

**Nurse Call Systems and Related Products  
Suggested Environmental RFP Questions**

<b>Consideration/Requirement</b>	<b>Consideration/Requirement Definition</b>	<b>Suggested RFP Language</b>	<b>Note</b>
<b>1. Packaging – Recycled Content</b>	Recycled content includes preconsumer (postindustrial) and post-consumer recycled content materials. Preconsumer materials are those that never made it to the consumer. Postconsumer materials were used by the consumer and collected for recycling new or similar products. Prefer postconsumer recycled content that helps support recycling markets and reduces the use of natural resources.	<i>Does the product's primary packaging contain at least 5% postconsumer recycled content? Primary packaging surrounds the specific product. <b>(Yes/No/Unknown)</b></i>	Broadlane may ask a related question in the boilerplate; if so, this question may not be needed.
<b>2. Packaging - Recyclable</b>	The Federal Trade Commission limits the use of the word "recyclable" in marketing claims, stating "A product or package should not be marketed as recyclable unless it can be collected, separated or otherwise recovered from the solid waste stream for reuse, or in the manufacture or assembly of another package or product, through an established recycling program." See <a href="http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/grnrule/guides980427.htm">http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/grnrule/guides980427.htm</a> for the <b>FTC Guides For The Use Of Environmental Marketing</b>	<i>Is the product's packaging recyclable? <b>(Yes/No)</b> If yes, please indicate which product packaging is recyclable in geographical areas covered by this contract.</i>	Many vendors still claim recyclability when that is largely theoretical. Always confirm recyclability claims by verifying that a collection program exists in the region where the product will be used, and that the products collected are recycled into new products and not landfilled or exported. Vendors claiming recyclability when no collection program exists should be reported to the Federal Trade Commission
<b>3. Packaging – PVC-free</b>	Polyvinyl chloride (PVC) production and incineration creates dioxin, one of the most toxic chemicals known.	<i>Does the product's packaging contain polyvinyl chloride (PVC)? <b>(Yes/No)</b></i>	More and more suppliers are turning to PVC-free packaging materials.

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<b>4. Meets RoHS thresholds</b>	The European Union Restriction on Hazardous Substances (RoHS) Directive requires that electric and electronic products sold in the Europe Union (EU) meet strict thresholds for listed heavy metals and some toxic flame retardants.	<i>Does this product contain Lead, Mercury, Hexavalent chromium, Polybrominated biphenyls (PBBs), Polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDE) including decaBDE &lt;1000 ppm or Cadmium &lt;100 ppm (meet RoHS thresholds)? (Yes/No)</i>	Although medical devices are currently exempt, and this directive does not apply to products sold in the US, responsible manufacturers have already begun to sell RoHS-compliant medical electronic devices in this country.
<b>5. Mercury-free</b>	Mercury is typically used in switches, temperature controls, and pressure controls.	<i>Is this product free of intentionally-added mercury in all components? (Yes/No/Unknown)</i>	Mercury is a known neurotoxicant and mercury contamination continues to affect fisheries in the US and around the world. Substitutes for mercury-containing components in electronics are widely available.
<b>6. Hazardous substances</b>	Short-chain chlorinated paraffins (SCCPs) may be used as secondary plasticizers and flame retardants in plastics although their main use is as lubricants and coolants in metal cutting and metal forming operations. The CAS number is 63449-39-8. Responsible manufacturers stopped using SCCPs in electronic devices in the 1990s.	<i>Is this product free of intentionally-added Short Chain Chlorinated Paraffins? (Yes/No)</i>	SCCPs are generally persistent, bioaccumulative, and toxic to aquatic organisms at low concentrations and have been identified as problematic environmental contaminants in the North Atlantic. Even relatively small releases in manufacturing and waste management facilities can have adverse impacts. SCCPs have been detected in human breast milk.
<b>7. Halogenated Flame Retardants</b>	HFRs are defined as chemicals that contain a carbon-halogen bond and are intended to inhibit ignition and the spread of flames. Halogens include fluorine, chlorine, bromine, and iodine. In electronics, SCCPs may be found in printed circuit boards, external enclosures and housings. (See <a href="http://www.noharm.org/lib/downloads/bfrs/Purchasers_Can_Reduce_BFRs.pdf">http://www.noharm.org/lib/downloads/bfrs/Purchasers_Can_Reduce_BFRs.pdf</a> for a list of HFRs.)	<i>Is this product free of intentionally-added halogenated flame retardants (HFRs) in all components including the printed circuit boards, housings and external enclosures? (Yes/No)</i>	For many devices, feasible alternatives to HFRs exist for all components. Many companies have stopped using HFRs in housings and external enclosures, and environmental leaders are eliminating all HFRs in every component.

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<b>8. Product Take-Back</b>	A program where the vendor or manufacturer accepts a product after it is used by the consumer, and the vendor or manufacturer takes responsibility for proper disposition of the product.	<i>Does the supplier or vendor offer a Product Take-back Program? If so, does the supplier use a qualified or certified e-Stewards recycler? (Yes/No)</i>	Product take-back programs encourage vendors to design products for easy upgrade and recycling. The e-Stewards Program, by the Basel Action Network, certifies or obtains pledges from recyclers who will not to export hazardous waste to developing countries, not use prison labor, and not incinerate. Note the pledge is not a certification program; normal due diligence must be done. <a href="http://www.e-stewards.org">www.e-stewards.org</a>
<b>9. Batteries – rechargeable</b>	Rechargeable batteries can be re-used multiple times before being replaced.	<i>Does this product contain a rechargeable battery? (Yes/No)</i>	
<b>10. Battery Take Back Program</b>	A program where the vendor or manufacturer accepts the batteries for recycling after use.	<i>Does the supplier offer a battery take-back program to recycle used batteries? (Yes/No)</i>	Battery recycling programs are available nationwide through mail, drop off and pick-up options. Metals used in many batteries are recyclable. Several states have laws barring batteries from landfill.
<b>11. Proposition 65</b>	California’s Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 referred to as Proposition 65 requires manufacturers who sell products in California to inform citizens about exposure to chemicals that may be released into the air or water and cause cancer, birth defects or other reproductive harm.	<i>Is this product free of chemicals listed under California’s Proposition 65, the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement of Act of 1986, <a href="http://oehha.ca.gov/prop65.html">http://oehha.ca.gov/prop65.html</a>? (Yes/No)</i>	Although this law does not apply to suppliers who do not sell products in California, they should also be required to identify whether their products contain chemicals that may cause harm. The Prop 65 list is continuously updated, <a href="http://oehha.ca.gov/prop65.html">http://oehha.ca.gov/prop65.html</a>

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