

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

[SWH-FRL-5909-7]

**Recovered Materials Advisory Notice II****AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency.**ACTION:** Notice of Availability of Final Document.

**SUMMARY:** The Environmental Protection Agency is providing notice of the availability of the final Recovered Materials Advisory Notice II (RMAN II) and supporting materials. The final RMAN II contains EPA's recommendations for purchasing 12 items designated in the final Comprehensive Procurement Guideline II, which is published elsewhere in today's **Federal Register**. This action will promote recycling by using government purchasing to expand markets for recovered materials. Under section 6002 of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976, EPA designates items that are or can be made with recovered materials and provides recommendations for the procurement of these items. The 12 items for which EPA is making recommendations are shower and restroom dividers/partitions, consolidated and reprocessed latex paint for specified uses, parking stops, channelizers, delineators, flexible delineators, plastic fencing for specified uses, garden and soaker hoses, lawn and garden edging, printer ribbons, plastic envelopes, and pallets. The final RMAN II contains recommended recovered materials content levels for these items and other purchasing recommendations. In addition, today's final RMAN II clarifies recommendations for floor tiles previously made in a May 1, 1995 RMAN (60 FR 21392).

**EFFECTIVE DATES:** The recommendations for purchasing the 12 newly-designated items are effective November 13, 1998. The clarifications to the recommendations for purchasing floor tiles are effective upon publication.

**ADDRESSES:** The public docket for this notice is Docket F-97-CP2F-FFFFF. Documents related to today's notice are available for viewing in the RCRA Information Center (RIC), which is located at U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Crystal Gateway One, 1235 Jefferson Davis Highway, Ground Floor, Arlington, VA 22202. The RIC is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, except for Federal holidays. To review docket materials, it is recommended that the public make an appointment by calling

(703) 603-9230. The public may copy a maximum of 100 pages from any regulatory docket at no charge. Additional copies cost \$0.15/page. The index and some supporting materials are available electronically. See Section V of the "Supplementary Information" section below for information on accessing the documents electronically. **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** *General procurement guidelines information:* RCRA Hotline at (800) 424-9346, TDD (800) 553-7672 (hearing impaired) or, in the Washington, DC area at (703) 412-9810 or TDD (703) 412-3323.

*Technical information on individual item recommendations:* For paper and paper products, vehicular products, construction products, non-paper office products, and pallets: Dana Arnold, (703) 308-7279; for landscaping products, transportation products, and park and recreation products: Terry Grist, (703) 308-7257.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

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**I. Authority**

The Recovered Materials Advisory Notice II (RMAN II) is published under the authority of sections 2002(a) and 6002 of the Solid Waste Disposal Act, as amended by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976 (RCRA), as amended, 42 U.S.C. 6912(a) and 6962; and Executive Order 12873 (58 FR 54911, October 22, 1993).

**II. Background**

Section 6002 of RCRA establishes a Federal buy-recycled program. RCRA section 6002(e) requires EPA to (1) designate items that are or can be produced with recovered materials and (2) prepare guidelines to assist procuring agencies in complying with affirmative procurement requirements set forth in paragraphs (c), (d), and (i) of section 6002. Once EPA has designated an item, section 6002 requires that any procuring agency using appropriated Federal funds to procure that item must purchase it containing recovered materials to the maximum extent practicable. For the purposes of RCRA section 6002, procuring agencies include the following: (1) any Federal agency; (2) any State or local agencies using appropriated Federal funds for a procurement; and (3) any contractors

with these agencies (with respect to work performed under the contract). The requirements of section 6002 apply to such procuring agencies only when procuring a designated item where the price of the item exceeds \$10,000 or when the quantity of the item, or functionally equivalent items, purchased in the previous year exceeded \$10,000.

Executive Order 12873 (58 FR 54911, October 22, 1993) directs EPA to designate items in a Comprehensive Procurement Guideline (CPG) and publish guidance that contains EPA's recommended recovered materials content levels for the designated items in Recovered Materials Advisory Notices (RMAN). The Executive Order further directs EPA to update the CPG annually and the RMAN periodically to reflect changes in market conditions. EPA codifies the CPG designations in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), but, because the recommendations are guidance, the RMAN is not codified in the CFR. This process enables EPA to make timely revisions to its recommendations in response to changes in a product's availability or recovered materials content.

EPA issued the CPG I and RMAN I on May 1, 1995 (60 FR 21370 and 21386, respectively). CPG I designated 19 items and consolidated five previous item designations made in earlier EPA procurement guidelines, and RMAN I recommended purchasing practices for these 24 items. On November 7, 1996, EPA published CPG II (61 FR 57747), which proposed to designate an additional 13 items. EPA concurrently published a draft RMAN II (61 FR 57759). The 13 items proposed for designation were: shower and restroom dividers, latex paint, parking stops, channelizers, delineators, flexible delineators, snow fencing, garden and soaker hoses, lawn and garden edging, printer ribbons, ink jet cartridges, plastic envelopes, and pallets. The draft RMAN II also provided clarification of EPA's 1995 recommendations for purchasing floor tiles containing recovered materials. In today's final RMAN II, EPA is publishing recommendations for 12 of the 13 items, as well as the floor tiles clarification. For reasons discussed in subsection A below, EPA has decided not to designate ink jet cartridges and, therefore, is not publishing draft recommendations for purchasing this item.

EPA, once again, wants to stress that the recommendations in its RMAN are just that—recommendations and guidance to procuring agencies in fulfilling their obligations under section 6002. The designation of an item as one

that is or can be manufactured with recovered materials and the inclusions of recommended content levels for an item in an RMAN do not compel the procurement of an item when it is not suitable for an agency's intended purpose. Section 6002 is explicit in this regard when it authorizes a procuring agency not to procure a designated item which "fails to meet the performance standards set forth in the applicable specification or fails to meet the reasonable performance standards of the procuring agencies." Section 6002(1)(B), 42 U.S.C. 6962(c)(B).

Thus, for example, in the final CPG II published elsewhere in today's **Federal Register**, EPA is designating shower and restroom dividers/partitions as items that are or can be produced with recovered materials. The Agency's research shows that these items are available in either steel or plastic containing recovered materials. However, the mere fact that these items are available containing recovered materials does not require the procurement of steel or plastic dividers/partitions in every circumstance. The choice of appropriate materials used in construction remains with building engineers and architects. The effect of designation (and section 6002) is simply to require the purchase of items with recovered materials where consistent with the purpose for which the item is to be used. Procuring agencies remain free to procure dividers/partitions made of materials other than steel or plastic (e.g., wood) where the design specifications call for other materials.

### III. Definitions

Today's final RMAN II recommends postconsumer or recovered materials content levels at which EPA believes the designated items are generally available. For shower and restroom dividers/partitions, plastic fencing, lawn and garden edging, and plastic envelopes, the RMAN II recommends two-part content levels—a postconsumer recovered materials component and a total recovered materials component. In these instances, EPA found that both types of materials were being used to manufacture these products. Recommending only postconsumer content levels would be contrary to the RCRA mandate to maximize the use of recovered materials because it would fail to acknowledge the contribution to solid waste management made by manufacturers using other recovered materials as feedstock. The terms "recovered materials" and "postconsumer materials" are defined in the CPG at 40 CFR 247.3. These definitions are repeated in this notice as

a reference for the convenience of the reader.

*Postconsumer materials* means a material or finished product that has served its intended end use and has been diverted or recovered from waste destined for disposal, having completed its life as a consumer item. Postconsumer material is part of the broader category of recovered materials.

*Recovered materials* means waste materials and byproducts which have been recovered or diverted from solid waste, but such term does not include those materials and byproducts generated from, and commonly used within an original manufacturing process.

### IV. Agency's Response to Public Comments

#### A. Ink Jet Cartridges

EPA received comments opposing the proposed designation of ink jet cartridges. These comments raised solid waste, performance, quality, availability, and patent and trademark concerns. After considering the information submitted by commenters, EPA tentatively concluded that there was insufficient evidence to support a designation of ink jet cartridges at this time. On April 14, 1997, EPA published a Notice of Data Availability in the **Federal Register** (62 FR 18072) in order to notify interested parties of the tentative decision not to designate ink jet cartridges, summarize the information available to the Agency, and request further public comment.

EPA received only two responses to the April 14 notice—one from a vendor of ink jet refilling equipment and additional information from one of the original commenters. The vendor appears to have promising technology for resolving many of the performance and solid waste issues raised by commenters. The vendor did not, however, submit sufficient information to change EPA's earlier conclusion that there is insufficient information to support designating ink jet cartridges at this time. Therefore, EPA is not designating ink jet cartridges in the final CPG II published elsewhere in today's **Federal Register**. EPA also is deleting the recommendations for purchasing ink jet cartridges from today's final RMAN II. EPA will continue to monitor developments in ink jet cartridge and refilling/remanufacturing technology and will consider designating ink jet cartridges in the future.

#### B. Comments on Other Items

EPA received only a few comments on the draft RMAN II. One commenter recommended that EPA refer to shower and restroom dividers as "dividers/partitions." After researching common

industry terminology, EPA revised the term in the final CPG II and is using the term "dividers/partitions" in today's final RMAN II.

Commenters also recommended revisions to the recovered materials content recommendations for steel shower and restroom dividers, white and other light-colored reprocessed latex paints, and plastic pallets. Based on the information provided by these commenters and additional research, EPA revised the recommendations for these items in today's final RMAN II. EPA revised the steel content recommendations, added content recommendations for white and other light-colored reprocessed latex paint, and distinguished between plastic lumber pallets and thermoset plastic pallets in recommending content levels for plastic pallets.

In addition, in the final CPG II published in the final rules section of today's **Federal Register**, EPA revised the latex paint designation from the broad category "latex paint" to a more specific designation of "consolidated latex paint used for covering graffiti and reprocessed latex paint used for interior and exterior architectural applications such as wallboard, ceilings, and trim; gutter boards; and concrete, stucco, masonry, wood, and metal surfaces." Because the more specific designation includes the applications that EPA previously had recommended in the draft RMAN II, EPA has deleted those recommendations from Section C-7 of the final RMAN II. EPA also added a note to the table of recommended content levels for reprocessed and consolidated latex paint informing agencies that the recommendations applied to reprocessed and consolidated latex paints used for the designated applications.

Similarly, in today's final CPG II, EPA revised the snow fencing designation to "plastic fencing containing recovered plastic for use in controlling snow or sand drifting and as a warning/safety barrier in construction or other applications." In the final RMAN II, EPA added information about specifications for plastic fencing used for warning and safety barriers.

Commenters also provided additional information about specifications and available sources of the designated products. These comments have been incorporated into today's final RMAN II.

A summary of all of the comments and the Agency's response are provided in the document entitled "Final CPG II/RMAN II Background Document." A copy of this document has been placed in the docket for the final RMAN II. See ADDRESSES above for information

about reviewing documents in the public docket.

**V. Supporting Information and Accessing Internet**

The index of supporting materials for today's final RMAN II is available in the RCRA Information Center (RIC) and on the Internet. The address and telephone number of the RIC are provided in ADDRESSES above. The index and the following supporting materials are available on the Internet:

"Final CPG II/RMAN II Background Document," U.S. EPA, Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response, September 1997.

Copies of the following supporting materials are available for viewing at the RIC only:

"Ex Parte Meeting Notes, Meeting Between U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and National Paint & Coatings Association, June 17, 1997."

"Letter to Dana F. Arnold, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, from National Paint & Coatings Association, July 28, 1997."

Follow these instructions to access the information electronically:

WWW: <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/index.htm#procure>.

FTP: <ftp://ftp.epa.gov>

Login: anonymous

Password: your Internet address

Files are located in /pub/epaoswer.

Dated: October 8, 1997.

**Carol M. Browner,**  
*Administrator.*

**Recovered Materials Advisory Notice II**

The following represents EPA's recommendations to procuring agencies for purchasing the items designated today in the Comprehensive Procurement Guideline II in compliance

with section 6002 of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). These recommendations are intended to be used in conjunction with the RMAN issued on May 1, 1995 (60 FR 21386) and the Paper Products RMAN issued on May 29, 1996 (61 FR 26985). Refer to the May 1, 1995 RMAN for definitions, general recommendations for affirmative procurement programs, and recommendations for previously designated items.

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Section H-1—Pallets Containing Recovered Wood, Plastic, or Paperboard

**I. General Recommendations**

(See the May 1, 1995 RMAN for EPA's general recommendations for definitions, specifications, and affirmative procurement programs.)

**II. Specific Recommendations for Procurement of Designated Items**

(See the May 1, 1995 RMAN and the May 29, 1996 Paper Products RMAN for recommendations for purchasing previously-designated items.)

*Part C—Construction Products*

**Note:** Refer to Section E-2—Plastic Fencing Containing Recovered Plastic for Specified Uses and to Part F—Landscaping Products for additional items that can be used in construction applications.

**Section C-5—Floor Tiles and Patio Blocks Containing Recovered Plastic or Rubber**

**Note:** Table C-5 contains a clarification of EPA's recommendations for floor tiles. Table C-5 originally was published in the May 1, 1995 RMAN and contained EPA's recommendations for patio blocks, as well as recommendations for floor tiles. For the convenience of procuring agencies and other interested parties, EPA is republishing all of Section C-5, including Table C-5, with both the floor tiles and patio blocks recommendations. Readers should note that no change has been made to the recommendations for patio blocks.

*Preference Program:* EPA recommends that, based on the recovered materials content levels shown in Table C-5, procuring agencies establish minimum content standards for use in purchasing floor tiles and patio blocks. The recommended use of floor tiles containing recovered materials is limited to the applications cited in Table C-5.

TABLE C-5.—RECOMMENDED RECOVERED MATERIALS CONTENT LEVELS FOR FLOOR TILES AND PATIO BLOCKS CONTAINING RECOVERED PLASTIC OR RUBBER

Product	Material	Postconsumer materials (%)	Total recovered materials content (%)
Patio Blocks .....	Rubber or rubber blends .....	90-100	—
	Plastic or plastic Blends .....	—	90-100
Floor Tiles (heavy duty/commercial use) .....	Rubber .....	90-100	—
	Plastic .....	—	90-100

NOTES: The use of floor tiles with recovered materials content may be appropriate only for specialty purpose uses (e.g., raised, open-web tiles for drainage on school kitchen flooring). Such specialty purpose uses involve limited flooring areas where grease, tar, snow, ice, wetness or similar substances or conditions are likely to be present. Thus, EPA has no recovered materials content level recommendations for floor tiles made with recovered materials for standard office or more general purpose uses.

The recommended recovered materials content levels are based on dry weight of the raw materials, exclusive of any additives such as adhesives, binders, or coloring agent. EPA's recommendation does not preclude agencies from purchasing floor tiles or patio blocks manufactured from other materials. It simply recommends that procuring agencies, when purchasing floor tiles or patio blocks made from rubber or plastic, purchase these items made from recovered materials when these items meet applicable specifications and performance requirements.

Section C-6—Shower and Restroom Dividers/Partitions Containing Recovered Plastic or Steel

*Preference Program:* EPA recommends that, based on the recovered materials content levels shown in Table C-6, procuring agencies establish minimum content standards for use in purchasing shower and restroom dividers/partitions.

TABLE C-6.—RECOMMENDED RECOVERED MATERIALS CONTENT LEVELS FOR SHOWER AND RESTROOM DIVIDERS/PARTITIONS CONTAINING RECOVERED PLASTIC OR STEEL

Material	Postconsumer materials (%)	Total recovered materials content (%)
Steel .....	16	20-30
Plastic .....	20-100	20-100

NOTE: EPA's recommendation does not preclude agencies from purchasing shower and restroom dividers/partitions manufactured from another material, such as wood. It simply recommends that procuring agencies, when purchasing shower and restroom dividers/partitions made from plastic or steel, purchase these items made from recovered materials when these items meet applicable specifications and performance requirements.

*Specifications:* EPA recommends that procuring agencies use the following specifications when procuring shower and restroom dividers/partitions:

- (1) The American Institute of Architects (AIA) has issued guidance for specifying construction materials, including plastic and steel dividers/partitions. The AIA guidance is known throughout the construction industry as the "Masterspec" and is available through the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA).
- (2) U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Guide Specification CEGS-10160, Toilet Partitions.

Section C-7—Reprocessed and Consolidated Latex Paints for Specified Uses

*Preference Program:* EPA recommends that, based on the recovered materials content levels shown in Table C-7, procuring agencies establish minimum content standards for use in purchasing reprocessed and consolidated latex paints.

TABLE C-7.—RECOMMENDED RECOVERED MATERIALS CONTENT LEVELS FOR REPROCESSED AND CONSOLIDATED LATEX PAINTS

Product	Postconsumer latex paint (%)
Reprocessed Latex Paint.	
White, off-white, and pastel colors .....	20
Grey, brown, earthtones, and other dark colors .....	50-99
Consolidated latex paint .....	100

NOTES: EPA's recommendations apply to reprocessed latex paints used for interior and exterior architectural applications such as wallboard, ceilings, and trim; gutter boards; and concrete, stucco, masonry, wood, and metal surfaces, and to consolidated latex paints used for covering graffiti, where color and consistency of performance are not primary concerns.

EPA's recommendation does not preclude agencies from purchasing paints manufactured from other, non-latex materials, such as oil-based paints. It simply recommends that procuring agencies, when purchasing latex paints, purchase these items made from postconsumer recovered materials when these items meet applicable specifications and performance requirements.

Reprocessed and consolidated latex paints are available to Federal agencies through the GSA Federal Supply Service by ordering the following stock numbers:

National Stock Numbers	Colors FEDSTD 595B Color No.
<b>Semi-gloss</b>	
8010-01-380-2400 .....	Beige #27769
8010-01-380-2405 .....	Blue-gray #26420
8010-01-380-2438 .....	Sand-green #26307
8010-01-380-2382 .....	Sand-gray #26306
8010-01-380-2331 .....	Gray #26134
8010-01-380-2429 .....	Dark gray #26081
8010-01-380-2338 .....	Green #24491
8010-01-380-2379 .....	Sand #23690
8010-01-380-2332 .....	Tan #23617
8010-01-380-2417 .....	Tan #20372
8010-01-380-2353 .....	Sand-yellow #20318
8010-01-380-2363 .....	Dark brown #20140
8010-01-380-2447 .....	Red brown #20100
<b>Flat</b>	
8010-01-380-3293 .....	White #37886
8010-01-380-2425 .....	Beige #37769

National Stock Numbers	Colors FEDSTD 595B Color No.
8010-01-380-2442 .....	Blue-gray #36650
8010-01-380-2381 .....	Gray #36134
8010-01-380-2367 .....	Dark gray #36081
8010-01-380-2396 .....	Blue #35526
8010-01-380-2366 .....	Green #34491
8010-01-380-2421 .....	Sand #33690
8010-01-380-2351 .....	Tan #33617
8010-01-380-2416 .....	Dark brown #30140

The GSA Federal Supply Service has a free paint brochure available by calling 1-800-241-RAIN or FAX requests to (206) 931-7544.

*Specifications:* (1) EPA recommends that procuring agencies use GSA specification TT-P-2846, Paint, Latex (Recycled with Post-Consumer Waste). This specification applies to interior, exterior, and interior/exterior latex paints intended for use on wallboard, concrete, stucco, masonry, and wood.

(2) GSA specification TT-P-2846 requires high content levels (50-90% postconsumer paint). EPA recommends that procuring agencies refer to the requirements and quality assurance provisions in TT-P-2846 when purchasing reprocessed latex paint containing lower levels of postconsumer paint (e.g., whites, off-whites, and pastel colors).

*Part D—Transportation Products*

Section D-2—Parking Stops Made from Concrete or Containing Recovered Plastic or Rubber

*Preference Program:* EPA recommends that, based on the recovered materials content levels shown in Table D-2, procuring agencies establish minimum content standards for use in purchasing parking stops.

TABLE D-2.—RECOMMENDED RECOVERED MATERIALS CONTENT LEVELS FOR PARKING STOPS MADE FROM CONCRETE OR CONTAINING RECOVERED PLASTIC OR RUBBER—Continued

Material	Postconsumer content (%)	Recovered materials content (%)
Plastic and/or rubber .....	100	-----
Concrete containing coal fly ash .....	-----	20-40
Concrete containing GGBF slag .....	-----	25-70

NOTES: Parking stops made with recovered plastics may also include other recovered materials such as sawdust, wood, or fiberglass. The percentage of these materials contained in the product would also count toward the recovered materials content level of the parking stops.

ASTM specification C595M-95 Standard Specification for Blended Hydraulic Cements specifies the appropriate mix design, including recovered materials content, for concrete containing coal fly ash and GGBF slag.

EPA's recommendation does not preclude a procuring agency from purchasing parking stops manufactured from another material. It simply requires that a procuring agency, when purchasing concrete parking stops or parking stops made with plastic or rubber, purchase these items made with recovered materials when these items meet applicable specifications and performance requirements.

Section D-3—Channelizers, Delineators, and Flexible Delineators Containing Recovered Plastic, Rubber, or Steel

*Preference Program:* EPA recommends that, based on the recovered materials content levels shown in Table D-3, procuring agencies establish minimum content standards for use in purchasing channelizers, delineators, and flexible delineators.

TABLE D-3.—RECOMMENDED RECOVERED MATERIALS CONTENT LEVELS FOR CHANNELIZERS, DELINEATORS, AND FLEXIBLE DELINEATORS CONTAINING RECOVERED PLASTIC, RUBBER, OR STEEL

Product	Material	Postconsumer content (%)
Channelizers .....	Plastic .....	25-95
	Rubber (base only) .....	100
Delineators .....	Plastic .....	25-90
	Rubber (base only) .....	100
	Steel (base only) .....	25-50
Flexible delineators .....	Plastic .....	25-85

NOTE: EPA's recommendation does not preclude a procuring agency from purchasing channelizers, delineators, or flexible delineators manufactured from another material. It simply requires that a procuring agency, when purchasing these items made from rubber, plastic, or steel, purchase them made with recovered materials when these items meet applicable specifications and performance requirements.

*Specifications:* EPA recommends that procuring agencies use the following specifications when procuring channelizers, delineators, and flexible delineators:

(1) The Federal Highway Administration's *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices* contains specifications for the size, shape, mounting, and placement of temporary traffic control devices.

(2) The States of Florida and North Carolina have specifications that require the use of recovered materials in their flexible delineators. The California Department of Transportation (CALTRANS) has specifications for "Drivable

Flexible Plastic Guide Marker and Clearance Marker Posts." A copy of these specifications are available from the RCRA Hotline at 1-800-424-9346.

*Part E—Park and Recreation Products*

Section E-2—Plastic Fencing Containing Recovered Plastic for Specified Uses

*Preference Program:* EPA recommends that, based on the recovered materials content levels shown in Table E-2, procuring agencies establish minimum content standards for use in purchasing plastic fencing for use in controlling snow or sand drifting and as a warning/safety barrier in construction or other applications.

TABLE E-2.—RECOMMENDED RECOVERED MATERIALS CONTENT LEVELS FOR FENCING CONTAINING RECOVERED PLASTIC

Material	Postconsumer content (%)	Total recovered materials content (%)
Plastic .....	60-100	90-100

NOTE: EPA's recommendation does not preclude a procuring agency from purchasing fencing manufactured from another material, such as wood. It simply requires that a procuring agency, when purchasing plastic fencing, purchase this item made with recovered materials when this item meets applicable specifications and performance requirements.

*Specifications:* The State of New York developed a specification for orange-colored plastic fencing used for snow barriers, warning barriers, and safety barriers, but discontinued its use because the state did not purchase enough fencing to warrant maintaining the specification. Height varied, depending on application, from four to six feet. Weight varied from 17 pounds per 100 foot section for warning barriers to 48 pounds per 100 foot section for snow fencing to 66 pounds per 100 foot section for six-foot safety barrier fencing. The New York specification also addressed mesh size, porosity, service temperature range, and strength for each application. A copy of this specification is available from the RCRA Hotline by calling 1-800-424-9346.

*Part F—Landscaping Products*

Section F-3—Garden and Soaker Hoses Containing Recovered Plastic or Rubber

*Preference Program:* EPA recommends that, based on the recovered materials content levels shown in Table F-3, procuring agencies establish minimum content standards for use in purchasing garden and soaker hoses.

TABLE F-3.—RECOMMENDED RECOVERED MATERIALS CONTENT LEVELS FOR GARDEN AND SOAKER HOSES CONTAINING RECOVERED PLASTIC OR RUBBER

Product	Material	Postconsumer content (%)
Garden hose .....	Rubber and/or plastic .....	60-65
Soaker hose .....	Rubber and/or plastic .....	60-70

NOTES: EPA's recommendation does not preclude a procuring agency from purchasing garden and soaker hoses manufactured from another material. It simply requires that a procuring agency, when purchasing garden and soaker hoses made from plastic or rubber, purchase these items made with recovered materials when these items meet applicable specifications and performance requirements.

The Green Seal specification for watering hoses includes a 50 percent postconsumer content level. However, all companies from which EPA obtained information manufacture garden and/or soaker hoses with at least 60 percent postconsumer content.

*Specifications:* EPA recommends that procuring agencies use the following specifications when procuring garden and soaker hoses:

(1) ASTM D3901 Consumer Specification for Garden Hose. The specification addresses physical and performance characteristics (pressure, tensile, and ripping strength tests) and states that the material components are to be agreed upon by the purchaser and seller.

(2) Green Seal GC-2: Watering Hoses. The standard calls for the use of 50 percent postconsumer rubber material in garden hoses and 65 percent postconsumer rubber material in soaker hoses. EPA recommends that, when purchasing garden hoses, procuring agencies reference the technical requirements of this specification but set a higher content standard. Section F-4—Lawn and Garden Edging Containing Recovered Plastic or Rubber

*Preference Program:* EPA recommends that, based on the recovered materials content levels shown in Table F-4, procuring agencies establish minimum content standards for use in purchasing lawn and garden edging.

TABLE F-4.—RECOMMENDED RECOVERED MATERIALS CONTENT LEVELS FOR LAWN AND GARDEN EDGING CONTAINING RECOVERED PLASTIC OR RUBBER

Material	Postconsumer content (%)	Total recovered materials content (%)
Plastic and/or rubber .....	30-100	30-100

NOTES: EPA's recommendation does not preclude a procuring agency from purchasing lawn and garden edging manufactured from another material, such as wood. It simply requires that a procuring agency, when purchasing lawn and garden edging made from plastic and/or rubber, purchase these items made with recovered materials when these items meet applicable specifications and performance requirements.

Part G—Non-Paper Office Products

Section G-6—Printer Ribbons

*Preference Program:* Minimum content standards are not appropriate for remanufactured items, such as printer ribbons, because a core part of the item is reused in the new product, even though certain components of a printer ribbon may contain recovered materials. In lieu of content standards, EPA recommends that procuring agencies adopt one or both of the following approaches: (1) procure printer ribbon reinking or reloading services or (2) procure reinked or reloaded printer ribbons. EPA further recommends that procuring agencies establish policies that give priority to reinking or reloading their expended printer ribbons. If reinking and reloading services are unavailable, procuring agencies should attempt to purchase reinked or reloaded printer ribbons. GSA offers remanufactured printer ribbons on the New Item Introductory Schedule (NIIS).

*Specifications:* The State of Alabama has a specification for reinked ribbons which requires the ribbons to be vacuum cleaned, reinked, and rewound to proper tension. A copy of this specification is available from the RCRA Hotline at 1-800-424-9346.

Section G-7—Plastic Envelopes

*Preference Program:* EPA recommends that, based on the recovered materials content levels shown in Table G-7, procuring agencies establish minimum content standards for use in purchasing plastic envelopes.

TABLE G-7.—RECOMMENDED RECOVERED MATERIALS CONTENT LEVELS FOR PLASTIC ENVELOPES

Material	Postconsumer content (%)	Total recovered materials content (%)
Plastic .....	25	25-35

NOTE: EPA's recommendation does not preclude a procuring agency from purchasing envelopes manufactured from another material, such as paper. It simply requires that a procuring agency, when purchasing envelopes made from plastic, purchase these items made with recovered materials when these items meet applicable specifications and performance requirements. Procuring agencies should note, however, that paper envelopes fall within the scope of EPA's previous designation of paper and paper products. EPA issued postconsumer and recovered materials content recommendations for paper products, including envelopes, in the Paper Products RMAN, which was issued in the FEDERAL REGISTER on May 29, 1996 at 61 FR 26985. A copy of the Paper Products RMAN is available from the RCRA Hotline at 1-800-424-9346 and electronically via EPA's Public Access Server at <http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/search.htm>.

*Specifications:* (1) GSA, the Government Printing Office (GPO), and the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) all currently purchase plastic envelopes made from Tyvek® containing recovered HDPE. GSA specifies "DuPont Tyvek® or equal." USPS requires "DuPont Tyvek®." GPO requires "white spunbonded polyethylene with the characteristics of DuPont's product no. 1073;" the title of the solicitation, however, states "Tyvek® envelopes or similar."

(2) The Navy requests that plastic envelopes not be sent to ships in order to minimize onboard disposal of plastic.

Part H—Miscellaneous Products

Section H-1—Pallets Containing Recovered Wood, Plastic, or Paperboard

*Preference Program:* EPA recommends that, based on the recovered materials content levels shown in Table H-1, procuring agencies establish minimum content standards for use in purchasing pallets.

TABLE H-1.—RECOMMENDED RECOVERED MATERIALS CONTENT LEVELS FOR PALLETES CONTAINING RECOVERED WOOD, PLASTIC, OR PAPERBOARD

Product	Material	Postconsumer content (%)
Wooden pallets .....	Wood .....	95-100
Plastic pallets:		
Plastic lumber .....	Plastic .....	100
Thermoformed .....	Plastic .....	25-50
Paperboard pallets .....	Paperboard .....	50

NOTE: EPA's recommendation does not preclude a procuring agency from purchasing pallets manufactured from another material. It simply requires that a procuring agency, when purchasing pallets made from wood, plastic, or paperboard, purchase these items made with recovered materials when these items meet applicable specifications and performance requirements.

*Specifications:* EPA recommends that procuring agencies use the following specifications when procuring pallets:

(1) The Grocery Manufacturers of America issued a widely used standard for 48 by 40-inch stringer pallets known as the "GMA spec." A copy of this specification is available from the RCRA Hotline at 1-800-424-9346.

(2) The National Wooden Pallet and Container Association is developing a standard through the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) for repairable 48 by 40-inch lumber-deck pallets. Contact NWPCA at (703) 527-7667 for current information about the availability of this standard.

(3) U.S. Postal Service specification USPS-P-1108, "Pallet, Nestable, Plastic, Thermoformed (Item No. 3919B)" is for thermoformed HDPE pallets. A copy of the current version, USPS-P-1108E, is available from the RCRA Hotline at 1-800-424-9346.