

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

[SWH-FRL-5628-5]

**Recovered Materials Advisory Notice****AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).**ACTION:** Notice of draft document for review.

**SUMMARY:** The Environmental Protection Agency today is providing notice of the issuance of a draft Recovered Materials Advisory Notice (RMAN) which provides guidance to procuring agencies for purchasing certain items containing recovered materials. Under section 6002 of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) of 1976, EPA designates items that are or can be made with recovered materials and provides recommendations for the procurement of these items. Elsewhere in today's Federal Register, EPA is proposing to designate 13 additional items, including 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. Today's RMAN contains draft recommended recovered materials content levels for these items. In addition, today's draft RMAN clarifies recommendations previously made for floor tiles on May 1, 1995 (60 FR 21392).

**DATES:** EPA will accept public comments on the recommendations contained in the draft Recovered Materials Advisory Notice until February 5, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** To comment on this notice, please send an original and two copies of comments to: RCRA Information Center (5305W), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M Street, SW., Washington, DC 20460. Please place the docket number F-96-CP2P-FFFFF on your comments.

If any information is confidential, it should be identified as such. An original and two copies of Confidential Business Information (CBI) must be submitted under separate cover to: Document Control Officer (5305), Office of Solid Waste, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M Street, SW., Washington, DC 20460.

Documents related to today's notice are available for viewing at the RCRA Information Center (RIC), located at: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1235 Jefferson Davis Highway, Ground Floor, Crystal Gateway One, Arlington, VA 22202. The RIC is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday,

except for Federal holidays. The public must make an appointment to review docket materials. Call (703) 603-9230 for appointments. Copies cost \$.15 per page.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For general information contact the RCRA Hotline at (800) 424-9346 or (703) 412-9810. For technical information on individual item recommendations, contact the following EPA staff: Construction, landscaping, transportation, and park and recreation products—Terry Grist, (703) 308-7257; Non-paper office products—Janice Johnson, (703) 308-7280; Vehicular and miscellaneous products—Sue Nogas, (703) 308-7251; Paper and paper products—Dana Arnold, (703) 308-7279. For all other technical information, contact Terry Grist at (703) 308-7257.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****I. Authority**

The draft Recovered Materials Advisory Notice (RMAN) is issued 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, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 6912(a) and 2962, and section 502 of Executive Order 12873 (58 FR 54911, October 20, 1993).

**II. Background**

Section 6002 of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976 (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 items, section 6002 requires that any procuring agency using appropriated Federal funds to procure those items. 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; or (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 designated items where the price of the item exceeds \$10,000 or the quantity of the item 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 and publish guidance that contains EPA's recommended recovered content levels for the designated items in Recovered Materials Advisory Notices. 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 a CPG on May 1, 1995 (60 FR 21370) designating 19 new items and published an RMAN for the designated items on the same day (60 FR 21386). These notices also consolidated the guidelines previously issued for five items designated between 1983 and 1989. Today, in a separate section of the Federal Register, EPA is proposing to designate 13 new items. Today's draft RMAN recommends recovered materials content levels and procurement guidance for these 13 new items which include: (1) Shower and restroom dividers; (2) latex paint; (3) parking stops; (4) channelizers; (5) delineators; (6) flexible delineators; (7) snow fencing; (8) garden and soaker hoses; (9) lawn and garden edging; (10) printer ribbons; (11) ink jet cartridges; (12) plastic envelopes; and (13) pallets. This notice also provides clarification on recommendations made in the previous RMAN for floor tiles which was issued on May 1, 1995. Once finalized, today's RMAN will serve as companion guidance to the original RMAN.

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 produced with recovered materials and the inclusions of recommended content levels for an item in the RMAN does not compel the procurement of an item when the item is not suitable for its intended purpose. Section 6002 is explicit in this regard when it authorizes a procuring agency not to procure a designated item where the item

"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, elsewhere today, EPA has proposed to designate shower

and restroom dividers as items that are or can be produced with recovered materials content. The information the Agency has developed shows that these items are available in either steel or plastic with recovered materials content. However, if EPA adopts the proposed designation and recommendations for shower and restroom dividers, the mere fact that these are available with recovered materials content does not require the use of such items 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 of materials other than steel or plastic where the design specifications call for other materials.

#### *A. Methodology for Recommending Recovered Materials Content Levels*

In providing guidance in the RMAN, the Executive Order directs EPA to present "the range of recovered materials content levels within which the designated recycled items are currently available." Based on the information available to the Agency, EPA recommends ranges that encourage manufacturers to incorporate the maximum amount of recovered materials into their products without compromising competition or product performance and availability. EPA recommends that procuring agencies use these ranges, in conjunction with their own research, to establish their minimum content standards. In some instances, EPA recommends that procuring agencies establish a specific level (e.g., 100 percent recovered materials), rather than a range, because the item is universally available at that recommended level. EPA recommends ranges rather than minimum standards for several reasons:

First, the Executive order directs EPA to develop ranges, not minimum content standards or specific recovered materials levels.

Second, EPA has only limited information on recovered materials content levels for the new items proposed for designation. It would not be appropriate to establish minimum content standards without more detailed information because the standards may be treated as maximum targets by manufacturers and may stifle innovative approaches for increasing recovered material use. EPA hopes that the use of ranges will encourage manufacturers producing at the low end of the recovered materials range to seek ways of increasing their recovered materials usage.

Minimum content standards are less likely to encourage such innovation.

Third, many items are purchased locally rather than centrally. As a result, the recovered materials content of the items are likely to vary from region to region depending on local cost and availability of recovered materials. Minimum content standards are unlikely to be effective given the regional variance in recovered materials content because minimum content levels that are appropriate for one region, may be excessively high or low for other regions. A recovered materials content range gives regional procuring agencies the flexibility to establish their own recovered content standards and to make them as high as possible, consistent with the statute, given local product availability and market conditions.

EPA reviewed publicly-available information, information obtained from product manufacturers, and information provided by other Federal agencies regarding the percentages of recovered materials available in the items proposed for designation in the CPG. Based on this information, EPA established ranges of recovered materials content for each of the proposed designated items. In establishing the ranges, EPA's objective was to ensure the availability of the item, while challenging manufacturers to increase their use of recovered materials. By recommending ranges, EPA believes that sufficient information will be provided to enable procuring agencies to set appropriate procurement specifications when purchasing the newly designated items.

It is EPA's intention to provide procuring agencies with the best and most current information available to assist them in fulfilling their statutory obligations under RCRA section 6002. To do this, EPA will monitor the progress made by procuring agencies in purchasing designated items with the highest practical recovered materials content level and will adjust the recommended content ranges as appropriate. For some items, EPA recommends 100 percent recovered materials content levels because the items are already universally available at that level. EPA anticipates that other recommended ranges will narrow over time as other items become more available, although for technical reasons, many may never be available with 100 percent recovered materials content levels.

Under RCRA section 6002(i), it is the procuring agency's responsibility to establish minimum content standards, while EPA provides recommendations regarding the levels of recovered materials in the designated items. To make it clear that EPA does not

establish minimum content standards for other agencies, EPA refers to its recommendations as "recovered materials content levels," consistent with RCRA section 6002(e) and Executive Order 12873.

More information on EPA's methodology for recommending recovered materials content levels for designated items is contained in "Recovered Materials Advisory Notice (RMAN) II—Supporting Analyses," located in the RCRA public docket for this notice.

#### *B. Definitions*

Today's draft RMAN contains recommendations on the recovered materials content levels and postconsumer materials content levels at which the designated items are generally available. For several items being proposed for designation, this RMAN recommends two-part content levels—a postconsumer recovered content component and a total recovered materials component. In these instances, EPA found that both types of materials were being used to manufacture a product. Recommending only postconsumer content levels would fail to acknowledge the contribution to solid waste management made by manufacturers using other manufacturers' byproducts 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. The Agency is not proposing to change these definitions and will not consider any comments submitted on these terms.

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.

#### *C. Request for Comments*

EPA requests comments, including additional supporting documentation and information, on the draft RMAN regarding the types of recovered materials identified in the item recommendations, the recommended recovered and postconsumer materials content levels, and procurement methods for each of the items. Requests for specific comments and information

are included in the narrative discussions for each of the items.

### III. Supporting Information and Accessing Internet

The index of supporting materials is available in the RIC and on the Internet. The address and telephone number of the RIC are provided in **ADDRESSES** above. The following supporting materials are available on the Internet:

"Comprehensive Procurement Guideline (CPG) II—Supporting Analyses," August 1, 1996.

"Recovered Materials Advisory Notice (RMAN) II—Supporting Analyses," August 1, 1996.

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

"Recovered Materials Product Research for the Comprehensive Procurement Guideline II," prepared for U.S. EPA by Eastern Research Group, July 24, 1996.

"Research on Items for Designation in the Comprehensive Procurement Guideline," December 19, 1995.

"Summary of Information Submitted in Response to EPA's Request for Information on the Designation of Items for the CPG," prepared for U.S. EPA by Eastern Research Group, April 12, 1996.

Follow these instructions to access the information electronically:

Gopher: gopher.epa.gov  
WWW: <http://www.epa.gov>  
Dial-up: 919 558-0335

The materials can be accessed off the main EPA Gopher menu, in the directory EPA Offices and Regions/Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER)/Office of Solid Waste (RCRA)/[Non-Hazardous Waste—RCRA Subtitle D/Procurement/RMAN].

FTP: ftp.epa.gov

Login: anonymous

Password: your Internet address

Files are located in /pub/gopher/OSWRCRA.

Dated: November 1, 1996.

Carol M. Browner,  
*Administrator.*

### Draft Recovered Materials Advisory Notice

The following represents EPA's draft recommendations to procuring agencies for purchasing the items proposed today for designation in the CPG 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 RMAN issued on May 29, 1996 (61 FR 26985). Refer to the May 1, 1995 RMAN or the Code of Federal Regulations at 40 CFR Part 247 for definitions, general recommendations for affirmative procurement programs, and recommendations for previously designated items. Acronyms used in this RMAN are defined in the document entitled "Recovered Materials Advisory Notice (RMAN) II—Supporting Analyses," located in the public docket for this notice. Table C-5 of this draft RMAN repeats the recommendations made for patio blocks in the May 1, 1995 RMAN. The Agency is not issuing any changes to these recommendations. The recommendations for patio blocks are repeated here for the convenience of procuring agencies and readers, since patio blocks were included in the same table as floor tiles for which a clarification is being issued today.

#### Contents

I. Specific Recommendations for Procurement of Designated Items

#### Part C. Construction Products

Section C-5. Floor Tiles and Patio Blocks Containing Recovered Plastic or Rubber  
Section C-6. Shower and Restroom Dividers Containing Recovered Plastic or Steel  
Section C-7. Latex Paint

#### Part D. Transportation Products

Section D-2. Parking Stops Made from Concrete or Containing Recovered Plastic or Rubber  
Section D-3. Channelizers, Delineators, and Flexible Delineators Containing Recovered Plastic, Rubber, or Steel

#### Part E. Park and Recreation Products

Section E-2. Snow Fencing Containing Recovered Plastic

#### Part F. Landscaping Products

Section F-3. Garden and Soaker Hoses Containing Recovered Plastic or Rubber  
Section F-4. Lawn and Garden Edging Containing Recovered Plastic or Rubber

#### Part G. Non-Paper Office Products

Section G-6. Printer Ribbons  
Section G-7. Ink Jet Cartridges  
Section G-8. Plastic Envelopes

#### Part H. Miscellaneous Products

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

### I. Specific Recommendations for Procurement of Designated Items

#### Part C—Construction Products

Note: Refer to Part F—Landscaping Products for additional items that can be used in construction.

#### Section C-5—Floor Tiles Containing Recovered Plastic or Rubber

**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 floor tiles and patio blocks. The recommended use of floor tiles containing recovered materials is limited to the applications cited in the table. The Agency requests additional information on floor tiles made with recovered materials in other applications such as standard office flooring.

TABLE C-5.—RECOMMENDED RECOVERED MATERIALS CONTENT LEVELS FOR FLOOR TILES AND PATIO BLOCKS CONTAINING RECOVERED PLASTIC OR RUBBER <sup>1</sup>

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) <sup>1</sup> .....	Rubber .....	.....	.....
	Plastic .....	.....	90–100

<sup>1</sup> 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.

**Note:** 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 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 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.

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

Product	Material	Postconsumer content (%)	Total recovered materials content (%)
Shower/Restroom Dividers .....	Steel .....	10–15	27–100
	Plastic .....	20–100	20–100

**Note:** EPA's recommendation does not preclude procuring agencies from purchasing shower and restroom dividers manufactured from another material, such as wood. It simply recommends that a procuring agency, when purchasing shower and restroom dividers made from plastic or steel, 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 shower and restroom dividers:

(1) The American Institute of Architects (AIA) has issued guidance for specifying construction materials, including plastic and steel dividers. The AIA guidance is known throughout the construction industry as the "Masterspec" and is available through GSA.

(2) U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Guide Specification CEGS-10160, Toilet Partitions.

## Section C-7—Latex Paint

**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 latex paint. EPA recommends the use of consolidated paint in limited applications, such as covering graffiti, where color and consistency of performance are not primary concerns. The Agency recommends the use of reprocessed paint for interior and exterior architectural applications.

TABLE C-7.—RECOMMENDED RECOVERED MATERIALS CONTENT LEVELS FOR LATEX PAINT

Product	Material	Postconsumer content %
Consolidated latex paint.	Left-over latex paint.	100
Reprocessed latex paint.	Left-over latex paint.	<sup>1</sup> 50–99

<sup>1</sup>Based on comments received from its interagency workgroup, EPA believes that the content levels recommended in this table may represent a limited range of colors, such as gray, brown, and other earthtones, and requests comments on the availability of paint with postconsumer content in white and lighter colors.

**Specifications:** EPA recommends that procuring agencies use the following specifications when procuring reprocessed latex paint:

(1) GSA specification TT-P-2846 covers three types of latex paint (interior, exterior, and interior/exterior), three classes (flat, eggshell, and semigloss) and three grades (A: 40 percent minimum volume solids, B: 30 percent minimum volume solids, and C: utility paint for graffiti abatement). GSA requires 50 percent postconsumer content for Grades A and B and 90 percent postconsumer content for Grade C. GSA specifications also require that recycled latex paint contain no more than 200 grams per liter of VOCs.

(2) EPA further recommends that procuring agencies refer to performance requirements in the GSA specification when purchasing reprocessed latex paint made from less than 50 percent postconsumer content.

## 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 ranges shown in Table D-2, procuring agencies establish minimum content standards for use when purchasing parking stops.

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

Product	Material	Postconsumer content (%)
Parking stops	Plastic <sup>1</sup> and/or rubber.	100

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

Product	Material	Postconsumer content (%)
	Concrete containing fly ash or GGBF.	( <sup>2</sup> )

<sup>1</sup>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 item.

<sup>2</sup>See recommendations for cement and concrete containing recovered materials issued in Section C-3 of the May 1, 1995 RMAN (59 FR 21390).

**Note:** 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 parking stops made from rubber, plastic, or concrete, purchase these items made with recovered materials when these items meet applicable specifications and performance requirements.

**Specifications:** EPA is not aware of any national specifications for parking stops and requests information on this topic.

## Section D-3—Temporary Traffic Control Devices 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	Post-consumer 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 temporary traffic control devices manufactured from another material. It simply requires that a procuring agency, when purchasing channelizers, delineators, and flexible delineators made from rubber, plastic, or steel, 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 temporary traffic control devices, including channelizers, delineators, and flexible delineators:

(1) The Federal Highway Administration publishes the *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*, which contains specifications used by most States 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—Snow Fencing Containing Recovered Plastic

**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 snow fencing.

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

Product	Material	Post-consumer content (%)	Total recovered materials content (%)
Snow fencing.	Plastic .....	60–100	90–100

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

**Specifications:** The State of New York developed a specification for snow fencing containing 50–100 percent recovered material, but discontinued its use because the state did not purchase enough fencing to warrant maintaining the specification. New York required orange-colored snow fencing four feet high and 100 feet long. Weight was specified at 48 pounds per 100 foot section, with porosity at 50 percent. Temperature tolerance ranged from –50 to +180 degrees F. Strength specifications required machine direction breaking loading of 1,210 pounds per foot-width and a transverse direction breaking load or 340 pounds per foot-width. A copy of this specification is available from the RCRA Hotline at 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 hose.

TABLE F-3.—RECOMMENDED RECOVERED MATERIALS CONTENT LEVELS FOR GARDEN AND SOAKER HOSE 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

**Note 1:** 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.

**Note 2:** While Green Seal's specification includes a 50 percent postconsumer content level for watering hoses, 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 hose:

(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.

##### 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

Product	Material	Post-consumer content (%)	Total recovered materials content (%)
Lawn and garden edging.	Plastic and/or rubber.	30–100	30–100

**Note:** EPA's recommendation does not preclude procuring agencies 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.

**Specifications:** EPA is not aware of any national performance specifications for lawn and garden edging and requests information on this topic.

#### 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.

**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—Ink Jet Cartridges

**Preference Program:** Minimum content standards are not appropriate for remanufactured items, such as refilled ink jet cartridges, because a core

part of the item is reused in the new product, even though certain components of an ink jet cartridge may contain recovered materials. In lieu of minimum content standards, EPA recommends that procuring agencies adopt one or both of the following approaches: (1) procure ink jet cartridge refilling services or (2) procure refilled ink jet cartridges. EPA further recommends that procuring agencies establish policies that give priority to refilling their ink jet cartridges. If refilling services are unavailable or impractical, then procuring agencies should attempt to purchase refilled ink jet cartridges.

**Specifications:** EPA is not aware of any national specifications for refilled ink jet cartridges. The Agency identified a number of procuring agencies that have purchased these items. For example, the Internal Revenue Service of South Florida has purchased the items for the past five years for use in the majority of that agency's ink jet printers and facsimile machines. A copy of the specification used by the Internal Revenue Service is available from the RCRA Hotline at 1-800-424-9346.

GSA made ink jet cartridges available under the Multiple Award Schedule and the Special Item Number Schedule in 1995.

##### Section G-8—Plastic Envelopes

**Preference Program:** EPA recommends that, based on the recovered materials content levels shown in Table G-8, procuring agencies establish minimum content standards for use in purchasing plastic envelopes.

TABLE G-8.—RECOMMENDED RECOVERED MATERIALS CONTENT LEVELS FOR PLASTIC ENVELOPES

Product	Material	Post-consumer content (%)	Total recovered materials content (%)
Plastic envelopes.	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 from recovered materials when these items meet applicable specifications and performance requirements. When purchasing envelopes made from paper, procuring agencies should consult the Paper Products RMAN which was issued in the FEDERAL REGISTER on May 29, 1996 at 61 FR 26985.

**Specifications:** The General Services Administration (GSA), Government Printing Office (GPO) and 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®," and 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."

The U.S. Navy requests that plastic envelopes not be sent to ships in order to minimize onboard disposal of plastic.

#### Part H—Miscellaneous Products

##### Part 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. EPA requests additional information on the performance of virgin versus recovered content plastic pallets for non-military Federal agency use and military applications.

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

Product	Material	Post-consumer content (%)
Wooden pallets	Wood .....	95–100
Plastic pallets	Plastic .....	100
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. The ANSI standard is scheduled for release in Fall 1996.

[FR Doc. 96-28735 Filed 11-6-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P