



Safety and Environmental Newsletter

February 2021 — 106th Edition

Cell Phones and 5G Technology

Radiation Safety

The Health and Physics Society (HPS) updated its fact sheet on cell phones and 5G technology in



December 2020. Many have concerns regarding cell phones and potential health risks associated with their use over long periods of time. 5G (fifth generation of mobile phone technology) operates at lower than average energy

levels than previous technology. To date, no adverse health effects have been established from cell phone use or being in close proximity to cell towers. To view the updated fact sheet from HPS and to learn more about cell phones, 5G technology, and radiation safety—click [here](#).

Update to NPR 8715.1

NASA Safety and Health Programs

A major milestone in updating OSMA policy was achieved with the publication of NPR 8715.1.

The resulting document is more focused on the implementation of a safety management program, provides a clear definition of authority for institutional safety, and greatly reduces the number of prescriptive requirements. NPR 8715.1 can be found at the following [here](#).

STORE IT, DON'T IGNORE IT!

Flammable storage cabinet guidelines for lab and facility personnel

Flammable storage cabinets are designed to help protect against flash fires, contain spilled flammable liquids, and to prevent the spread of fire. Follow the below safe practices.

- Ensure any flammable storage cabinets are located in a room that has multiple exits, away from exit paths, away from incompatible materials, and in a room with fire detection and suppression systems. *No more than 3 flammable storage cabinets may be located in a single storage area.*
- Should be yellow and remain closed/latched when not in use. Flammable liquid storage cabinets should be clearly labeled.
- Venting is not recommended. Grounding is recommended.
- Purchase/store the minimum quantity of flammable chemicals.
- Never store flammable materials on or near the cabinet.

Visit the NASA Safety Center [here](#) for more, detailed information and guidelines on flammable storage cabinets.





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Green Purchasing... Sustainable Acquisition... BioPreferred... Affirmative Procurement...

What does it all mean?

Federal government and its contractors have the opportunity to make huge impacts with their purchases. One impact is to help to create markets for other industries to produce “green” goods and services that are healthier for people and our environment. **Sustainable Acquisition** or **Green Purchasing** is the purchasing of products which are **energy-efficient, water-efficient, biobased, environmentally preferable, non-ozone depleting**, and those made with **recycled or recovered materials**. **Green Purchasing** is mandated by Executive Orders, Federal Statutes, NASA Regulations, and GSFC purchasing requirements.

Website links for each of these programs can be found on the Code 250 Green Purchasing Program website at: <https://code200-external.gsfc.nasa.gov/250-WFF/program-areas-green-purchasing>



The **BioPreferred** program is managed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to increase the use of **biobased** products. Biobased products are made from renewable domestic agricultural materials (including plant, animal, and marine materials) or forestry materials. Examples include soy degreasers, soy hydraulic oil, and biodiesel fuel.

The Comprehensive Procurement Guideline (CPG) or **Affirmative Procurement** is part of EPA’s continuing effort to promote the use of materials recovered from solid waste. Designated products are required to be purchased with recovered or recycled content. Examples include paper, sanitary tissue, and carpet cushion.

The graph below shows Wallops biobased purchasing over the years.

To comply with **Green Purchasing** requirements, follow these steps:

1. Determine if your product or service has **green** requirements. In addition to the website associated with each purchasing program, the green procurement tool (<http://www.sftool.gov/greenprocurement>) associates all the requirements for each item or service in one location.
2. Request items or services.
3. Document the reason a product or service which has **green** requirements associated with the purchase request cannot be purchased green.
4. Report purchases of all items (not purchased through Federal Supply Sources) which have **green** purchasing requirements, during the annual December data call.

For more information contact Kelly Busquets at x2041 or Marianne Simko at x2127.

Test Yourself

1. Which of these items is not an item which is required to be purchased with recycled content rather than virgin material content?

- a. Clipboards
- b. Industrial drums
- c. Office furniture
- d. Paper Plates



2. Biobased de-icers manufactured from sources such as sugar beet refining byproducts or ethanol production are required to be purchased instead of rock salt.

- a. True
- b. False



Answers: 1. d 2. True