

Date: June 4, 2014

From: Principal Executive Director for Acquisition, Logistics, and Construction (003)

Subj: Green Purchasing Requirements: Compliance with the 95 Percent Sustainable Acquisition Goal under Executive Order 13514 (VAIQ 7461974)

To: Under Secretaries, Assistant Secretaries, and Other Key Officials

1. The purpose of this memorandum is to ensure awareness of, and to promote compliance with, Federal green purchasing goals and requirements across the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Meeting these requirements reduces the environmental and energy-related impacts of purchasing and supports the Secretary's Sustainability Management Policy.¹ Significantly, green or sustainable practices help minimize VA's carbon footprint and maximize the use of our Nation's resources in benefit of the Veterans we serve.
2. Numerous statutes, regulations including the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR), and Executive Orders (EO) mandate the purchase of green goods and services. EO 13514, Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy, and Economic Performance, signed by President Obama on October 5, 2009, establishes an integrated strategy for sustainability in the Federal Government.
3. EO 13514 requires agencies to "advance sustainable acquisition to ensure 95 percent of new contract actions including task and delivery orders, for products and services...are energy-efficient (Energy Star or Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) designated), water-efficient, biobased, environmentally preferable, (e.g., Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT) certified), non-ozone depleting, contain recycled content, or are non-toxic or less-toxic alternatives, where such products and services meet agency performance requirements." FAR 23.103, Sustainable Acquisitions, and VA Directive 0058, VA Green Purchasing program, dated July 19, 2013, implement this requirement.
4. To assess government-wide compliance with the 95 percent sustainable acquisition goal, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has directed agencies to review at least 5 percent of their total applicable contracts quarterly and to report on progress as part of the semiannual OMB Sustainability/Energy Scorecard and annual agency Strategic Sustainability Performance Plan.

¹ See Department of Veterans Affairs Sustainability Management Policy, signed by Secretary Shinseki on September 1, 2010: policy can be found on p.2 of VA's 2013 Strategic Sourcing Procurement policy, <http://www.green.va.gov/docs/2013VAsspp.pdf>.

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5. On October 28, 2010, VA's Office of Procurement Policy, Systems and Oversight issued a policy on "Impending Audit of Contracts to Ensure Compliance with 95% Sustainable Acquisition Goal." Updated policy is in development and will be provided to the Heads of Contracting Activity and acquisition workforce in the coming months to further assist the Department in meeting the 95 percent sustainable acquisition goal and facilitate VA's sustainable acquisition contract reviews. VA Directive and Handbook 0058 contain overarching policy and guidance on Federal green purchasing requirements for reference now.

6. This office will continue to partner with the Office of Asset Enterprise Management (044), VA's program and policy office for sustainability management, to provide necessary guidance and ensure compliance with Federal green purchasing requirements in a fully coordinated effort across VA organizations.

7. Questions may be directed to Ms. Sheila Darrell, Acting Director, Procurement Policy and Warrant Management Services, at (202) 632-5261, or at sheila.darrell@va.gov, or Ms. Barbara Matos, Program Analyst, Procurement Policy Service, at (202) 632-5370, or barbara.matos@va.gov.

/s/

Glenn D. Haggstrom

cc: Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Acquisition and Logistics (0034)
Associate Deputy Assistant Secretary for National Healthcare Acquisitions (00344)
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Executive Director, Office of Construction and Facilities Management (003C)
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Director, Office of Management (20M)
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