

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
Washington, D.C. 20301

05 APR 1997

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (COMPTROLLER)
UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (POLICY)
UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (PERSONNEL AND
READINESS)
DIRECTOR, DEFENSE RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING
ASSISTANT SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
DEFENSE
INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
DEFENSE
DIRECTOR, OPERATIONAL TEST AND EVALUATION
ASSISTANTS TO THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
DIRECTOR, ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT
DIRECTORS OF THE DEFENSE AGENCIES

SUBJECT: DoD Use of Recycled Content Copier Paper

Executive Order 12873, "Federal Acquisition, Recycling, and Waste Prevention," and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), establish a policy of reducing the use of all paper products and maximizing the acquisition and use of recycled content paper and paper products. The General Services Administration (GSA) recently reduced the price of recycled content copier paper (NSNs: 7530-01-335-2623 {8-1/2 x 11"} and 7530-01-334-7817 {8- 1/2 x 14"}) below that of comparable copier paper produced from virgin fiber (attachment 1). This price reduction offers a tremendous opportunity for DoD to meet its legal requirements and demonstrate environmental leadership by increasing its purchases of recycled content copier paper to 100%, while simultaneously saving money.

To take advantage of this opportunity, we have requested that GSA substitute recycled content copier paper (NSNs: 7530-01-335-2623 {8-1/2 x 11"} and 7530-01-334-7817 {8-1/2 x 14"} for all DoD orders for copier paper produced from virgin fiber (NSN: 7530-00-181-7174 {8- 1/2 x 11"} and 7530-00-181-7175 {8-1 /2 x 14"}) as long as the price of the recycled content copier paper remains lower (attachment 2). We have made the request to GSA at this time for a number of reasons, including:

- * Recycled content copier and copier paper produced from virgin fiber meet the same performance specification, supporting our acquisition reform initiative to use performance specifications
- * Paper manufacturers have demonstrated that their new mills, specifically designed to handle recycled pulp and using state of the art technology, have significantly increased the quality of recycled content copier paper over the last decade
- * Major copier manufacturers and computer printer manufacturers have demonstrated that recycled content copier paper works in their product as well as copier paper produced from virgin fiber
- * Several other federal agencies, such as the Department of Energy, the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, GSA (for internal use), and the Executive Office of the President have instituted, or are about to institute, policies requiring the use of recycled content copier paper
- * Eight state governments already have policies that require the use of recycled content copier paper
- * The Government Printing Office has eighteen months of problem-free experience working with recycled content copier paper

- * Increasing the demand for recycled paper should help stabilize the market for waste paper, thus increasing the price that installation recycling programs receive when selling their recovered paper.

Existing DoD policy requires that we purchase designated products manufactured from recovered material unless one of three exemptions (price, performance, delivery) is applicable. The price of recycled content paper is currently lower, and our request makes provision for future price changes by permitting GSA to fill orders with whichever NSN a DoD activity orders when the price of recycled content copier paper exceeds that of copier paper produced from virgin fiber. In addition, our request permits GSA to substitute copier paper produced from virgin fiber if recycled content copier paper is out of stock, thus eliminating concerns about timely delivery. Finally, both recycled content copier paper and copier paper produced from virgin fiber meet the same performance specification.

This new policy regarding recycled content copier paper resembles similar DoD policies for other environmentally preferable products, such as our requirement for purchasing only computers that have the "Energy Star" seal, and our policy prohibiting the purchase of paints that contain lead. To insure a smooth and timely transition, I have requested that the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Environmental Security monitor DoD use of recycled content copier paper, and report on any performance problems encountered and on progress toward our goal of using recycled content copier paper 100% of the time. DoD support of quality products made with recycled materials will demonstrate our commitment to creating new markets for environmentally preferable products, and help achieve our environmental security goals.

Dr. John White

Attachments (2)

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Washington DC. 20301

05 APR 1997

Honorable David J. Barram
Acting Administrator
U.S. General Services Administration
Suite 6137
18th & F Streets, NW
Washington, DC 20405

Dear Administrator Barram:

The Department of Defense (DoD) commends the General Service Administration (GSA) for its recent decision to reduce the price of recycled content copier paper below that of comparable paper produced from virgin fiber. This price reduction will assist DoD and other federal agencies in complying with Section 6002 of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), and Executive Order 12873, both of which require federal agencies to establish affirmative procurement programs for the purchase of recycled paper products.

We therefore request that, as long as the price of recycled content copier paper is less than or equal to the price of copier paper produced from virgin fiber, GSA substitute recycled content copier paper (NSNs 7530-01-335-2623 and 7530-01-334-7817) for all DoD orders for copier paper made with virgin fiber (NSNs 7530-00-181-7174 and 7530-00-181-7175). Of course, if GSA is out of stock of recycled content copier paper, it should then temporarily fill DoD orders with comparable copier paper produced from virgin fiber.

We appreciate GSA's help in meeting our requirements under RCRA and E.O. 12873. Federal agency support of quality products made with recycled materials will demonstrate our commitment to creating new markets for environmentally preferable products, and help achieve our environmental security goals. If you have any questions regarding this request, please have your staff call LtCol Roy Salomon of my environmental security staff at 703-604-0572.

Sincerely,
JW