

“GREENING” the government through the Defense Logistics Agency

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Presidential Executive Order 13101 and more recently, EO 13148, calls for increasing emphasis on "Buying Green". In response, the Defense Logistics Agency {DLA} has added a new element to the Federal Logistics information System (FLIS) to help identify Environmentally Preferable products. FLIS contains over 7 million National Stock Numbers (NSNs) that are assigned to items of supply used by the Federal Government.

Environmental Attribute Codes (ENACs) are now being assigned to NSNs meeting strict, definable environmental criteria. These ENACs allow users to easily identify and distinguish Environmentally preferable ("green") items from the millions of other products in the Federal Supply System. Our Environmental Products (EPRO) program manages this effort and encourages the use of environmentally preferred items.

EPRO is an Internet based, one-stop "shop & buy" source for 'Environmentally Preferable' products, seamlessly linked to the DoD Electronic Mall (EMALL). Federal Logistics System users can access EPRO through the "Buy Green" website: www.epro.dlis.dla.mil or, by going directly to www.emall.dla.mil and then visiting the "Buy Green Only" portion of the site.

Vendors with products in the system can, for the first time, "self-declare" that their products meet explicit environmental criteria. Vendors registered in the DoD EMALL can "self-declare" that their products meet the environmental criteria provided at the site.

Promoting 'Environmentally Preferable' products through the Federal Logistics System is a 'win-win' scenario. Vendors benefit by having their products highlighted with a 'GREEN TREE' symbol, making their products highly visible out of the millions of products in FLIS. Government customers benefit by having a one-stop source for finding 'GREEN' products. This also facilitates Federal agency compliance with the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and the Presidential Executive Order 13101, 'Greening the Government Through Waste Prevention, Recycling, and Federal Acquisition.' The public sector benefits as well, in that fewer taxpayer dollars are diverted into waste stream management.

DLA has brought buying and selling "green" into the e-commerce age. Civilian and military federal procurement staffers, along with vendors and suppliers can now jump onto 'green' bandwagon by buying or selling Environmentally Preferable products through DLA and through the Federal catalog system.