

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Applicable minimum biobased content - the biobased content at or above the level set by USDA to qualify for use of the label.

ASTM International (ASTM) - a nonprofit organization that provides an international forum for the development and publication of voluntary consensus standards for materials, products, systems, and services.

Biobased content - the amount of biobased carbon in the material or product expressed as a percent of weight (mass) of the total organic carbon in the material or product. For products within designated items, the biobased content shall be defined and determined as specified in the applicable section of [subpart B of part 2902, title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations](#). For all other products, the biobased content is to be determined using ASTM Method D6866, Standard Test Methods for Determining the Biobased Content of Solid, Liquid, and Gaseous Samples Using Radiocarbon Analysis.

Biobased product - a biobased product is a product that is determined by the USDA to be a commercial or industrial product (other than food or feed) that is composed, in whole or in significant part, of biological products, including renewable agricultural materials (including plant, animal and aquatic materials), forestry materials or an intermediate ingredient or feedstock. Biobased products do not include motor vehicle fuels, heating oil or electricity produced from biomass. Also, since the program is designed to stimulate markets for new biobased products, mature market products are excluded by law. Mature market products are those biobased products that had significant national market penetration in 1972. Examples of mature market products include cotton shirts or towels, paper plates, and wood furniture.

USDA certified biobased product - a product (for commercial or consumer use), that contains in whole or in part materials, chemicals and energy derived from living biological matter, also known as bio-materials, that meet the criteria for inclusion in the USDA BioPreferred program. Specifically, a USDA certified biobased product is a product that is determined by the Secretary to be a commercial or industrial product (other than food or feed) that is composed, in whole or in significant part, of biological products, including renewable agricultural materials (including plant, animal and aquatic materials), forestry materials or an intermediate ingredient or feedstock.

Biodegradable /Biodegradability - in simple terms, biodegradability measures the ability of microorganisms present in the disposal environment to completely consume the biobased carbon product within a reasonable time frame and in the specified environment. Product biodegradability is not a prerequisite for the BioPreferred program. Some USDA certified biobased products are designed to be disposed of after a single use and/or used in environmentally sensitive applications.

BioPreferred - BioPreferred is the name of the proprietary USDA program that refers to both the preferred Federal purchasing preference program and the voluntary labeling program. When referring to the voluntary labeling program, 'USDA Certified Biobased Product' is the legally required phrase that must appear on USDA certified biobased products labeled under the program.

BioPreferred Trademark - BioPreferred trademark means the representation of the trademark 'USDA BioPreferred®' accompanied by the registration symbol. A trademark includes any word, name, symbol or device, or any combination, used, or intended to be used, in commerce to identify and distinguish the goods of one manufacturer or seller from goods manufactured or sold by others, and to indicate the source of the goods. Registered trademarks, like BioPreferred®, are indicated by the symbol ®.

Certified biobased product - A biobased product for which the manufacturer or vendor of the product has received approval from USDA to affix to the product the "USDA Certified Biobased Product" label.

Compostable - composting is one environment under which biodegradability occurs. In a composting environment, the explanation of the environment, the degree of microbial utilization (biodegradation), and the time frame within which it occurs are specified through established standards. "Compostable" generally means a product is capable of biological decomposition under controlled aerobic conditions, such as found in a compost pile or compost bin, by microorganisms or soil invertebrates. However, some products may not fully degrade (i.e., biodegrade) in a "backyard" compost pile versus an industrial facility. Products may only be considered compostable if the end user has access to appropriate composting facilities.

Forestry materials - Materials derived from the practice of planting and caring for forests and the management of growing timber. Such materials must come from short rotation woody crops (less than 10 years old), sustainably managed forests, wood residues, or forest thinning.

Intermediate Materials - an intermediate ingredient or feedstock containing in whole or in part materials, chemicals and energy derived from living biological matter

ISO - the International Organization for Standardization, is a network of national standards institutes working in partnership with international organizations, governments, industries, business, and consumer representatives.

ISO 9001 Conformant - an entity that meets all of the requirements of the ISO 9001 standard, but that is not required to be ISO 9001 certified. ISO 9001 refers to the International Organization for Standardization's standards and guidelines relating to "quality management" systems. "Quality management" is defined as what the manufacturer does to ensure that its products or services satisfy the customer's quality requirements and comply with any regulations applicable to those products or services.

Label - collectively, the label artwork and the biobased product statement(s), including the applicable biobased content make up the USDA certified biobased product label.

Label Artwork - the certification mark consisting of the words, including “USDA Certified Biobased Product”, colors, logo and, where applicable, the letters “FP” to indicate that the product is within a designated category and eligible for Federal preferred procurement.

Labeled Product - a product that meets USDA criteria to display the USDA certified biobased product certification mark on the product

Legacy Products - USDA recognizes that some products registered with BioPreferred and completed testing with the BioPreferred Program prior to the 'BioPreferred Labeling Initiative' (February 2011) and allows a waiver of the requirement of re-testing for products tested for biobased content prior to the inception of the voluntary labeling program only under limited circumstances when a company paid for and completed testing on a product from the dates of 02/20/2010-02/20/2011.

Mature Market Products - Mature Market Products are products that had a significant market share as of 1972 and are currently excluded from the program. These products include those made largely from common or unprocessed biotic material such as wood, leather and cotton.

Self-Declaration - When applying for the USDA certified biobased product label, USDA allows a waiver of the requirement of testing for biobased content only under limited circumstances when a previously label and certified biobased content is very similar in formulation to the product currently applying for the certification label. The previous testing may apply only if a previously certified labeled product differs in biobased content by not more than 3%.

Preferred Federal Procurement/Purchasing Program - Federal purchasing guidelines requiring preference for biobased products under the Federal Preferred Purchasing Program.