
- Fragrances
- Prohibited Ingredients
- Training
- Packaging
- Animal Testing
- Labeling

2. Additional Specifications Based on the Requirements of the City and County of San Francisco.

- Additional Prohibited Ingredients—The product in its concentrated form shall contain less than 0.01% by weight of any of the following ingredients:
 - o Global warming compounds, as listed by US EPA
 - o 1,1,1-TCE
 - o Acetone
 - o Benzyl alcohol
 - o Butoxy propanol
 - o Coconut diethanolamide
 - o Coconut oil diethanolamine
 - o Cyclohexanol
 - o Diethanolamine
 - o Diethylene glycol

- o Diethylene glycol monobutyl ether
- o Diethylene glycol monoethyl ether
- o Diethylene glycol monomethyl ether
- o Ethylene glycol
- o Hexylene glycol
- o Methyl ethyl ketone
- o Naphtha
- o Naphthalene
- o N-hexane
- o N-methyl pyrrolidinone
- o Perchloroethylene
- o Propylene glycol
- o Propylene glycol monomethyl ether
- o Stoddard solvent
- o Toluene
- o Triethanolamine
- o Trichloroethylene
- o Xylene

•Additional Prohibited Ingredients—The product in concentration form shall contain less than 10% by weight of any of the following ingredients:

- o Ammonia
- o Ethyl Alcohol
- o Isopropyl alcohol

•Skin Absorption Potential—The product as a whole in its diluted-for-use form shall have a low potential to absorb through skin. In addition, each individual ingredient that comprises 1.0% or more of the diluted product by weight shall have a low potential to absorb through the skin. Moreover, the following ingredients shall not be present in the product at or above 1.0% by weight of the diluted for use product:

- o 2-butoxyethanol
- o Monoethanolamine

•Aerosol Containers Prohibited

Santa Monica, California:

Summary

1. Background. In 2003, the City of Santa Monica, CA worked with representatives of several jurisdictions including the King County, WA; Massachusetts; Minnesota; Seattle, WA; Pacific Northwest National Laboratory; and others. The goal of the working group, coordinated by the Center for a New American Dream, was to develop a set of specifications that could be used by institutional purchasers nationwide. Ultimately the process led to the adoption of the Green Seal Standard for Institutional Cleaners (GS-37) as the basis for cleaning product specifications.

2. Specifications. Currently Santa Monica evaluates vendors of green cleaning products based on the specifications established by Green Seal.