



Sustainability Specifications for Inclusion in Tenders

To support sustainable development, the materials used in cleaning must qualify as “sustainable”, that is, conducive to the careful, economical, long-term management of land, community, and resources. A cleaning product is sustainable if it can be manufactured, used and recycled continuously without negative effects on either people or the environment, over hundreds of years. The following specifications promote the use of sustainable cleaning products, and are suitable for inclusion in maintenance and materials contracts for cleaning products that are used for routine cleaning, including carpet care:

Products must contain, if possible, only ingredients derived from renewable or regrowable resources.

Combined ingredient testing must demonstrate ready biodegradability under both aerobic and anaerobic conditions, using the OECD 301d and ASTM E 1199-92 methods respectively.

Products must be free of compounds which are carcinogenic, mutagenic and teratogenic, or which are toxic to human beings at the concentrations used in cleaning.

Products must demonstrate a lack of toxicity to animal, plant and aquatic life at concentrations likely to enter the environment, as more particularly defined under Environmental Choice^M Certification Criteria PRC-097 (see below).

Products must demonstrate exceptionally low volatility and not contribute to the contamination of the indoor environment, and must demonstrate compatibility with building occupants as more particularly defined under Environmental Choice^M Certification Criteria PRC-097 (see below).

Cleaning products used for routine cleaning must be certified or otherwise meet the criteria under Environmental Choice^M Certification Criteria PRC-097 “Cleaning Products with Low Potential for Environmental Illness and Endocrine Disruption”. (For detailed specifications, contact the Environmental Choice Program at 1-800-478-0399 or go to the website <http://www.environmentalchoice.com>.) Under PRC-097, cleaners must:

- meet or exceed government and industry safety and performance standards
- meet the requirements of all applicable government acts, bylaws and regulations including the *Environmental Protection Act*
- clean common hard surfaces effectively
- not require poison labeling under the *Hazardous Products Act*
- be accompanied by detailed instructions for proper use to maximize product performance and minimize waste
- be labeled for use with tepid water when diluted
- not be formulated with phosphates, NTA (nitrilotriacetic acid), EDTA (ethylene diamine-tetraacetic acid), APEO's (alkylphenol ethoxylates including nonyl phenol ethoxylates or NPE's), or ingredients which are bioaccumulating or potentially bioaccumulating
- not contain chemicals which are proven or probable carcinogens
- not contain halogenated organic solvents or butoxy-ethanol
- not use ethylene oxide in the manufacture of the whole formula or any component, e.g. alcohol ethoxylates
- not contain volatile organic compounds (VOCs) exceeding 0.05% by weight
- be readily biodegradable under both aerobic and anaerobic conditions
- be nontoxic to aquatic life by whole formulation short-term sensitive toxicity tests
- have a calculated oral rat toxicity of $LD_{50} > 5000$ mg/kg by whole formulation test.
- demonstrate minimum potential for introduction of endocrine disrupting by-products into the receiving environment, through complete absence of detectable recalcitrant metabolites formed during biodegradation tests
- demonstrate low potential for skin irritation
- be listed with a recognized environmental health organization as a product not harmful to people suffering from environmental illness, including, *inter alia*, the *Envirodesic*™ Certification Program, the Lung Association, the Asthma Society, and the Environmental Illness Society.

