§ 3201.6 Providing product information to Federal agencies.

(a) Informational Web site. An informational USDA Web site implementing section 9002 can be found at: http://www.biopreferred.gov. USDA will maintain a voluntary Web-based information site for manufacturers and vendors of designated items produced with bio-based products and Federal agencies to exchange product information. This Web site will provide information as to the availability, relative price, biobased content, performance and environmental and public health benefits of the designated items. USDA encourages manufacturers and vendors to provide product, business contacts, and product information for designated items. Instructions for posting information are found on the Web site itself. USDA also encourages Federal agencies to utilize this Web site to obtain current information on designated items, contact information on manufacturers and vendors, and access to information on product characteristics relevant to procurement decisions. In addition to any information provided on the Web site, manufacturers and vendors are expected to provide relevant information to Federal agencies, upon request, with respect to product characteristics, including verification of such characteristics if requested.

(b) Advertising, labeling and marketing claims. Manufacturers and vendors are reminded that their advertising, labeling, and other marketing claims, including claims regarding health and environmental benefits of the product, must conform to the Federal Trade Commission “Guides for the Use of Environmental Marketing Claims,” 16 CFR part 260 (see: http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/waisidx_08/16cfr260_08.html). For further requirements, click on the link to the “Guidelines for Marketing the BioPreferred Program.”

[70 FR 1809, Jan. 11, 2005, as amended at 76 FR 6322, Feb. 4, 2011]

§ 3201.7 Determining biobased content.

(a) Certification requirements. For any product offered for preferred procurement, manufacturers and vendors must certify that the product meets the biobased content requirements for the designated item within which the product falls. Paragraph (c) of this section addresses how to determine biobased content. Upon request, manufacturers and vendors must provide USDA and Federal agencies information to verify biobased content for products certified to qualify for preferred procurement.

(b) Minimum biobased content. Unless specified otherwise in the designation of a particular item, the minimum biobased content requirements in a specific item designation refer to the biobased portion of the product, and not the entire product.

(c) Determining biobased content. Verification of biobased content must be based on third party ASTM/ISO compliant test facility testing using the ASTM International Radioisotope Standard Method D 6866. ASTM International Radioisotope Standard Method D 6866 determines biobased content based on the amount of biobased carbon in the material or product as percent of the weight (mass) of the total organic carbon in the material or product.

(d) Products with the same formulation. In the case of products that are essentially the same formulation, but marketed under a variety of brand names, biobased content test data need not be brand-name specific.

§ 3201.8 Determining life cycle costs, environmental and health benefits, and performance.

(a) Providing information on life cycle costs and environmental and health benefits. Federal agencies may not require manufacturers or vendors of bio-based products to provide to procuring agencies more data than would be required to be provided by other manufacturers or vendors offering products for sale to a procuring agency, other than data confirming the biobased contents of the products, as a condition of the purchase of bio-based products from the manufacturer or vendor.

(b) Performance test information. In assessing performance of qualifying bio-based products, USDA requires that procuring agencies rely on results of performance tests using applicable