Environmentally Preferable Procurement: Definitions of Commonly Used Terms

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A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

A

Agricultural Fibers

Agricultural fibers are harvested from non-wood plants that are grown intentionally for tree free paper or other fiber products, such as kenaf and industrial hemp. [Reference: ForestEthics.org, 12-08]

Agricultural Residue

Agricultural residue refers to usable materials recovered primarily from annual crops as byproducts of food and fiber production. [Reference: ForestEthics.org, 12-08]

Alkylphenols (APEs, NPEs, etc.)

Alkylphenols

Alkylphenols (AP) are chemical compounds used primarily to manufacture alkylphenol ethoxylates (APE), which are used as cleaning agents or surfactants. APEs persist in the environment and laboratory studies indicate that some APE degradation products are aquatically toxic and function as human "endocrine disrupters," which means they act as artificial hormones in the human body. The hormone-like effects of APEs observed in laboratory studies are similar to the reproductive and developmental disorders seen in wildlife exposed to polluted waters. APEs are used in: paints; pesticides and adjuvants; household cleaners (laundry, citrus cleaners, disinfecting cleaners, spot removers); I&I cleaners (vehicle, multi-purpose, laundry, floor, toilet, deodorizers); shampoos, conditioners, and hair colors; and contraceptives. Third-party certification standards for safer cleaning products such as Green Seal and EcoLogo prohibit the use of APEs.

Nonylphenol and Its Derivatives

Nonylphenol (NP) is the most commercially prevalent of the alkylphenol family, representing approximately 85% of the alkylphenol market. NP is rarely used "as is." Rather it is further reacted to produce nonylphenol ethoxylates (NPE), tris(nonylphenyl) phosphite (TNPP) and nonylphenol-formaldehyde condensation resins.

Nonylphenol Ethoxylates

Nonylphenol ethoxylates (NPE) are nonionic surfactants that are used in many applications. They are part of a broader family of compounds called alkylphenol ethoxylates (APE). NPE are estimated to represent greater than 80% of the APE market in North America. NPE surfactants function as emulsifiers, wetting agents, dispersants, foam control agents and surface tension agents. In detergents and cleaning products they are the ingredients that "carry the dirt away."
[References: EPA DfE Program, Washington Toxics Coalition, Responsible Purchasing Network, APE Research Council, 1-09]

Ancient or Old Growth Forest

Ancient or Old-Growth Forests include forest areas that are relatively undisturbed by human activity. Ancient forests vary significantly in age and structure from forest type to forest type and one biogeoclimatic zone to another. Boreal forests, temperate or tropical rainforests may all be classified as ancient or old growth forests. Ancient forests are characterized by the following features:

- They have not undergone any significant industrial activity,
- They are naturally regenerated and dominated by a range of native tree species,
- Tree size, age and spacing vary widely,
- Accumulations of dead standing trees (snags) and fallen trees are much more frequent than in younger forests,
- Ancient forests contain trees that are large for the species and site combination,
- The canopy of an ancient forest has many openings and the forest floor is lush with ferns, berry bushes, mosses etc.
- Ancient/Old Growth forests have multiple canopy layers.

[Reference: ForestEthics.org 12-08]

B

Biodegradability
A quantitative measure of the extent to which a material is capable of being decomposed by biological agents, especially bacteria. [Reference: Federal Register, PART 2902—GUIDELINES FOR DESIGNATING BIOBASED PRODUCTS FOR FEDERAL PROCUREMENT]

Bisphenol A
Bisphenol a (BPA), a synthetic estrogen used to harden polycarbonate plastics and epoxy resin, is the focus of a growing number of research studies and legislative actions, reflecting mounting scientific evidence that it causes serious and sometimes irreversible damage to health, even at the low doses to which people are routinely exposed. An estimated 6 billion pounds of BPA are produced globally annually, generating about $6 billion in sales. It is fabricated into thousands of products made of hard, clear polycarbonate plastics and tough epoxy resins, including safety equipment, eyeglasses, computer and cell phone casings, water and beverage bottles, canned food liners, and epoxy paint and coatings. But BPA-based plastics break down readily, particularly when heated or washed with strong detergent.
In laboratory tests, trace BPA exposure been shown to disrupt the endocrine system and trigger a wide variety of disorders, including chromosomal and reproductive system abnormalities, impaired brain and neurological functions, cancer, cardiovascular system damage, adult-onset diabetes, early puberty, obesity and resistance to chemotherapy.
[Reference: Environmental Working Group Website, 2-09]

C

California Proposition 65 (aka Prop 65)
Proposition 65, the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986, was enacted as a ballot initiative in November 1986. The Proposition was intended by its authors to protect California citizens and the State's drinking water sources from chemicals known to cause cancer, birth defects or other reproductive harm, and to inform citizens about exposures to such chemicals.
Proposition 65 requires the Governor to publish, at least annually, a list of chemicals known to the state to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity. This list is often referenced in product specifications that seek to prohibit carcinogens and reproductive toxins in products. [Reference: California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment website, 2-09]

Carcinogen
A cancer-causing substance or agent. Carcinogens are typically defined as those chemicals listed as known, probable, or possible human carcinogens by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), the National Toxicology Program (NTP), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Occupational Health and Safety Administration, or California Proposition 65.

Consolidated Paints
Paints that contain a minimum of 95% by volume post-consumer paint with a maximum of 5% by volume secondary industrial materials or virgin materials. [Reference: Green Seal GS-43 standard]

D

E

EcoLogo
Founded in 1988 by the Government of Canada but now recognized world-wide, EcoLogo (also known as Environmental Choice) is one of North America's most utilized environmental standard and certification mark. Since 1996 the EcoLogo Program has been managed by TerraChoice Environmental Marketing. EcoLogo provides customers -- public, corporate and consumer - with assurance that the products and services bearing the logo meet stringent environmental standards that have been verified by a third party auditor. [Reference: EcoLogo website, 1-09]

Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT)
EPEAT is an eco-label program designed to help purchasers in the public and private sectors evaluate, compare and select desktop computers, notebooks and monitors based on their environmental attributes.
EPEAT evaluates electronic products according to three tiers of environmental performance - Bronze, Silver and Gold. The complete set of performance criteria includes 23 required criteria and 28 optional criteria in 8 categories. To be EPEAT registered, products must meet all the required criteria. Products may then achieve a higher level EPEAT "rating" by meeting additional optional criteria. [Reference: EPEAT website, 1/09]

Endangered Forests
Endangered Forests are the most valuable forests on the globe, forests that would be irreparably harmed by industrial resource extraction. In practical terms this means these forests are "NO GO" and "NO BUY" forests. These forests comprise a large proportion of the world's remaining old-growth, primary and ancient forests in tropical, temperate and boreal zones.
These forests should be protected from industrial-scale resource extraction so that they may continue to provide the many goods and services they supply in their natural state, and to maintain biological diversity in forest ecosystems.
There are four categories of endangered forests:
1. Intact forest landscape mosaics,
2. Naturally rare forest types,
3. Forest types that have been made rare due to human activity, and
4. Other forests that are ecologically critical for the protection of biological diversity.

[Reference: ForestEthics.org, 12-08]

Endocrine Disruptors
Endocrine disruptors are chemicals that interfere with the normal function of hormones and the way hormones control growth, metabolism and body functions.

ENERGY STAR
ENERGY STAR is a joint program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy helping residential and commercial end-users save money and protect the environment through energy efficient products and practices.
In 1992 the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) introduced ENERGY STAR as a voluntary labeling program designed to identify and promote energy-efficient products to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Computers and monitors were the first labeled products. The ENERGY STAR label is now on over 50 product categories including major appliances, office equipment, lighting, and home electronics. EPA has also extended the label to cover new homes and commercial and industrial buildings. [Reference: Energy Star website 12-08]

EPA DfE Program
The Design for the Environment (DfE) Program works in partnership with a broad range of stakeholders to reduce risk to people and the environment by preventing pollution. DfE focuses on industries that combine the potential for chemical risk reduction and improvements in energy efficiency with a strong motivation to make lasting, positive changes. DfE convenes partners, including industry representatives and environmental groups, to develop goals and guide the work of the partnership. Partnership projects evaluate the human health and environmental considerations, performance, and cost of traditional and alternative technologies, materials, and processes.

The DfE Product Label
The EPA allows safer products to carry the Design for the Environment (DfE) label. This mark allows consumers to quickly identify and choose products that can help protect the environment and are safer for families.
When you see the DfE logo on a product it means that the DfE scientific review team has screened each ingredient for potential human health and environmental effects and that-based on currently available information, EPA predictive models, and expert judgment-the product contains only those ingredients that pose the least concern among chemicals in their class.
Product manufacturers who become DfE partners, and earn the right to display the DfE logo on recognized products, have invested heavily in research, development and reformulation, to ensure that their ingredients and finished product

line up on the green end of the health and environmental spectrum, while maintaining or improving product performance. [Reference: EPA DfE website 1-09]

F

Fair Trade Certified

Products certified according to the Fair Trade criteria established by TransFair, a non-profit organization. Fair Trade empowers farmers and farm workers to lift themselves out of poverty by developing the business skills necessary to compete in the global marketplace. By guaranteeing minimum floor prices and social premiums, Fair Trade enables producers to invest in their farms and communities and protect the environment.

Fair Trade principles include:

- Fair prices: Democratically organized farmer groups receive a guaranteed minimum floor price and an additional premium for certified organic products. Farmer organizations are also eligible for pre-harvest credit.
- Fair labor conditions: Workers on Fair Trade farms enjoy freedom of association, safe working conditions, and living wages. Forced child labor is strictly prohibited.
- Direct trade: Importers purchase from Fair Trade producer groups as directly as possible, eliminating unnecessary middlemen and empowering farmers to strengthen their organizations and become competitive players in the global economy.
- Democratic and transparent organizations: Fair Trade farmers and farm workers decide democratically how to use their Fair Trade premiums.
- Community development: Fair Trade farmers and farm workers invest Fair Trade premiums in social and business development projects like health care, new schools, quality improvement trainings, and organic certification.
- Environmental sustainability: The Fair Trade certification system strictly prohibits the use of genetically modified organisms (GMOs), promotes integrated farm management systems that improve soil fertility, and limits the use of harmful agrochemicals in favor of environmentally sustainable farming methods that protect farmers' health and preserve valuable ecosystems for future generations.

[Reference: TransFair website, 12-08]

Flame Retardants

Flame retardants are materials that inhibit or resist the spread of fire. Chemical flame retardants are added to many materials and products to prevent or suppress ignition or to limit the spread of fire once ignition occurs.

A wide variety of chemicals and chemical families are employed as flame retardants. Halogenated flame retardants are based primarily on chlorine and bromine. Products containing bromine comprise a significant portion of the flame retardant market due to this element's effectiveness at suppressing ignition and stopping the spread of flame, and relatively low cost.

The polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs) are one of the main classes of brominated flame retardants (BFRs). PBDEs have been produced primarily in three technical formulations, PentaBDE, OctaBDE, and DecaBDE, under a variety of trade names. PBDEs are in thousands of everyday products, including electronics equipment, lighting, wiring, building materials, textiles, furniture and industrial paints. In 2004 PentaBDE and OctaBDE were voluntarily phased-out from most markets. PBDEs persist in the environment and bioaccumulate in organisms. Toxicological testing indicates that PBDEs may cause liver toxicity, thyroid toxicity, and neurodevelopmental toxicity. Studies show PBDEs can be ingested by humans through household dust as, overtime, PBDEs wear off of treated products.

Chlorinated flame retardants (CFRs) are used in textiles, paints and coatings, plastics, and insulation foams. Like BFRs, some chlorine-containing flame retardants persist in the environment. CFRs have been found to accumulate in the liver and kidneys and are suspected to be carcinogens and reproductive toxicants.

As of January 1, 2011, products containing more than one-tenth of one percent by mass of DecaBDE may not be sold in Oregon (some exceptions for maintaining existing aviation and motor vehicle parts and transportation equipment). [Products containing Penta and OctaBDE were banned in Oregon in 2005]

[Reference: Illinois Environmental Protection Agency Report on Alternatives to the Flame Retardant DecaBDE, 2007; Environmental Working Group "In the Dust", 2004; Healthcare Without Harm "Flame Retardants: Alarming Increases in Humans and the Environment", 2006; ORS 453.085 and SB0596, 2009]

Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Certified
The FSC sets forth principles, criteria, and standards that span economic, social, and environmental concerns in order to bring sustainable forestry into practice. The FSC product certification program is based on a chain-of-custody approach so end-users can verify that their forest products came from a forest that is managed according to FSC standards. For paper, the FSC certified products can include recycled content, which is verified according to FSC standards.
[Reference: Forest Stewardship Council website, 12-08]

Formaldehyde
Formaldehyde is a basic building block chemical and it finds its way, either directly or in derivative chemicals, into almost all sectors of the economy and thousands of products. The primary uses of formaldehyde are the manufacture of formaldehyde-based resins and as an intermediary in the manufacture of chemicals, plastics, and controlled-release fertilizers. Wood adhesives used to make plywood, particleboard and other manufactured wood products are the dominant end use of formaldehyde, accounting for 64% of the total worldwide consumption in 2003.
Formaldehyde is regarded as a common indoor air contaminant. Contained in many construction products and home furnishings (including plywood, particleboard, medium density fiberboard, oriented strand board, insulation, carpets, other flooring, and related adhesives), unreacted formaldehyde off-gasses into the air. Off-gassing is highest for new products and decreases over time.
The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) and the State of California classify formaldehyde as a known human carcinogen. Formaldehyde is also classified as an irritant. Because it is highly reactive, water soluble and rapidly metabolized, people may experience toxic, irritating and sensitizing effects at the site of contact. Inhaled formaldehyde is readily absorbed by the upper respiratory tract and is rapidly metabolized by almost every cell in the body. Formaldehyde exposure is also a potential reproductive hazard, associated with increased incidence of menstrual disorders and pregnancy problems.
[Reference: The Massachusetts Toxics Use Reduction Institute, Massachusetts Chemical Fact Sheet: Formaldehyde, 2007]

G

Green Seal
Green Seal is a U.S. independent third-party organization dedicated to safeguarding the environment and transforming the marketplace by promoting the manufacture, purchase, and use of environmentally responsible products and services. Green Seal is most widely recognized for its environmental standards and certification mark. Products and services certified to a Green Seal standard meet rigorous, science-based environmental leadership standards. This gives manufacturers the assurance to back up their claims and purchasers confidence that certified products are better for human health and the environment. [Reference: Green Seal website, 1-09]

Greenguard
The GREENGUARD Environmental Institute (GEI) is an industry-independent, non-profit organization that oversees the GREENGUARD Certification Program[SM]. GEI establishes acceptable indoor air standards for indoor products, environments, and buildings. [Reference: Greenguard website, 07/09]

Greenwashing
The act of misleading consumers regarding the environmental practices of a company or the environmental benefits of a product or service. [Reference: TerraChoice Environmental Marketing, 8-08]

H

High Conservation Value Forest
High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) is a term coined by the Forest Stewardship Council and refers to forests that possess one or more of the following attributes:

- Forest areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant:
    - concentrations of biodiversity values (e.g. endemism, endangered species, refugia); and/or

    - large landscape level forests, contained within, or containing the management unit, where viable populations of most if not all naturally occurring species exist in natural patterns of distribution and abundance.
- Forest areas that are in or contain rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems.
- Forest areas that provide basic services of nature in critical situations (e.g. watershed protection, erosion control).
- Forest areas fundamental to meeting basic needs of local communities (e.g. subsistence, health) and/or critical to local communities' traditional cultural identity (areas of cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance identified in cooperation with such local communities).

[Reference: ForestEthics.org, 12-08]

I

J

K

L

LEED Certified

The U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System™ is a third-party certification program for the design, construction and operation of high performance green buildings. The LEED program has different rating systems based on the type of application: new construction, existing buildings, core & shell, commercial interiors, neighborhood development and more! [Reference: USGBC website, 12-08]

Low Carbon Fuel

A low carbon fuel is one that meets a low carbon fuel standard.

Low Carbon Fuel Standard

A low carbon fuel standard (LCFS) for transportation fuels is a policy to encourage the utilization of low carbon fuels (measured on a full life–cycle basis) to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the transportation sector. For example, California's LCFS calls for a reduction of at least 10 percent in the carbon intensity of California's transportation fuels by 2020. The carbon intensity of fuels are measured on a life-cycle basis.

[Reference: US EPA website www.epa.gov/statelocalclimate/resources/glossary.html and the CARB LCFS website http://www.arb.ca.gov/fuels/lcfs/lcfs.htm, March 2010]

M

N

O

Organic

'Organic' is a labeling term that denotes products produced under the authority of the U.S. Organic Foods Production Act (OFPA). The principal guidelines for organic production are to use materials and practices that enhance the ecological balance of natural systems and that integrate the parts of the farming system into an ecological whole. Organic agriculture is an ecological production management system that promotes and enhances biodiversity, biological cycles and soil biological activity. It is based on minimal use of off-farm inputs and on management practices that restore, maintain and enhance ecological harmony. Organic agriculture practices cannot ensure that products are completely free of residues; however, methods are used to minimize pollution from air, soil and water. Organic food handlers, processors and retailers adhere to standards that maintain the integrity of organic agricultural products. The primary goal of organic agriculture is to optimize the health and productivity of interdependent communities of soil life, plants, animals and people.

Organic Food

Organic food is produced by farmers who emphasize the use of renewable resources and the conservation of soil and water to enhance environmental quality for future generations. Organic meat, poultry, eggs, and dairy products come from animals that are given no antibiotics or growth hormones. Organic food is produced without using most conventional pesticides; fertilizers made with synthetic ingredients or sewage sludge; bioengineering; or ionizing radiation. Before a product can be labeled 'organic,' a Government-approved certifier inspects the farm where the food is grown to make sure the farmer is following all the rules necessary to meet USDA organic standards. Companies that handle or process organic food before it gets to your local supermarket or restaurant must be certified, too.

Organic farming entails:

- Use of cover crops, green manures, animal manures and crop rotations to fertilize the soil, maximize biological activity and maintain long-term soil health.
- Use of biological control, crop rotations and other techniques to manage weeds, insects and diseases.
- An emphasis on biodiversity of the agricultural system and the surrounding environment.
- Using rotational grazing and mixed forage pastures for livestock operations and alternative health care for animal wellbeing.
- Reduction of external and off-farm inputs and elimination of synthetic pesticides and fertilizers and other materials, such as hormones and antibiotics.
- A focus on renewable resources, soil and water conservation, and management practices that restore, maintain and enhance ecological balance.

[Reference: National Agricultural Library, U.S. Department of Agriculture website, 1-09]

P

Perfluorochemicals (PFCs, PFOAs)

Perfluorochemicals (PFCs) are a family of man-made (synthetic) chemicals that have been used for decades to make products that resist heat, oil, stains, grease and water. They are used to provide non-stick surfaces on cookware and waterproof, breathable membranes for clothing, and are used in many industry segments, including the aerospace, automotive, building/construction, chemical processing, electronics, semiconductors, and textile industries. Some of the chemicals in the PFC group are perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS; $C8F17SO3$), perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA; $C8F15O2H$), and perfluorobutanoic acid (PFBA; $C4F7O2H$).

Teflon and other nonstick cookware; clothing and carpeting that have stain-repellent coatings; fast food packaging that repels grease and oil; cleaning products; cosmetics and many other consumer products are made with chemicals that break down into PFOA in our bodies.

PFOA: is very persistent in the environment; is found at very low levels both in the environment and in the blood of the general U.S. population; remains in people for a very long time; and causes developmental and other adverse effects in laboratory animals. In 2005, an independent scientific review panel reporting to the EPA found PFOA to be a likely human carcinogen. [Reference: US EPA OPPT website 6/2009; Environmental Working Group website 6/2009]

Persistent, Bioaccumulative Toxin (PBT)

Persistent, bioaccumulative, and toxic pollutants (PBTs) are highly toxic, long-lasting substances that can build up in the food chain to levels that are harmful to human and ecosystem health. The biggest concerns about PBTs are that they transfer rather easily among air, water, and land, and span boundaries of programs, geography, and generations. They are associated with a range of adverse human health effects, including effects on the nervous system, reproductive and developmental problems, cancer and genetic impacts.

Pesticide

A pesticide is any substance or mixture of substances intended or preventing, destroying, repelling or mitigating any pest. This definition includes insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, rodenticides, and antimicrobials as well as plant growth regulators, defoliants and desiccants. All pesticides that are legal for sale are registered with the US EPA.

This definition is based on the national pesticide law, the Federal *Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA).*

Phthalates
A class of widely used industrial compounds known technically as dialkyl or alkyl aryl esters of 1,2-benzenenedicarboxylic acid. Phthalates can be found in many consumer goods, including products made of flexible polyvinyl chloride plastic (PVC), cosmetics and other personal care goods, pesticides, building materials, lubricants, adhesives and film, among other items.
Studies indicate that DEHP is a potential human carcinogen and that it likely impacts developmental and reproductive processes of, in particular, male infants. The oral toxicity of DEHP in humans is limited to gastrointestinal (GI) symptoms (mild abdominal pain and diarrhea.
As of February 2009, childcare products (products for children under three years of age) and children's toys (toys produced for children under twelve years of age) containing concentrations of DEHP, BBP, and DBP (three different types of phthalates) greater than 0.1% will be considered banned hazardous materials. Three additional phthalates, DINP, DnOP, and DIDP in concentrations greater than 0.1% will be placed on a provisional ban and re-evaluated for their safety (CPSIA 2008). [Reference: Toxics Use Reduction Institute website; HealthyToys.org 2-09]

Pollutant
Any substance introduced into the environment, whether natural or man-made, that causes concern because it has, or could have, adverse impacts on human or ecological health.

Pollution Prevention (P2)
Source reduction and other practices that reduce or eliminate the creation of pollutants through increased efficiency in the use of raw materials, energy, water, or other resources, or protection of natural resources by conservation.

Post-Consumer Waste (PCW) or Post-Consumer Material (PCM)
A material or finished product that has served its intended use and has been diverted or recovered from waste destined for disposal, having completed its life as a consumer item. "Post-consumer waste" is part of the broader category of recovered materials. "Post-consumer waste" does not include manufacturing waste. [Reference: EPA Website - Glossary, 2-09]

Precautionary Principle Approach to Decision Making
Where there are reasonable grounds for concern, the precautionary approach to decision-making is meant to help reduce the threat of serious or irreversible harm by triggering a process to select the least potential threat. The essential elements of the Precautionary Principle approach to decision-making include:

1. Anticipatory Action: Anticipatory action prevents harm. Government, business, community groups, and the public share this responsibility.
2. Right to Know: The community has a right to know complete and accurate information on potential human health and environmental impacts associated with the selection of products, services, operations or plans. The burden to supply this information lies with the proponent, not with the general public.
3. Alternatives Assessment: An obligation exists to examine a full range of alternatives and select the viable alternative with the least potential impact on human health and the environment including the alternative of doing nothing.
4. Full Cost Accounting: When evaluating potential alternatives, there is a duty to consider all the reasonably foreseeable costs, including raw materials, manufacturing, transportation, use, cleanup, eventual disposal and health costs even if such costs are not reflected in the initial price. Short-and long-term benefits and time thresholds should be considered when making decisions.
5. Participatory Decision Process: Decisions applying the Precautionary Principle must be transparent, participatory, and informed by the best available information.

[Reference: San Francisco Precautionary Principle Ordinance, 2003]

Processed Chlorine Free (PCF)
With regard to the bleaching process used to whiten paper, PCF is a term reserved for recycled content papers. All recycled fibers used as a feedstock in PCF paper are unbleached or have not been re-bleached with chlorine containing compounds. If a paper contains any virgin fiber that fiber is Totally Chlorine Free (TCF).

Q

R

Recyclable Material
"Recyclable Material" means any material or group of materials that can be collected and sold for recycling at a net cost equal to or less than the cost of collection and disposal of the same material. [Reference: OAR 340-090-0010]

Readily Recyclable
Often refers to items that can be recycled, as is, in typical residential or office recycling systems (i.e. residential/business curbside recycling - cardboard, paper, glass, some plastics) as opposed to items that require individuals or businesses to deconstruct the item for recycling and/or actively seek out a specific recycler and arrange for recycling of that particular item.

Recycled Paint
Consolidated or reprocessed paints containing post-consumer material, secondary industrial materials, and/or virgin materials. [Reference: Green Seal GS-43 standard 12-08]

Remanufacturing/Remanufactured
Remanufacturing is the process of disassembly of products during which time parts are cleaned, repaired or replaced then reassembled to sound working condition.
A product is considered remanufactured if:

- Its primary components come from a used product.
- The used product is dismantled to the extent necessary to determine the condition of its components.
- The used product's components are thoroughly cleaned and made free from rust and corrosion.
- All missing, defective, broken or substantially worn parts are either restored to sound, functionally good condition, or they are replaced with new, remanufactured, or sound, functionally good used parts.
- To put the product in sound working condition, such machining, rewinding, refinishing or other operations are performed as necessary.
- The product is reassembled and a determination is made that it will operate like a similar new product.

[Reference: The Remanufacturing Institute, www.reman.org 12-08]

Reprocessed Paints
Paints that contain a minimum of 50% by volume post-consumer paint, with a maximum of 50% by volume secondary industrial materials or virgin materials. [Reference: Grean Seal GS-43 standard 12-08]

Reproductive Toxin
Reproductive toxins are chemicals that can damage the reproductive systems of both men and women. Exposure to these agents before conception can produce a wide range of adverse effects including reduced fertility, unsuccessful, an abnormal fetus, reduced libido, or menstrual dysfunction. Maternal exposure after conception may cause perinatal death, low birth weight, birth defects, developmental and/or behavioral disabilities, and cancer. [Reference: Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory Environmental Health & Safety website, 2-09]

Respiratory Irritant
Any substance including particles, vapors, gases, fumes or mist which can cause inflammation or other adverse reactions in the respiratory system (lungs, nose, mouth, larynx and trachea).

Responsible Purchasing Network (RPN)
The Responsible Purchasing Network (RPN) is a national network of procurement-related professionals dedicated to socially responsible and environmentally sustainable purchasing.
Officially founded in 2005, RPN is a program staffed and managed by the Center for a New American Dream, and advised by a voluntary Steering Committee of leading procurement stakeholders from government, industry, educational institutions, standards setting organizations, and related organizations. [Reference: Responsible Purchasing Network website 12-08]

RoHS
The Directive on the restriction of the use of certain hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment 2002/95/EC (commonly referred to as the Restriction of Hazardous Substances Directive or RoHS) was adopted in February 2003 by the European Union. The RoHS directive took effect on July 1, 2006, and is required to be enforced and become law in each EU member state. RoHS is often referred to as the lead-free directive, but it restricts the use of the following six substances:

1. Lead
2. Mercury
3. Cadmium
4. Hexavalent chromium (Cr6+)
5. Polybrominated biphenyls (PBB)
6. Polybrominated diphenyl ether (PBDE)

*PBB and PBDE are flame retardants used in several plastics.
[Reference: European Union website 1-09]

S

Scientific Certification Systems (SCS)
SCS is an in independent certifier of environmental, sustainability, food quality and food purity claims. SCS primarily certifies products/services according to existing multiple or single-attribute standards developed by other organizations/stakeholder groups. SCS will also certify/verify claims that are not tied to a specific standard (such as % post-consumer recycled content). [Reference: SCS website, 07/09]

South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD), California
The SCAQMD is the air pollution control agency for all of Orange County and the urban portions of Los Angeles, Riverside and San Bernardino counties. Because this area's smog problem is so severe, AQMD often finds itself at the forefront of the nation's emission reduction efforts. Many of the SCAQMD source-specific rules are referenced as industry standards for low-emitting/low-polluting products.
SCAQMD is responsible for controlling emissions primarily from stationary sources of air pollution. These can include anything from large power plants and refineries to the corner gas station. Many consumer products are also considered stationary sources; these include house paint, furniture varnish, and thousands of products containing solvents that evaporate into the air.
SCAQMD develops and adopts an Air Quality Management Plan, which serves as the blueprint to bring this area into compliance with federal and state clean air standards. Rules are adopted to reduce emissions from various sources, including specific types of equipment, industrial processes, paints and solvents, even consumer products. Permits are issued to many businesses and industries to ensure compliance with air quality rules. AQMD staff conducts periodic inspections to ensure compliance with these requirements. [Reference: South Coast Air Quality website 12-08]

Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI)
The Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI®) is a product standard and certification program for wood and paper products produced from sustainably harvested forests. Although the SFI program is widely used, in general, it is not considered as rigorous of a standard as the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) standard for sustainable forestry. This is evident in that the US Green Building Council's LEED certification program for green buildings only recognizes FSC certification for LEED credits related to certified wood. [Reference: SFI website; USGBC LEED 2009 standards, 6/09]

T

Teratogen
A substance that interrupts or alters the normal development of a fetus, with results that are evident at birth.

Totally Chlorine Free (TCF)
With regard to the bleaching process used to whiten paper, TCF is a term reserved for virgin fiber papers. TCF papers are unbleached or do not use pulp produced with chlorine or chlorine containing compounds as bleaching agents.

Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure (TCLP)
The TCLP is the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's protocol to determine the potential of specific wastes in a landfill to leach dangerous concentrations of toxic chemicals into groundwater. If the amount of a particular chemical released under test conditions exceeds regulatory limits, the waste qualifies as hazardous and must be handled according to regulations governing hazardous waste. Products that do not leach toxic materials at levels exceeding regulatory limits are termed TCLP-compliant. [Reference: US EPA website, 3-09]

U

V

Volatile Organic Compound (VOC)
Means an organic compound characterized by a tendency to readily evaporate into the air, contributing to indoor air pollution and photochemical smog.

W

X

Y

Z