



KAISER PERMANENTE®

National Environmental Purchasing Policy

In support of Kaiser Permanente's mission to improve the health of our members and the communities we serve, the procurement and supply staff within Kaiser Permanente are committed to the principles of Environmentally Preferred Purchasing (EPP). The National Environmental Purchasing Policy requires that the principles of Environmentally Preferred Purchasing be applied to all major purchasing decisions. Kaiser Permanente's Sourcing Core Groups, supported by purchasing and environmental stewardship staff, will evaluate the environmental impacts (e.g., waste, toxicity) of products and services in their effort to select healthy and safe products and services that are also environmentally sound. The policy also requires that KP personnel involved with product selection communicate to the marketplace that Kaiser Permanente expects suppliers to continuously develop price competitive products that conform to our EPP principles.

Environmentally Preferred Purchasing Principles

The following EPP principles are incorporated into the deliberations on commonly used products, especially where more environmentally friendly alternatives may be available. A statement on the outcome of these deliberations is included in all product contract recommendations. These principles will not be the sole factors in determining product selection but will be weighed with other quality, service and total cost components. They also recognize that natural resources and landfill space are limited and that the cost of disposal is increasing. Most importantly, these principles support improving the health of our members and communities by reducing exposure to toxic substances.

General Utilization and Selection Strategy for Contracting Staff and Individual/Department Purchases

One should consider the following elements that make an alternative preferable:

- Use less of it
- Conserve resources (e.g. use less water, energy or virgin resources to produce or use, Energy Star rating)
- Eliminate/reduce waste
- Reduce toxicity (e.g. no chlorine)
- Ability to recycle
- Comparable functionality and effectiveness
- Consideration of total cost of ownership (including unit cost, cost of waste etc.)

Specific Environmental Criteria for all Purchasing Decisions

Avoid products containing:

Persistent bioaccumulative toxic compounds as defined in Exhibit G, addendum to this policy

Carcinogens, mutagens and reproductive toxic chemicals as defined in Exhibit G, addendum to this policy

Mercury

Phthalates (e.g. plasticizer DEHP (di-2-ethylhexyl phthalate))

Polyvinyl chloride (PVC)

Brominated flame retardants

KP's Manager of Environmental Stewardship will be consulted on all decisions involving products listed above.

Promote the purchase of these products:

- Building products, materials and furnishings that do not adversely impact indoor air quality
- Building products, materials and furnishings that are approved by National Facilities Services Planning & Standards
- Products with high post-consumer recycled content
- Products that are readily recycled, reprocessed, and/or reused
- Products that are latex-free
- Products that do not contain or contain a reduced amount of toxins
- Products that have “Take Back” provisions
- Paper products that are chlorine-free

Encourage vendors to:

- Package units in minimal packaging that is recyclable, non toxic or bio-based
- Transport products with minimal packaging, move to bio-based packaging
- Manufacture products that use less energy and water during normal use
- Manufacture product that use less water and energy during manufacturing
- Manufacture products with attributes listed above (i.e., chlorine-free, latex-free, non-toxic)

Definitions

Environmentally Preferred Purchasing is the purchase of products and services whose environmental impacts have been considered and found to be less damaging to the environment and human health when compared to competing products and services

DEHP (di-2-ethylhexyl phthalate) is a plasticizer (softener) used to increase the flexibility of polymers like polyvinyl chloride (PVC). DEHP is the plasticizer for most PVC medical devices such as IV bags and tubing. DEHP can leach out of the flexible PVC medical devices into the solution or medication it contains and subsequently into the patient. Animal studies indicate that DEHP is a potentially reproductive and development toxicant

Green Buildings is the practice of creating healthier and more resource-efficient models of design, construction, renovation, operation, maintenance and demolition. Elements of green building include, but are not limited to, designing and operating buildings to use energy efficiently and to use renewable sources of energy, including solar and wind; use water efficiently; use building materials that, in comparison to competing brands, have a reduced effect on the environment throughout their life cycle (e.g. recycled content, low toxicity, energy efficiency, biodegradability, and/or durability); reducing the waste from construction, remodeling, and demolition; designing and operating buildings that are healthy for their occupants. Reference Green Guidelines for Healthcare Construction

Persistent bioaccumulative toxic compounds A chemical that does not break down very readily in the environment and therefore exists in its toxic state for a long time, having the property of building-up (accumulating) in living things, which may cause an adverse effect or effects to biological systems.

Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) is a chlorinated plastic polymer adapted for many different uses by adding fillers, stabilizers, lubricants, plasticizers (DEHP), pigments and flame retardant, depending upon the intended application. It is used in gloves, tubing, IV bags, medical trays etc. Dioxins are formed during the production and incineration of PVC products, which accumulate in the environment. Dioxins are developmental toxicants and animal studies indicate dioxins cause cancer in multiple organ systems

Sourcing Core Groups – teams of Kaiser Permanente physicians and employees facilitated by purchasing and supply personnel who ensure that clinical and business requirements, such as environmental criteria, become part of the request for proposal (RFP) process. Each team is responsible for setting weighted criteria and through a team vote deciding which vendor/products are recommended for contracting.

Take Back Provisions encompass the ability to return items for credit, reuse and disposal such as the return of mercury sphygmomanometers, fluorescent lights, shipping containers and packaging etc.

Total Cost of Ownership consists of the costs, direct and indirect, incurred throughout the life cycle of an asset, including acquisition, deployment, operation, support and retirement.

Responsibilities

This policy is maintained by Kaiser Permanente's Chief Procurement Officer.

Maintenance

This policy shall be reviewed annually to assure continuing relevance and revised as necessary.

References

Kaiser Permanente Environmental Stewardship Council Chemical Policy.

<http://kpnet.kp.org/ehs/resourceconservation...> final location to be determined

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). [1986]. Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations, Chapter I, Subchapter I, Pts. 260-281). Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.

Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations: *Environment of Care Standard Hazardous Materials and Wastes*. Oakbrook Terrace, IL: Joint Commission.

Eco-Tool Kit. [2002]. Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc.

Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). [1996]. Hazard Communication (Title 29 Code of Federal Regulations, Pt. 1910, Section 1200). Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL EXHIBIT G

SUPPLIER'S ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ISSUES DISCLOSURES

Mercury Reduction. KP is committed to minimizing the amount of mercury used in operations and desire to avoid the acquisition of Products that contain mercury whenever feasible alternatives exist that do not compromise patient care. Supplier must provide information in relation to those Products that contain mercury.

___ The Products do not contain mercury.

___ The Products that contain mercury are identified in Exhibit A to this Agreement, which specifies the amount of mercury contained in each product that contains mercury and indicates if a feasible mercury-free alternative is available. Supplier must specify the alternative component that is replacing mercury.

Latex Reduction. KP is committed to protecting patients and healthcare workers against exposure to latex and its allergenic properties. Supplier must provide information in relation to those Products that contain latex either in the Products or their packaging.

___ The Products or their packaging offered in this Agreement do not contain latex.

___ The Products or their packaging that contain latex are identified in Exhibit A to this Agreement which specifies the location of latex contained in each product or its packaging. Supplier must specify the alternative component that is replacing latex.

Polyvinyl Chloride Plastic Reduction. KP is committed to minimizing the amount of polyvinyl chloride plastic (PVC) used in their operation and desire to avoid the acquisition of Products that contain PVC whenever feasible alternatives exist that do not compromise patient care. Supplier must provide information in relation to those Products that contain PVC.

___ The Products do not contain PVC.

___ The Products that contain PVC are identified in Exhibit A to this Agreement, which specifies the amount of PVC contained in each product that contains PVC and indicates if a feasible PVC-free alternative is available. Supplier must specify the alternative component that is replacing PVC.

Di-ethylhexyl Phthalate Reduction. KP is committed to minimizing the amount of di-ethylhexyl phthalate (DEHP) used in their operation and desire to avoid the acquisition of Products that contain DEHP whenever feasible alternatives exist that do not compromise patient care. Supplier must provide information in relation to those Products that contain DEHP.

___ The Products do not contain DEHP.

___ The Products that contain DEHP are identified in Exhibit A to this Agreement, which specifies the amount of DEHP contained in each product that contains DEHP and indicates if a feasible DEHP-free alternative is available. Supplier must specify the alternative component that is replacing DEHP.

Persistent, Accumulative and Toxic Compounds Reduction. KP is committed to minimizing the amount of persistent, accumulative and toxic compounds (PBTs) designated as an EPA Waste Minimization Priority Chemical at <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/hazwaste/minimize/chemlist.htm>, used in their operation and desire to avoid the acquisition of Products that contain PBTs whenever feasible alternatives exist that do not compromise patient care. Supplier must provide information in relation to those Products that contain PBTs.

___ The Products do not contain PBTs.

___ The Products that contain PBTs are identified in Exhibit A to this Agreement, which specifies the amount of the PBTs contained in each product that contains PBTs and indicates if a feasible PBT-free alternative is available. Supplier must specify the alternative component that is replacing the PBTs.

Carcinogens and Reproductive Toxins Reduction: KP is committed to minimizing the amount of carcinogens and reproductive toxins (as delineated on the lists for California Proposition 65, the Great Lakes Binational Toxics Strategy and the Federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act for Extremely Hazardous Waste) used in their operations and desire to avoid the acquisition of Products that contain carcinogens and reproductive toxins whenever feasible alternatives exist that do not compromise patient care. Supplier must provide information in relation to those Products that contain carcinogens or reproductive toxins.

___ The Products do not contain carcinogens or reproductive toxins.

___ The Products that contain carcinogens or reproductive toxins are identified in Exhibit A to this Agreement, which specifies the amount of carcinogen or reproductive toxin contained in each product that contains a carcinogen or reproductive toxin and indicates if a feasible carcinogen-free or reproductive toxin-free alternative is available. Supplier must specify the alternative component that is replacing the carcinogen or reproductive toxin.

Hazardous Substances or Processes. Supplier will deliver to KP a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for each hazardous substance or mixture as defined in any local, state, or federal statute, law, or code ordered under the agreement. Each MSDS must contain all required information concerning the hazardous substance or mixture, in a format agreed upon by KP.

Exhibit A

Use additional sheets if necessary.

| Product/Item | MSDS Submitted? (Check for yes) | Name of Exhibit G Chemical/Material of Concern¹ Write "none" if product contains no Exhibit H chemicals or materials. Chemicals present at less than 0.1% for carcinogens or 1% for other chemicals need not be disclosed. | Concentration (milligrams per liter) or amount (in grams) per product of Chemical/Material of Concern in product. | Name of available substitute product that does not contain chemical of concern | Alternative chemical/component material replacing Chemical/Material of Concern |
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I certify that I have reviewed the ingredient lists for these products and compared them to the EPA Waste Minimization Priority Chemical List (at <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/hazwaste/minimize/chemlist.htm>) and the California Proposition 65 list (at <http://www.oehha.org/prop65.html>). This information above is complete and true to the best of my knowledge.

Name of chemist

Signature of chemist

Date

¹ Exhibit G Chemicals/Materials of Concern include Mercury, Latex, PVC, DEHP, or any chemical on the EPA Waste Minimization Priority Chemical List (at <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/hazwaste/minimize/chemlist.htm>) or the California Proposition 65 list (at http://www.oehha.org/prop65/prop65_list/files/P65single3405.pdf).