

MANAGEMENT MEMO

NUMBER:

MM 06-08

SUBJECT:

CARPET PURCHASES TO MEET ENVIRONMENTALLY PREFERABLE CRITERIA

DATE ISSUED:

May 15, 2006

EXPIRES:

May 15, 2007

REFERENCES:

Chapter 590, Statutes of 2005, (Lowenthal SB 1106)
Public Contract Code Sections 12153 and 12400-12404

ISSUING AGENCY:

DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES

Purpose

The purpose of this Management Memo is to help State agencies, departments, boards, and commissions comply with the requirements of SB 1106 and Public Contract Code Sections 12153 and 12400-12404.

Referenced Laws

California's Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP) law (Public Contract Code sections 12400–12404) directs the Department of General Services (DGS) in collaboration with the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) to develop and implement “a strategy to increase environmentally preferable purchasing. This may include the development of statewide policies, guidelines, programs, and regulations.”

SB1106 modified numerous sections of the Public Contract Code to include purchasing and reporting requirements for products purchased by the State of California, including 10 percent minimum post-consumer content for plastic products (including carpet).

Public Contract Code Section 12153 directs the DGS and other agencies “...to draft, establish, and implement policies that ensure the procurement and use of recycled resources.”

Background

Carpet is an interior finish flooring material commonly used in public buildings. According to the CIWMB's December 2004 Statewide Waste Characterization Study, about 840,000 tons of carpet end up in California landfills each year at the end of their useful life representing about two percent of the State's overall waste stream.

An interagency EPP carpet working group from California's EPP Task Force contributed to the development of a national consensus-based standard resulting in a standard registered by NSF International with the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) as a Draft Standard for Trial Use referred to as the ***Draft American National Standard for Trial Use, NSF 140-2005 Sustainable Carpet Assessment Standard (Draft NSF 140-2005)***.

California's interagency EPP carpet working group reviewed the criteria in the Draft NSF 140-2005 standard and determined that products should meet additional prerequisites addressing California areas of concern. The working group added criteria related to material emissions, post-consumer recycled content and end of life management. These criteria and minimum threshold requirements are incorporated into the ***California Gold Sustainable Carpet Standard***.

This specification includes flexible criteria in five areas crucial to sustainable, environmental performance and describes several potential levels of attainment. The performance areas include:

- **Safe for Public Health and Environment**, regarding the effect the product has on people and its surroundings;
- **Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency**, relating to energy usage;
- **Biobased or Recycled Materials**, concerning material composition;
- **Facility or Company Based**; pertaining to the manufacturing process;
- **Reclamation, Sustainable Reuse, and End of Life Management**, which covers waste stream issues.

Additionally, the State Agency Buy Recycled Campaign (SABRC) and Chapter 590, Statutes of 2005, (Lowenthal SB 1106), dictate that State agencies must report purchases of products in eleven material categories to demonstrate that they contain minimal levels of recycled content. The plastics category, to which carpet belongs due to its nylon content, lists a minimum of 10% post-consumer content as a threshold for purchases.

Intent

The **California Gold Sustainable Carpet Standard** was created for carpet purchased by and for the State of California and establishes minimum requirements to improve the State's management of materials by reducing its waste stream and better safeguarding human health by protecting indoor air quality. In addition, the establishment of these criteria will support the referenced legislation.

Description

1. After August 31, 2006, carpet purchased by State agencies shall meet as a minimum the California Gold Sustainable Carpet Standard whenever three or more manufacturers meet this standard. This requirement does not replace technical product specifications, rather, it provides a minimum environmental specification.
2. This requirement shall apply to all modular and broadloom carpet purchases for new construction, renovation, and replacement, whether purchased through construction contracts, leases, Contract Multiple Award Schedule (CMAS), or other procurement methods. Patching and repairing within an existing field of carpet is exempt from this requirement when not possible to match existing patterns with carpet meeting the EPP criteria.
3. Carpet purchases shall require proof of independent third-party certification as specified in the Standard from the manufacturers. Evidence of this certification must accompany carpet submittals, and the owner must receive a copy of the certification at the time of carpet product delivery.

STATE ADMINISTRATIVE MANUAL

Information

Please direct questions concerning this management memo to Craig Duehring, Procurement Division, Department of General Services at 916-375-4336.

The application of this standard may be reevaluated at the conclusion of the final ANSI certification process for **Draft NSF 140-2005 Standard**. Information regarding the **California Gold Sustainable Carpet Standard** is at <http://www.green.ca.gov/EPP/standards.htm>

Signature

Original SAM Management Memo is signed by Ron Joseph, Director

Ron Joseph
Director