

alternative approaches. Requiring agencies should apply specifications, standards, and related documents initially for guidance only, making final decisions on the application and tailoring of these documents as a product of the design and development process. Requiring agencies should not dictate detailed design solutions prematurely (see 7.101 and 7.105(a)(8)).

(d)(1) The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976 (42 U.S.C. 6901, *et seq.*), Executive Order 13101 of September 14, 1998, Greening the Government through Waste Prevention, Recycling, and Federal Acquisition, and Executive Order 13123 of June 3, 1999, Greening the Government through Efficient Energy Management, establish requirements for acquiring

- (i) Products containing recovered materials;
- (ii) Environmentally preferable products and services;
- (iii) Energy-efficient products and services; and
- (iv) Products and services that utilize renewable energy technologies.

(2) Executive agencies must consider use of recovered materials, energy- and water-efficient products and services, environmentally preferable purchasing criteria developed by the EPA, and environmental objectives (see subparts 23.2 and 23.4 and 23.703(b)) when

- (i) Developing, reviewing, or revising Federal and military specifications, product descriptions (including commercial item descriptions) and standards;
- (ii) Describing Government requirements for supplies and services; and
- (iii) Developing source-selection factors.

(e) Some or all of the performance levels or performance specifications in a solicitation may be identified as targets rather than as fixed or minimum requirements.

(f) In accordance with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794d), requiring activities must prepare requirements documents for electronic and information technology that comply with the applicable accessibility standards issued by the Architectural and Transportation Barriers

Compliance Board at 36 CFR part 1194 (see subpart 39.2).

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Subpart 11.1—Selecting and Developing Requirements Documents

11.101 Order of precedence for requirements documents.

(a) Agencies may select from existing requirements documents, modify or combine existing requirements documents, or create new requirements documents to meet agency needs, consistent with the following order of precedence:

- (1) Documents mandated for use by law.
- (2) Performance-oriented documents.
- (3) Detailed design-oriented documents.
- (4) Standards, specifications and related publications issued by the Government outside the Defense or Federal series for the non-repetitive acquisition of items.

(b) Agencies must prepare requirements documents to achieve maximum practicable—

- (1) Energy efficiency, including using renewable energy technologies; and
- (2) Use of recovered material, other materials that are environmentally preferable, energy- and water-efficient products, and renewable energy technologies (see subparts 23.2, 23.4, and 23.7).

(c) In accordance with OMB Circular A-119, “Federal Participation in the Development and Use of Voluntary Consensus Standards and in Conformity Assessment Activities,” agencies must use voluntary consensus standards, when they exist, in lieu of Government-unique standards, except where inconsistent with law or otherwise impractical. The private sector manages and administers voluntary consensus standards. Such standards are not mandated by law (*e.g.*, industry standards such as ISO 9000).

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