



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Acquisition and Materiel Management
Washington, DC 20420

IL 90-97-13
September 13, 1997

OFFICE OF ACQUISITION AND MATERIEL MANAGEMENT INFORMATION LETTER

TO: Veterans Integrated Service Network Directors; Directors, VA Medical Center Activities, Domiciliary, Outpatient Clinics, Medical and Regional Office Centers; and Regional Offices; Directors, Denver Acquisition and Logistics Center, Austin Automation Center, Records Management Center, VBA Benefits Delivery Centers, and CHAMPVA Center; Director, National Cemetery System; and, the Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer for the National Acquisition Center

ATTN: Purchasers of Copier Paper

SUBJ: Copier Paper From General Services Administration (GSA)

1. The purpose of this letter is to notify all purchasers and users of copier paper that the Secretary of VA has recently sent a letter to GSA requesting that it substitute recycled content copier paper for all VA orders for virgin fiber copier paper. This substitution will continue as long as the recycled copier paper prices remain equal to or less than those of virgin paper, the recycled paper meets the same performance specifications, and GSA can meet required delivery schedules. GSA has agreed to our request with the understanding that if an out of stock situation occurs, orders will be filled with comparable copier paper.

2. In addition, when ordering copier paper from GSA, do not use **advice code 2B** which indicates "**do not substitute.**" This will not circumvent the mandate but will only delay the processing of your request.

3. This action underscores VA's commitment to complying with Executive Order 12873, Federal Acquisition, Recycling, and Waste Prevention and with the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). At the same time, additional cost savings will be realized as GSA has reduced the cost of recycled paper significantly below that of virgin fiber paper.

4. Questions may be referred to Frederick Martinez at (202) 273-6119.

/s/Gary J. Krump