

Federal Biobased Products Preferred Procurement Program (FB4P) Process for Industry Investigation

Designation Item

This section details the item that has been investigated for designation in the FB4P.

Item Investigated: Composite Panels

Item Description: Composite panels represent that group of engineered products designed for use in non-structural construction applications, wall panels, shelving, decorative panels, lavatory dividers and exterior signs. Products in this item reduce the need for harmful chemicals and adhesives and reduce industrial wastes. Biobased composite panels are typically formulated from natural wheat or rice straw, recycled or forest clean-up wood, and paper industry wastes.

Industry Investigation

There are four main sources of information used to gather data about items for designation. These include Internet search engines, the Thomas Register, industry associations, and biobased industry contacts. Each of these sources provides different results. The Internet search engines and the Thomas Register provide many results when a keyword is entered. However, when investigating products through the industry associations and biobased industry contacts, the results tend to be product or company specific. A lengthy, but thorough list of biobased companies which product the designation item can be developed best by utilizing all four information sources.

Internet Search Engines

When searching the Internet, each search engine utilizes a different algorithm to find related topics. To maximize results and ensure correct data, keywords are entered into several search engines. Primary search engines include Google, Yahoo, WebCrawler and Meta Crawler.

Search Engine	Keywords	Results
Google	Composite Panels Wall Board Fiber Board Fiber Panels Ag-Fiber Board	www.ayrescom.com www.omegapanels.com www.pathnet.org www.huntsman.com www.acousticalsurfaces.com www.agnifiberboards.com www.fiberboard.org
Yahoo	See Previous	www.nationalgypsum.com www.greensage.com
Alta Vista	See Previous	www.woodproductgroup.com www.weyerhaeuser.com www.huebertfiberboard.com www.niagarafiberboard.com www.generalpartition.com

Thomas Register

The Thomas Register, a free web service found at <http://www.thomasregister.com/>, provides a database of over 173,000 companies that can be searched by company name, product name or keyword. Each result contains contact information and may also include other useful information such as a product catalog.

Keyword	Results
Fiber Board	www.dow.com/bioprod/ www.medowoodindustries.com www.kaypark.com
Composite Panels	www.newcourtinc.com www.accum.com www.compositetek.com www.kmamax.com
Ag-Fiber Board	none

Industry Associations

Industry associations provide a good source to identify potential manufacturers, determine additional keywords for internet searches, and provide general descriptions of products within an item. Many associations maintain official websites with lists of member organizations and in some cases catalogs of available products.

Association Investigated / Contacted	Results
Biobased Manufacturers Association Mississippi Forestry Association USDA Forest Service Forest Products Lab Composite Panel Association Composite Wood Council American Fiberboard Association	www.pbmdf.com www.trespanorthamerica.com www.vironbiocomposites.com Acadia Board Company www.affordablebuildingsystems.com www.agriboard.com www.agritek.net www.strawboard.com www.caroplastics.com www.endurawood.com www.kenaf-industries.com

Biobased Company Contacts

Company contacts come as a result of interaction with government officials, researchers, and industry representatives. FB4P staff follow-up on personal referrals or potential leads to possible biobased products.

Company	Contact Person	Results
Dura Building Systems	Tiffany Wooten	Wall & Roof Panels
Creative Composites	Terry Sutton	Compressed Core Panel Acoustical Panel
P&M Plastics	John Youngquist	Interior & Exterior Signs Exterior Decking Tile Backers Siding

Conclusion

The results from the four information sources indicate that over 26 manufacturing companies in the United States are currently producing Composite Panels that may be considered for inclusion in the Federal Biobased Products Preferred Procurement Program.