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## *Bulletin*

**Title:** Purchases to Support the AbilityOne Program

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**Originating Office:** Acquisition and Property Division, Acquisition Programs and Oversight Branch, AFM/ARS

**Distribution:** All REE Employees

This Bulletin is issued to inform REE employees of mandatory products to be purchased under the AbilityOne Program (formerly the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Program) as listed on the "Committee for Purchase" Procurement List.

The Javits-Wagner-O'Day (JWOD) Act of 1938 created jobs and training for individuals who are blind or have severe disabilities and established the "Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled." The "Committee for Purchase" is comprised of 15 Presidentially appointed members that established and maintain a "Procurement List" of all products and services required to be purchased by the Federal Government from AbilityOne (formerly JWOD) participating nonprofit agencies (e.g., Skilcraft).

Recently, the Committee for Purchase issued a clarification of the products and services on the Procurement List that are to be purchased by the Federal Government. The "Committee for Purchase" divided the commodities and products into three categories (A, B, and C) each with a different level of procurement source preference to make it easy to identify the required products and services to be acquired (see Enclosure 1). For Research, Education, and Economics (REE) purposes, this means that items in Categories A and B must be purchased through the AbilityOne Program as mandated by the JWOD Act. However, nonmonetary awards and customized imprinted or promotional items are not required to be purchased from AbilityOne unless these items are placed on the Procurement List (Category C) by the requiring agency. Currently, the Department has only placed business cards in Category C for all USDA agencies.

In addition to this release, a new Departmental Regulation was issued on May 23, 2007, that established Department-wide goals for increasing participation in the AbilityOne Program. Each USDA agency is mandated to establish an annual agency goal and to report, on a yearly basis, the agency's accomplishments in support of the AbilityOne Program. Enclosure 2 is a list of AbilityOne Coordinators for the REE mission area.

To this end, please keep in mind this program provides the largest source of work opportunities in the United States for people who are blind or have other severe disabilities. We sincerely urge you to continue to show your support for this important program by purchasing the items listed in Categories A and B. At this time REE is not required to add products to Category C of the Procurement List. However, please remember that we do have an AbilityOne Program goal we are required to meet and in the event we do not meet our goals in the future, agencies will be required to add items (e.g., nonmonetary awards) to Category C. For more information about the AbilityOne program, please visit [www.jwod.gov](http://www.jwod.gov) or <http://www.afm.ars.usda.gov/acquisitions/ability-one.htm>.

Questions concerning this Bulletin may be addressed to Linda Wilson, REE AbilityOne Program Liaison, at [linda.wilson@ars.usda.gov](mailto:linda.wilson@ars.usda.gov) or 301-504-1733.

LARRY R. CULLUMBER / S /  
Director  
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2 Enclosures

### Clarification of Items Purchased Under AbilityOne Program

Category	Procurement Preference	Description of Products	Examples	Applicability
A	Mandatory	Products commonly used in the office and light industrial settings. Go to <a href="http://www.afm.ars.usda.gov/acquisitions/ability-one.htm">http://www.afm.ars.usda.gov/acquisitions/ability-one.htm</a> for a complete list of products.	Office supplies, writing instruments, paper pads, desktop accessories; and general purpose cleaners in retail-sized bottles, etc.	All Federal agency employees
B	Mandatory	Products that are not used in volume in most offices, but have broad applicability across multiple Federal agencies. Available through the GSA Federal Supply System.	Inkjet large format paper, cleaning supplies, such as mops, chemical cleaning solutions, and floor polishing pads.	All Federal agency employees
C	Mandatory – <i>(When Applicable)</i>	<p>Products that are customized or designed to meet specific agency requirements and added to the Procurement List by each individual agency.</p> <p>Currently, REE has no specific products on the list.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> Once a product has been placed in Category C it must be purchased by employees of the requiring agency.</p>	Business cards for USDA; tree marking paint and uniforms for the USDA Forest Service.	As required by specific Federal Agency

### AbilityOne Liaison and Coordinators

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