

What Are Biobased Products?

Biobased products, designated by the Secretary of Agriculture, are commercial or industrial products that are composed in whole, or in significant part, of biological products or renewable domestic agricultural materials or forestry materials.

Biobased products can include:

1. Adhesives
2. Construction materials and composites
3. Fibers, paper, and packaging
4. Fuel additives
5. Landscaping materials, compost, and fertilizer
6. Lubricants and functional fluids
7. Plastics
8. Paints and coatings
9. Solvents and cleaners
10. Sorbents
11. Plant and vegetable inks

A detailed description of each category can be found at: <http://www.biobased.oce.usda.gov>

Why Purchase Them?

1. It's federally mandated. The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (Farm Bill) requires Federal agencies to establish procurement preference programs for biobased products and to purchase these products if they are reasonably available, meet performance standards, and are reasonably priced.
2. The Federal Government spends more than \$400 billion on goods and services each year. This "green" purchasing program could enhance the Nation's energy security by substituting biobased products for fossil energy-based products.
3. Many biobased products are environmentally friendly and can result in safer and healthier workplaces.
4. Federal purchase of biobased products will:
 - a. Increase demand for domestic crops for feedstock to manufacture biobased products, and
 - b. Increase economic development in Rural America by creating new markets for agricultural products.

Who Is Required To Purchase Designated Biobased Products?

All Federal agencies are required to purchase designated biobased products, as defined in the regulations to implement the statute for all items costing over \$10,000 or when the quantities of functionally equivalent items purchased over the preceding fiscal year equaled \$10,000 or more.

However, any procurement, by any Federal agency, which is subject to Section 6962 of title 42 (Solid Waste Disposal Act), shall not be subject to the regulations issued under Section 9002 of the Farm Bill, to the extent the requirements of the latter are inconsistent with those of the former.

Federal agencies may decide not to procure designated biobased products only if the items:

- a. are not reasonably available,
- b. fail to meet necessary performance standards, or
- c. are not available at a reasonable price.



Where Can Biobased Products Be Found?

The following list of web sites contains only a few of the locations where information on biobased products can be found.

**United States Department of Agriculture
FB4P Designation and Certification Program**
<http://www.biobased.oce.usda.gov>

**Department of Energy
Federal Fleet/Alternative Fuel Vehicles**
http://www.ott.doe.gov/epact/fed_fleet_prog.shtml

Department of Defense—DOD EMail
<https://email.prod.dodonline.net/scripts/emLogon.asp>

**U.S. General Services Administration
GSA Advantage!®**
<http://www.gsaadvantage.gov>

The United Soybean Board
http://www.unitedsoybean.org/what_nu.htm

The National Corn Growers Association
http://lepton.marz.com/ncga/comm_dev_center/index_PG.asp

For non-Federal web sites, no representations, guarantees, or warranties as to the accuracy or completeness of the presented information are made and USDA does not endorse any products or services at these sites.

Impacting Laws and Regulations

Farm Security and Rural Investment Act,
Section 9002 (May 13, 2002)
<http://www.biobased.oce.usda.gov/files/TITLEIX.pdf>

Guidelines for Designating Biobased Products for
Federal Procurement (January 11, 2005)
<http://www.biobased.oce.usda.gov/FSRIA/03-31347.pdf>

Designation of Biobased Items for Federal
Procurement (March 16, 2006)
http://www.biobased.oce.usda.gov/files/Round_1_Final_Rule.pdf

**For more information on the FB4P USDA
Procurement Program contact:**

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Federal Biobased Products Preferred Procurement Program (FB4P)



www.usda.gov/biobased