



USDA AUDIT OF BIOBASED PRODUCTS IDENTIFIED BY THE BIOPREFERRED PROGRAM

The BioPreferred program's aim is to increase the purchase and use of biobased products. Biobased products are commercial or industrial products, other than food or feed, which are composed of biological ingredients, renewable agricultural materials, or forestry materials. There are two parts of the program: a preferred procurement initiative for the Federal Government, and a voluntary biobased product certification and labeling initiative.

Under the procurement program, BioPreferred designates categories of biobased products that receive preferred procurement status from Federal agencies. Minimum biobased content levels are specified for each product category. The voluntary certification and labeling program is for the broad-scale consumer marketing of biobased products; certified products that meet the BioPreferred program's requirements carry a distinctive label for easy identification.

Why are audits being performed?

The purpose of the audits is to ensure the integrity of the voluntary biobased product certification and labeling initiative and the preferred federal procurement initiative. The audits provide oversight and monitoring of the products affiliated with the program to ensure that the products' biobased content information is accurate and meets the requirements of both initiatives.

What are my responsibilities?

Participants must complete and return the "Participant Declaration of Conformance" form for the products included in the online BioPreferred catalog.

When is this happening?

The audit process will begin in mid-March 2012. As a participant in one or both of the programs you will receive an email alerting you to complete the electronic "Participant Declaration of Conformance" form.

What happens at the completion of the audit?

Your product(s) will continue to be listed in the BioPreferred catalog and, if you participate in the Voluntary Labeling program, you will continue to be able to use the label/mark on your certified products.

What happens if I don't respond or don't provide complete information?

Your product(s) will be removed from the BioPreferred catalog and, if you participate in the Voluntary Labeling program, you will no longer be able to use the label. In order to rejoin either initiative you must reapply and have your product(s) tested by a third-party laboratory for biobased content at your expense. *(NOTE: For the Labeling program re-application, do not submit a sample for biobased content testing until ASTM has instructed you to do so. Otherwise, the test results will not be allowed in your label application).*

For more information, please contact:

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