

BioPreferred Round 5 Item Designation: Additional Biobased Products for Preferred Federal Purchasing

Summary

On October 27, 2009, USDA’s BioPreferredSM program finalized its Round 5 Item Designation. This regulatory action added more than 1,000 biobased products to the approximately 3,500 biobased products already eligible for preferred Federal procurement. The Round 5 final rule will increase BioPreferred’s total product offerings to more than 4,500 biobased products in 42 designated items. By law, the Federal government (agencies, contractors and the military) must give products in these categories preferred purchasing preference as of October 27, 2010. USDA continually works with vendors and Federal buyers to maximize product awareness, training, sales, and use.

Designated Items and Rounds

BioPreferred designated items are generic groupings of biobased products. The BioPreferred program adds designated items through a regulatory process called “issuing a ‘round’.” BioPreferred Rounds 1-4 established 33 categories of products; these rounds were finalized, at various intervals, from 2006–2008.

Designated Item = Product Category

A product category (e.g. multipurpose cleaners) that USDA sets minimum biobased content requirements for is referred to as a “designated item.” Each designated item category contains numerous individual products. The term designated item used to refer to a generic product category was adopted as a part of the program’s origin in 2002. USDA plans to revise “designated item” to “designated product category” during the revision of the BioPreferred program guidelines in 2010.

Biobased Products

As defined by Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (FSRIA), "biobased products" are products determined by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture to be commercial or industrial goods — other than food or feed — composed in whole or in significant part of biological products, forestry materials or renewable domestic agricultural materials, including plant, animal or marine materials. Biobased content is determined by testing to American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) Method D6866.

USDA’s BioPreferred Program

BioPreferred was created by FSRIA and reauthorized by the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Farm Bill), to increase the purchase and use of biobased products. The USDA manages the BioPreferred program, which is comprised of two elements:

1. Preferred procurement program for Federal agencies and their contractors;
2. Voluntary labeling program for the broad scale consumer marketing of biobased products (proposed rule published July 2009).

Under the procurement program, BioPreferred designates items that are required for purchase by Federal agencies and their contractors. As a part of this process, the minimum biobased content is specified and information on the technical, health and environmental characteristics of these products are made available on the BioPreferred Web site.

Round 5 Designated Items

Category	Minimum Biobased Content	Description	Application Examples
Chain and Cable Lubricants	77%	<i>Products designed to provide lubrication for bar and roller chains, sprockets, and wire ropes and cables. These products may also prevent rust and corrosion in these applications.</i>	conveyor chains, wire ropes, cables, saws
Corrosion Preventatives	53%	<i>Products designed to prevent the deterioration (corrosion) of metals.</i>	sheet metal, wire, pipe, other fabricated or machined parts
Food Cleaners	53%	<i>Anti-microbial products designed to clean the outer layer of various food products, such as fruits, vegetables and meats.</i>	wax, dust, chemicals, pesticides, bacteria
Forming Lubricants	68%	<i>Products designed to provide lubrication during metalworking applications that are performed under extreme pressure.</i>	tube bending, stretch forming, press braking
Gear Lubricants	58%	<i>Products, such as greases or oils, that are designed to reduce friction when applied to a toothed machine part (such as a wheel or cylinder) that meshes with another toothed part to transmit motion or to change speed or direction.</i>	oil lubricated roller bearings, helical or double helical gear sets, chains, guide rails, levers or any moving parts
General Purpose Household Cleaners	39%	<i>Products designed to clean multiple common household surfaces. This designated item does not include products that are formulated for use as disinfectants. Task-specific cleaning products, such as spot and stain removers, upholstery cleaners, bathroom cleaners, glass cleaners, etc., are also not included in this category.</i>	linoleum, porcelain, chrome, ceramic stovetops, sinks, countertops, ovens, grease vents, fabrics, carpet, upholstery
Industrial Cleaners	41%	<i>Products used to remove contaminants, such as adhesives, inks, paint, dirt, soil, and grease, from parts, products, tools, machinery, equipment, vessels, floors, walls, and other production-related work areas. The cleaning products within this category are usually solvents, but may take other forms. They may be used in either straight solution or diluted with water in pressure washers, or in hand wiping applications in industrial or manufacturing settings, such as inside vessels. Task-specific cleaners used in industrial settings, such as parts wash solutions, are not included in this definition.</i>	tools, parts, vent covers, machinery, coils, concrete, exhaust fans, grills
Multipurpose Cleaners	56%	<i>Products used to clean dirt, grease, and grime from a variety of items in both industrial and domestic settings. This designated item does not include products that are formulated for use as disinfectants.</i>	fabric, carpet, upholstery, floors, walls, grease traps, drains, bathrooms, cement, ovens, grout, tile, dumpsters
Parts Wash Solutions	65%	<i>Products that are designed to clean parts in manual or automatic cleaning systems</i>	soak vats and tanks, cabinet washers, ultrasonic cleaners