


BioPreferredSM - What is My Role?



USDA BioPreferredSM
Federal Biobased Products Procurement Program

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BioPreferredSM - What is My Role?

The responsibility of implementing the BioPreferred preference program belongs to everyone in the procurement process. Whether you are a program manager, an acquisition planner, a facilities manager, a contracting official, a purchase card holder, or in any other job, you can make a difference in the success of this program!





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BioPreferredSM is a new part of the environmentally friendly Green Purchasing programs, but there have already been many efforts to ensure its success and to help you participate. Let's briefly review some of the impacting laws and regulations.







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Impacting Laws and Regulations

- Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, Section 9002 (FSRIA or Farm Bill)
- Energy Policy Act of 2005, Sections 205 and 943 (EPACT)
- Guidelines for Designating Biobased Products for Federal Procurement (January 11, 2005)
- Biomass Research and Development Act of 2000
- Executive Order 13423
- Federal Acquisition Regulations



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Section 9002 of FSRIA and the BioPreferredSM program guidelines require each Federal agency to establish an affirmative procurement program for qualifying BioPreferredSM products to include:

- A preference for purchasing designated items,
- A promotion program to promote these purchases, and
- Provisions to review and monitor program effectiveness on an annual basis.



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Additionally, all Federal agencies are required to purchase qualifying biobased products when they:

- are reasonably available,
- meet performance standards, and
- are reasonably priced.



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There are only three exceptions when the BioPreferredSM guidelines may not be applicable.




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First exception:
Products designated by the Environmental Protection Agency as part of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976 (RCRA) take preference over BioPreferredSM products.




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Second exception:
The procurement of motor vehicle fuels or electricity since these items are addressed by the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPACT).




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Third exception:
Procurement of biobased products having mature markets as indicated by USDA is excluded from consideration for designation and procurement preference.



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You should be aware of the general compliance requirements and exceptions and be very familiar with your agency's policies and program requirements.



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To make it even easier for you to implement BioPreferredSM, USDA has created several useful procurement tools, such as USDA's model BioPreferredSM Affirmative Procurement Plan and sample contracting language.




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In addition to these useful tools, USDA maintains an electronic catalog of qualifying BioPreferredSM products on its Web site and is working to include qualifying products on GSA Advantage!® and DoD EMALL.



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We can make a difference if we work together to purchase BioPreferred products!



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BioPreferredSM - What is My Role?

Working together, we can:

- Increase our energy security & independence,
- Increase economic development,
- Improve our environment, and
- Meet the requirements of the 2002 Farm Bill.




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It's easy! It's important!
So please, do your part to help and purchase BioPreferred products!



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To learn more about BioPreferredSM and the tools discussed in this training module, visit www.usda.gov/biopreferred.

[Click here to complete the Awareness Training Self-Tests](#)



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