



## BIOPREFERRED ROUND 8 PRODUCT CATEGORY DESIGNATION: ADDITIONAL BIOBASED PRODUCTS FOR PREFERRED FEDERAL PURCHASING

### Summary

On April 4, 2012, USDA's BioPreferred® program finalized its Round 8 Product Category Designation. This regulatory action added more than 1,500 biobased products to the approximate 8,900 biobased products already eligible for preferred federal procurement. The Round 8 final rule will increase BioPreferred's total product offerings to more than 10,400 biobased products in 77 designated categories. By law, federal government agencies, contractors and the military must give products in these categories preferred purchasing preference. USDA continually works with vendors and federal buyers to maximize product awareness, training, sales and use.

### Designated product categories and rounds

BioPreferred designated product categories are generic groupings of biobased products. The BioPreferred program adds designated product categories through a regulatory process called "issuing a 'round'." BioPreferred Rounds 1- 7 established 64 product categories at various intervals from 2006-2011.

### 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. USDA manages the BioPreferred program, which comprises 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.

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 website ([www.biopreferred.gov](http://www.biopreferred.gov)).

#### Designated Item = Product Category

A product category (e.g., multipurpose cleaners):  
USDA sets minimum biobased content requirements for what 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 revised "designated item" to "designated product category" during the revision of BioPreferred program guidelines in 2010.

| Category                          | Minimum Biobased Content | Description  |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| Air fresheners and deodorizers    | 97%                      | Products used to alleviate the experience of unpleasant odors by chemical neutralization, absorption, anesthetization or masking.  |
| Asphalt and tar removers          | 80%                      | Cleaning agents designed to remove asphalt or tar from equipment, roads or other surfaces.   |
| Asphalt restorers                 | 68%                      | Products designed to seal, protect or restore poured asphalt and concrete surfaces.  |
| Blast media                       | 94%                      | Abrasive particles sprayed forcefully to clean, remove contaminants or condition surfaces, often preceding coating.  |
| Candles and wax melts             | 88%                      | Products composed of a solid mass and either an embedded wick that is burned to provide light or aroma, or a wickless and melt when heated to produce an aroma.            |
| Electronic components cleaners    | 91%                      | Products that are designed to wash or remove dirt or extraneous matter from electronic parts, devices, circuits or systems.  |
| Floor coverings (non-carpet)      | 91%                      | Products, other than carpet products, that are designed for use as the top layer on a floor. Examples are bamboo, hardwood and cork tiles.                                 |
| Foot care products                | 83%                      | Products formulated to be used in the soothing or cleaning of feet.  |
| Furniture cleaners and protectors | 71%                      | Products designed to clean and provide protection to the surfaces of household furniture other than the upholstery.  |
| Inks                              | % varies by type         | Inks are liquid or powdered materials that are available in several colors and that are used to create the visual image on a substrate when writing, printing and copying. |

| Category   | Minimum Biobased Content | Description   |
|--|--------------------------|---|
| Inks: Specialty inks                             | 66%                      | Inks used by printers to add extra characteristics to their prints for special effects or functions. Specialty inks include, but are not limited to: CD printing, erasable, FDA compliant, invisible, magnetic, scratch and sniff, thermochromic and tree-marking inks. |
| Inks: Sheetfed - color                           | 67%                      | Pigmented inks (other than black inks) used on coated and uncoated paper, paperboard, some plastic, and foil to print in color on annual reports, brochures, labels and similar materials.  |
| Inks: Sheetfed - black                           | 49%                      | Black inks used on coated and uncoated paper, paperboard, some plastic, and foil to print in black on annual reports, brochures, labels and similar materials.  |
| Inks: Printer toner - <25 pages per minute (ppm) | 34%                      | Inks that are a powdered chemical, used in photocopying machines and laser printers, which is transferred onto paper to form the printed image. These inks are formulated to be used in printers with standard fusing mechanisms and print speeds of less than 25 ppm.  |
| Inks: Printer toner - >25 ppm                    | 20%                      | Inks that are a powdered chemical, used in photocopying machines and laser printers, which is transferred onto paper to form the printed image. These inks are formulated to be used in printers with advanced fusing mechanisms and print speeds of 25 ppm or greater. |
| Inks: News                                       | 32%                      | Inks used primarily to print newspapers.  |
| Packing and insulating materials                 | 74%                      | Pre-formed and molded materials that are used to hold package contents in place during shipping or for insulating and soundproofing applications.   |
| Pneumatic equipment lubricants                   | 67%                      | Lubricants designed specifically for pneumatic equipment, including air compressors, vacuum pumps, in-line lubricators, rock drills, jackhammers, etc.  |
| Wood and concrete stains                         | 39%                      | Products that are designed to be applied as a finish for concrete and wood surfaces and that contain dyes or pigments to change the color without concealing the grain pattern or surface texture.  |