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# Federal Purchasing and Carpet

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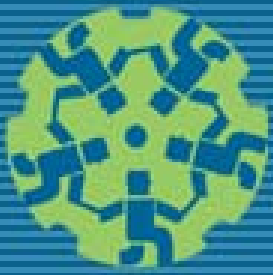
Julie Rosenbach, EPA  
CARE Annual Conference  
May 10 -12, 2005



# Impact of Federal Purchasing



- The Federal government is the single largest consumer in the U.S., spending over \$200 billion annually on a wide variety of products and services.
- Total U.S. commercial carpet sales are estimated to be approximately \$2.8 billion annually.
- Federal government buys approximately \$90 – 100 million worth of carpet annually.
- Carpet tile represents approximately 30% of total carpet purchased, estimated to be 3.2 million yards per year at a cost of approximately \$57 million.



# Executive Order 13101

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- “Greening the Government through Waste Prevention, Recycling and Federal Acquisition ” – signed 1998.
- Directs EPA to implement policies promoting the Federal Government's use of recycled products and environmentally preferable products and services.
- Under this authority EPA operates two programs:
  - Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP)
  - Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines (CPG)



# EPP Overview

## Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP)

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- EPP program has five Guiding Principles:
  1. Environment + Price + Performance = EPP
  2. Pollution Prevention
  3. Life Cycle Perspective/Multiple Attributes
  4. Comparison of Environmental Impacts
  5. Environmental Performance Information
- Final Guidance on Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (*Federal Register / Vol. 64, No. 161 / Friday, August 20, 1999/ Notices*)
  - Applies to all acquisition types, from supplies and services to buildings and systems.
  - Provides a set of guiding principles.
  - Requests Executive agencies to select and implement pilot acquisitions or demonstration projects.
  - Provides a framework for Executive agencies to implement the environmentally preferable purchasing provisions of EO13101.



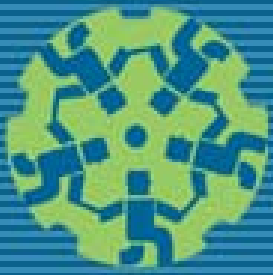
# EPP Carpet Guidance

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## *"Greening Your Purchase of Carpet: A Guide For Federal Purchasers"*

- This guidance looks at environmental impacts throughout the life cycle of carpet, from the initial acquisition of raw materials to the final disposal of any product remnants. These impacts vary with the types of materials used, the pattern of carpet use and replacement, and the options available for reuse, recycling, or disposal.
- Released for comment 3/04; still in draft form; expected to be finalized soon

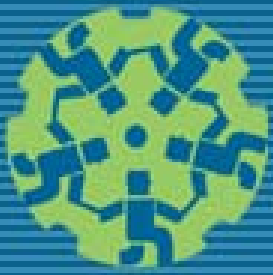


# CPG Overview

## Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines (CPG)

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- The CPG implements the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) section 6002 and Executive Order 13101, which require EPA to designate items that are or can be made with recovered materials.
- It also recommends practices and recycled content material levels that procuring agencies can use to procure designated items.
- Once EPA designates an item, any procuring agency that uses appropriated federal funds to procure that item must purchase the item containing the highest percentage of recovered materials practicable.



# Existing CPG Carpet Designations

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## Polyester Carpet (CPG I -1995):

- EPA designated recycled-content polyester carpet for moderate-wear applications. Recycled fiber polyester carpet is manufactured from PET recovered soda bottles.
- EPA's Recommended Recovered Materials Content Levels for Polyester Carpet are : 25-100% post consumer content

## Carpet Cushion (CPG III – 1999):

- EPA designated carpet cushions made from recovered materials such as bonded urethane, jute, synthetic fiber, and rubber.
- EPA's Total Recommended Recovered Materials Content Levels for carpet cushion by product are:
  - Bonded polyurethane: 15 – 50%
  - Jute: 40%
  - Synthetic fibers: 100%
  - Rubber: 60 – 90%



# Proposed Nylon Carpet Designation



- First proposed as part of CPG IV in August 2001.
- Key issues were raised in public comments; as a result EPA did not finalize as part of CPG IV.
- Instead issued a Notice of Data Availability (NODA) in July 2003.
- EPA has been working to address comments received from the NODA.



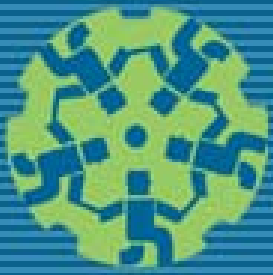
# Non-Carpet Products



In order for EPA to consider non-carpet products made with recovered carpet, the following info is needed:

- Use of materials in solid waste
- Economic and technological feasibility and performance
- Impact of government procurement
- Availability and competition
- Recovered materials content levels
- Barriers to purchasing products containing recovered materials
- Source of information

See: <http://www.epa.gov/cpg/pdf/1995rg.pdf> or  
48714 Federal Register / Vol. 60, No. 182 / Wednesday, September 20, 1995



# Contact Information

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