



Maryland Green Purchasing Committee Approved Specification – Laundry Services

HOW TO USE THIS DOCUMENT:

This document sets the minimum requirements for environmentally preferable laundry services purchased by the State of Maryland. Vendors are required to follow and, when possible, go beyond these standards in their offerings to the maximum extent practicable when such products are cost competitive and meet form, function, and utility requirements.

For State procurement officers, this document outlines the legislation, statutes, and regulations that mandate State purchasing practices for laundry services. The document also provides boilerplate language to be included in State procurement contracts associated laundry services.

PRODUCTS COVERED UNDER THIS SPECIFICATION:

Laundry products – General purpose

Laundry products – Pretreatment/spot removal

Laundry equipment

Pick-up and delivery services

Other aspects



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1. ENVIRONMENTALLY PREFERABLE PURCHASING: LEGISLATION, STATUTES, AND REGULATIONS

For Procurement Officers and Agencies

Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (COMAR [21.11.07.09](#))

“All procurement agencies shall purchase environmentally preferable products and services unless purchasing environmentally preferable products and services would limit or supersede any requirements under any provision of law or result in the purchase of products and services that:

- (1) Do not perform adequately for the intended use;
- (2) Exclude adequate competition; or
- (3) Are not available at a reasonable price in a reasonable period of time.”

Mercury and Products that Contain Mercury (COMAR [21.11.07.07](#))

“All procurement agencies shall give a preference under this regulation to procuring products and equipment that are mercury-free. If mercury-free products and equipment that meet the agency's product performance requirements are not commercially available, the procurement agency shall give preference under this regulation to products containing the least amount of mercury necessary to meet performance requirements.”

For Contractors, Bidders, and Offerors

Verifying Environmental Claims (State Finance and Procurement Article [§14-410](#))

“A bidder or offeror for a procurement contract shall certify in writing that any claims of environmental attributes made relating to a product or service are consistent with the Federal Trade Commission's Guidelines for the Use of Environmental Marketing Terms.”

Limitations and Prohibitions on Heavy Metals in Packaging (Environment Article [§9-1902\(a\)-\(d\)](#))

“Except as provided in § 9-1903 and § 9-1904 of this subtitle, on or after July 1, 1993, a manufacturer or distributor may not sell or offer for sale or for promotional purposes any package or packaging component or any product in a package or packaging component to which any of the following was intentionally added during manufacture or distribution:

- (1) Lead;
- (2) Cadmium;
- (3) Mercury; or
- (4) Hexavalent chromium...”

Limitations on Hazardous Substances (Environment Article, [§6-1202](#))

A person may not manufacture, process, sell, or distribute in the State a new product or flame-retardant part of a new product that contains more than one-tenth of 1% of pentaBDE (pentabrominated diphenyl ether) or octaBDE (octabrominated diphenyl) by mass.

Shipping/Transport Requirements and Recommendations Idling Law (Transportation Article [§22-402\(c\)\(3\)](#))

“A motor vehicle engine may not be allowed to operate for more than 5 consecutive minutes when the vehicle is not in motion, except as follows:



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- (i) When a vehicle is forced to remain motionless because of traffic conditions or mechanical difficulties over which the operator has no control;
- (ii) When it is necessary to operate heating and cooling or auxiliary equipment installed on the vehicle;
- (iii) To bring the vehicle to the manufacturer's recommended operating temperature; or
- (iv) When it is necessary to accomplish the intended use of the vehicle.”

2. PROHIBITED PRODUCTS

- A. Pursuant to Environment Article, [§§9-1901-1907](#), the Contractor is prohibited from offering or using packaging or packaging components (e.g. inks, dyes, pigments, adhesives, or any other additives) with lead, cadmium, mercury or hexavalent chromium at concentration levels exceeding 100 parts per million by weight or 0.01%.
- B. Pursuant to Environment Article, [§§6-1201-1204](#), certain products containing more than one-tenth of 1% of pentaBDE, octaBDE, or decaBDE by mass are prohibited.

3. MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR LAUNDRY PRODUCTS

The following minimum requirements apply to laundry services and products used during these services procured by the State of Maryland, unless otherwise noted as desirable.

For sections or products labeled as desirable, procuring agencies are encouraged to consider including those criteria when drafting solicitations.

A. Laundry Products, *General Purpose*

1. General purpose laundry products include detergent, fabric softener, bleach, and any other products used to clean, condition, or otherwise affect the quality of the laundered material during regular cleaning activities.
2. All products offered or used during services must currently have one of the following certifications, or meet the biobased content requirement:
 - a. Green Seal <https://greenseal.org/> (products may be viewed at: <https://certified.greenseal.org/directory>);
 - b. US EPA Safer Choice <https://www.epa.gov/saferchoice> (products may be viewed at: <https://www.epa.gov/saferchoice/products>);
 - c. USDA BioPreferred <https://www.biopreferred.gov/BioPreferred/> (products may be viewed at: <https://www.biopreferred.gov/BioPreferred/faces/catalog/Catalog.xhtml>);
 - d. Cradle to Cradle <https://c2ccertified.org/> (products may be viewed at: <https://c2ccertified.org/certified-products>);
 - e. UL ECOLOGO <https://www.ul.com/resources/ecologo-certification-program> (products may be viewed at: <https://spot.ul.com/>); or
 - f. Contain a minimum of 34% biobased content.

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3. To verify compliance with the required certifications listed above, links to the certifier’s website, the [UL SPOT](#) website, or the [Ecomedes](#) website must be provided in the bid package or proposal.
4. Bidders/offerors who suggest products that are not certified but meet the biobased content requirement shall provide a list of such products with their bids/offers. That list must include each product’s percentage of biobased content.

B. Laundry Products, *Pretreatment/Spot Removal*

1. Pretreatment/Spot Removal laundry products include detergent, fabric softener, bleach, stain remover and any other products used to clean, condition, or otherwise affect the quality of the laundered material specifically used to pre-treat laundry to assist in the removal of spots and stains during laundering.
2. All products offered or used during services must currently have one of the following certifications, or meet the biobased content requirement:
 - a. Green Seal <https://greenseal.org/> (products may be viewed at: <https://certified.greenseal.org/directory>);
 - b. US EPA Safer Choice <https://www.epa.gov/saferchoice> (products may be viewed at: <https://www.epa.gov/saferchoice/products>);
 - c. USDA BioPreferred <https://www.biopreferred.gov/BioPreferred/> (products may be viewed at: <https://www.biopreferred.gov/BioPreferred/faces/catalog/Catalog.xhtml>);
 - d. Cradle to Cradle <https://c2ccertified.org/> (products may be viewed at: <https://c2ccertified.org/certified-products>);
 - e. UL ECOLOGO <https://www.ul.com/resources/ecologo-certification-program> (products may be viewed at: <https://spot.ul.com/>); or
 - f. Contain a minimum of 46% biobased content.
3. To verify compliance with the required certifications listed above, links to the certifier’s website, the [UL SPOT](#) website, or the [Ecomedes](#) website must be provided in the bid package.
4. Bidders/offerors who suggest products that are not certified but meet the biobased content requirement shall provide a list of such products with their bids/offers. That list must include each product’s percentage of biobased content.

4. MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS LAUNDRY EQUIPMENT USED DURING SERVICES

The following minimum requirements apply to equipment used in laundry services.

A. Laundry Equipment, *General*

1. General laundry equipment includes clothes washers and clothes dryers used during regular cleaning activities.
2. Equipment used during these services must currently have one of the following certifications:



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- a. UL ECOLOGO <https://www.ul.com/resources/ecologo-certification-program> (products may be viewed at: <https://spot.ul.com/>); or
- b. EnergyStar <https://www.energystar.gov/> (products may be viewed at: <https://www.energystar.gov/productfinder/>).

5. ENVIRONMENTALLY PREFERABLE PRODUCT RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Laundry Services, *Pick-up and Delivery*

The State of Maryland encourages procuring agencies to consider requesting laundry services use fuel-efficient or alternative fuel vehicles (or other sustainable methods) for pickup and delivery of laundry.

To promote fuel efficiency and reduce greenhouse gases and air pollution, the Contractor is encouraged to use a SmartWay Transport/Carrier Partner for the shipment or transport of products. A list of SmartWay Transport partners can be found here: <https://www.epa.gov/smartway/smartway-partner-list>

B. Laundry Services, *Other Aspects*

The State of Maryland encourages procuring agencies to consider requesting laundry services that:

1. Use other certified green products that exceed the minimum requirements found in Maryland's Laundry Services Specification;
2. Implement recycling/reuse programs for hangers, cuff clips, collar supports, poly bags, etc.;
3. Buy items with minimal packaging and in bulk or concentrated form;
 - a. Where the Contractor uses packaging in addition to manufacturer packaging, the Contractor is encouraged to select packaging that minimizes or eliminates the use of disposable containers and/or incorporates recycled content, and is easily recyclable through the State's contracted recycling programs.
 - b. The Contractor shall avoid the use of polystyrene foam packaging (e.g., peanuts) and other difficult-to-recycle packaging materials. Where appropriate, Contractor packaging using reusable crates or reusable pallets is preferred over boxed packaging.
 - c. For corrugated cardboard packaging (also known as containerboard packaging), the Contractor is encouraged to use versions that contain a minimum of 25% by weight of post-consumer materials, which is the minimum post-consumer content level for packaging specified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines.
4. Employ practices that conserve water and energy, such as heat and water reclamation processes; and
5. Employ dry cleaning practices that use non-toxic cleaning agents, rather than toxic solvents.



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6. ENVIRONMENTALLY PREFERABLE PURCHASING LANGUAGE

Instruction to Procurement Officers: Please add the following language to your solicitation if it does not already exist.

A. On Environmentally Preferable Purchasing:

The State of Maryland is committed to purchasing environmentally preferable products and services (EPPs). Maryland’s State Finance & Procurement Article §14-410 defines environmentally preferable purchasing as “the procurement or acquisition of goods and services that have a lesser or reduced effect on human health and the environment when compared with competing goods or services that serve the same purpose.”

Accordingly, Bidders/Offerors are strongly encouraged to offer EPPs to fulfill this contract, to the greatest extent practicable.

B. On Maryland’s Green Purchasing Reporting Requirements:

The State of Maryland requires the Contractor to submit at a minimum quarterly sales data over the life of this contract per a schedule established and deemed reasonable by both parties, or by request by the Department of General Services. This information must include details about the recycled content, third-party sustainability certifications such as EPEAT, ENERGY STAR, and TCO, and other environmental attributes of products and services sold on this price agreement per the contract specifications. The Contractor shall notify the State if a product contains mercury.

To facilitate consistent reporting on this contract, the Contractor will be provided with a **VENDOR GREEN SALES REPORT** template from the Green Purchasing Committee (GPC), the Office of State Procurement (OSP) or the Department of General Services (DGS).

C. On Environmental Claims

All environmental benefit claims made by the Contractor concerning products or services offered on this contract must be consistent with the [Federal Trade Commission’s Guidelines for the Use of Environmental Marketing Claims](#).