



May 6, 2005

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

California Gold EPP Carpet – Proposed Application of the Unified Sustainable Textile Standard© 2.0 for State of California Carpet Purchases

An open meeting of interested parties chosen from public and private agencies, manufacturers and design professionals soliciting feedback and comments on the proposed California Gold EPP Carpet Criteria will be held on May 26, 2005 in Sacramento.

Over 18 months ago, a working group was formed from within California's Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP) Task Force to develop, review and/or adopt an EPP standard for Carpet purchases with California State government. Participants of this "California EPP Carpet Workgroup" (Workgroup) are from various State of California environmental, public health and purchasing agencies. During this time the working group reviewed existing standards under development, including a pilot by Scientific Certification Systems (SCS), The Institute for Market Transformation to Sustainability (MTS) and others. We conferred with private sector carpet industry consultants and others. Nine months into this process, we met with SCS and MTS representatives and agreed to work toward an effort to unify the SCS and MTS standards, as well as some of California's emphases and concerns into a unified EPP carpet and textile standard. This effort culminated in the development, and unanimous ballot approval of the Unified Sustainable Textile Standard© 2.0 (see: <http://mts.sustainableproducts.com/standards.htm>).

The Workgroup held additional meetings reviewing the Unified Sustainable Textile Standard © 2.0 (STS 2.0) and were encouraged by its framework for analyzing and quantifying the environmental qualities of textile products. A total of 114 points are distributed amongst five categories as follows: Public Health and Environment (31 points); Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (19 points); Biobased or Recycled Materials (23 points); Facility or Company Based (18 points); and, Reclamation and End of Life (23 points). There are an additional 15 Innovation bonus points available.

The Workgroup strongly recommends that due to the State of California's strong environmental leadership, a Gold level of attainment (52 points) or higher should be sought for State carpet purchases. The Workgroup selected an additional 15 required points to be added to the ten already required points thus raising the total required points to 25, reflecting existing regulations and emphasis on recycled content, toxicity,

material emissions, renewable energy and waste diversion. Additionally, a few of the requirements were slightly modified, including MATLS 2.2 requiring a minimum of ten percent post-consumer content as well as stricter reporting for chemicals used in the products. These additional required points and revisions to the standard culminate in what we warmly refer to as the "California Gold EPP Carpet Scorecard", reflected in the attached document.

Your attendance will be welcomed at the a public meeting on the Workgroup's proposed application of the Unified Sustainable Textile Standard © 2.0, proposed scorecard, and additional proposed requirements. The public meeting will be held May 26, 2005, from 10:00 AM PST until 3:00 PM PST, at Cal/EPA Headquarters, 1001 I Street, Sacramento, California. Please RSVP by May 24th if you are planning to attend. We will send an agenda and any subsequent updates or additional details to those who RSVP. If you have any questions, please call Dan Burgoyne at (916) 376-5010.

Sincerely,

Dan Burgoyne
Sustainability Manager
Department of General Services

Attachment