

# Summary of Massachusetts' State Regulations of Chemicals in Cleaning Products

Website: <http://www.mass.gov/epp/products/cleaning.htm>

## Summary

**1. Background.** In 2003, Massachusetts worked with representatives of several jurisdictions including the City of Santa Monica, CA; King County, WA; 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.

Massachusetts is the first of the work group members to use the new consensus based criteria that build upon the [Green Seal Standard for Institutional Cleaners \(GS-37\)](#). The other participants are in the process of integrating the work group's purchasing criteria into their vendor requests.

**2. Request for Response.** Massachusetts has issued a [Request for Response for Cleaning Products, Environmentally Preferable \(GR016\)](#). The RFP addresses seven product lines of cleaners and sets forth environmentally preferable criteria based on GS-37, as set forth in the paragraphs below.

**3. General Purpose Cleaners, Bathroom Cleaners, Glass Cleaners.** These products must meet the criteria set forth in [GS-37](#).

**4. Carpet Cleaners (Excluding Spot Cleaners).** These products must also meet the [GS-37](#) criteria. Additionally the VOC content of these products must not exceed 1%. (Note: These specifications were issued prior to [GS-37](#) being expanded to include carpet cleaners.)

**5. Disinfectants and Sanitizers.** Must meet the [GS-37](#) criteria **except** for active ingredients with respect to biodegradability. The VOC content must not be in excess of 1% and the products must be registered with EPA.

**6. Floor Care Products Including Floor Finishes, Floor Strippers, and Maintenance Products.** (Note: These specifications were issued prior to the issuance of the [Green Seal Standard for Floor Care Products \(GS-40\)](#).)

**a) Floor Finishes.** Products **must** be free of zinc and other heavy metals. Further, it is **desirable** that the products not contain phthalates, glycol ethers, or ammonia.

**b) Floor Strippers.** The products **must** be free of zinc and other heavy metals. It is **desirable** that the products (in concentration form) have a pH between 2.5 and 12; exhibit a VOC limit of not greater than 1%; and not contain glycol ethers or ammonia.

**c) Maintenance Products.** Products **must** be free of zinc and other heavy metals. It is **desirable** that the products not contain phthalates, exhibit a VOC limit of not greater than 1%; and not contain glycol ethers and/or ammonia.

**7. Handsoaps.** Products must not be antimicrobial. It is desirable that products have a pH between 6 and 8.5.

**8. Janitorial Paper and Textile Supplies.** Any such paper products must meet or exceed the minimum federal standards and Massachusetts' standards for post-consumer recycled content and must be unbleached or bleached without the use of chlorine. Textile products (rags) must be made of reclaimed/recycled textiles.