

ADVOCATE'S ENVIRONMENTALLY PREFERRED PURCHASING POLICY

Advocate Health Care Systemwide

Policy Title: Environmentally Preferred Purchasing

Originated by: Supply Chain Management

Approved by: Vice President, Supply Chain Management

Policy: Environmentally Preferred Purchasing

I. PURPOSE

Protection of the earth's environment is essential for healthy communities. Advocate Health Care is committed to avoiding harm to human and environmental health, and to improving environmental quality by enhancing policies, programs, and practices for all of its business activities. Toward this end, Advocate Health Care has identified environmental stewardship as one of the tenets of its definition of corporate citizenship. The purpose of environmental stewardship is to minimize waste, prevent pollution, conserve natural resources, reduce costs, and model environmental protection practices within the health care industry. We will seek to purchase environmentally preferable products whenever they perform satisfactorily and are available at a reasonably competitive price. Advocate personnel involved with product selection are required to communicate to the marketplace that Advocate expects suppliers to continuously develop price competitive products that conform to our EPP guidelines and specifications as defined in this policy.

Guidelines

Advocate prefers products and services that address environmental impacts throughout the lifecycle. These products and services should:

- Use greener chemicals, chemicals that are inherently less hazardous and release little to no toxic by-products across their lifecycle.
- Promote the use of renewable materials by increasing the use of sustainable, bio-based materials and reducing the use of fossil fuel-based materials.
- Support healthy food systems by sourcing food products that are local, seasonal, and nutritious and produced in a way that minimizes degradation to human and environmental health and vitality.
- Promote land stewardship by cultivating healthy ecosystems and protecting natural resources.
- Promote sustainable energy by using renewable energy sources and reducing energy use.
- Protect clean air by minimizing pollutants.

- Contribute to the availability of clean water by minimizing water use and pollution, and avoiding bottled water products.
- Minimize waste by implementing the three “Rs”: reduce, reuse and recycle.
- Use environmentally sound waste disposal technologies where reuse, reduction and recycling cannot be achieved.

Specific Environmental Considerations for Purchasing

Advocate takes a precautionary approach to selecting products and services. We acknowledge that federal and state regulations and standards do not always address critical issues concerning public and environmental health. We are mindful of environmental and public health concerns brought to the forefront through independent and rigorous research. Therefore, Advocate is working to:

Avoid products containing the following chemicals and materials

- **Persistent bioaccumulative toxic compounds** – Compounds that are toxic, persist in the environment and build up in the food chain, and can pose risks to public health by causing adverse effects to biological systems.
- **Bisphenol –A** – A plastic chemical used in a variety of capacities that the National Institute of Health National Toxicology Program believes is hazardous to human reproductive and developmental health.
- **Carcinogens, mutagens and reproductive toxic chemicals** – Chemicals that have been shown to cause cancer, a mutation of the genes, or damage to the development or function of reproductive systems.
- **Halogenated flame retardants** – These flame retardants have been shown through controlled studies in laboratory animals to disrupt thyroid function, critical for brain development early in life, and potentially suppress immune systems, cause cancer, and disrupt normal endocrine function.
- **Chlorine-containing flame retardants** – These flame retardants are suspected to accumulate in the liver and kidneys and be carcinogens and reproductive toxicants.
- **Latex** – Extensive use of this material can cause allergic reactions in healthcare personnel and patients.
- **Mercury** – a metal that is a potent neurotoxin that can affect the brain, spinal cord, kidneys, and liver.
- **Phthalates (e.g. plasticizer DEHP (di-2-ethylhexyl phthalate))** – A family of industrial chemicals that are used as softeners in polyvinyl chloride plastic and as solvents in consumer products.
- **Polyvinyl chloride (PVC)** – The manufacture and disposal of this material releases dioxin, a known carcinogen, into the environment.
- **Volatile organic compounds and semi-volatile organic compounds** – These are “any compound of carbon, excluding carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, carbonic acid, metallic carbides or carbonates, and ammonium carbonate, which participates in atmospheric photochemical reactions,” (with a few exclusions)
U.S. EPA

Only purchase Energy Star certified equipment for the following:

- **Appliances**
 - Commercial clothes washers
 - Vending machines
 - Water coolers
- **Electronics**
 - Telephones
 - Televisions
 - Audio/Video
 - Professional displays
 - Set-top boxes & cable boxes
 - VoIP phones
- **Food Service Equipment**
 - Dishwashers
 - Fryers
 - Griddles
 - Hot food holding cabinets
 - Ice makers
 - Ovens
 - Refrigerators & freezers
 - Steam cookers
- **Office Equipment**
 - Computers
 - Data center storage
 - Displays
 - Enterprise servers
 - Imaging equipment
 - Uninterruptible power supplies (UPS)

Implications for Manufacturers and Suppliers

The EPP policy is also meant to convey to manufacturers and suppliers the importance that Advocate places on reducing our life-cycle ecological footprint while continuing to improve overall public health. We count on our suppliers to heed this policy and see it as encouragement to innovate to meet and exceed our expectations. We also expect our suppliers to complete our supplier disclosure process by providing Advocate with honest and complete information on corporate social responsibility and product performance as it pertains to environmental and public health.

Specific considerations should be to:

- Design products to contain high post-consumer recycled content
- Design products to be readily recycled, reprocessed, reused, and /or composted
- Manufacture products using minimal energy and water, and develop products that require minimal resource during normal operation

- Manufacture products to reduce total cost of ownership and improve end of life responsibility by using “take-back” provisions.
- Transport and package units in minimal packaging that is recyclable, non toxic and bio-based
- Improve transport and production methods to reduce greenhouse gas emissions

Definitions

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 the DEHP is a potentially reproductive and development toxicant.

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.

Life-cycle a product’s life-cycle refers to the environmental and public health implications of all phases of a product’s existence; from raw material extraction or production, to manufacture, distribution, use, and disposal and includes all intervening transportation.

Value Analysis Councils teams of Advocate associates 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 supplier/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.

Responsibilities

This policy is maintained by Advocate Health Care Supply Chain Management

Maintenance

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