

## What is Affirmative Procurement?

Affirmative procurement (AP) is the purchase of environmentally preferable products. The first group of products AP is concerned with are those that are manufactured from **recycled and reclaimed materials**. These products are identified by EPA in their Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines (CPG) and are known as "Guideline Items." There are currently 54 designated Guideline Items grouped into eight categories.

The original intent of AP was to "close the recycling loop" by buying products made with recycled materials. When **Executive Order (EO) 13101** was signed on 14 Sep 1998, it broadened this concept to include other types of environmentally preferable purchasing. And Congress reinforced EO 13101's call for **biobased product purchasing** by making it a legal requirement, in the Farm Bill of 2002.

Biobased products are commercial or industrial products, other than food or feed, that utilize biological products or renewable domestic agricultural or forestry materials. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has responsibility for this part of the program. USDA must develop and publish the initial biobased product list. Once they do this, we will have one year from the date of the final rule to include biobased products in our existing affirmative procurement programs.

## What is required for an Air Force affirmative procurement program?

Since EO 13101 takes its legal authority from the Resource Conservation Recovery Act (RCRA) Section 6002, AP requirements follow the RCRA requirements. We must have:

- a **preference program**, where the base formally establishes its preference to buy recycled-content products;
- a **promotion program**, in which we educate base personnel and actively promote the AP program;
- procedures for **vendor estimates, certifications and verification** – accomplished through contract clauses;
- an **annual monitoring and review** program.

More specific program requirements are spelled out in these references:

- 40 CFR 247
- EPA Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines
- Public Law 107-171, Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002
- Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Part 23
- Air Force Instruction (AFI) 32-7080
- AF Engineering Technical Letter (ETL) 00-1, "EPA Guideline Items in Construction and Other Civil Engineering Specifications"

# AFFIRMATIVE PROCUREMENT



**Environmentally  
Friendly  
Purchasing  
for the  
U.S. Air Force**

**Contact your MAJCOM solid waste and recycling manager**

## ***THE AFFIRMATIVE PROCUREMENT GUIDE***

The Air Force "Guide to Green Purchasing" was originally published in 1999 and most recently updated in June 2002. The Guide is a supplement to the policy in AFI 32-7080. It describes program requirements in detail, and gives ideas for operating a base level affirmative procurement program. Download the Guide and other references from AFCEE's website at the address below.

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### ***INTERNET RESOURCES***

EPA Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines (CPG) and Recovered Material Advisory Notices (RMAN):  
<http://www.epa.gov/cpg/backgrnd.htm>

EPA CPG Product Information and Fact Sheets: Specific information about CPG categories and products

<http://www.epa.gov/cpg/factshts.htm>

USDA biobased industrial products web site: An electronic source book for biobased product information

<http://www.usda-biobasedproducts.net/public/>

AFCEE Affirmative Procurement Web Page: AF guidance and links to additional resources on the Web  
<http://www.afcee.brooks.af.mil/eq/programs/progpage.asp?PID=1>

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### ***USAF ENVIRONMENTAL CONTACTS***

For technical assistance with affirmative procurement:

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For policy assistance with affirmative procurement:



**Does the affirmative procurement program make you feel like this?**

**Here are some resources that may help you.**